

“LOVE NOT THE WORLD”

Main text

1 **John 2:15** Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. **If** any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Historical Setting

Written to – **Christians**, not sure specifically who, may have been **Christian leaders**

John warned his readers of worldly dangers that face the Christian as he or she seeks to get to know God better. He did so to enable them to prepare for and overcome these obstacles with God's help.

Illustration

The Devil's Triangle

At 2:10pm on December 5, 1945, five U.S. Navy planes took off in clear weather from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and flew east over coastal waters. Squadron 19 included Lt. C.C. Taylor commanding four student pilots along with their

crew – fourteen men, all of them involved on a navigational training mission between Florida and the Bahamas.

At 3:40 p.m., Taylor reported that his gyro and magnetic compass were not responding properly. Squadron 19 followed the leader aimlessly, first east, then west, then northeast, over the ocean, as Lieutenant Taylor tried to get his bearings by radio.

Then, suddenly, Flight Commander Taylor gave quick orders to ditch, to bail out. And, not long after that, all contact was lost.

Quickly, two Martin Mariner sea planes – giant aircraft designed for long range patrols – were dispatched to search for Squadron 19. After several hours, the wind kicked up to thirty knots, visibility became limited, and a return to base was ordered. Only one of the Mariner sea planes landed.

For days following, the Navy and Coast Guard combed a 100,000-square-mile area with more than one hundred planes and surface craft. But even to this day, there has never been found a trace of the five aircrafts in Squadron 19 or the giant Mariner sea plane.

In the same mysterious way, two years later, on January 30, 1947, a British commercial airliner called the Star Tier, with thirty-one passengers aboard, vanished after radioing Bermuda that all was well and that landing would be precisely on schedule.

On December 22, 1967, the twenty-three-foot cabin cruiser *Witchcraft* disappeared off the coast of Miami after reporting propeller problems. Ten minutes after receiving the report, the Coast Guard arrived on the scene – but no sign of the cruiser has ever been found.

Similar episodes are found in government files regarding some forty ships and twenty planes which have mysteriously disappeared over the last century in a southwestern quadrant of the North Atlantic often referred to as the Bermuda Triangle or the Devil's Triangle.

There have been a number of plausible explanations over the years to explain just what does occur in this geographical triangle that touches Bermuda, Puerto Rico and point in the Gulf of Mexico west of Florida – everything from the scientific to the mystical – and still no one really knows what happened.

Application

It is a Devil's Triangle about which the Scripture warns us with grave care and concern. Simply stated in 1 John 2:15-17, this triangle includes three key coordinates: “, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.”

Its this triangle that causes more Christians to bail out and mysteriously disappear

Unlike the Bermuda Triangle we are not left wondering what happened. We know precisely what has taken place.

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Who is our adversary?

The World

John is not referring to the mass of humanity, which God Himself loves (**John 3:16**). Instead it is the community of sinful humanity that is united in rebellion against God.

The World - The "world" (*kosmos*) represents the system of values, priorities, and beliefs that unbelievers hold **that excludes God** "The world is that organized system which acts as a rival to God."

It is a moral and spiritual system designed to draw people away from God. It is a seductive system that appeals to all people, believers as well as unbelievers, and calls for our affection, participation, and **loyalty**. **Can't serve two masters Mathew 6:24**

Why is the World our Adversary?

The Lust of the flesh - The lust of the flesh is the desire to *do* something apart from the will of God. It includes every sinful activity that appeals to the sinful hearts of people.

The Lust of the eye - The lust of the eyes is the desire to *have* something apart from the will of God. Whatever is appealing to our senses but is not properly ours to desire or obtain falls under this category.

The Pride of life - The pride of life is the desire to *be* something apart from the will of God. It refers to boastful pretension in earthly matters.

The first desire appeals mainly to the body, the second appeals to the soul (or intellect), and the third to the spirit.

Satan in the Garden

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, (lust of the flesh), and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, (lust of the eyes) and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, (Pride of Life) she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Tempting of Christ

a. **Lust of the flesh** = turning stones into bread.

b. **Pride of life** = casting Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple.

c. **Lust of the eyes** = worshipping Satan and receiving all the kingdoms of the earth.

The following two extended incidents (ch. 17—21) differ from the records of the judges just completed (chs. 3—16). They are not accounts of the activities of any of Israel's judges. They are the record of events that took place during the period of the judges that throw light on conditions in Israel during this era. The purpose behind their inclusion seems to have been to illustrate even more clearly

Judges 17:6 - In those days [there was] no king in Israel, [but] every man did [that which was] right in his own eyes.

Cause and Effect

Cause - There was no King

Effect - Every man did that which was right in his own eyes

The root cause of Israel's deterioration was religious apostasy. The Israelites turned from God. They did not drive out the Canaanites as God had commanded (1:21, 27-33). Instead they made covenants with them (2:1-3). Rather than destroying the pagan altars, the Israelites served idols and forsook the Lord (2:11-12, 17, 19).

15C. F. Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Joshua, Judges, Ruth*, p. 243.
Dr. Constable's Notes on Judges 2013

Their apostasy began with toleration of things that God had condemned and prohibited. In time, the Israelites began to admire these things. Finally, they conformed to them.

“People are only vulnerable to being deceived when they want what is offered to them”

Steve Gallagher

***IF we don't have Jesus as our King then we have assumed the role ourselves**

***If your looking for God and don't see Him it may be because your standing in His Place!**

A few verses:

James 1:4 But every man is tempted, when he is **drawn away** of his own lust, and enticed.

2nd Timothy 4:10 For **Demas** hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Mathew 22:36-40 Master, which [is] the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Is what I am doing fulfilling these commandments??