"The Danger of Spiritual Shortsightedness"
1 John 2:15-17

C.I.T./S.—Resist the temptation to Love the world by loving Jesus.
Purpose—I want a return to loving Jesus above all else.
Introduction—Driving Shortsighted can't see the danger ahead

I. ***Loving the World is Insubordination*** vs. 15a
   a. World—Kosmos
      i. John 3:16—God loved the world—love the people of the world
      ii. Not the planet, not the people
      iii. Order/Chaos—cosmopolitan/cosmetics
      iv. Refers to the created order, earth, all humanity, and humanity organized against God
   b. Things in the world
      i. Not necessarily physical world things
      ii. Things that correspond to the organization against Jesus.
   c. Love—agape
      i. Love as priority
         1. Prioritizing the needs of others, in order to give to them.
         2. Prioritizing the value of something.
      ii. This prioritization means that you elevate the world over Jesus.
      iii. Vs. 17—Doing God's Will—obedience to the Lord is the opposite of loving the world
   d. Illus.—Organized crime vs. USA
   e. Application
      i. When we face a situation in which the agenda of the world is opposed to the agenda of God, if we choose the world, we are loving the world.
      ii. He says, "don't do that."
      iii. to genuine believers who are having to make these choices while living in the flesh.

II. ***Loving the World is Incompatible.*** Vs. 15b-16
   a. Incompatible in its service.
      i. Love of the Father--
         1. **1 John 5:3**—defines the love of God—it is our love towards God that is shown in our obedience to him.
         2. Not in him—not that he doesn't possess it as if not saved.
         3. Refers to not being activated.
         4. This refers to our love for God.
      ii. Loving the world is engaging in anything that acts in disobedience to God or keeps us from obeying God.
         1. 99% obedience is 100% disobedience
         2. When we do anything that causes disobedience in our lives, we don't love God
      iii. **Matt. 6:24**—can't serve two masters.
      iv. The reason that we should love the world is because we can't love God and the world at the same time.
   b. Incompatible in its source.
      i. The desire of the flesh
         1. Refers to normal physical desires that have been perverted by Satan
         2. Hunger—gluttony

3. Sex—adultery, homosexuality, fornication
4. Rest/relaxation—drugs, alcohol, leisure, etc.
5. Life is directed by fulfilling these desires.

ii. The desire of the eyes
1. Covetousness—Envy and jealousy
2. Eve and Achan—saw and sinned
3. Life is directed by seeking these things.

iii. Pride of life
1. Pride/confidence/appearance of strength and value
2. Bios—biology—pertaining to life
3. **1 John 3:17** uses this word to refer to worldly possessions.
4. Pride, arrogance, and confidence found in having stuff--materialism
5. Life is directed by building a reputation and trusting in possessions.

iv. All of these things are in creation.
v. The perversion of these things originate with the world itself.
vi. When you love them, you are loving something that God did not originate.

c. Illus.—You cannot be loyal to the Crime family and to the government at the same time, if you are loyal to one, you betray the other.
d. Application
i. You benefit from whatever you love.
1. If you love the world, you get what the world gives.
2. It will removed God's blessing from your life.
ii. I love Jesus, but have unconfessed sin.
iii. Am I actively loving Jesus?
iv. Don't love the world because you can't love God and the world at the same time.

III. Loving the world is Irresponsible. Vs. 17

a. Passing away—leaving—present tense
i. One day, Jesus will return and this world will be destroyed and everything with it.
ii. The investment that you make in the things of this world will leave just as the world will.
iii. You will waste your investment.
b. Those who do God's will, a.k.a those who love God, will endure forever—salvation.
i. Doing God's will invests our resources in eternity.
ii. These investments will last forever.
c. Matthew 6:19-21
d. Illus.—When the government busts up an Organized crime family, they bust the family and all those affiliated with it.
e. Application
i. As a genuine Christian, you are not of the world, but you are investing in the world.
ii. Everything that you spend loving the world will be destroyed.
iii. When Jesus comes to bust up this old world, what will you lose?
iv. Ultimatley, if you are trusting in this world for your eternity, you will lose everything.
v. Mark 8:36

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Conclusion

- **Rev. 2:2-5**
  - Remember
  - Repent
  - Return
- We need to stop loving the world and love Jesus.
- To do so, we must keep our eyes on eternity.

1 John 5:3 For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden,

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

1 John 3:17 If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him-- how does God's love reside in him?

Matthew 6:19 "Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Mark 8:36 For what does it benefit someone to gain the whole world and yet lose his life?

Revelation 2:2 I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars. [3] I know that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and have not grown weary. [4] But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. [5] Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.