

“The World”
Acts 17:24,31

Introduction:

- A. The word, “World”, used frequently in New Testament, but not always in same sense.
 - 1. God loves the "world". (John 3:16).
 - 2. We are not to love the "world" (1 John 2:15).
 - 3. We are to use the "world" (1 Cor. 7:31).
 - 4. We are not to be a friend of the world. (Jas. 4:4).
- B. The word, “World” is confusing to many in regard to proper conduct.
 - 1. Some equate worldliness with progress -- holiness, Amish, Mennonites.
 - 2. Some equate worldliness with anything people of world do.
 - 3. Some use these extremes as excuse to deny real worldliness on their part.
- C. The word, “World”, needs to be understand and respected in all its senses.

Discussion:

- I. The World — The Material Universe. (Acts 17:24; Heb. 11:3)
 - A. This world furnishes us supplementary evidence of God. (Psa. 19:1; Psa. 148:1ff)
 - 1. World alone will not produce faith. (cf. Rom. 10:17).
 - 2. World will strengthen and verify faith.
 - B. This world leaves man without excuse for forgetting God, once he knows him. (Rom. 1:20).
- II. The World — The Population. (John 3:16; Acts 17:30-31)
 - A. This world must be loved enough to preach to it. (Mk. 16:15)
 - B. This world loved by Jesus and will be judged by him.
- III. The World — The Temporal Order Of things. (Tit. 2:11,12; 1 Cor. 7:32; cf. John 18:36)
 - A. This world is to be used and not abused. (1 Cor. 7:29-31).
 - B. This world must not interfere with eternal order of things. (cf. Mt. 4:9)
 - C. This world must be used to supply temporal needs.
 - D. This world includes economic world — Money for use not abuse.
- IV. The World — All Those Outside of Christ. (1 Cor. 5:9-11)
 - A. This includes all who have not obeyed — moral or immoral, religious or irreligious.
 - B. This world must be associated with, but must not unduly influence us. (2 Cor. 6:14-17).
- V. The World — The Base and Sinful Element. (1 John 2:15; Rom. 12:2; Jas. 1:27).
 - A. This world includes any of three categories. (1 John 2:16).
 - B. This world includes undue emphasis upon the world in any other sense.

Conclusion:

- A. What is your attitude toward the world? In each of its senses?
- B. Why not come out of the world into Christ today?