

KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING LIFE

Session Eight

Dealing with the World

Scripture Reading: 1 John 5:4; Gen. 2:9; 4:14, 16, 20-22; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16;
1 Pet. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 10:1-2; Rom. 8:6

Outline

- I. The contamination of sin and of the world differ in that the contamination of sin is savage, rough and ugly, while the contamination of the world is cultured and refined, often appearing beautiful in the sight of man; the damage caused by sin and the world upon man differ greatly: sin contaminates man, whereas the world both contaminates and possesses man—1 John 2:15.**
- II. In Genesis 4 we see the formation of the world:**
 - A. The Bible divides man's needs into three main categories: provision, protection, and pleasure; in order to maintain his existence, he needs not only the various provisions, such as clothing, food, but also a means of defense to protect himself from being hurt and a form of amusement for his happiness.
 - B. When he lost God, man naturally lost God's provision, protection, and pleasure; in order to meet the necessities of life and survive, man used his own strength and devised means of supply, defense, and amusement; from this time, man created a godless civilization.
 - C. Therefore, the formation of the world has five steps: first, man lost God; second, he became fearful and was desperate concerning his needs; third, he created a godless life; fourth, Satan disguised himself and utilized man's needs; fifth, Satan organized man's own supply for his needs into a system.
- III. The Greek word for world, kosmos, has more than one meaning; it denotes an order, a set form, an orderly arrangement, hence, an ordered system—John 15:19; 17:14; James 4:4.**
- IV. We have seen that the world denotes an evil, satanic, anti-God system that is constituted of the things created by God; the contents of this system are the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the vainglory of life—1 John 2:16.**
- V. Through baptism we are delivered from the world by water; Noah's family was saved through the flood which destroyed the world and thus was delivered from the corrupted world—1 Pet. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 10:1-2.**
- VI. The world in our daily living consists of people, activities, and things which usurp the place of God in us; therefore, these objects are the aim of our dealings.**
- VII. The basis of our dealing with the world is the same as dealing with sin; it is based upon the sense of life obtained during fellowship; God wants man to deal with the things which he feels are unholy and usurping.**
- VIII. The extent to which we deal with the world is life and peace—Rom. 8:6.**
- IX. The practice of dealing with the world:**

- A. John charges us not to love the world or the things in the world; he tells us that if we love the world, the love of the Father is not in us; not loving such a world is the ground for overcoming the evil one.
- B. It is the divine life in our spirit that has the ability to overcome the evil, satanic world; the divine life in our spirit can overcome temptation—1 John 5:4.

FOCUS: *The burden of this lesson is to help the young people see a vision of the world and to see how much we are bound and occupied by the things of the world and our need to deal with the things that occupy us to release and deliver us from the usurpation of the world.*

READING MATERIALS:

The Experience of Life, chapter 5

Life Lessons, Lesson 3

Basic Principles of the Experience of Life, chapter 14

Life-study of 1 John, pp. 172, 174-175, 320

Recovery Version of the Bible, 1 John 2:15, note 2

Questions

1. Explain the difference between sin and the world.
2. How are the three categories of man's needs related to the formation of the world?
3. What are the five steps of the formation of the world?
4. Give a definition of the world according to 1 John 2:15.
5. What are the contents of the world? Discuss each briefly.
6. How are we delivered from the world?
7. What does the world in our daily living consist of?
8. What measuring rule do we use regarding the world? How could this differ from one believer to another?
9. What two factors influence our inner feelings toward the world?
10. How do we deal with the world practically?

Memory Verse

1 John 2:15-16 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

John 17:16-17 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

