*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

*Susan asks us a simple yet intriguing question, “Just what does loving the world mean?” “Those who are in Christ should not be lovers of the world, which is governed by Satan, the prince of the world…In this lesson John writes to all the “little children” [showing them] that they cannot be considered children of God and be lovers of the world.” (pg. 92)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 7– “Three Deadly Sins” – 1 John 2:15-17 (pg. 103-104)

“With the help of the Apostle John, we have seen:

*The Command to Not Love the World (v15a):* Don’t love the world.

*The Reasons to Not Love the World (vv15b-17a):* 1. It proves that the love of the Father is not in you.

 2. The lust of the flesh is in the world

 3. The lust of the eyes is in the world

 4. The pride of life is in the world

 5. The world is passing away

*The Reason to Love God (v 17b):* You will abide forever!

Are you a world lover? Do you prefer the world to the Lord? Paul says in 2 Timothy 4:10 that Demas forsook him because he loved the present world. And yet Demas had helped Paul in the ministry, according to Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24. But something happened to Demas; he loved the world. We aren’t told exactly what tempted Demas to forsake Paul and the ministry and fall in love with the world, but something did. Perhaps it was the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh or the pride of life.

You might be asking, well Susan, how would I know if I am a world lover? I think the answer lies in looking at the three areas John mentions in the text, the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life, and being willing to ask yourself some hard questions.

You might start with the “Questions to Consider” at the end of this chapter.

**From there you might** **keep a schedule for a week of all the things you do**.

**At the end of the week, ask yourself, what am I doing with my time?**

**Am I involved in things that will last and will count for eternity, or am I spending the bulk of my time on things that are going to burn up in the end?**

As Paul would tell Timothy, his son in the faith, *“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier.” (2 Timothy 2:3-4)*

Ladies, if we love the Lord we will want to spend our days pleasing Him, doing His will, and not be involved in things that are in opposition to Him and to His Kingdom.

There is no way that we can be doing the will of God and at the same time be loving the world.

There is no way that we can be doing the will of God and at the same time be lusting with our flesh. There is no way that we can be doing the will of God and at the same time be lusting with our eyes. There is no way that we can be doing the will of God and at the same time be boasting of this life and all we have done.

As C.S. Lewis once said “if we insist on keeping hell, or even earth, we shall not see heaven. If we accept Heaven we shall not be able to retain even the smallest and most intimate souvenirs of hell.”

In addition to Susan’s summary, I found this quote from Pastor John MacArthur. Pastor MacArthur, in his October 27th, 2002 sermon on “Why Christians Don’t Love the World- 1 John 2:15-17” states, “No way does the family of God love the world! And if someone defects and goes after the world, goes hard after the world demonstrating affection for the world and all its systems both theoretical and behavioural they give evidence that their claim to “know God” and to “love Christ” was a lie. Nothing but a lie. It is absolutely impossible. We cannot love it for what it is. It is a lie and we have affirmed the truth. We cannot love it because of who we are. It is the children of Satan, we are the children of God. And yet I need to just add a little caveat here. It does not mean that the world still doesn’t allure us because it can. It is seductive. We might reject its philosophy because we have embraced Christianity. We might reject and certainly do reject its religion, its false religions of human achievement. We reject all of the ideologies of the world and yet we are lured and seduced by some of its behaviour. What are you talking about? I am talking about flirting with the world. You don’t love it. You’re not married to it. You have been separated from it. You have come into the family of God yet it is alluring to you because of your fallenness. What am I talking about?

What books do you love the most? If you love any worldly books more than the Word,

If you love any worldly songs more than the hymns, If you love worldly people more than the people of God, If you love worldly activity more than worship. If you love any endeavour more than service to Christ. If you seek any reward more than “well done good and faithful servant” you are being seduced to flirt with the world. Scripture says to set your affections on things above and not on things of the earth. Be that spiritual young man (or woman), strong in the Word who overcomes the world.”