

Seminar Three

Monday 09.30-10.30

“Resist the pull of the world”

John White – *Do not love the world*



What in the world.....?

Hardest of the triad “World, Flesh, Devil” to speak on

Challenge to be different: “a light shining in a dark world” (2 Peter 2:15); certainty that Jesus has victory over the world (John 16:33)

Conundrum - Do love the world but do not love the world?

- **Yes:** the *kosmos* is lovely;
- God's finger prints are all over it;
- God loves the world (John 3:16)



Conundrum - Do love the world but do not love the world?

No:

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful people, the lust of their eyes and their boasting about what they have and do – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

"LOVE NOT THIS WORLD"

1 John 2:15-17

John 1:10

(Jesus) was in the world (i.e., born on planet earth), and though the world was made through him (He brought the good plans and purpose of creation into being), the world did not recognise him (collective humanity, in their sinfulness, failed to acknowledge and give due to their creator)".

The two sins of David

- Adultery (2 Samuel 12, Psalm 51)
- Pride/worldliness (1 Chronicles 21)



In, but not of, the world

In our universe there is God and there are people and things. We were made so that we should worship God, love people and use things. However if we worship ourselves, we will ignore God, start loving things and begin to use people.

(Warren Wiersbe)

1 John 2:17-17

- ***Sinful cravings*** (desire of the flesh)
- ***Lust of the eye*** – note the downward spiral in Genesis 3:6f.
- ***Pride in Possessions*** – desire for the things of this world at the expense of love for God



John White *The Fight*

Lust of the flesh refers to physical appetites, such as hunger, thirst, sleep etc. These become problems when we “bow down and worship them” succumbing to gluttony, excess and sloth, rather than finding satisfaction in God’s provision;

Lust of the eye refers to the way we become governed by the beauty of things. To enjoy them as gifts of God is fine:

John White *The Fight* cont...

“But the passion to possess and hoard beauty is a lust that can destroy Christian living”

Lust of life is ambition. To strive for the best is good: but ambition can be nothing more than the inner need to prove myself. “...Ask yourself, is my ambition my master or my servant?”

John Bunyan *Pilgrim's Progress*

Now as Christian was walking solitary by himself, he espied one afar off, come crossing over the field to meet him, and they happened to meet just as they were crossing the way of each other. The gentleman's name that met him was Mr. Worldly Wiseman, he dwelt in the town of Carnal Policy, a very great town, and also hard by from whence Christian came.

John Bunyan *Pilgrim's Progress* cont...

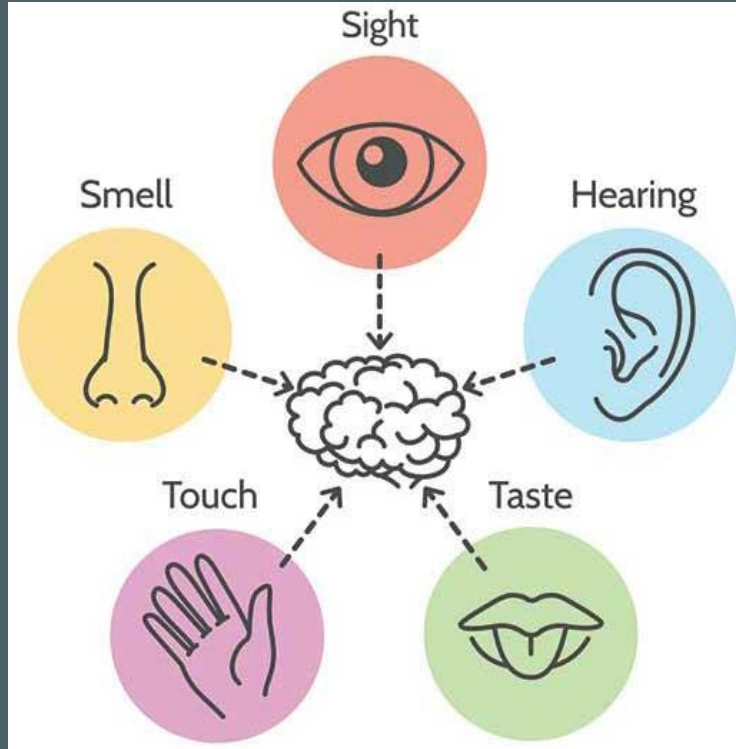
This Man then, meeting with Christian, and having some inkling of him (for Christian's setting forth from the City of Destruction, was much noised abroad, not only in the town where he dwelt, but also it began to be the Town-talk in some other places). Master Worldly Wiseman therefore having some guess of him, by beholding his laborious going, by observing his sighs and groans, and the like; began thus to enter into some Talk with Christian.

Be fit to fight – against the world!

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world” (Jesus, in John 16:33)

I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I wish to be. I am not what I hope to be. Yet I can truly say, I am not what I once was. By the grace of God I am what I am. (John Newton)

John Bunyan *Holy War*





FAITHFUL

IN A CHANGING WORLD



BIBLE
BY THE BEACH