

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: April 11, 2021

Title: Assurance: Launch Pad for Righteous Living

Title: "Look Before You Love!"

INTRODUCTION:

1. Context: Between 2:3-11 and 2:18-27
2. Interpretation: "dear children, fathers, young men"
 - A. Three DEVELOPMENTAL categories.
 - B. ALL his readers from different ANGLES.

CONFLICT WITH THE EVIL ONE (2:12-14)

1. I write to you: **DEAR CHILDREN** (vss. 12; 13c)
The earliest conscious experiences of newborn Christians:
 - A. "because your sins have been forgiven (verb: PT)"
"on account of his name" (cp. Ephesians 2:7)
 - B. "because you have known (verb: PT) the father."
2. I write to you: **FATHERS** (vss. 13a; 14a)
The fathers are the spiritually mature in the congregation. They have progressed into a deep communion with God. Both times he addresses them, John uses identical words: "you've known him who is from the beginning."
3. I write to you: **YOUNG MEN** (vss. 13b; 14b)
 - A. "you have overcome (NEB "mastered") the evil one" (2x).
 - B. "you are strong, and the word of God lives in you."
This is the secret of the young men's victory over the evil one.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

1. God has already made PROVISION for you to grow.
2. It is every believer's RESPONSIBILITY to grow.

MISCONCEPTIONS (by Dr. John MacArthur)

THE LOVE GOD _____ (2:15-17)

1. The Command (vs. 15a)

A. Understanding the Command

- 1) Its _____
- 2) Its _____
- 3) Its _____ (personal, uncomfortable)

B. Defining the "world"

- 1) The _____ world
- 2) The _____ world
- 3) The invisible, spiritual system opposed to God and Christ.

2. The Rationale (vs. 15b-17)

A. Because of _____ the world _____ to us.

"Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father." [The Message]
The real location of worldliness is internal, residing in our hearts (16)

- 1) "The cravings of sinful man" (lit. "the flesh"; James 4:1-6a)
- 2) "The lust of his eyes"
- 3) "The boasting of what he has and does"

B. Because of _____ the world is _____.

There's no future in worldliness. None! This world is temporary, superficial, it does not satisfy. It results in unadvertised consequences.

3. The Challenge (facing Christians and the Church today)

A. Resisting worldliness requires strenuous effort. It's an inside battle & hard heart-work is needed. And it's a lifelong battle.

B. The antidote to worldliness is the cross of Christ. Only thru the power of the cross can we successfully resist the seduction of a fallen world. See Galatians 6:14; 5:16, 24.

C. We must fight worldliness because it dulls our affections for Christ and distracts our attention from Christ.