**DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD**

1 John 2:15-27 (Key Verse: 15)

*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world,*

*love for the Father is not in them.*

1. What does John tell believers NOT to do? (15a)? What does it mean to “love” the “world” and “anything in the world” (Jn 12:31[[1]](#footnote-1); 16)? What impact does “loving the world” have on our fellowship with God? (15b, Jas 4:4)?
2. List three worldly things within us and explain what each mean (16a)? Where do these things come from? (16b, Eph 2:1-3[[2]](#footnote-2)) What should our view of the world be and how can this help us love the Father instead of the world? (17; 1:7,9)
3. Who is the “antichrists” that have come in the last hour?[[3]](#footnote-3) (18, 22) What is the antichrist’s objective? (26; Matt 24:24-25[[4]](#footnote-4)) In this passage, who acted as the antichrist and what did they teach? (19a, 23[[5]](#footnote-5)) What can we learn from these former-church goers about how dangerous it is to keep loving the world?
4. What assures us that we are true believers? (20) What should we make sure of and what two promises does God give if we do? (24-25, 27c) How does the Holy Spirit help us (27)?
1. **John 12:31** “Now is the time for judgment on **this world**; [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Eph 2:1-3** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Last hour:** We are in the last hour of God’s history. The last hour began at the crucifixion of Jesus. There is only one thing that is left to come in God’s history and that is Jesus’ second coming which could happen at any time. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Matt 24:24-25** For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Those who left the church were teaching an early form of Gnosticism that denied that Jesus came in the flesh as the Son of God. They believed that the only thing necessary for salvation was knowledge, “gnosis,” there was no need for a Savior. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)