

**10.25.20 ~ 1John 2:15-17,
The Love of God Perseveres, Everything Else Perishes...**

God loves His people and He has expressed His love by sending His own Son to die for our sins. God's Word teaches that those who accept God's free gift of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ, will seek to obediently serve God here on earth.

Serving God must include knowing and trying to do that which pleases God, just as it must also include knowing and trying not to do that which displeases God (cf. **Romans 12:9**), "*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.*"

Read 1John 2:15-17... There is a certain type of love that God hates.

John is telling us not to love anything in the "world system." Why? Well, maybe it is because Satan is the ruler of the world system that hates God's Son, and all those who serve Him.

Either you love God and hate the world system (meaning all that opposes God), or you hate God and love the world system, there is no third option.

Unbelievers are devoted to serving self through the philosophies and practices of this world. But God's people are to be devoted to knowing, applying and proclaiming God's sovereign and eternal Word (revealed to us in the 66 Books of the Old and New Testaments).

The Bible is a God's revelation to us, so that we might not just know about Him, but that we might personally come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (see **John 1:1-3, 14, 18; 5:39-40; 6:26-29, 40; 8:19, 42-45; 10:24-33; 14:6-7**).

Back to 1John2:16... That which doesn't come from God is the godless world system ("all that is in the world"). John describes the cravings of sinful mankind: "the lust of the flesh [appetite]," "the lust of the eyes [desires]," and "the boastful pride of life" [arrogant pride]; these are not from God, but are from the world.

Satan uses the world and all that is in our flesh to tempt and deceive us, and to draw us away from God by what we see, hear, touch, taste, think, and do.

Satan has been using the same strategy since the very early days of creation when he deceived both Adam and Eve, through the serpent [devil incarnate].

See **Genesis 3:5-6...** The serpent "of old" who is called the devil and Satan (**Revelation 12:9; 20:2**) deceived Eve by raising doubts about God's motives, while tempting her appetite, desires, and pride [good for food, delight to the eyes, make one wise].

The Bible uses the term "flesh" to describe that which opposes the Spirit of God. There is a battle taking place daily, sometimes moment by moment, between the Spirit and the flesh (**Galatians 5:17**), "For the flesh sets its desire against the

Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

The Apostle Paul battled with the flesh just as we do (see **Romans 7:21-25**).

When we seek to fulfill our own wants and desires apart from God’s instructions and warnings, we are either being deceived or disobedient, or both! The world system is controlled by Satan, through the flesh, and we were all part of it, to some degree, before coming to Christ (see **Ephesians 2:1-7**).

Satan has the ability to blind the minds of unbelievers (**2Corinthians 4:4**), “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God,” but God’s people are not to be deceived nor taken captive by the philosophies of this world; we are to fight against them with God’s weaponry (**Ephesians 6:12**), “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*,” therefore (**Ephesians 6:17**), “take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

God gives us His Revealed Word (the Bible), so that we might not be deceived, but instead that we might read, hear, believe, study, honor, obey, and proclaim it.

The Bible is alive.

Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

The Bible is life giving.

John 6:63, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.” **68**, “Simon [remarked], “Lord, ...You have words of eternal life. **69**, We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

The Bible is food for spiritual growth.

1Peter 2:2, “like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”

Hebrews 5:14, “But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

The Bible transforms lives.

Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The attitudes and the actions of a sinful world are in opposition to God’s Word. We must recognize and respond to the world system according to God’s instruction; if not, we will suffer the consequences.

Back to 1John2:17.... God is sovereign and those who believe in and follow God's Word will live forever with Him. Jesus came to offer forgiveness and eternal life to anyone who would believe in and follow Him.

God wants everyone to be saved (cf **1Timothy 2:3-4; 2Peter 3:9**); but through Satan's deception, using the practices and philosophies of this world system, most of the world will reject God's plan and provision through Christ.

The world apart from God's presence, power and pleasure, is cursed and God will one day destroy all of it by fire (see **2Peter 3:3-7, 10**).

What then, should be our response to **1John 2:15-17**? Clearly, we are not to love the world or anything in the world, i.e., we are not to make a priority out of seeking to fulfill our own self-centered carnal appetites and desires, nor are we to be prideful about anything of our own doing or acquisition.

2Corinthians 11:30, "If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness."

2Corinthians 12:10, "Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Philippians 4:12-13, "I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." **19-20**, "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen."

We are to be constantly feeding upon God's Word, and expressing our love for the Lord by seeking to obey the instruction we are given in His Word telling us how we should then live, as those who are born of God's Spirit, for we are children of God (**1John 3:2**), "Beloved, ...we are children of God," (**Ephesians 5:1**), "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children."

God is our Father, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our resident trainer, Comforter, and Counselor, who is transforming us, through our obedience to the Word of God, to become more like Jesus. We have God's Spiritual DNA in us, marking us as His possession, His servants, His children, and part of His Eternal Family.

Romans 8:16-17, "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*."

All true believers, having been made children of God, will suffer along with and because of Christ, who was hated by the world, rejected by His own people (the Jews), and abandoned by His very closest followers and friends (the Disciples) after

He was arrested; and yet He sacrificed Himself to set us all free from sin's penalty and condemnation.

The bad news is, that in this world God's people will suffer because of the name of Christ.

John 15:18-19, "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."

2Timothy 3:12-13, "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived."

The good news is that even though we will suffer in this life, we are heirs with Christ, and we will be given glorified bodies that will enable us to live for eternity, in heaven, with God.

Revelation 21:1-5, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away... ..And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.' And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'"

Those who genuinely belong to God through the death and resurrection of God's Son, have been born again by the Spirit of God, in order that we will live in such a manner as to bring honor and glory to God while we are still on this side of heaven, because once we go to be with the Lord, we will be perfected, knowing Him as He knows us, and never again will there be anything in all of creation that is offensive or displeasing to God.

Now that is something to be thankful about, to celebrate, and to proclaim!

Pastor Mike
>'(((><