

The World at Enmity with God

Discussion Guide

In 1 John 2:15 the Apostle gives a strong warning to believers; “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” In James 4:4 we then read that the world is at “enmity with God,” which means it is hostile and opposed to God.

The Apostle James then says if any believer is a friend of the world, meaning if anyone has affection for the world, he or she becomes an enemy of God.

This now begets the question, what is “the world” as described in these scriptures. And what is in “the world” that believers are strongly warned to avoid? We cannot fully understand or appreciate the significance and majesty of the Lord’s mercy and gift to mankind until we understand the true condition and predicament of every man, woman and child born unto the face of the earth.

Understanding the world we live in, why it is the way it is, God’s view of the world, and how we are to live in the world, is critical, not only for understanding the doctrine of salvation, but also to help you grow into the satisfaction, joy and fullness of Jesus Christ.

The World Defined

- Define the world as described in the Scriptures?
- What definition of the world is hostile or at enmity against the Lord?
- What does it mean to be at enmity against God?
- How do you resolve John 3:16 (God so loved the world) with 1 John 2:15 (Love not the world)?
- Does man’s free will give him the ability to reconcile with God and end hostility?
- How does God restrain the evil in men’s hearts?
- **SCRIPTURES:** John 3:16, 17:21, 15:18-19, 7:7, 17:4, 17:9; Hebrews 11:38; 1 John 2:15, 3:8; Matthew 16:26, 25:41; 1 Corinthians 2:17; James 1:27, 4:4; Romans 8:7, 4:5, 5:6, 5:9-10, 13:1-7, 2:14-16; Revelation 12:7; Genesis 1:28; 1 Timothy 6:5, 2:5; Titus 1:16; Ephesians 2:2, 5:6, Isaiah 57:4, 53:6; Psalm 51:5; Ezekiel 16:4, 36:26-29

Principalities and Powers

- Define hosts of heavens and principalities and powers as used in the Scriptures
- Who is to blame for the evil, death, tragedy and destruction in the world: is it the Devil or man?
- What role does the Devil and his demons play in the world?
- Why does the world persist in this state with the Devil having dominion?
- Why does God allow the Devil and evil into the world?

- **SCRIPTURES:** Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:9, 20:10, 19:2, 16:14, 6:10; James 3:14-16, 4:2; Romans 1:28-32; 1 Corinthians 4:14; 1 John 3:8; 1 Timothy 4:1; 1 John 2:16; Revelation 13:7; 18:24; Daniel 7:25-27, 8:24-25; 2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Luke 8:7

Overcomers

- Identify the world we are to overcome
- How does the Scripture say we are to overcome the world?
- Victory in overcoming the world begins with a choice. Explain that choice. Give examples
- How does the child of God overcome the world?
- What are we to overcome?
- **SCRIPTURES:** 1 John 5:2-5; Psalm 23; Revelation 2, 3;

The End Times

- Define and describe the antichrists in the world according to Scripture
- The last times, end times, the last days, the final hour all refer to what period of time? What are the characteristics of this period of time? List Scriptures that support these characteristics.
- How can the antichrists be identified?
- What is the result of mixing pagan philosophies and Bible teaching? Give illustrations.
- Define unction. What is the purpose of the “unction from the Holy One” in our lives? How does the unction protect us daily? What is the main purpose of John’s first epistle?
- What is God’s last message to the world?
- **SCRIPTURES:** 1 John 2:19-20, 24-27, 5:19, 2:15; Revelation 2:9, 3:1; 1 John 2:22-23; Psalm 45:7, 33:18; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:8, 4:3, 3:1; Matthew 24:24, 10:28, 13:23, 5:16, 5:48; Ephesians 4:14; Revelation 14:6, 18:2, 13:8; Romans 8:19, 7:4; Exodus 33:20; Isaiah 6:5, 41:13; John 15:4-5, 15:16, 1:2

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