

Why I Left the World

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Introduction: There are some things common to all Christians.

- A. Everyone who is a Christian has once lived in the world. (**Titus 3:3; Eph 2:2-3**)
 - 1. It not an enjoyable thing to look back at a time of self-deceit and bondage.
 - 2. Paul found this a good teaching opportunity to describe his past struggles. (**1 Tim 1:12-15**)
 - 3. It is my prayer that this study will help us not only to hate worldliness but to rejoice in the grace of God that has freed us from the bondage of sin
- B. One must be born again to leave the world! (**Jn 3:3-5; Rom 6:3-4**)
 - 1. The new birth by necessity involves a radical change of thinking.
 - 2. Many are in churches but in reality are still in the world.
 - 3. Let us look back on that painful time when Christ was not in our lives.

I. What is the “Worldliness”?

- A. Worldliness is a philosophy of life. (**1 Jn 2:15-17**)
 - 1. **The lust of the flesh** – We have God given desires and emotional needs. Do we control them or do they control us?
 - 2. **The lust of the eyes** – We make judgments on the things we see. What is reality? What will really last?
 - 3. **The pride of life** – It is easy to compare yourself to others and gain “esteem” from that. This desire is like a drug addiction that must be fed an increased.
- B. The root idea of worldliness lies in an unrestrained fulfillment of our lusts.
 - 1. How do you make decisions? The worldly person looks within and is essentially self centered. He makes judgments on what he can see and hold.
 - 2.. The Godly person looks to God. He seeks the council of the unseen as found in the scriptures.
 - 3. Worldliness is very subtle; most worldly people do not know it!
 - 4. One is worldly if his guide is self and not God.
 - a. He may focus on what **outwardly seems good**.
 - b. Family. (**1 Cor 7:32-33**)
 - c. Religion. (**Col 2:8**)

II. Worldliness thrives on deception

- A. Outwardly I thought of myself as being in control.
 - 1. A worldly man **does not control himself**, his lust do! (**Eph 2:1-3**)
 - 2. This mind is from “the prince of the power of the air.” Satan is the ruler of all worldly people! (**John 12:31, 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor 4:4**)
 - 3. Worldly people find comfort in numbers. Because of this they think of themselves as “pretty good.” What did Jesus say? (**Mt 7:13-14; Lk 6:26**)
 - 4. Inwardly I was fearful and allowed the pressure of what others thought to mold me. I was a slave! (**Rom 6:20-21**)
- B. I sought things that would not last and acted as if they would not end. (**1 Cor 7:29-31**)

1. In high school my happiness depended on meeting the standards of the world.
 2. Things that were not wrong within themselves were seen as the road to success. Such as dating, career, having good looks and many other things.
 3. This deceit was easy to accept as long as things did not change. My first challenge came when I graduated from high school and looked change in the face.
- C. I claimed to be a Christian but hated the “rules” of righteousness.
(Jn 15:18-19; 1 Jn 3:13)
1. If you stand as a Christian, the world will not like it!
 2. At one time in my life I did not like Christians either (that is real Christians, not the name only kind).
 3. Those who would dare be against drinking or the prom or other social norms would be considered “judgmental” (Even if they did not say a word!).
(1 Pt 4:3-4)
 4. The world screams out:” Do Not Correct Me!” The present day “non-traditional” movement in churches is full of this spirit. **(John 16:20)**
- D. I thought I was going to heaven! **(John 16:2-3)**
1. I has the “Good old boy” concept. I had no concept of God’s judgment.
 2. I did not understand the consequences of my own sin. **(Rom 3:23; 6:23)**
 3. I wanted a religion to salve my conscience but *not one that changed me.*
 4. My goals, heart and life was in the world. *But I thought I was going to heaven.*
- E. I had no peace in my life but I was afraid and did not know what to do.
1. Yes I had my **highs**, but they were **temporary**.
 2. I was not in control! I had to constantly look for that “high”.
 3. In fact I wanted escape. What a vain life! **(John 14:27; 16:32-33)**
- F. I had to wear a mask because of my self deception.
1. With the world, **you wear a mask**. Dishonesty is a must. **(Jn 14:17; 2 Cor 4:4)**
 2. There is another way! **(Rom 7:24-25)**

III. How I was able to be freed from the slavery of the world

- A. I asked God for light. **(Jn 7:17)**
1. I was moving too fast into sin.
 2. I faced death and my mask was removed in terror. I knew I was lost.
 3. I began to seek God from a reading of the Bible.
- B. We must die to the world.
1. We must be *sick* of it! **(James 4:3-4)**
 2. We must *die* to our lusts. **(Gal 6:14)**
- C. We must live a life on **Conviction** - **(1 John 5:4-5)**

Conclusion: What does the worldly life lead to? Let us wake up and live for God!

- A. Sadly many who leave the world later find a way back in. **(2 Pet 2:20; 1 Jn 4:4-5).**
- B. What a great salvation we have in the Lord! **(1 Tim 1:15-17)**