**1 John 2:15-17 (KJV)** 15  Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.   
16  For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.   
17  And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

1. What is meant by “world” and “loving the world?”
   1. The word “kosmos” is used in various ways in Scripture to indicate different things. A few of them are listed.
      1. As mankind or the population of the world to include all people – John 3:16;
      2. As the earth and all that is on it – Acts 17:24
      3. As gentiles distinguished from Jews – Romans 11:12,15
      4. As “the present condition of human affairs”
         1. it is in alienation from and in opposition to God – John 7:7
         2. it is under the dominion and influence of Satan – John 14:30
   2. It is this latter meaning, #4, which is primarily referred to in 1 John 2:15-17I
2. John describes this world system and the elements involved in it.
   1. It is not “of the Father” indicates that it does not come from and cannot be pleasing to God.
      1. Anything not of God is evil and wicked.
      2. It is evil and wicked precisely because it is not of God.
      3. John is not referring to what God has created, thus saying that man should concern himself only with the spiritual and not the physical things of life.
         1. He is referring to the realm of evil and those things in it which oppose God.
            1. It is a realm which rejects God and hates those who follow Him.
            2. It is a system of people, ideas, philosophies, and religions which are in total opposition to the truth of God.
            3. It is anything that detracts, distracts, or prevents a person from knowing God and being fully dedicated to and useful in the work and worship of God.
         2. That which God has created and given is good, but can become evil and wicked when it is perverted and bent toward evil for the purpose of satisfying ungodly and wicked desires of ungodly men and women.
3. Jesus tells us in no uncertain terms that we can have only one master.
   1. 24No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.[[1]](#footnote-1)- Matt 6:24
   2. Ultimately there is always a choice of masters.
      1. One may choose the prince of this world
         1. If Satan is chosen as one’s master, then that individual is dominated by
            1. The lust of the flesh
            2. The lust of the eyes
            3. The pride of life
         2. “These three things “in the world” characterize what is at work in the world system in opposition to God. They are not passive, but aggressively seek to allure the affections of everyone including Christians.” [[2]](#footnote-2)
         3. This world is only temporary
            1. It is even now passing away
            2. Everything in it and about it will, when God chooses, be brought to an end
      2. One may choose Jesus and the Father
         1. By choosing God, that person has chosen to believe the message of the Gospel and receive God’s free gift of salvation
         2. He has chosen to walk in fellowship and love with God as he discerns and does the will of God in this world all of his life.
         3. When this life is over, that person will abide in God’s presence and in love and fellowship with Him forever.

1. [*The Holy Bible: King James Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/kjv1900?ref=BibleKJV.Mt6.24&off=0&ctx=t+is+that+darkness!%0a~24%C2%A0h%EF%BB%BFNo+man+can+serv). (2009). (Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version., Mt 6:24). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Van Neste, R. (2018). [1 John](https://ref.ly/logosres/esvexpcomhebrev?ref=Bible.1Jn2.16&off=2325&ctx=ition%2c+or+prestige.%0a~These+three+things+%E2%80%9C). In I. M. Duguid, J. M. Hamilton Jr., & J. Sklar (Eds.), *Hebrews–Revelation* (Vol. XII, p. 436). Wheaton, IL: Crossway. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)