

LOVE OF THE WORLD

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St Mark Coptic Orthodox Church

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LOVE OF THE WORLD

- ¹⁵Do not love the world or **the things** in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world the **desires of the flesh** and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever (1 John 2: 15-17). ESV.

An Overview (3 Parts)

1. ¹⁵DO NOT love the world or **the things** in the world.
2. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world the **desires of the flesh** and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires,
3. but whoever does the will of God abides [lives] forever (1 John 2:15-17). ESV.

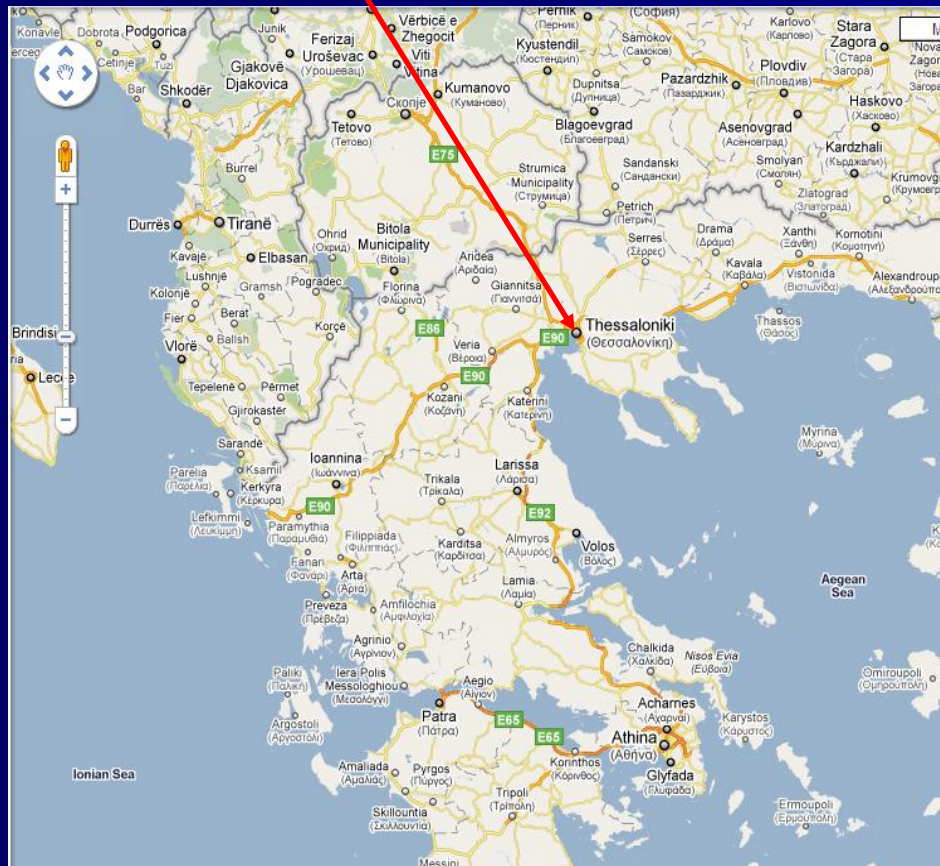
“Do not love the world or the things in the world”

PART I

“Do not love the world or the things in the world”

- **Love:** is the emotion of strong affection and personal attachment Oxford Illustrated American Dictionary (1998) + Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary (2000)
- **world:** In a theological context, “world” often refers to the material or the wicked sphere.
- **Examples:**
- In Eschatology, which is a part of theology, the “end of the world” refers to the final end of human history (**Matt 24:14**).
- “For Demas, **in love with this present world**, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica...” (2 **Timothy 4:10**).

Thessalonica (Salonika)



Similarity between
NOLA & Salonika

- Port City
- Touristic Place
- other

Source: Google map

“Do not love the world or the things in the world”

Examples:

- ❖ “World” refers not just to geographical location but the Sinners & the sphere...
- ❖ “if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, ...”(2 Peter 2.5).
- ❖ “By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed “(2 Peter 3.6)

“DO NOT love the world or the things in the world”

Examples:

- ❖ “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. **They are from the world** and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. **(1 John 4:4-5)**

“Do not love the world or the things in the world”

- “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”(John 15:18-19).
- “I have given them your word and **the world has hated them**, for they are **not of the world** any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the **world** but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by[d] the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:14-17).
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What is wrong with loving the world?

- ❖ Love of the world separates us from God (Adam & Eve, **Genesis 3:6**)
 - ❖ love for the world can't coexist with love for God
- "...Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (**Jam 4:4**).
- ❖ "If any one loves the world, the love for the Father is not in him."**(1 John 2: 15)**.

What is wrong with loving the world?

- ❖ Those who do the acts of the sinful nature will not inherit the kingdom of God.

“I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God”
(Galatians 5:19-21).

What is wrong with loving the world?

- ❖ “For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want”(Galatians 5:17).
- ❖ For all that is in the world the **desires of the flesh** and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions **is not from the Father but is from the world** (1 John 2: 15-17).

What is wrong with loving the world?

- ❖ But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked (Psalm 73: 2-3). Think the difference between two flowers, an artificial & real flower
- ❖ This is what the wicked are like always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence (Psalm 73: 12-13).

What is wrong with loving the world?

- ❖ When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny (Psalm 73: 16-17).
- ❖ Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But **as for me, it is good to be near God**. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds (Psalm 73: 27-28).
- ❖ The real flower (living) takes nutrition & flowers
- ❖ The artificial flower (life-less) doesn't...

“Do not love the world or the things in the world”

- What is wrong with loving the world?
 - ❖ Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money" (Matt 6:24).

PART II

- ❖ If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, (1 John 2: 15-17).
- ❖ Who wants to invest in a company going out of business? (Recent economic Crisis)

PART II

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- ❖ “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done” (Matt 16:26-27).

Not only do you lose your treasure but You lose your life as well. If you love the world, it will pass away and take you with it

LOVE OF THE WORLD

- ❖ “For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,” (Rom 8.13).
- ❖ (Death = separation of 2 objects)
- ❖ “For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want” (Galatians 5:17).

LOVE OF THE WORLD

- ❖ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21).**
- ❖ **How often do you think of your most valuable assets?**

LOVE OF THE WORLD

- ❖ 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ... 19And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."
20"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:19-20).

PART III

- ❖ but whoever does the will of God abides/
lives forever (1 John 2: 17). **ESV.**

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

- ❖ "but whoever does the will of God abides [lives] forever " (1 John 2: 15-17). We live with God forever in His kingdom
- ❖ Also, our Lord Jesus Christ said, "If you love me you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15).
- ❖ "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." (1 John 5:3).

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

- ¹³For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God (Rom 8.14).

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

- “The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”
(Galatians 6:8).

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

- So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (Galatians 5:16).

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

- “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit” (**Galatians 6:24-25**).

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

- Always have the fear of God before your eyes. Remember Him who gives death and lives. Hate the world and all that is in it. Hate the peace that comes from the flesh. Renounce this life, so that you may be alive to God.

St. Anthony the Great

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

- "...the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (**Galatians 6:8-9**).

Glory Be To God Forever, Amen!