

No. 2 Love God, Not the World (Local elder)

Note to speaker:

Kindly emphasize the dangers of loving Satan's world, and help audience to see that we can resist such love by diligently following Jesus' example

LOVE FOR SATAN'S WORLD IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH LOVE FOR JEHOVAH (2 min.)

Satan wants "the things in the world" to crowd out our love for Jehovah [Read 1 John 2:15-17]

'The desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the showy display of one's means of life' are attractive, but like the lures of a fisherman, they are attached to a hook that will draw us away from Jehovah

Because of our love for Jehovah, we obey his command that we not love Satan's world or the things in it

PROVE THAT YOUR LOVE FOR JEHOVAH IS STRONGER THAN ANYTHING ELSE (8 min.)

We can avoid the lures of Satan by following the example of Jesus (w13 8/15 24-27 ¶5-19)

"Desire of the flesh"

The Devil would like to exploit our natural desires and fundamental need to sustain our life

Satan successfully tempted Eve with a desire for something that God forbade (Ge 3:1)

Jesus proved that his love for Jehovah was stronger than his physical desires (Lu 4:4)

Each of us must ask himself, 'What do my choices reveal about whom I love the most?' (1Pe 4:1, 2)

"Desire of the eyes"

Satan knows the power of visual appeal

Eve saw that the forbidden fruit was "something desirable to the eyes" (Ge 3:6)

Satan *showed* Jesus "all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in an instant of time" (Lu 4:5)

Jesus rejected Satan's offer by quoting God's inspired Word (Lu 4:8)

When we base our decisions on the Bible and not on the desire of the eyes, we show our love for Jehovah

"Showy display of one's means of life"

Satan appeals to pride or "the bragging about one's possessions" (1Jo 2:16, ftn.)

Adam and Eve manifested pride when they rebelled against Jehovah

By contrast, Jesus humbly refused to make a dramatic show of his favored position (Lu 4:9-12)

Contentment with life's necessities will enable us to make Jehovah's will our highest priority (Heb 13:5)

FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS ENMITY WITH GOD (4 min.)

Wanting friendship with the world is tantamount to unfaithfulness to Jehovah (Jas 4:4, ftn.)

Neither age nor experience nor privileges of service will shield us from this danger

In the first century, Demas started to 'love the present system of things' and abandoned the apostle Paul (2Ti 4:10; *it-1* 612)

Very soon, the great tribulation will test the desires, love, and devotion of every human alive

Those who love this world will pass away with it (2Pe 3:7)

Our loving Father will then satisfy our proper desires in a way that is most beneficial to us (Ps 145:16)

Review question: How can we successfully avoid the love of the world?

Answer: 1 John 2:15-17; imitate Jesus (1) by refusing to satisfy desires of the flesh in a way that displeases Jehovah, (2) by rejecting any desires of the eyes that threaten our relationship with Jehovah, and (3) by avoiding prideful obsession with possessions

May all of us work diligently to maintain our love for Jehovah and not the world!

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)