# SUNDAY LIGHT (18/02/2024)

**Topic:**  **LOVING THE WORLD OR LIVING HIS WAY?**

**Text: 1Jn.2:12-17; Isa. 55:8-9; Prov.14:12**

One of the aspects of God’s commandments we need to keep as proof that we love him is ***Loving not the World and Living His Way or Living to do His Will*** (1Jn.2:3,15-17). There’s no way one can love the world and simultaneously claim to be living His way. They are two opposite sides of the coin. And seeing that each side has its consequences by way of reward or retribution, the Lord would have us to double check our stand; *Loving the world or living his way?*

**1). Clarifications on Loving the World (1Jn.2:12-17):** The instruction not to Love the World is so strong, solemn, and salient that it is addressed to people of various social strata (1Jn.2:12-17). The world we are commanded not to love is not just the geographical space, its contents, and people, but the social system, value system, mindset, and thought pattern which are contrary to God’s word, will, and way. Christian believers are commanded not to admire, cherish, or follow whatever social order, system, pattern, way, behavior, fashion, etc., that is ungodly and unscriptural.

This is because of all it portends, summed as:

1. **The Lust of the Flesh** (Gal.5:19-21; 1Jn.2:16): Adultery; fornication (including abominable practices, like (*sodomy, homosexuality, lesbianism, pederasty- sexual activity involving a man and a boy or youth, bestiality and all other forms of sexual perversion*); uncleanness; lasciviousness- l*ustfulness, licentiousness (the promoting or partaking of that which tends to produce or foster lewd/lustful emotions or sexual sins; that’s why many worldly pleasures have to be avoided by Christians);* idolatry; witchcraft, hatred; variance (dissension, discord, disputes, etc.); emulation (envies, jealousies, uncurbed rivalry); wrath; strife (contentions, quarreling, strife about words); seditions (divisions, parties); heresies; envying (pain, ill-will, and jealousy at the success of others); murders; drunkenness; reveling (lascivious and boisterous feastings, with obscene music and other sinful activities, pleasures, carousing).

**b). The Lust of the Eyes:** Lust for people of the opposite sex (part of the lust of the flesh) (cp. Matt.5:28; Jb.31:18; 2Pt.2:14); Covetousness (Ps.10:8; Lk.12:15).

**c). The Pride of life:** Pride of position, power, possession, and beauty, etc. (Lk.12:15).

**2). Cost of Loving the World (1Jn. 2:16):** The Believer should note that continually loving the world will cost them the love of Father while earning them enmity with God (Jas.4:4). *Besides, indiscriminate fraternity with this world will certainly lead to indescribable fatality in the next (1Jn.2:17; Rev.21:8)*.

**3). Comment on Living His Way (1Jn.2:17):** Those who live God’s way are those living by his word and will (Pro.14:12; Isa.55:8-11). It takes one to decide to die according to one’s will and way to live in keeping with God’s word, will, and way (Jn.12:24; 5:30, Gal.2:20). God’s will and way are found in his written word (cp. Lk.10:25, 26; Isa.34:16).

**4). Consequent Reward for Living His way (1Jn.2:17; Jn.10:10):** The reward for living God’s way is an eternity of bliss with Him, aside from abundant and fulfilling life in the interim.

If you have sincerely assessed yourself by this word, you will know where you stand on the two sides of the divide: **Loving the World or Living His Way**. There is still an opportunity to shift your base if you find that you need to, as we rise now to pray.