

INTRODUCTION.

THIS MORNING ~ AND NEXT WEEK, ~ WE ARE GOING TO PAUSE ~ ¶¶

▶▶to catch our breath in our study of Colossians.

▶▶This ~ will give everything we talked about ~ ¶¶

▷▷regarding Paul's apostolic ministry to the church ~ a chance ~ to sink in.

▶▶And to keep the big picture in mind, ~ let's continue, ~ ¶¶

▷▷commit ~ or ~ recommit ~ ourselves ~ to reading Colossians ~ at least once a week.

BACK IN JUNE, ~ WE DIPPED INTO 1 JOHN.

▶▶We looked at 1:5.

▷▷John's assertion ~ that, ~ as the very literal translation says, ~ ¶¶

↪↪God is light, ~ and darkness in Him ~ not is, ~ not one bit.

▶▶And today and next Sunday, ~ ¶¶

▷▷we're going to go back to John's first epistle, ~ and look at 1 Jn. 2:15-17.

IN THIS BRIEF PARAGRAPH, ~ JOHN ~ ¶¶

▶▶sounds a warning ~ to believers ~ about the world. ¶¶ 1/14

THE WAY JOHN HAS SET UP THIS PASSAGE ~ MAKES IT QUITE EASY ~ FOR US TO outline.

▶▶ We'll do an overview ~ and then ~ begin to dig in to this passage.

▶▶ 1st, ~ John states ~ an exhortation, ~ verse 15a.

▷▷ Do not love ~ the world ~ or ~ the things ~ in the world.

▶▶ And then ~ he undergirds his exhortation with ~ 77

▷▷ 3 reasons ~ believers should not love the world or the things in the world, ~ Vv. 15b-17.

▷▷ 1st, ~ Vs. 15b, ~ If anyone loves the world, ~ the love of the Father ~ is not ~ in him.

▷▷ 2nd, ~ Verse 16, ~ For all that is in the world ~ the desires of the flesh ~ and the desires of the eyes ~ and pride of life ~ is not ~ from the Father ~ but ~ is from the world.

▷▷ And 3rd, ~ Verse 17, ~ the world ~ is passing away ~ along with its desires, ~ but ~ whoever does ~ the will of God ~ abides forever.

▶▶ Today, ~ we'll just cover Johns exhortation ~ and ~ his first reason ~ not to love the world.

THE BIBLE ~ OFTEN GIVES THE CHOICE ~ BETWEEN ~ loving the world ~ and ~ loving God.

▶▶ Joshua ~ challenged the Israelites ~ to choose between ~ pagan gods ~ and the true God.

▷▷ Joshua 24:15. ~ And ~ if it is evil ~ in your eyes ~ to serve the Lord, ~ choose this day ~ whom ~ you will serve, ~ whether ~ the gods ~ your fathers served ~ in the region beyond the River, ~ or ~ the gods of the Amorites ~ in whose land you dwell. ~ But ~ as for me and my house, ~ we ~ will serve the Lord. 11 2/14

▶▶ Jesus gave his disciples a stark choice.

▷▷ He told them ~ it is impossible ~ to serve ~ both God and Money.

▷▷ Matthew 6:24.

↳↳ No one ~ can serve two masters, ~ for either ~ he will hate the one ~ and love the other, ~ ¶¶

→→ or ~ he will ~ be devoted to the one ~ and despise the other. ~ ~ ¶¶

↳↳ You cannot ~ serve ~ God and money.

▶▶ And here ~ in 1 Jn. 2:15-17, ~ John ~ takes up this topic.

OK, ~ LET'S LOOK AT JOHN'S EXHORTATION.

VERSE 15a, ~ DO NOT LOVE ~ THE WORLD ~ OR ~ THE THINGS ~ IN THE WORLD.

▶▶ Notice, ~ the exhortation is given ~ a double statement.

▷▷ The first part ~ is comprehensive, ~ Do not love ~ the world.

▷▷ The second part ~ is more specific, ~ or ~ the things ~ in the world.

▷▷ The whole ~ and the parts.

↳↳ No exceptions ~ to the rule.

↳↳ Coming back to this ~ later the message. ¶¶ 3/14

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ~ HOW JOHN ~ IS USING THE TERM ~ "WORLD" HERE.

▶▶ "world" here ~ denotes ~ the evil earthly system, ~ totally under the grip of Satan, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that ~ has aligned itself against ~ and is at war with ~ God and his kingdom; ~¶¶

↳↳ and that displays ~ spiritual ignorance ~ ¶¶

→→ and a pro sin and self, ~ anti-God, ~ materialistic ~ mentality.

▶▶ To abbreviate this, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ in Colossians, ~ Paul ~ calls it, ~ and this should sound ~ very familiar, ~ the domain of darkness.

▷▷ From which ~ believers have been ~ permanently rescued ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and permanently transferred ~ to the kingdom of Jesus.

▷▷ But, ~ due to the presence of our sin nature ~ still within in us ~ in this life, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ it is still possible, ~ although ~ we can no longer be ~ a permanent part of it, ~ ¶¶

→→ it is still possible ~ for us ~ to be enticed back ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to ~ loving or participating in ~ this dark domain.

▷▷ And John implies this ~ by his exhortation.

↳↳ Just because we ~ are new creations in Christ, ~ it does not ~ make us immune ~ ¶¶

→→ to ~ loving ~ or wanting to participate in ~ the domain of darkness. ¶¶ 4/14

OK, ~ BACK TO JOHN'S ~ EXHORTATION.

▶▶ We could paraphrase it this way: ~~ Do not love ~ the domain of darkness.

IN THIS CONTEXT, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ love for the domain of darkness ~ is the same type of love ~ given to God.

▶▶ John says in the whole of [verse 15](#), ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Do not love the world ~ or the things in the world. ~~ ¶¶

↳↳^{15b} If anyone loves the world, ~ the love of the Father ~ is not in him.

▶▶ He's talking about ~ the same kind of love ~ in each instance.

AND LOVE HERE, ~ IF I UNDERSTAND IT CORRECTLY, ~ MEANS ~ ALLEGIANCE.

▶▶ That is ~ who we give ~ our allegiance to.

▶▶ Just as Israel in the Old Testament ~ repeatedly had to decide ~ ¶¶

▷▷ between allegiance to God ~ & ~ allegiance to the pagan nations around them, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ John is calling believers ~ to reject ~ allegiance to the domain of darkness.

▶▶ So, ~ we can build ~ on our paraphrase ~ of John's exhortation.

▷▷ Do not give ~ your allegiance ~ to ~ the domain of darkness. ¶¶ 5/14

NOW, ~ AS WE NOTED, ~ JOHN'S EXHORTATION ~ IS A TWO-PART STATEMENT.

▶▶ And we can again ~ build on our paraphrase.

▶▶ The first part is comprehensive, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Do not give ~ your allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness.

▶▶ And now, ~ in the second part, ~ John gets more specific, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ or ~ to the things ~ that belong ~ to the domain of darkness.

THE WORDS, ~ "THE THINGS IN THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS," ~ SPECIFY ~ THAT THIS exhortation ~ ¶¶

▶▶ covers ~ any ~ and all ~ particular aspects ~ of this domain.

▶▶ Anything ~ that is ~ rooted in ~ and characterized by ~ this domain is included.

▶▶ Nothing ~ attached to the domain of darkness ~ is excluded.

▶▶ E.g., ~ ¶¶

▷▷ believers ~ must ~ reject allegiance to ~ anti-God ~ philosophies, ~ values, ~ and principles.

▷▷ We must ~ detach ourselves ~ from an idolatrous attitude ~ toward material things.

▷▷ We must ~ distance ourselves ~ from the attitude ~ that calls ~ evil good ~ and good evil. ¶¶ 6/14

▷▷ We must refuse ~ to be dragged into ~ ¶¶

↳↳ this domain's ~ grumbling, ~ bitterness, in gratitude, ~ and covetousness, ~~ ¶¶

→→ its obsession ~ with cares and riches and pleasures, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and its ~ preoccupation ~ with receiving praise from people.

▶▶ In brief, ~ allegiance to anything ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that is ~ pro sin and self, ~ anti-God, ~ and materialistic.

↳↳ TPID, ~ anything ~ not glorifying and pleasing to God, ~ ¶¶

→→ must ~ be excluded ~ from our lives.

JOHN'S EXHORTATION.

DO NOT GIVE ~ YOUR ALLEGIANCE ~ TO ~ THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ or ~ to the things ~ that belong ~ to ~ this dark domain.

AND THEN, ~ AS WE NOTED, ~~ IN VERSES 15b-17, ~ ¶¶

JOHN SETS FORTH ~ THREE REASONS ~ FOR HIS EXHORTATION.

▶▶ Three reasons ~ to not give our allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness ~ ¶¶

▷▷ or ~ the things that belong to it. ¶¶ 7/14

▶▶ Just as a reminder, ~ today, ~ we are going to look ~ only ~ at the first reason.

▷▷ And ~ we'll take up the other two ~ next week

THE FIRST REASON, ~ VERSE 15b.

IF ANYONE ~ LOVES ~ [KEEP IN MIND ~ ALLEGIANCE] ~ THE WORLD ~ [i.e., ~ the domain of darkness], ~ ¶¶

▶▶ the love of the Father is not in him.

▶▶ "of" here ~ can be ~ and is best ~ looked at ~ as "for."

▶▶ The NIV ~ brings out the meaning quite well here.

▷▷ If anyone ~ loves the world, ~ love ~ for ~ the Father ~ is not ~ in them.

▶▶ Straightforward, ~ crystal clear, ~ blunt, ~ to the point, ~ and ~ the absolute truth.

▷▷ We should ~ really let that ~ sink in.

▶▶ The first reason ~ for us ~ to not give ~ our allegiance ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to the domain of darkness ~ is that ~ allegiance to this domain ~ ¶¶

↪↪ is completely ~ incompatible ~ with allegiance ~ to God.

▶▶ You cannot ~ pledge allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness ~ or to anything ~ that belongs to it ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and ~ pledge allegiance to God ~ at the same time. ¶¶ 8/14

▶▶ Notice, ~ with John ~ there is ~ no ~ gray area, ~ no ~ twilight zone.

▶▶ IOW, ~ you can't have ~ a little bit of allegiance ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to both ~ the domain of darkness or anything that belongs to it ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and to God.

THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS ~ AND GOD ~ ARE AT SUCH ODDS, ~¶¶

▶▶ are so ~ violently and diametrically ~ opposed to one another, ~¶¶

▷▷ are at such cross-purposes, ~ and are at total war with each other ~ ¶¶

↳↳ that it is ~ simply impossible ~ to pledge allegiance to them both ~ at the same time.

▶▶ James points this out. ⇨⇨ James 4:4b (CSB).

▷▷ Don't you know ~ that friendship with the world ~ is hostility toward God? ~ So ~ whoever wants to be the friend of the world ~ becomes ~ the enemy of God.

↳↳ No ~ middle ground.

▶▶ We've already read what Jesus said, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ No one ~ can serve two masters, ~ for either ~ he will hate the one ~ and love the other, ~ or ~ he will be devoted ~ to the one ~ and despise ~ the other. ~ You cannot ~ serve God and money.

↳↳ Again, ~ no ~ middle ground. ¶¶ 9/14

▶▶ Also, ~ recall Joshua's challenge to the Israelites.

▷▷ And if it is evil in your eyes ~ to serve the Lord, ~ choose this day ~ whom you will serve, ~ whether the gods your fathers served ~ in the region beyond the River, ~ or ~ the gods of the Amorites ~ in whose land you dwell.

▷▷ Notice, ~ Joshua ~ gave them ~ only ~ two choices.

▷▷ There was no ~ third choice, ~ which said ~ "or ~ both the false gods and Yahweh."

TO TRULY ~ SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO GOD ~ MEANS ~ TO LOVES WHAT HE LOVES, ~ ↴

▶▶ to treasure what he treasures, ~ to take his part ~ and ~ to have ~ his interests ~ in your heart.

▷▷ To truly ~ swear allegiance to God ~ is to set oneself against ~ ↴↴

↳↳ everything ~ the domain of darkness ~ stands for, ~ values, ~ and seeks.

▷▷ To choose God ~ is ~ to reject this dark domain.

▶▶ But, ~ if one ~ swears allegiance ~ ↴↴

▷▷ to even one thing ~ that's part ~ of the domain of darkness,

↳↳ then they are, ~ by that very fact, ~ ↴↴

→→ choosing ~ against God, ~ against ~ his will, ~ and ~ against ~ his interests.

▷▷ And, ~ by extension, ~ we are choosing against ~ our own ~ spiritual wellbeing.

▷▷ A believer ~ cannot ~ have it both ways. ↴↴ 10/14

JOHN'S EXHORTATION.

DO NOT GIVE ~ YOUR ALLEGIANCE ~ TO ~ THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS, ~ ¶¶

▶▶or ~ to the things ~ that belong ~ to ~ this dark domain.

▶▶Now, ~ is John just into ~ us keeping a bunch of rules?

▷▷Absolutely not.

▷▷This exhortation ~ is for our spiritual well-being.

I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE, ~ IN OUR STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS, ~ ¶¶

▶▶and I'll say it again ~ because it's so very, ~ very ~ important ~ to understand.

▶▶God ~ doesn't give us ~ a bunch of commands ~ ¶¶

▷▷simply because he wants us to obey ~ a bunch of commands.

▷▷He's not some ~ cosmic killjoy ~ who wants ~ ¶¶

↳↳to restrict our freedom ~ or ~ to prevent us ~ from having fun.

↳↳This is what Satan, ~ the world, ~ and our sin nature ~ would have us believe.

▷▷Far from it.

▷▷Every one ~ of God's commands ~ are ~ for our spiritual well-being. ¶¶ 11/14

↳↳ Every one ~ of God's commands in Scripture ~ are: ~ 77

→→ for our good, ~ help us grow spiritually, ~ 77

↳↳ and help us become more and more like Jesus.

▶▶ And ~ when we obey his commands, ~ 77

▷▷ far from feeling restricted ~ or miserable, ~ 77

↳↳ we will find ~ incredible freedom and joy.

▷▷ I once again ~ call your attention ~ to the chorus of the old hymn.

↳↳ "Trust and obey, ~ for there's no other way ~ to be happy in Jesus, ~ 77

→→ but ~ to trust and obey."

↳↳ This is not some religious hogwash, ~ trite saying, ~ legalistic nonsense, ~ 77

→→ or an appeal to guilt-trip Christianity.

↳↳ This is a theologically rich, ~ biblically sound, ~ and true statement.

▶▶ I would strongly suggest to you ~ that genuine believer ~ is never more miserable ~ 77

▷▷ than when we are not following ~ our Lord's commands.

▷▷ Sin ~ brings only a very brief period of happiness. 11 12/14

▷▷ But ultimately ~ sin brings ~ misery and inner turmoil ~ into our lives.

↳↳ David recalled the time after he sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah, ~ 77

→→ when he kept silent ~ and refused to confess his sin to God.

↳↳ Ps. 32:3-4 (CSB).

→→ When I kept silent, ~~ my bones ~ became brittle ~ from my groaning all day long. ~~ For day and night ~ your hand was heavy on me; ~~ my strength was drained ~ as in the summer's heat.

▶▶ On the other hand, ~ joy and peace ~ are by-products of walking by the Spirit.

▷▷ I.e., ~ when a genuine believer lives according to God's word, ~ they will experience ~ joy and inner peace.

▷▷ Ps. 1:1-2.

↳↳ Blessed ~ [i.e., ~ O, ~ how happy] ~ is the man ~ who walks not ~ in the counsel of the wicked, ~~ nor stands ~ in the way of sinners, ~~ nor sits ~ in the seat of scoffers; ~~ but his delight ~ is ~ in the law of the Lord, ~~ and on his law ~ he meditates ~ day and night.

▷▷ Ps. 119, ~ verses 1-2, ~ NIV.

↳↳ Blessed ~ [or, ~ Joyful] ~ are those ~ whose ways are blameless, ~ who walk according to the law of the Lord. ~~ 77

→→ Blessed ~ [or, ~ Joyful] ~ are those ~ who keep his statutes ~~ and seek him ~ with all their heart.

↳↳ And Ps. 119, ~ verse 165a, ~~ Great peace have those ~ who love your law. 77 13/14

CONCLUSION.

BELIEVERS, ~ FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING, ~ JOHN SAYS, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ Do not give ~ your allegiance ~ to ~ the domain of darkness, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ or ~ to the things ~ that belong ~ to ~ this dark domain.

LET'S PRAY 14/14