

This morning I'd like to call your attention to 1 John 2-
--- three very wonderful verses.. Ordinarily I read from the
NIV which I think is on the whole a very good version, but in
relation to these three verses I do not think they have done
a very good job in translation. They have made a selection of
possibilities and in one case I think have made exactly the
right selection, but in two or three I believe they have made
an erroneous selection. So I read it from the KJV.

"Love not the world neither the things that are in the
world, if any man love the world the love of the Father is not
in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh
and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of
the Father, but is of the world, and the world passes away and
the lusts thereof, but he who does the will of God abides forever."

We have the word "~~κόσμος~~" "world" several times in these
three vv. You rarely find this word as many times in 3 vv. as
we have it here. So it's important we have in mind what is
meant by the "world." We often hear about worldly amusements,
and that Satan is the Prince of this world. We hear we are
to keep away from what is worldly.

On the other hand we read that God created the world,
and he saw that all things He had created were good. I think
~~we have to recognize this word world is used in two different~~
ways in Scripture. It is used of the things God has created
here, and we are living in the world and have duties and
obligations in the world. We have pleasures in the world.

There is a perfectly proper sense, I mean a sense in which
there is nothing evil whatever in the use of the word world. And
there is another sense in which the "world" is used not for
the "world" as God made it, but ~~for~~ for the world as sin has
affected it. So we have these two various uses, and the
question must be raised, Which is used in these 3 verses?

The lusts of the flesh, and the lusts of the eyes, and
you immediately think world is used here in a bad sense! The
world is corrupted by sin. We need to realize that the ~~world~~ word
"lust" at the time KJV was written simply was "desire" and
covered all desires whether good or bad. It has been transla-
ted as "desire" here in NIV. You see that the use of the word
"lust" does not here prove how the word "world" is used,
or what sense it has here.

There are at least 2 attitudes you may take toward what
is in the world. Look at 1 John 4:20--"If a man say I love
God and hates his brother he is a liar; for he that hates his
brother whom he has seen, ~~how~~ how can he love God whom he
not seen?" His brother is part of the world. His relation-
ship to his brother is a worldly relationship, and he is said
to love his brother whom he has seen.