

St George's, Paris : Bible Study #3

Encouragement and Warning: I John 2.12-17

Pilgrim's Progress is the classic metaphor of Christian life. Seeking escape from the City of Destruction Pilgrim goes the Heavenly City. At the Hill of Difficulty he meets Adam-the-First and his 3 daughters: Lust-of-the-Flesh, Lust-of-the-Eyes and Pride-of-Life. These are the 3 metaphors of the things we promise to do battle with through our Baptism, the world, the flesh and the devil.

Group Discussion: How fare did you progress as a Christian before you became aware of these three foes? Can you explain?

Personal Reflection: Which of these has been the most troublesome and why?

These verses, a distinct digression from the flow of thought in the preceding text, are to encourage readers and to warn them of the enticements of the world.

Read I John 2.12-17

1. Why would John want to give a word of encouragement at this point in his letter? (vv.12-14)?
2. Who is represented by the three groups being addressed? (vv.12-14)? How are you encouraged by what John says to each group?
3. What is the source of our victory over the evil one? (vv. 13-14)? On a daily basis, how can that truth help us overcome his tactics and schemes?
4. Compare John's warning against worldliness (vv.15-17) with what he says about the world elsewhere (2.2; 3.13; 4.4-5; 5.4-5,19). What is the meaning of the word *world* here?
5. What is the first reason we are urged not to love the world (vv.15-16)?
6. How does this realisation lessen the appeal of the world in your life?
7. The 3 worldly desires of v.16 point us to the problem of the enemy within. How does this emphasis help us to understand the true nature of worldliness?
8. What is the second reason we are not to love the world (v.17)?
9. How does this realisation lessen the world's appeal in your life?

Praise God for giving you the ongoing strength to overcome each of these 3 foes.

Now or later...

Take a few minutes to journal about how this passage has helped you gain a better understanding of the spiritual battle you face.