

# Love Not The World

## 1 John 2:12-17

**Introduction:** People today like people of the first century are interested in knowing that they have or do not have eternal life. John wrote this epistle that people: **“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”**

To know, from a diligent study of 1 John and from an honest appraisal of one’s life, that one has eternal life is a great joy and comfort. To know, from a study of 1 John, that one does not have eternal life should be a great motivation for good.

### I. Things That Are Written.

- A. Six times in **verses 12-14** we find John mentioning his writing to them.
- B. **Verses 12-14** are actually written in prose. This indicates possible usage as a poem and/or as a lyric. Why this change in style is beyond my range of understanding at this time.
- C. These things are written to Christians:
  1. **“Little children”** in **verse 12** is different than in **verse 13**.
    - a. Here it means those who are *“a term of affection by a teacher to his disciples under circumstances requiring a tender appeal”* (Vine, ecv).
    - b. This includes the widest scope or recipients among the brethren.
    - c. All of these have the forgiveness of sins, which indicates their obedience to the truth.
  2. Other descriptive words used refer to different levels of development:
    - a. **“Fathers.”** Most mature in faith.
    - b. **“Young men.”** These are those who may be developing rapidly, but strong in the faith.
    - c. **“Little children.”** These are new converts.
  3. Each of these receives words of encouragement from John.
    - a. This broad scope provides an example for us.
    - b. Everyone needs words of encouragement at one time or another.
      - 1) The **“fathers”** are complimented for their length of faithfulness.
      - 2) **“Young men”** are strong and victorious.
      - 3) **“Little children”** are beginning to get a taste of service and want more.
    - c. Words of encouragement prevent discouragement.
      1. A sure source of encouragement for all comes from God’s word.
      2. **see Acts 20:32.**

“That You May Know”

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## II. Love Not The World.

- A.** John uses the word for love which indicates “...*direction of the will and intelligent, purposeful choice, and not (the love) which is used to denote natural, friendly affection*” (Lenski, p. 423).
- B.** What John says in **verse 15** is essentially the same as is said in **Matthew 6:24**, “**No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**”
1. Whatever draws one away from God is always a problem of the highest magnitude and demands immediate action.
  2. **see 2 Cor. 6:14-18).**
- C. Verse 16** addresses sin, “*all that is in the world.*” It also addresses the “avenues” of sin.
1. Compare with **Genesis 3:1-6**.
    - a. Lust of the flesh—food.
    - b. Lust of the eye—pleasant.
    - c. Pride of life—wise.
  2. Compare with **Matthew 4:1-11**.
    - a. Lust of the flesh—bread.
    - b. Lust of the eye—kingdom.
    - c. Pride of life—pinnacle.
  3. All these are to prepare Christians (**2 Cor. 2:11**). Satan always uses what has been successful. This is how he still operates today.
- D.** The things of the world, which seem so important, are fleeting. The things of God are eternal. The choice seems simple (**v. 17**).

**Conclusion:** The things John wrote to Christians in the first century still have application for us today. While cultures have come and gone, God has remained constant. So have the things of the world. Therefore, we ought to heed the things that are written. They are for our benefit.