

IV. HOW A CHRISTIAN SHOULD REACT TO THE ALLUREMENTS OF THIS WORLD

When we are allured by the things of this world...

A. WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS WORLD IS OUR ENEMY

1. This world system espouses philosophies which militate against the things of God.

It says, "you don't need God and you can get along just fine without Him"

It says, "forget about eternity and live for the here and now." But notice what the word of God says in II Cor. 4:18; Col. 2:8.

2. This world system vies and competes for the Christian's affection and time. It offers all kinds of things as substitutes for serving God.

Just how many are ensnared and defeated is illustrated in the parable of the sower as the seed which fell among the thrones (Mk 4:18,19).

Some are ensnared by money and trade God's service for it. Others trade God's service for pleasures or other cares.

B. WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT'S INVOLVED IN SELLING OUT TO THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD

1. Selling out to the world means forsaking the Lord and putting other things before Him
Note Col. 1:18.
2. Selling out to the world means trading eternal things for temporal things (Heb. 12:16).
3. Selling out to the world means suffering the consequences of a life which leaves out the Lord. I've seen what happens to individuals and families which become worldly and leave out the Lord and it's not a pretty picture. Note Gal. 6:7.

C. WE SHOULD FOCUS ON GOD'S PURPOSES IN SAVING AND CALLING US TO SERVE

1. The Christian should see himself "in" the world but not "of" the world (Jn. 17:14).
2. Notice God's purpose in saving us is for us to glorify Him through a life of good works (Titus 2:11-14; Eph. 2:8-10). It's not for us to make all the money we can although we have to make a living.

It's not for us to pursue a life of pleasure although we can enjoy some good times.

It's not for us to make a name for ourselves, it's to make Christ known.

3. Notice God's calling upon us to serve requires a life of sacrificing the things of this world for the Lord Jesus (Rom. 12:1,2; Jas. 4:4).

D. WE SHOULD BE AWARE AND BE WARNED OF HOW THE THINGS OF THE WORLD CAN GET US SIDE-TRACKED

1. The Bible cites one man in particular who got side-tracked by loving this world (II Tim. 4:10).
2. Notice there are lots of people who have gotten side-tracked by the things of this world. Some used to be in the choir, teach a Sunday School class or serve in some other capacity but now the world has a hold on them. For this reason we should take heed to I Jn. 2:15-17.

E. WE SHOULD REAFFIRM OUR ALLEGIANCE AND LOYALTY TO THE LORD

1. This calls for us to develop a proper mindset in this world. A proper mindset is to think on our purpose and why we are here (Jn. 15:16).
2. This calls for us to examine our motive in this world. Our motive in this world ought to be a love for Christ which constrains us to serve Him (II Cor. 5:14).
3. This calls for us to define our mission in this world. Our mission ought to be to carry out the Lord's commission which involves winning others and training them (Matt. 28:19,20).