

The World or the Word?

1 John 2:7-17

“Love not the **world**, neither the things that are in the world” (1 John 2:15). “Thy **Word** was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart” (Jer. 15:16).

“Just one letter of the alphabet makes all the difference between us now,” said a recently converted young woman to an unsaved friend, who could not understand the great change that had come over her. “You love the **WORLD** as I once did,” she said, “but now I love the **WORD**.”

In 1 John 2:16 three things are mentioned as being in the world: “(1) the lust [strong desire] of the flesh, and (2) the lust [strong desire] of the eyes, and (3) the pride of life.” These three elements of the world may be simply summarized as follows: (1) **the lust of the flesh**—that which **I** want to do; (2) **the lust of the eyes**—that which **I** want to have; (3) **the pride of life**—that which **I** want to be.

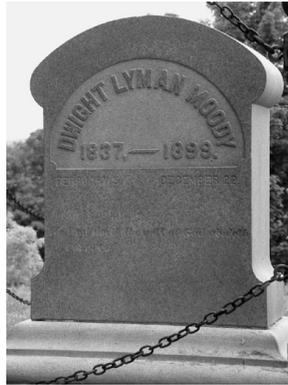
The worldly person operates based on these selfish desires, independently of God, apart from any consideration of what God wants.

The next verse (*v.17*) is the key, and it happens to be the very verse engraved on the tombstone of D. L. Moody in Northfield, Massachusetts: “And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

The man who is a slave to God’s will and God’s Word has this attitude: “Lord, (1) I want to do whatever You want me to do, and (2) I want to have whatever You want me to have; and (3) I want to be whatever You want me to be!” And it is only as we immerse our minds in the Word of God that we learn God’s will and discover what things please Him. “Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it” (Luke 11:28).

Doing God’s will is putting God’s Word into practice!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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