“The World”
Acts 17:24,31

Introduction:

A. The word, “World”, used frequently in New Testament, but not always in same sense.
   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:

   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?