

Sermon Notes

The Business of Being a Christian

“The World is Yours for the Taking. Since When?”

I. Introduction.

A. The mantra of North American culture. . .

1. You can have it _____.
2. Beware of prophets, both inside and outside the church, who espouse the mantra from the “angel of light.”
II Corinthians 11:13-15
3. Our consumer age fits nicely into the Angel of Light’s mantra.
4. Consumerism is like radio active waste which bombards our way of **thinking** _____.
 - a. Romans 12:1-2

B. Another mantra: “The world is yours for the taking.”

1. Yet, Paul said in I Corinthians 7:21
2. Restating of the thesis statement for the series:
The perception of being known as Evangelical or worldly has become so closely aligned that life style choices are nearly _____.

II. Taking that which is good and making it bad.

A. Satan always distorts God’s good provision.

1. Examples.

B. Man is created by God to be worldly concerned.

1. Yet as a vice regent . . .
 - a. Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15

- b. Restated after the flood in Genesis 9:1-3

C. Cultural mandate turned upside down with Satan’s lie.

1. Genesis 3:4-5

III. The Bible on the world (*kosmos*).

A. Key text – I John 2:15-17

1. The Christian should display proof of spiritual transformation.
 - a. The term “world” is used six times.
2. The meaning is understood through its usage.
 - a. I John 5:19, I John 3:1, John 1:10; John 15:18-21, John 17:14
 - b. John is not thinking so much of material things as he is the attitude that lies behind materialism.
3. Key areas.
 - a. Lust of the flesh.
 - b. Lust of the eyes.
 - c. Pride of life.

IV. Points for Reflection

A. Material things are necessary to life, but descending into materialism is evidence of worldliness which erases the distinctiveness of our Christian testimony before the ungodly world.

B. We need to live life more as those who have no rights.

1. Excerpt from *Have We No Rights?* (1957) by Mabel Williamson with forward by James Montgomery Boice.