



## “The Temptations of the World” (1 John 2:12-17) 2014

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Intro: Summary from last weekend’s message, “Walking as Jesus Did.”

- The greatest evidence of true Christianity?
  - John 13:34-35 A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By **this** all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
- Humble
  - John 13:1...Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.
  - Eph.4:2 Be completely **humble**...
- Forgiving
  - Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
  - Col.3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

vv.12-14 This message is for young, old, and everyone in-between; v.12 addresses the very young, v.13a the older, and 13b youth. addresses those who have walked with God for years and are now mature examples.

I call your attention to I John 5:13. I mentioned it last week, and it is a needed reminder once again. If someone’s focus is only on the things of this life, they have never been born again, they are not saved.

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 12:50...whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

As Jesus stood before Pilate he said, "My kingdom is not of this world." He came from a world he lived in from eternity past with His Father. It was that world, and that relationship, that motivated him to resist the temptations of this world.

Remember the record of Jesus' temptation by the devil? See Matthew 4:1-10; Luke 4:13.

Lust is desire for something that is forbidden; The pride of life is a boastfulness in one's own position or success in this world. It is the opposite of humility, the very heart of the character of Jesus Christ (Phil.2).

John 4:34 My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ("It is finished").

John 5:30...I do not seek my own will but the will of the Father who sent me.

It was Jesus' love for the Father that motivated him to endure the cross; "Father, if there is any other way, let this cup pass from me. Yet not my will..."

For those who are saved, the Spirit of the Father lives in us.

Matthew 10:20...it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

John 20:17 (Jesus after the resurrection to Mary M.)...Go to my brothers and tell them, "I am returning to my Father and your Father..."

John 16:28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.

John 17:11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me...

John 17:24 Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory...

Romans 8:15-16...you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our Spirit that we are God's children.

Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Our Father, who art in heaven...

There is a general message here that if someone has no relationship with the Father, they are not born again/saved. But this does not mean that someone truly saved cannot allow themselves to be influenced by the world.

## HOW ARE YOU DOING IN YOUR STRUGGLE WITH THE TEMPTATIONS OF THE WORLD?

- If there is no struggle, you're in big trouble!
- How often do you think about heaven?
- Would you be disappointed if Jesus came today?

## HOW DO I BALANCE THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD IN THIS PRESENT WORLD AND STILL OBEY I John 2:15-17?

- James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above...
- I Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.
- Am I rich in good deeds? (I Timothy 6:18)
- Do I regularly honor God with my wealth/invest in eternal riches? (I Tim.6:18b-19; Matthew 6:19-21); Am I generous, willing to share?
- Do the things of this world take priority over the things of the kingdom? (church involvement, ministry, etc.)
- What are my goals in life? (Luke 12:16-21)
- Am I seeking glory for this life only, or eternal glory? Would I sacrifice the glory of this world if it came in conflict with the will of God for my life?

## THE NEED TO BE VIGILENT AT EVERY AGE AND STAGE IN LIFE (vv.12-14)

Adam and Eve were in Paradise (Gen.3:6...pleasing to the eye...)

Nadab and Abihu were sons of Aaron the high priest (Lev.10)

Joshua was in The Promised Land (7:21)

Samson was empowered by the Spirit of God like few men in history, yet he failed in all three areas of temptation (summarize).

King David was a mature saint when he sinned with Bathsheba

II Sam.11:2...From the roof he **saw** a woman bathing...

Uzziah (II Chron.26)

Gehazi was servant to the prophet Elisha

Peter had just been given revelation from heaven regarding who Jesus really was...

Ananias and Sapphira were members of one of the greatest churches ever (Acts 5)

Demas was a young fellow missionary and minister with the apostle Paul (Col.4:14; Philemon 1:24).

- II Tim.4:10...Demas, ***because he loved this world***, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica...

What specific temptation took Demas down?

Was Demas saved?

## WINNING THE DAILY BATTLE OF THE TEMPTATIONS OF THIS WORLD

- Never forget it is a daily battle.
- The Word of God
  - Eph.6:17b (PP)
- A heavenly mindset
  - Rom.8:5; Phil.3:18-19; 4:8; Col.3:1-4; II Cor.4:18
  - There really is another world out there where God dwells
- Develop and maintain self-control.
  - I Thess.4:3-8; I Cor.9:24-27
- Realize that the glory of this world offers is a fading.
  - Shelton Quarles article

Matthew 16:26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?

James 4:14...What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

I Peter 1:24...All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall...

I Thess.4:13-18; Psalm 23:6; I Tim.6:12a; I John 2:25

Psalm 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.