

v12 I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. v13 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. v14 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. v15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. v16 For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. v17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:7-11

How many of you have know a person who at one point in their life was a vibrant Christian but now is far from the Lord?

How many of you ARE THAT person who at one point in their life was a vibrant Christian but now is far from the Lord?

We are shocked when we hear of leading Christian leaders who have fallen from the faith. In recent years we have been shocked by bad reports coming out of Hillsong regarding Brian Houston and his father Frank and Carl Lentz in NY. The cover-up of Catholic Priests abusing children. And the revelations regarding Ravi Zacharias that surfaced after his death.

Christians failing is NOTHING NEW!

Even the Bible has example of people who failed Christ even though they had first hand knowledge about him.

Peter denied Jesus.

A church member in the church a Corinth who was sleeping with his Fathers Wife. People were greedy, uncaring.

Today's passage speaks into these situations. What John wrote to the church almost 2000 years ago is still relevant for today. I have called today's message:

POTHOLES AND SPEEDBUMPS ON THE ROAD TO HEAVEN?

As we consider the dangers on the road to heaven, John

I FIRSTLY, REMINDS US THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE CAREFUL.

v12 I write to you, dear children (teknion) ... v13 I write to you, fathers, ... I write to you, young men, ...I write to you, dear children (paidion).

John mentions THREE GROUPS in this passage. In this case he is not focusing on their AGE but rather their SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

He begins this section talking about the "DEAR CHILDREN" (teknion) – This Greek term was used to describe children in a more figurative sense. Like we call the National Soccer team BAFANA (the boys). These dear children were his spiritual children.

Then John lists these “SPIRITUAL CHILDREN” in three different categories in verses 13-14. *v13 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. v14 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

1. **FATHERS.** These were believers that had been around since the beginning of the Christian Church. Some may have even travelled with the Disciples of Jesus as he went around his business.
 2. **YOUNG MEN.** These were the CURRENT Leaders in the church. They were setting the pace in the Christian Walk.
 3. **DEAR CHILDREN (paidion).** These are literally the Spiritual babies in the church.
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1. **FATHERS.** They are called Fathers because they KNOW (Yada) Jesus. The word means that they had an INTIMATE knowledge of Jesus. They had a DEEP, PERSONAL knowledge that came from having a long relationship with Jesus.
 2. **YOUNG MEN.** They are called Young Men because they were at the coalface of the battle with the evil one. They are the Champions of the WORD OF GOD. They are STRONG in the LORD. They are the ones who have OVERCOME THE EVIL ONE. (used 16 times in the Revelation)
 3. **DEAR CHILDREN (paidion).** They are called Dear Children because they have only recently come to know God as DADA.

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN YOUR CHRISTIAN WALK ON THE ROAD TO HEAVEN, THE WARNING IS FOR EVER BELIEVER.

After REMINDING US THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE CAREFUL, JOHN:

II SECONDLY, WARNS THE BELIEVERS OF ONE GREAT TEMPTATION.

v15 Do not love the world or anything in the world.

THE GREATEST DANGER FACING THE CHRISTIAN, REGARDLESS OF STANDING, IS TO TAKE YOUR EYES OFF JESUS

In the verse John talks about “THE WORLD”. What is he talking about?

The word “WORLD” means

1. The physical world we live in.
2. The people who are still part of the kingdom of darkness and evil and have not yet accepted Christ.
3. Those who are the object of God’s LOVE.
4. The sphere of evil existence and false society.

IN THIS VERSE JOHN IS TALKING ABOUT THE 4th MEANING.

In verse 16 he more fully describes what characterises “THE WORLD” It reads
v16 For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world

Three phrases are used in THIS VERSE:

1. **THE CRAVINGS OF SINFUL MAN.**

This refers to desiring material or physical things. The richest man in his day John D. Rockefeller (he owned 1% of all the money in the world) was asked how much is enough. He answered, “**just a little bit more**” or “just one dollar more”.

NONE OF US ARE ANY DIFFERENT!! I imagine every one of us want to have “JUST ONE DOLLAR MORE”.

SATANS FIRST TEMPTATION OF JESUS WAS PHYSICAL (BREAD)

2. **THE LUST OF HIS EYES.**

This refers to the avenue through which outward things of the world, riches, pomp, and beauty, inflame us. David lusted after a beautiful woman. Israel wanted to be like the nations around them. Simon the Sorcerer wanted the Power of the HOLY SPIRIT.

NONE OF US ARE ANY DIFFERENT!! Remember what Jesus said in ***Matthew 5:28*** *But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

SATANS SECOND TEMPTATION OF JESUS WAS MENTAL (*showed Him the kingdoms of the world in a moment*)

3. **THE BOASTING OF WHAT HE HAS AND DOES.**

This refers to the foundation of all sinful behaviour, **PRIDE**. Patricia and I were listening to a report of the Russian Election. While people are burning down voting stations, throwing paint into ballot boxes, the Kremlin was reporting that Putin was expecting a LANDSLIDE election victory.

NONE OF US ARE ANY DIFFERENT!! I a conversation with others ask yourself, “HOW MANY TIMES DO I SAY ‘I’”?

SATANS THIRD TEMPTATION OF JESUS WAS PRIDE (*throw yourself of the pinnacle of the Temple and become the hero*)

After

1. **REMINDING US THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE CAREFUL,**
2. **and SECONDLY, WARNING THE BELIEVERS OF ONE GREAT TEMPTATION.**

JOHN:

III THIRDLY TELLS US WHY WE SHOULD NOT "LOVE THE WORLD"

v15 If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. v16 For everything in the world-....-comes not from the Father but from the world. v17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

JOHN GIVES US TWO REASONS

1. YOU CAN'T SERVE TWO MASTERS.

You cannot love GOD and love THE WORLD at the same time.

They are incompatible.

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE GOD.

Jesus said "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Consider a young teenager who is deeply in love with another young teenager and who feels that they cannot live without the other. Then one day the young teenager meets another teenager who is far more attractive and who appeals to them far more than the first love. Once the young teenager has been taken up with this new love, the young teenager never again wants to see the first love. How did the young teenager get rid of their love for that first teenager **By the eviction power of a new affection.**

IF YOU REPLACE YOUR LOVE OF GOD WITH ANYTHING ELSE YOU ARE GIVING GOD AN EVICTION NOTICE

2. THIS WORLD IS ONLY TEMPORARY.

This refers to the avenue through which outward things of the world, riches,

Psalms 90:9 All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

James 1:10 But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD EVENTUALLY PERISHES

CONCLUSION

**SO, regardless of how long you have been a Christian
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME INVESTING TOO MUCH
IN THIS WORLD**

Matthew 6:31-34 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' v32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **v33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** v34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.