

Keeping Ourselves Unspotted from the World
(Lesson 74)

Introduction:

1. One of the requirements for practicing "pure and undefiled religion before God" is "keeping ourselves unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).
2. God has given us information to help us remain free from the world's spots.
3. In this lesson we are examining information that relates to "overcoming the world" (1 John 5:4), including:
 - a. "why we must overcome the world"
 - b. "how to overcome the world."

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST CONSIDER WHY WE MUST OVERCOME THE WORLD
 - A. God's people must overcome the world because the Bible teaches us to do so.
 1. (Romans 12:2) We are not to be "conformed to this world."
 2. (Titus 2:11-14) God's grace teaches us to deny "worldly lusts."
 - B. God's people must overcome the world because our relationship with the world determines certain things, including:
 1. our spiritual allegiance
 - a. Jesus said, "I am not of this world" (John 8:23).
 - b. Satan is described as "the prince of this world" (John 12:31).
 - c. Our relationship with the world determines whether our allegiance is to Christ or the devil.
 2. our ability to bear fruit
 - a. (John 15:8) We glorify God when we bear much fruit.
 - b. (Matthew 13:22) "The care of this world" will cause us to be unfruitful.
 - c. Our relationship with the world will affect our ability to bear fruit.
 3. the kind of religion we practice (James 1:27).
 - C. Now that we understand why we must overcome the world, let us examine . . .
- II. SCRIPTURES THAT TEACH US HOW TO OVERCOME THE WORLD
 - A. We must put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-13).
 - B. We must have our affections in the proper place (Colossians 3:1-2).
 - C. We must not become friends of the world (James 4:4).
 - D. We must not love the world or the things that are in the world (1 John 2:15-17).
 - E. We must follow the Lord's example.
 1. Jesus said, "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).
 2. With the Lord's help we can overcome the world (1 John 5:4-5).

Conclusion:

1. The Bible teaches in Galatians 1:4 that Jesus "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world."
2. We learn from Romans 6:3-7 when the Lord saves us and delivers us from this present evil world.
3. The Lord's people are not to be like others in the world (1 Peter 2:9).
4. Overcoming the world is one of the keys to keeping ourselves unspotted from the world so we can practice pure and undefiled religion before God.