

## Contents – The World at Enmity with God

The World Defined .....	2
Define the world as described in the Scriptures?.....	2
What definition of the world is hostile or at enmity against the Lord (John 7:7, 15:18)? .....	3
What does it mean to be at enmity against God? .....	3
How do you resolve John 3:16 (God so loved the world) with 1 John 2:15 (Love not the world)? .....	3
Does man’s free will give him the ability to reconcile with God and end hostility? .....	4
How does God restrain the evil in men’s hearts?.....	5
Principalities and Powers.....	6
Define hosts of heavens and principalities and powers as used in the Scriptures .....	6
Who is to blame for the evil, death, tragedy and destruction in the world: is it the Devil or man? .....	6
What role does the Devil and his demons play in the world? .....	6
Why does the world persist in this state with the Devil having dominion? .....	10
Why did God allow the Devil and evil into the world? .....	10
Overcomers.....	11
Identify the world we are to overcome .....	11
How does the Scripture say we are to overcome the world?.....	11
Victory in overcoming the world begins with a choice. Explain that choice. Give examples .....	12
How does the child of God overcome the world? .....	12
What are we to overcome? .....	12
The End Times .....	13
Define and describe the antichrists in the world according to Scripture .....	13
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. ....	14
How can the antichrists be identified? .....	14
What is the result of mixing pagan philosophies and Bible teaching? Give illustrations. ....	15
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? .....	15
What is God’s last message to the world? .....	16

# The World at Enmity with God

## Teaching Guide

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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 teaching program, The Fall of Man should be taught (prior if possible) in conjunction with this program.

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### The World Defined

Define the world as described in the Scriptures?

There are four distinct definitions of the term “the world”

- *Cosmos* – taken from this Greek term, it pertains to the physical earth, to the planet spinning in space.
- *Human race* – this definition describes the inhabitants of the earth. “For God so loved the world.” (John 3:16). When Jesus encourages us to love one another he said this was so “...that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (John 17:21).
- *Enemies of God* – this definition describes those who are alienated from God and are against the cause of Christ. For example, Hebrews 11:38 says, “Of whom the world was not worthy.” When Jesus said, “If the world hate you,” (John 15:18) He was pointing to those who despise Him and His people. These include the spiritual forces of evil in the world.
- *World System* – this can mean all the objects, people, advantages, fleeting pleasures and everything else that entices our desires. Spiritually it refers to all that attracted you, engaged you, and held you prior to your coming to Christ. Ultimately the world, in this sense, would seduce us from Christ and His love.

What definition of the world is hostile or at enmity against the Lord (John 7:7, 15:18)?

- (John 7:7) “The world is not able to hate you; but it hates Me, because I bear witness concerning it that its works are evil.” The Lord here is referring to the “enemies of God,” unrepentant men and women and Satan; and also the “world system,” the things that are in the world” (1 John 2:15)
- The Lord Jesus meant the political and social philosophy that controls the entire world system when he said, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Matthew 16:26)
- Moral values of the world are included as well. 1 Corinthians 2:17 talks about “the wisdom of the world.”
- The Christian is exhorted to “keep himself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27)
- The Lord Jesus would have us be alert to the fact that ever since Adam made it possible for evil to enter God’s creation, all that is in the world – its entire system- has been only always against God. We are speaking of a domain governed and controlled by Satan who is the mind behind the world system.

What does it mean to be at enmity against God?

- Enmity is defined in the New Testament Greek as hostility, or opposition. In other words, an enemy who is alienated from God. In Romans 8:7 we are told the human mind is hostile towards God - “It does not submit to God’s Law, nor can it do so.” In James 4:4 it says whoever is a friend of the world is also an enemy of God. And then in John 15:19 the Lord tells His disciples that the world will hate them, because it first hated Him. The Lord Jesus further clarifies this by saying His born again disciples are not of the world as neither is He (John 17:14). And he does not pray for the world but only those who belong to God (John 17:9)
- We are told Satan is the enemy of God (Revelation 12:7) and in him there is nothing but evil.
- Therefore, anyone or anything not born of God, we find will be hostile toward the Lord Jesus, followers of Christ and God Almighty. By definition, those not born of God are spiritually born of the Devil. (*This concept is fully explored in the The Fall of Man teaching program on LLGMIN.com*)

How do you resolve John 3:16 (God so loved the world) with 1 John 2:15 (Love not the world)?

- The term “world” used in John 3:16 refers to the human race. Here we find that God loved what he had created in Adam and Eve. Man was made in the likeness and image of God. The Lord created man to rule and subdue all he had made, the birds of the air and beasts of the field (Genesis 1:28). Yet, when Adam transgressed something nefarious and calamitous happened that would affect every generation of mankind, including you and me.
- When Adam ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, he chose death. Once he ate the fruit he was transformed, upon his very soul came the spirit of the Devil.

- The Scriptures would now describe Adam’s children, you and I, as “sinners,” “ungodly,” and “wicked;” as having a “depraved” and “corrupt mind;” “detestable;” “enemies” of God; and under the “wrath of God.” (Romans 4:5, 5:6, 5:9,10; 1 Timothy 6:5; Titus 1:16)
- The spirit that came into Adam and Eve was born of the Devil. (*Ephesians 2:2, 1 John 3:8*) All the offspring of Adam, including you and me, would be called children of the Devil, children of disobedience, the offspring of deceit, and the children of wrath. (*Isaiah 57:4, Ephesians 5:6*). And who is called the father of deceit? The Devil himself.
- “For I was born a sinner--yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.” (Psalm 51:5)
- “Satan is the author of that proud, carnal disposition which there is in ungodly men; he rules in the hearts of men. From Scripture it is clear, that whether men have been most prone to sensual or to spiritual wickedness, all men, being naturally children of disobedience, are also by nature children of wrath.” (Matthew Henry Commentary)
- Injected into the very DNA of Adam was a spirit that corrupted humanity. This spirit, this human spirit now separated Adam from God. It would lead man away from God, and to do what was right in his own mind. (Isaiah 53:6) What God had created pure and innocent was now tainted with evil. While the Lord loved what he had created, he abhorred what we had become. (Ezekiel 16:4)
- All humans that populated the world, from the time of Adam’s fall, would be called sinners under the influence of their spiritual father the Devil. Those that would repent unto God and were born again by the Spirit of Christ, were admonished to not love or befriend where they had come from. Thus the command to not love the world, for all that is in the world is of the Devil and evil.

Does man’s free will give him the ability to reconcile with God and end hostility?

- (1 Timothy 2:5) “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” Only Jesus Christ can reconcile man with God.
- Mans’ free will gives him the ability to understand he is separated from God, allows him to be convicted of his sins, and enables him to repent, which is to change one’s mind from desiring to please oneself to wanting to please God.
- However, man cannot change his nature which is and will always be hostile towards the Lord. Why? Because the sin nature of man was born, in the Garden of Eden, from the Devil. Thus we are called children of the Devil from birth. We are of our father, the enemy of God and for whom Hell was created for eternal punishment (Matthew 25:41).
- There must be an act of God that happens to the repentant soul that gives man a new spirit, a new heart, and a new nature, to love and obey God. Then and only then can man be reconciled to God.
- (Ezekiel 36:26-29) “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put

my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses.”

How does God restrain the evil in men’s hearts?

- Civil government and laws.
- (Romans 13:1-7) “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”
- God’s law is written on men’s hearts and conscience
- (Romans 2:14-16) “For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”

## Principalities and Powers

Define hosts of heavens and principalities and powers as used in the Scriptures

- (Ephesians 6:12) – “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” In the world not visible to man, is an entire government of spirits and demonic forces that exist in another realm and live on earth. In Revelation 12:9 the Lord Jesus describes a battle that took place in Heaven, and Satan and his angels were cast out from heaven and hurled to earth.
- The term “hosts of heaven” is used in Scripture to describe the “army” of angelic beings
- These spiritual forces have been condemned and know their time is short (Revelation 12:12). Thus their singular purpose is to kill and destroy mankind and oppose God Almighty until the end.
- (Revelation 20:10) “And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, into which the beast and the false prophet had already been thrown. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever”

Who is to blame for the evil, death, tragedy and destruction in the world: is it the Devil or man?

- Man. The nature of man is sinful
- (James 3:14-16) “But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”
- (James 4:2) “You crave what you do not have. You kill and covet, but are unable to obtain it. You quarrel and fight.”
- Man fails to acknowledge God, and therefore God has given him over (removed His restraints) to a depraved heart to commit all types of evil.
- (Romans 1:28-32) “Furthermore, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, He gave them up to a depraved mind, to do what should not be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and hatred. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful. They invent new forms of evil; they disobey their parents. They are senseless, faithless, heartless, merciless. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things are worthy of death, they not only continue to do these things, but also approve of those who practice them.”

What role does the Devil and his demons play in the world?

- The Devil maintains sin in this world by controlling all those who serve him and tempting those who don’t.

- The two primary purposes we see in Scripture are to keep men from coming to God and keep men in bondage to sin.
  - (2 Corinthians 4:14) “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”
  - (1 John 3:8) “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”
- To entice men to surrender to their nature
  - The carnal mind (human nature ) is self-centered, egocentric, independent, primarily focused on the needs and desires of self; not on the desires of God or our neighbors
  - The messages of the world to man include: worship according to what is right in your own hearts; Be all you can be; express yourself and be happy; do what feels good. No need to obey Jehovah God; no need to fear God; man is the captain of his fate
  - Through media, entertainment (includes sports entertainment), religion, and pornography the desires for carnal self-satisfaction are appeased
- To lead them astray from seeking, repenting and knowing God
  - *Idolatry* – includes the exaltation of men (leaders, celebrities, religious figures, loved ones) – Idolatry in its essence is the worship of demons and the Devil. Anything that is not of Jehovah God – This spirit of idolatry (Babylon) which causes a person to exalt something or someone to a higher place than God in his heart, is called a “prostitute” who corrupted the earth with adulteries (Revelation 19:2). A prostitute is used in the feminine porné and the masculine pornos; to mean fornication (whoredom) and also adultery – which is idolatry, the passion and adulation for something else other than God Almighty.
  - *Spirit of Blindness* (2 Corinthians 4:4) – “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
  - *False teachers* and counterfeit religions (Matthew 7:15) “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”
  - *Antichrists* (men will believe they are worshipping God but in fact are worshipping the Devil) (1 John 2:18) – “Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come.”

- *Focused on the affairs of men* and not God – (Matthew 15:9) – “Their worship of me is empty, because they teach human rules as doctrines.” (Matthew 22:2-5) “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. “And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. “Again he sent out other slaves saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.”’ “But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business...”
- *Unbelief*: reliance on human effort, reasoning, theories and ingenuity. (Hebrews 3:19) “So we see that they could not enter [God’s rest] because of unbelief.”
- To gather men to fight against God
  - Deceive men to believe they are actually doing God’s will when they oppose the Son of God (Revelation 16:14)
- To tempt men to commit sin
  - Lust of the flesh (1 John 2:16) – “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not from the Father but from the world.”
  - Lust of the eyes
  - Lust of self-importance and power
  - Spiritual pride (tempts Christians)
  - Sinful anger (Ephesians 4:27) “Be angry, yet do not sin.” Do not let the sun set upon your anger, and do not give the devil a foothold.”
  - Hatred (includes prejudice; defined as bigotry, chauvinism, sexism, prejudgment, partiality, racism, discrimination)
  - Behind these temptations are evil spirits: Babylon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Each has a role and function in a hierarchy, or government of principalities and powers. Thus John said whoever loves the world the love of God is not in him, because he has given himself over to evil spirits and the Devil
- Prevent men from receiving grace and salvation
  - Thoughts of suicide
  - Death (the one who is murdered or killed before repenting unto God)
  - It must be said not every case of sickness, infirmity, or thoughts of suicide are the result of demonic activity as they could be naturally occurring cases of physical and mental illness. Discernment that comes from the Spirit of God is needed in these



situations. The Lord has provided through the advancement of medicine and doctors for the care of all people – whether they are sinners or saints.

- Everyone has a time to die and a time to live; only the Lord knows this time. Some genuine children of the Lord die young, some die in accidents, some die of old age, some die of disease and sickness. We must always seek the will of the Lord before we pray, so we know what to pray for and what petitions to make. The Lord Jesus has said, whatever you ask in **my name**, that I will do.” However, the Lord also says I only do what the Father commands. What this means is whatever you ask that is in the will of God, not the personal desires of men, no matter how noble they may be, is what will be done in the name of Christ. (John 12:50, 8:28, 5:19). The man or woman of faith who walks in the Spirit and is mature in Christ Jesus can know the revealed will of God.
- Keep men in bondage to demoniac spirits
  - Spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7)
  - Spirit of stupor, confusion (Isaiah 19:14)
  - Lying (seducing) spirits (1 Timothy 4:1)
  - Spirit of divination (entrapment) (Deuteronomy 18:10)
  - Demon possession (torment and death) (Matthew 12:22)
  - Sickness and infirmities (physical bondage) (Matthew 9:20)
  - Evil spirits (1 Timothy 4:1) – notice the difference: two types of spirits: seducing and demonic – demonic desire worship

#### COMMENTARY

The nature of this world reflects the characteristics (character) of Satan: “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” (1 John 2:16). These three categories have been used by Satan for thousands of years to entice men and women away from God, and he has been phenomenally successful!

*Worship of Ashtoreth* – This was worship based on sexual indulgences, the lust of the flesh (Judges 2:13, 1 Samuel 7:3)

*Worship of Baal* – This satisfied the lust of the eyes. Baal was worshipped for the purpose of acquiring possessions.

*Worship of Moloch* – This was the desire for power, described as “the pride of life” led to Israelites sacrificing the lives of their children to Moloch to gain position, power and influence over people. (Leviticus 18:21, 20:2, 1 Kings 11:7; 11 Kings 23:10)

John wrote this epistle (1 John) to believers in Jesus Christ, to alert them that people had come into the church who did not believe the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ although they professed to be

Christians. John's letter reminds us that the ancient lies Satan perpetrated from the beginning were manifested in the heresy of his day.

Why does the world persist in this state with the Devil having dominion?

- The Devil was cast out of heaven unto earth before the creation of man (Revelation 12:9). And since that time we are told the Lord has allowed the Devil to have dominion over the earth and to come against God and His people for a period of time. The Scriptures do not say why he was given dominion. (Revelation 13:7; 18:24; Daniel 7:25; 2 Thessalonians 2)
- (Daniel 7:25-27) "He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 'But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.
- The Devil will be allowed to have dominion over the world until the coming of Christ (Daniel 8:24-25)
- The Devil, the prince of the demons, according to Scripture fills the realm of air. The very airwaves of our thoughts, the voices in our heads, come from our own consciences and the Devil. It is only through the grace of God as the Holy Spirit woos men to Christ, that we recognize the voice of another and the calling of the Lord Jesus.

Why did God allow the Devil and evil into the world?

- The Lord gave Adam, who had free will, a choice and tested his obedience. Great responsibility would be given Adam over all God's creations, even the judgment of angels (1 Corinthians 6:3). Thus testing the character of this newly created being was necessary. If Adam chose the Tree of Life he would have continued to grow in perfection as a son of God. However, Adam chose to disobey the commandment of the Lord to not eat the fruit, and disregarded the Lord when he said the penalty for transgression would be death.
- When he transgressed in the Garden of Eden, it was Adam who gave place to the Devil to rule over the hearts of men.
- We are told this dominion will continue until a time that only the Lord knows (Revelation 6:10). During this period, the responsibility of the men and women of God are to continue the work of Christ, to shed light and the hope of salvation in a world of darkness. Our purpose is to be used by the Lord to do the work of Christ. So that some may be rescued.
- There will be justice (Luke 8:7) on earth. But the Lord asks, will he find faith when he comes?
- In other words, we are to be concerned not about the timing of the end of the evil one's dominion, and the condition of the world, but we are to be concerned about our readiness to meet the Lord.

## Overcomers

Identify the world we are to overcome

*(Pastor Paris Reidhead provides this section – also in God’s So Great Salvation Teaching Program)*

- “The world is any person, any companionship, any group, any philosophy or any writing or conversation that makes you feel that the commandments of God are grievous, a weight too heavy to bear.”
- “I repeat again, anything that makes the Word of God, the will of God, or the commandments of God to seem grievous to you is the world. This is practical common sense.”
- “The application of the law is personal. Actions and attitudes that distress you might not have the same effect on someone else.”

How does the Scripture say we are to overcome the world?

- “Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world...” (1 John 5:4). “Born of God; here is where the seed and the source of our victory begins. There is in the new birth that which secures our overcoming the world. That is the point when we make the supreme, sovereign choice of life, when we choose to please God in everything.”
- “God insists that there be a change of purpose from pleasing ourselves to pleasing Him. If we are to overcome the world it will be the removal of anything and everything in our lives that grieves God.”
- “The first thing we must overcome in this world is what the Bible calls “the flesh.” That is you and I, what we are by nature. The second thing we must overcome is the Devil, the god of this world. The third thing we must overcome is the world itself.”
- “The world is overcome when we are **awakened** by the Spirit of God, **convicted** by the Spirit of God and brought to **repentance** by the Spirit of God.”
- “In the new birth, preceded by the work of repentance, the groundwork is laid to the direction of the life to please God, to glorify Him and to serve Him.”
- “How tragic when Christ has been presented as a “hell insurance scheme” without the prerequisites of awakening, conviction, repentance, and faith. How can a person who has no such requirement be expected to overcome the world?”
- “By the same token, the person who has not experienced awakening, conviction, and repentance does not meet the definition of having been born of God.”
- “You cannot be an **overcomer** until you have **come over** from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.”

Victory in overcoming the world begins with a choice. Explain that choice. Give examples

- We choose to please God in everything
- If we are to overcome the world it will be the removal of anything and everything in our lives that grieves God.

How does the child of God overcome the world?

- (1 John 5:2-5) “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”
- It is in this world the saints are called to be overcomers. Some will die deaths of martyrs or be killed. But the Lord says be faithful unto death (Revelation 2). The world is described in Psalm 23 as the valley of death. Yet as we go through the valley the Lord gives those who overcome assurances. He says the overcomer is “the one who is victorious and does my will to the end” (Revelation 2:26). And those who “Kept my command to endure patiently” (Revelation 3:10)

What are we to overcome?

- *Ourselves* – (a) the sin nature; (b) the world and its temptations and distractions; (c) and the Devil and his evil spirits
- *Activities* - We are warned not to grow cold in the love and passion for the Lord – by being taken up in activities and ministry - no matter how sincere and religious (Revelation 2:4)
- *The ungodly* - We are warned not to worship and fellowship with professing Christians who are unclean and ungodly – keep the church pure (Revelation 2:14, 2:20)
- *Counterfeit Christians* -We are warned in the Body of Christ, in our churches, are counterfeit Christians. Unrepentant, unconverted men in leadership positions giving worship to God. They have a reputation for being alive but the Lord calls them “dead.” These assented that Jesus was the Son of God, but never repented, became convicted of sin, or surrendered to God and thus were never born again. (Revelation 3:1-6). The Lord warns them to repent before it is too late.
- *Spiritual pride* – Some genuine Christians in the Church at Laodicea strayed from being humble, thankful and wholly dependent on the Lord. They fell to their egos and a puffed up sense of self accomplishment, forgetting that it was the Lord that produced the fruit. (Revelation 3:14-22). A severe warning was issued to the church that the Lord would “vomit them out of his mouth” if they did not repent of this sin.
- It is the Lord’s plan that redeemed men shall take authority and crush the serpent under his feet and have authority over angels and God’s creations. He is preparing a people, in the

likeness of his only begotten son Jesus Christ to be rulers in the age to come. And thus, out of the furnace of trial and tribulation, and the valley of death, He is forging a people that will love him, obey him and have unending faith.

## The End Times

Define and describe the antichrists in the world according to Scripture

*(Pastor Paris Reidhead provides this section – also in God’s So Great Salvation Teaching Program)*

- “The person who refuses to recognize and enthrone Christ as God the Son is antichrist. Everyone who opposes the Gospel, as our Lord delivered it; every teacher and writer who lowers the Gospel standard to the spirit and taste of the world, is an antichrist. And the world is full of them.”
- (1 John 2:19) – The deserters of Christ are those whom John says “went out from us, but they are not of us.” John portrays them in the Book of Revelation. They are found in the “synagogue of Satan” (Revelation 2:9) and they have “a name to live, but are dead” (Revelation 3:1). This marks the period of time in which apostasy occurs; a turning away from Christ on the part of many who professed to follow Him.
- “The antichrists will say that Jesus was a great teacher, or that he was one of the prophets, but they will not consent to the fact that Jesus is, indeed, the Christ – the Son of the living God. They will absolutely reject that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh.”
- (1 John 2:22, 23) – These are the deniers of the truth. John writes, “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son. Whoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but] he that acknowledgeth the Son has the Father also”
- “Antichrists deny that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the anointed of the Father: they deny that our Lord and Savior is both God and man. Please be aware that John is talking about people who once made a profession of faith in Christ, but they have forsaken of The Way of truth.”
- “It is very possible that antichrists can and do exist in the church, but they have no spiritual affinity to the company of true believers. Believers in every age must recognize that there will be a falling away.”
- The unction from the Holy Spirit enables those of us who are believers to clearly understand what is true and what is false in the religious field around us. Our spiritual eyes have been opened. This was done when we were born again, but more particularly when we were baptized (immersed) with the Holy Spirit.
- “Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness; therefore, God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows” (Psalm 45:7). The anointing is upon those who are born of God: they are taught by God to know the difference between truth and error.

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.

- It denotes the beginning of that period which will ultimately conclude all things. It was “the last times” for the entire period since the Apostle John was alive. We are still in that period centuries later.
- It marks a period of time, long or short, in which apostasy will occur. It marks the beginning of a crisis of enormous significance that is the emergence of antichrists. This time has been marked by a turning away from Christ on the part of many who professed to follow Him
- (1 Timothy 4:1,2) – “now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron”
- (2 Timothy 3:8) – “Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith”
- (2 Timothy 4:3) - “for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.” It is the people, not the teachers who have itching ears: they select teachers who are going to scratch their ears and make them feel comfortable by telling them what they want to hear.
- (Matthew 24:24) – “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”
- (2 Timothy 3:1) - “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come”

How can the antichrists be identified?

- The person who refuses to recognize and enthrone Christ as God the Son is antichrist.
- John notified us that there are many antichrists. The antichrist went out (from the saints) and sought to induce others to go out with him. To remain steadfast and loyal to Christ requires that we recognize truth, that we remain faithful to truth, that we rejoice in the prospect of His coming and that we resist the seducers.
- There are people who are in good standing as a member of their church. They never miss a service. They participate in every church program; they are extremely active. All these “credentials” do not necessarily mean they are in spiritual fellowship with the true believers in the congregation. They are filled with pride based on their affiliation. Their allegiance is not to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The effect of this is the church will be filled with socially minded heathen unable to access the power of God because they are not His people. The church becomes spiritually ineffective, filled with strife and factions that war against one another.
- How can one who has only learned to parrot a few religious words, but has not inwardly changed, honestly demonstrate true holiness? Only God’s love can transform the treasonous heart.

What is the result of mixing pagan philosophies and Bible teaching? Give illustrations.

- Teachers of pagan philosophies, heresies like Gnosticism and Antinomianism had crept into the church thus disgracing the Gospel and confusing people. The Word of God becomes of no effect in these scenarios.
- Therefore, a person can go right on living in darkness and still claim to be a follower of Christ, claiming to have fellowship with God.
- The aim of heresy is to deny the sovereignty of God, to exalt man and to glorify Satan who works through self-centered man. The end result is the damnation of these followers of the lie.
- The Apostle John declared that these were not their fellow believers. He says, “They went out from us, but they were not of us...but they went out that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.” (1 John 2:19)

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?

- “Ye have an unction from the Holy one, and ye know all things” (1 John 2:20). Uction literally means “ointment,” that which was used when the High Priest was anointed.
- The unction from the Holy Spirit enables those of us who are believers to clearly understand what is true and what is false in the religious field around us.
- “This unction will preserve us against the antichrists that are operating now, and there are many. They call their teachings atheism, and pantheism and deism and anti-supernaturalism to name a few... and I have to include dispensationalism of which I was part of for many years.”
- The Spirit of God wants us to be equipped so we will not be misled and captured by the antichrist. The Holy unction will help you withstand seducing, lying spirits. Then you will not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14).
- **It is the responsibility of every believer, therefore, to search the Scriptures and to know what truth is.** We are not to give undue loyalty to one particular preacher or to idolize his teaching. Our dedication and consecration is always and only to be true to the Living Word – Jesus Christ – our Redeemer.
- “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him” (1 John 2:24-27)
- “Isn’t it interesting to realize that in the New Testament all believers are Spirit baptized people? All of the teachings given in the New Testament were given to people who had been baptized with the Holy Spirit. All the exhortations in the New Testament were given to people who had been baptized with the Holy Spirit. All of the warnings in the New Testament were given to believers who had been baptized in the Holy Ghost. Do you know why? That is the **only kind of believers there were** in the New Testament!”

### What is God's last message to the world?

- In the Book of Revelation, Chapter 14 verse 6, we find the last sermon the world will hear before the apocalypse. It is the last proclamation of the will of God before that awful Day when the wrath of God is poured out. And in this last sermon the Lord summarizes the entire matter of the Bible. He gives the everlasting gospel message, and makes his final plea before Judgment.
- And so it behooves us to listen in, to examine and to meditate on this last grand sermon. While only a few verses, 65 words in total, this sermon divides the Christian religions and professors of faith. It separates unbelievers and believers. It is the final word on how the Lord will judge mankind. In other words, it cuts to the chase.
- Everyone on earth will hear, in their own tongue, the last sermon from God Himself. And then the door is shut; probation ends, mercy is withdrawn and Judgment begins. Here is the final sermon God will preach to the living. 65 words that tell of life and death.
- **“Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”** Revelation 14:6
- And then after this proclamation, in Revelation 14:14, we read the harvest of the righteous and the harvest of the wicked begins.

### *Eternal gospel*

- First it is proclaimed this message is “God’s everlasting good news” (eternal gospel). From the foundation of the heavens and the earth and the beginning of creation this news has been eagerly anticipated. And is the message “God loves you?” No, the eternal gospel proclaimed is, “Fear God... because the hour of his judgment has come.”
- For whom is this good news? And why is it called a message of good news that was preached from the beginning of time (eternal)? The answer is in Romans 8:19.
- “For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.”
- The hour of judgment has come is good news for God’s people, His angels, the heavens and the earth. The time for the new city, New Jerusalem, which originates from heaven, has come. A new heaven and a new earth will be created. And resurrection of the Lord’s elect



unto glory has come. God will dwell with his people and He will be their God, forever and ever. This is the eternal gospel all creation has longed to hear; the hour of judgment has come. Now all things will be made new; without pain, suffering or sin.

### *Fear God*

- The sermon then begins with the command, “Fear God.” Why? The scripture then tells us why, “...because the hour of his judgment has come.” What does “Fear God” mean and why is it the first words uttered by the Lord to every last human?
- The Greek word for fear used in these verses is “phóbos,” derived from “phebomai” which means “to flee, withdraw” as in terror or fright. The other Hebrew word sometimes used is “pachad” which means “dread, awe, disaster, panic, terror.” And other verses that contain “Fear God” use the Hebrew word “yare” which means “afraid, fearful.”

### *So what is the fear of God or to fear God?*

- The fear of God is the knowledge of God Almighty that causes a man to drop like dead in the presence of the Lord. It is the understanding the Holy One of Israel is a consuming fire before whom no man can stand and live (Exodus 33:20). A presence so powerful it caused the righteous Daniel, John, and Isaiah to become limp and fall like dead men, and Moses to hide in a rock.
- The fear of God is the knowledge of sin and its wages that causes a man to flee from sin because of the terror and condemnation it brings. You abhor it. The very specter of sin brings dread to the people of God for the Lord Jesus said “fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28)
- The fear of God is the knowledge that you deserve death. We cry as did Isaiah (6:5); “It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips.” To fear God is to know that when we stand in the presence of the Almighty, unclean, we deserve nothing but wrath and destruction.
- And with head bowed, seeing we are not worthy of anything but condemnation we tremble before him. Yet, as we slowly raise our heads we see his hand of mercy extended; the “consuming fire” comes towards us. We shake in fear and then we hear him say “fear not.”
- The fear of God brings us to the understanding that all that exists is by Him and for Him. We own nothing. Even the fruit of our loins, our children, are His. There is nothing we can withhold from him, nothing we can claim as our own. We are naked and bare but for his grace. He is the potter we are the clay. We are dust brought to life by His breath. He will show mercy upon whom he will show mercy. In his presence we are overwhelmed at the force and power and majesty before us; and we fall to our face in meekness, reverence and awe.

- Yet as you lay prone, awestruck, a hand touches your shoulder. It is the Lord and He says, “I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.” (Isaiah 41:13)
- And then again in Psalm 33: 18 he says, “Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.” It is the one who fears God who will hear Him say “fear not.”

#### *Give Him Glory*

- After the commandment to “Fear God,” we are commanded to “give Him glory.” The Greek word used here is “doxa,” which literally means “to give good opinion of someone.” The result of this is “praise and honor” bestowed on that person. In other words, you give a testimony or witness about someone which causes that person to be honored and praised by others. So what is the testimony a person gives that brings glory to the Lord?
- The Lord says in John 15:8, “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” What is this fruit that also is a testimony, that when people see it they turn and give honor and praise [glory] to God?
- The Lord Jesus tells us the one who hears the Word of God and understands it (Matthew 13:23) and abides in Jesus and Jesus in him, it is he that bears much fruit (John 15:5). And this fruit will last (John 15:16) for it is fruit for God (Romans 7:4).
- And the clue as to what this fruit is, that gives glory to God and witness to God, is in John 15:4. “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.”
- This fruit is nothing less than the life blood and Spirit of Jesus Christ flowing through a man which transforms him into a son of God. Dead branches that abide in the vine now resurrect into newness of life and bloom. Justified and pure of heart in the eyes of the Father, a man that bears fruit is being re-created in the image of Jesus Christ.
- And in looking at this one with the heart of Jesus, supernaturally transformed by the Spirit, one who testifies he has become a new creature in Christ, the world stands in awe. A miracle has occurred, a phenomenon beyond logical explanation. And thus glory is heaped upon the Lord.
- A man, once a dedicated persecutor of Jesus, and killer of God’s children now gives his life to save that which he once hated. He now counts all things as waste and only Christ as gain. How could this be? All praise and glory to God for what he was wrought in this man, Saul of Tarsus.
- In Matthew 13:23 we learn God’s people yield different amounts of fruit: some a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty. Paul describes this as a measure of faith allotted to each by the Lord. (Romans 12:3) The greater the measure of faith the more a man abides in utter abandonment to the Lord Jesus. And the sweet fruit that is produced

has a fragrant aroma. This fruit for God, this manifestation of the character and Spirit of Christ in a man shines a light in the world.

- As the Son reflects the Father's light, so the one transformed with the heart of Jesus reflects the light of the Son – giving glory to God Almighty. Praise to God for what he has done. For ye have become a light of the world and as men see the works of God you do, they glorify the Lord (Matthew 5:16).
- And as the Spirit of Christ flows through a man's body changes happen. He develops the fear of God. The Spirit writes His commandments on the heart and the man keeps them. He begins to abhor sin in his life and in the church of God. Now the character of Christ blooms, giving God the glory.
- "By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked." John 1:2
- You love that which you once hated. You love the brothers in Christ, love your enemies, love your neighbor, love the lost, and love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And as the love of Christ comes forth through your earthly body, for this is not human love, more fruit comes forth; joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- The greatest glory we can give the Lord thy God is the witness of Jesus Christ in our hearts and transformed lives. Not theology, not attending church, not tithing, not youth camp, not ministries and charitable deeds but to be transformed into the character and image of the Son of God.
- "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48) What is he saying? Be complete, be filled with His Spirit; grow up in maturity in Christ Jesus and bear much fruit. For in this is God glorified. That it is no longer you that live, but Christ that liveth within you created to do the works of God. For only the Son of God can glorify God and no man shall gain glory in his eyes, for none is good, no not one.

#### *Worship Him*

- And then the final commandment before the hour of judgment is to "Worship Him." The Greek word used here is "proskynēō" translated as "to kiss the ground when prostrating before a superior; to worship, ready to fall down/prostrate oneself to adore on one's knees."
- The King of kings, Lord of lords and creator of the heavens and the earth is about to appear and all mankind is commanded to worship Him. This command is the final warning to an idolatrous world that worships the Dragon [the Devil] and those who he gives power; the Beast [leaders] and Babylon [world systems], "a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit." (Revelation 18:2).

- The Scriptures say “*all who dwell on the earth*” will worship the world (Beast), “*everyone* whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb from the foundation of the world.” (Revelation 13:8) Do people knowingly and openly worship the Devil? No, but people love the world which is under the control of the Devil. And thus by loving all that is in the world, reject God and his call to worship Him.
- “We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19). “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.” (1 John 2:15)

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