

INTRODUCTION.

LAST WEEK, ~ IN OUR BRIEF HIATUS FROM COLOSSIANS, ~ WE BEGAN TO LOOK AT John's warning to believers ~ about the world. ⇔⇔ 1 Jn. 2:15-17.

▶▶ To believers.

AS WE NOTED, ~ THE WAY JOHN HAS SET UP THIS PASSAGE ~ MAKES IT QUITE EASY ~ for us to outline.

▶▶ 1<sup>st</sup>, ~ John states ~ an exhortation, ~ verse 15a.

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

▶▶ And then ~ he undergirds his exhortation with ~ three reasons ~ believers should not love the world ~ or the things in the world, ~ Verses 15b-17.

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

▷▷ 2<sup>nd</sup>, ~ 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, ~ Verse 17, ~ the world ~ is passing away ~ along with its desires, ~~ but ~ whoever does ~ the will of God ~ abides forever.

WE FIRST LOOKED AT JOHN'S EXHORTATION, ~ which is given a double statement.

▶▶ Do not ~ love the world (comprehensive) ~ or ~ the things in the world (specific). ↯↯ 1/15

▶▶ The whole ~ and the parts ~ of the world.

▷▷ No exceptions to the rule.

▷▷ It's not, ~ "Do not love the world ~ or the things in the world ~ except for . . ."

OF COURSE, ~ AS WE CONSIDERED, ~ WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ~ THE TERM "WORLD"  
~ as it is used 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, ~ as we observed, ~ Paul ~ calls it ~ the domain of  
darkness.

↪↪ From which ~ believers have been ~ permanently rescued ~ and permanently  
transferred ~ to the kingdom of Jesus.

↪↪ But, ~ although this is true, ~ due to the presence of our sin nature ~ it is still  
possible ~ for us ~ to be enticed back ~ to loving or participating in ~ this domain.

↪↪ And John implies this ~ by his exhortation.

↪↪ Just because we ~ are new creations in Christ, ~ does not ~ make us immune ~ to ~  
loving ~ or wanting to participate in ~ the domain of darkness.

▶▶ We could paraphrase John's exhortation this way.

▷▷ Do not love ~ the domain of darkness ~ or ~ to the things that belong ~ to it. 📖 2/15

LOVE, ~ AS WE TOOK NOTE OF, ~ MEANS ~ ALLEGIANCE. ⇨⇨ We built on our paraphrase.

▶▶ Do not give ~ your allegiance ~ to ~ the domain of darkness ~ or ~ to ~ the things that belong to it.

▶▶ And, ~ we saw, ~ John's exhortation ~ covers ~ any ~ and all ~ aspects of the domain of darkness.

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

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

▶▶ For example.

▷▷ 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.

▷▷ We must refuse ~ to be dragged into ~ this domain's ~ grumbling, ~ bitterness, ~ ingratitude, ~ and covetousness.

▷▷ Its obsession ~ with ~ cares ~ and riches ~ and pleasures, ~ and ~ its preoccupation ~ with receiving praise from people ~ must ~ be disallowed.

▶▶ In brief, ~ allegiance to anything ~ that is ~ pro sin and self, ~ anti-God, ~ and materialistic, ~ must ~ be excluded ~ from our lives. ⇩⇩ 3/15

AFTER LOOKING AT JOHN'S EXHORTATION, ~ WE DISCUSSED THE FIRST REASON FOR us ~ to not ~ give our allegiance ~ to ~ the domain of darkness.

▶▶ And that is, ~ allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness ~ or to the things in it ~ is ~ totally incompatible ~ with allegiance to God.

▶▶ To again build ~ on our paraphrase.

▷▷ If anyone ~ gives their allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness, ~ or ~ to anything that belongs to it, ~ allegiance to the Father ~ is not in them.

▶▶ 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.

▶▶ No gray area, ~ no twilight zone, ~ no middle ground, ~ no third choice.

▷▷ James . . . .

▷▷ Jesus . . . .

▷▷ Joshua . . . .

▶▶ To truly ~ swear allegiance to God ~ means ~ to ~ love what he loves, ~ to ~ treasure what he treasures.

▷▷ To truly ~ swear allegiance to God ~ is ~ 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 the domain of darkness. 📖 4/15

▶▶But, ~ if one ~ swears allegiance ~ to even one thing ~ that's part ~ of the domain of darkness, ~ 77

↳↳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.

TODAY ~ WE'LL TURN OUR ATTENTION TO ~ THE SECOND AND THIRD REASONS ~ to not love the world.

▶▶But ~ it was important, ~ I think, ~ to give a solid review ~ in order ~ to get our bearings ~ and not be lost ~ as we finish up ~ John's warning to believers ~ about the world.

THE SECOND REASON ~ TO NOT GIVE OUR ALLEGIANCE ~ TO ~ the domain of darkness.

VERSE 16.

▶▶And we'll build on our paraphrase.

▶▶For all ~ that is in ~ the domain of darkness, ~ the desires ~ of the flesh ~ and ~ the desires of the eyes ~ and ~ pride of life ~ is not ~ from the Father ~ but ~ is from the domain of darkness.

▶▶The second reason for believers ~ to not give our allegiance ~ to ~ the domain of darkness ~ or ~ to the things that belong to it.

▷▷Because ~ the source of everything ~ in the domain of darkness ~ is not God the Father ~ but ~ the domain of darkness ~ itself.

▶▶Having their source ~ in the domain of darkness, ~ these things ~ will lead us ~ away from the Father ~ and into ~ allegiance ~ to ~ the domain of darkness. 77 5/15

▷▷ And that makes sense, ~ because ~ the domain of darkness ~ hates ~ and ~ is at war with ~ God and his kingdom.

↳↳ So, ~ by their very nature, ~ the things that belong ~ to the domain of darkness ~ are ~ pro sin and self, ~ anti-God, ~ and ~ materialistic.

## JOHN GIVES THREE EXAMPLES ~ OF WHAT IS FROM ~ THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS.

▶▶ Three things ~ that, ~ by their very nature, ~ will lead us ~ to abandon allegiance ~ to God ~ and ~ to embrace ~ allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness.

### FIRST, ~ THE DESIRES ~ OF THE FLESH.

▶▶ Now, ~ we need to talk about terms here ~ in order ~ to get a proper understanding.

▶▶ There are three ways to interpret the phrase "the desires of the flesh."

▷▷ I won't bore you with the first two.

▷▷ What seems to be the better interpretation ~ is that ~ this phrase ~ means ~ the desires ~ the flesh is producing.

↳↳ IOW, ~ what the flesh ~ desires.

▶▶ Also, ~ many translations use the word "lust" in this verse.

▷▷ And that's ok, ~ except ~ someone could get the impression ~ that John ~ is only talking about ~ sexual immorality.

▷▷ Since that is how I believe ~ most of us ~ view that term. ↴ 6/15

▷▷ The Greek term ~ means ~ a strong desire or craving, ~ whether good or bad.

↳↳ Context shows us ~ how it's being used.

→→ And in this context, ~ John is using the bad/negative sense.

▷▷ And the word ~ as John uses it here ~ should be viewed ~ as a collective noun.

↳↳ I.e., ~ it includes ~ but encompasses much more than ~ one thing..

▷▷ I believe ~ the word "desires" ~ is a better translation.

▷▷ I think ~ it better brings out ~ the meaning of the word ~ and ~ the collective nature of the word ~ as John uses it.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ the term flesh ~ is a neutral term.

▷▷ It can be used both positively and negatively.

▷▷ In our present text, ~ John ~ is emphasizing ~ the negative meaning. ~~ [Sin Nature]

▶▶ Ok, ~ so what is John talking about here, ~ with the phrase, ~ the desires of the flesh?

▷ He's talking about ~ the sinful desires ~ of our sin nature.

▷▷ We, ~ we can look at John's statement, ~ "the desires of the flesh," ~~ as ~ "our sinful desires. ⇔⇔ Or, ~ what our sinful self desires.

▶▶ Again, ~ in this life, ~ believers ~ still have our old nature, ~ complete ~ with its sinful desires. 📖 7/15

▷▷ And our sin nature ~ is very much ~ a part of ~ the domain of darkness.

▶▶ And John is emphasizing ~ that our sinful desires ~ do not originate ~ with God.

▷▷ They find their origin ~ deep within us.

▷▷ James explains. ⇨⇨ James 1:13-15.

↳↳<sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, ~ "I am being tempted by God," ~ for God ~ cannot be tempted with evil, ~ and he himself ~ tempts no one. ~<sup>14</sup> But ~ each person is tempted ~ when he is drawn away and enticed ~ by his own evil desire. ~<sup>15</sup> Then ~ after desire has conceived, ~ it gives birth ~ to sin, ~ and ~ when sin ~ is fully grown, ~ it gives birth ~ to death.

▷▷ Jesus defined it as well. ⇨⇨ Matt. 15:19.

↳↳ For ~ out of the heart ~ come ~ evil thoughts, ~ murder, ~ adultery, ~ sexual immorality, ~ theft, ~ false witness, ~ slander.

▶▶ Our sinful desires, ~ by their very nature, ~ ~ will lead us ~ to abandon allegiance ~ to God ~ and ~ to embrace ~ allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness.

## THE SECOND EXAMPLE ~ OF WHAT IS FROM ~ THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS.

▶▶ the desires of the eyes.

▶▶ Based on my research of this phrase, ~ here's how it could be defined.

▷▷ The tendency ~ to be captivated ~ by the outward show of things ~ without enquiring ~ into ~ their real values.

▶▶ IOW, ~ the phrase ~ is simply describing ~ a focus ~ on the ~ visible things of life ~ rather than ~ the spiritual. ⇩⇩ 8/15



▶▶ Given the context ~ of the world's temporary status, ~ as John notes in [verse 17](#), ~ this may be the best way to look at this phrase.

▷▷ The center of attention ~ is on ~ that which is temporary ~ rather ~ than on ~ that which is eternal.

▶▶ In [Jn. 4:35](#), ~ Jesus called the disciples ~ to open their eyes ~ and look for the significance ~ of the harvest of the Samaritans . . . .

▷▷ Do you not say, ~ 'There are yet four months, ~ then comes the harvest'? ~ Look, ~ I tell you, ~ lift up your eyes, ~ and see ~ that the fields ~ are white for harvest.

▷▷ Not talking about physical ~ but spiritual.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ John uses ~ "eyes" ~ ten times ~ and "sight" ~ three times ~ in relation to the blind man in [Jn. 9](#)

▷▷ Here ~ the real significance ~ is not ~ that Jesus opened the man's eyes to physical sight.

▷▷ The real significance ~ is that Jesus opened his ~ spiritual eyes.

↳↳ To see ~ that Jesus ~ is the one sent by God.

▷▷ The Pharisees ~ were blind to this truth, ~ even though ~ they could see ~ physically.

↳↳ Their focus ~ was strictly ~ on the physical.

▶▶ We must take into account ~ that John ~ was present at and recorded ~ these events and their significance. [↱↱ 9/15](#)

▶▶ So, ~ it is very likely ~ that, ~ when John says, ~ "the desires of the eyes," ~ ¶¶

▷▷ he's describing a focus ~ on the visible things of life ~ rather ~ than the spiritual.

▶▶ IOW, ~ he's contrasting ~ the ability ~ to see ~ only the earthly ~ with ~ the ability ~ to see ~ beyond to the heavenly.

▶▶ So, ~ the phrase ~ "the desire of the eyes" ~ can be looked at as saying, ~ "the desire for what the eyes see physically ~ without enquiring into their real values."

▶▶ Contrast David and Joseph . . . .

▶▶ Ok, ~ back to John.

▶▶ The first example ~ from the domain of darkness was ~ the sinful desires ~ of our sin nature.

↪↪ And this will lead us into allegiance to the domain of darkness.

▶▶ Now the second example ~ from that domain ~ is ~ "the desire for what the eyes see physically ~ without enquiring into their real values."

▷▷ And this will, ~ as well, ~ by its very nature, ~ lead us ~ to abandon allegiance ~ to God ~ and ~ to embrace ~ allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness.

▶▶ And we need to understand this, ~ my . . . .

▷▷ As new creations in Christ, ~ we now have ~ the ability ~ to see ~ through the physical ~ to evaluate ~ the real values of the physical, ~ to see ~ beyond ~ to the heavenly. ¶¶ 10/15

▷▷ In fact, ~ as we'll see in [Col. 3:1-2](#), ~ we are exhorted ~ to seek the things above ~ 77

↳↳ and ~ to set our minds on them ~ and not ~ on the things that are on earth.

▷▷ To not do so, ~ is detrimental ~ to our spiritual wellbeing ~ and weakens ~ our witness for Christ.

THE 3<sup>rd</sup> EXAMPLE ~ OF WHAT'S FROM ~ the domain of darkness. ⇔⇔ PRIDE OF LIFE.

▶▶ Ok, ~ let's break this down.

▷▷ The Greek word for "life" here ~ is not talking about life itself, ~ i.e., ~ being alive.

↳↳ It can ~ and in this context does ~ mean ~ "life's possessions."

▷▷ The word for "pride" ~ refers to ~ "boastful pride about."

▶▶ Put together, ~ the third example ~ of what is from the domain of darkness ~ is ~ the boastful pride ~ about ~ our earthly possessions.

▶▶ It is the attitude of Nebuchadnezzar.

▷▷ [Dan. 4:30 \(CSB\)](#). ⇔⇔ the king exclaimed, "Is this not Babylon the Great that I have built to be a royal residence by my vast power and for my majestic glory?"

▷▷ God immediately ~ drove him out into the fields ~ to live as a wild beast ~ until his heart was humbled!

▷▷ And then ~ Nebuchadnezzar placed the glory ~ squarely ~ where it belonged. 11/15

▶▶ This boastful pride ~ about our worldly possessions ~ is an affront to God.

▷▷ Because, ~ as in the case of Nebuchadnezzar, ~ it leads to ~ self-glorification, ~ a failure to give God the glory ~~ 77

→→ and ~ a failure to realize ~ our dependence upon him for our existence.

▶▶ Paul said to the Corinthian believers, ~ 1 Cor. 4:7b, ~ What do you have ~ that you did not receive? ~~ If then ~ you received it, ~ why ~ do you boast ~ as if ~ you did not receive it?

↪↪ IOW, ~ if it was given to you, ~ how can you brag?

▶▶ Moses' warning to the ancient Israelites ~ is for all ~ of God's people. ⇔⇔ Deut. 8:17-18a.

▷▷<sup>17</sup> Beware ~ lest you say in your heart ~ [or, ~ Be careful ~ not to say], ~~ 'My power ~ and the might of my hand ~ have gotten me this wealth.' ~~ <sup>18a</sup> You shall remember ~ the Lord your God, ~ for it is he ~ who gives you power ~ to get wealth."

▶▶ It's crystal clear.

▷▷ Boasting ~ about our earthly possessions, ~ will, ~ by its very nature, ~ lead us ~ to abandon allegiance ~ to God ~ and ~ to embrace ~ allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness.

OK, ~ WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE FOREST FOR THE TREES.

▶▶ We are looking at ~ John's warning about the world, ~ 1 Jn. 2:15-17.

▶▶ He exhorts us, ~ believers, ~ Do not give ~ your allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness ~ or ~ to the things ~ that belong to it.

▶▶ Then he gives three reasons not to give our allegiance to the dark domain. 11 12/15

▶▶ We've looked at the first two.

▷▷ 1<sup>st</sup>, ~ allegiance to the domain of darkness ~ is incompatible ~ with allegiance to God.

▷▷ And 2<sup>nd</sup>, ~ the source ~ of all that is in the domain of darkness ~ is not God the Father ~ but the domain of darkness itself.

↳↳ He followed this 2<sup>nd</sup> reason ~ with three examples that are part of that domain.

↳↳ All ~ that belongs ~ to the domain of darkness, ~ by their very nature, ~ ¶¶

→→ will lead us ~ to abandon allegiance ~ to God ~ and ~ to embrace ~ allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness.

▶▶ We can now turn ~ to the third reason ~ not to give our allegiance ~ to ~ the domain of darkness.

THE THIRD REASON, ~ VERSE 17. ⇨⇨ BRIEFLY NOW.

And the world ~ [i.e., ~ the domain of darkness] ~ is passing away ~ along with its desires, ~~ but whoever does the will of God ~ abides forever.

RIGHT OFF THE TOP, ~ WE NEED TO DEFINE THE PHRASE, ~ "WHOEVER DOES THE WILL of God."

▶▶ In his first epistle, ~ John ~ presents a series of tests ~ by which ~ a person's claim ~ to be a believer in Jesus Christ ~ can be shown ~ to be genuine or not.

▶▶ And one of those tests, ~ is ~ the test of obedience, ~ which is found in 1 Jn. 2:3-6.

▷▷ Obedience to God's commands ~ is evidence of genuine salvation. ¶¶ 13/15

▶▶Genuine believers ~ might ~ and will ~ sin and disobey God at times.

▷▷But their lives ~ are mostly characterized ~ by active engagement ~ in doing God's will.

▶▶So ~ it may be best ~ to view the phrase ~ "whoever does the will of God" ~ as a synonym ~ for genuine believers.

▶▶So, ~ I would suggest this paraphrase ~ of the third reason ~ for believers to not give our allegiance ~ to the domain of darkness.

▷▷And the domain of darkness ~ is passing away ~ along with its desires, ~~ but genuine believers ~ abide forever.

▶▶While, ~ of course, ~ this present universe is temporary, ~ this is not ~ what John is talking about here.

▷▷Remember the context, ~~ the domain of darkness.

▶▶The domain of darkness ~ with one's desires for it ~ are temporary.

▷▷God ~ will eradicate it ~ and our sinful nature, ~ which is drawn ~ to the domain of darkness ~ and what belongs to it.

▶▶It therefore ~ makes little sense ~ for a believer ~ to give his/her allegiance to ~ the domain of darkness ~ or to anything that belongs to it, ~ ↴↴

▷▷since ~ these things ~ will not endure.

▶▶My ..., ~~ since we will live forever, ~ only what is eternal ~ is divinely approved ~ as a legitimate object ~ for our allegiance. ↴↴ 14/15

▶▶ Jesus said, ~ Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, ~~ where moth and rust destroy ~~ and where thieves break in and steal. ~~ 77

▷▷ But store up for yourselves ~ treasures in heaven, ~ where ~ neither moth nor rust destroys, ~~ and where ~ thieves don't break in and steal. ~~ For where your treasure is, ~ there your heart will be also.

LET'S PRAY..... 15/15