THREAT: FAILURE TO RESIST THE LOVE OF THE WORLD

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

- Not only does the flesh pose a great threat to our sanctification, so does the world

- The word "world" can mean 3 things in Scripture:
  1. It can refer to the earth or creation
  2. It can refer to people in the world, the human race (John 3:16 ~ for God so loved the world)
  3. It can refer to the evil system that is opposed to God and his righteousness

- Worldliness refers to the way the world thinks…the mindset of the world…the worldview of the world
- The "world/age" is the outlook of mankind as it ignores God and does not recognize him as God
- It is the outlook of those who have rebelled against God and turned their back on him
- It is those who only think of this world and this life…the perspective of life that is exclusive of God
- It is a view that puts man at the center of things rather than God
- It is an ethical and philosophical approach that is erected in opposition to God and his revelation

- We know worldliness is the mindset of those who think only horizontally rather than vertically because the antidote to worldliness in Romans 12:2 is to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind"
- The alternative to being "conformed to this world" is being "transformed by the renewing of your mind"
- This means that Paul is concerned about a way of thinking rather than merely behaving…he has more in mind than just actions and conduct
- He is concerned that believers not allow themselves to think like the world thinks…to not allow themselves to adopt a worldly outlook on life…to not allow themselves to become secular in their thinking…to not allow the evil world system to infect their worldview
- Paul says that believers are to be nonconformists when it comes to the world's way of thinking

- "The world stands for everything that opposes the will of God."[1]
- "Worldliness is that system of values, in any given age, which has at its center our fallen human perspective, which displaces God and his truth from the world, and which makes sin look normal and righteousness seem strange. It thus gives great plausibility to what is morally wrong and, for that reason, makes what is wrong seem normal."[2]
- "Worldliness is a spirit, a temperament, an attitude of the soul. It is a life without high callings, life devoid of lofty ideals. It is a gaze always horizontal and never vertical."[3]
- "Worldliness is departing from God. It is a man-centered way of thinking; it proposes objectives which demand no radical breach with man's fallen nature; it judges the importance of things by the present and material results; it weighs success by numbers; it covets human esteem and wants no unpopularity; it knows no truth for which it is worth suffering; it declines to 'be a fool for Christ's sake.' Worldliness is the mindset of the unregenerate. It adopts idols and is at war with God."[4]

---

[1] Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole in Our Holiness*, 37.
[2] David Wells, *Losing Our Virtue*, 4.
[3] John Jowett
[4] Iain Murray, *Evangelicalism Divided*, 255.

- "Adam's transgression introduced a world order that is wholly at odds with our Creator. The fallen cultures of this present evil age seek to exalt themselves and live independently of God. When Scripture sets the world over and against the Lord, it has in mind not the created order in itself but the ways of the world and people in creation that are wholly opposed to our Creator."[5]
- "Worldliness involves love for earthly things, esteem for earthly values, preoccupation with earthly cares."[6]
- "Worldliness is not a matter of engaging in those practices that some question. It is unthinkingly adopting the perspectives, values, and attitudes of our culture, without bringing them under the judgment of God's Word. It is carrying on in our lives as if we did not know Jesus."[7]
- "The goal of worldly people is to move forward rather than upward, to live horizontally rather than vertically. They seek after outward prosperity rather than holiness. They burst with selfish desires rather than heartfelt supplications. If they do not deny God, they ignore and forget Him, or else they use Him only for their selfish ends. Worldliness…is human nature without God."[8]
- "The worldliness of this age is the sin-dominated, death producing realm in which all people, included in Adam's fall, naturally belong."[9]
- "Worldliness is the condition of being concerned with worldly affairs, especially to the neglect of spiritual things."[10]

- This state of mind is deadly for the believer and for the effectiveness of the church
- Sadly, it seems as if the church has become increasingly more like the world in recent years

- "We've softened. We've lost clarity. Within a generation, *worldly* and *worldliness* have lost most of their meaning…The distinctions between Christian and worldly conduct – once so clear – have blurred beyond recognition. The slippery slope from drifter to deserted has, in only a few years, grown increasingly slick. This rapid loss of clarity has culminated in crisis. Today, the greatest challenge facing American evangelicals is not persecution from the world, but seduction by the world…We aren't under attack from without; we're decaying from within."[11]
- "I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church."[12]
- "Put your finger on any prosperous page in the Church's history, and I will find a little marginal note reading thus: 'In this age men could readily see where the Church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the Church and the world were joined in marriage with one another. The more the Church is distinct from the world in her acts and in her maxims, the more true is her testimony for Christ, and the more potent is her witness against sin."[13]
- "Many Christians have the misconception that to win the world to Christ we must first win the world's favor. If we can get the world to like us, they will embrace our Savior...The express design of this user-friendly philosophy is to make unconverted sinners feel comfortable with the Christians message. People won't come to hear the Gospel proclaimed? Give them something they want. Put on a show. Entertain them. Avoid sensitive subjects like sin and damnation. Accommodate their worldly desires and felt needs. Slip in the Gospel in small, diluted doses. The whole point is to make the church a place where non-Christians can enjoy themselves. The strategy is to tantalize non-Christians rather than confront their unbelief."[14]

---

[5] https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/the-world
[6] John MacArthur, *The Glory of Heaven*, 48.
[7] Lawrence Richards, *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, 639.
[8] Joel Beeke, *Overcoming the World*, 16.
[9] Douglas Moo
[10] https://www.gotquestions.org/worldliness.html
[11] C.J. Mahaney, *Worldliness: Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World*, 22.
[12] Charles Spurgeon, "How to Become Fishers of Men" sermon, number 1906.
[13] Charles Spurgeon, "Separating the Precious from the Vile" sermon.
[14] John MacArthur, *Reckless Faith*, 52-53.

- The same can be said of our own sanctification…the more we resist the seduction of the world, the greater our testimony for Christ

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORLD/THIS AGE

1 Corinthians 1:20 ~ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

1 Corinthians 2:6 ~ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;

1 Corinthians 2:8 ~ the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory

1 Corinthians 3:18 ~ Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ~ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Galatians 1:4 ~ who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

Ephesians 2:2 ~ in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

- A cursory survey of the NT reveals that the world is a system that is foolish, fleeting, Satanic, evil, and characterized by disobedience to God and his Word

WARNINGS AGAINST LOVING THE WORLD

Romans 12:2 ~ And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- "conformed" = *suschematizo*…comes from the root word *schema* from which we get "scheme"
- It means "to form…to model after…to fashion or shape one thing like another…to mold something into something else"
- The idea is that of conforming one thing to another…fashioning something into the shape or mold of something else…to press something into a mold or cast or impression
- Metaphorically, it refers to conforming someone (their mind and character) to another's pattern…fashioning a person according to something or someone else

- This is how it is used in the only other place this verb occurs in the NT: 1 Peter 1:14-15 ~ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

- It's a passive verb, meaning "don't allow this to happen to you…don't let it occur…don't let anyone or anything force you to do this"
- This is a summons for believers to must resist the external pressure from the world

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ~ Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I

WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

- This is a warning for believers to not be yoked up with the world

2 Timothy 4:10 ~ for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica

- What a tragedy…Demas had been Paul's traveling companion…even sending his greetings to the church in Colossae (Col 4:14) and to Philemon (v. 24)
- But sadly, he failed to resist the seduction of this present world…he came to love it

- "What happened? How did Demas go from passionate follower of Christ, close companion to the apostle, willing to risk all for the sake of the gospel, to deserted? Where did things go horribly wrong? Before Demas deserted, he drifted. It wasn't immediate. It wasn't obvious at first. He didn't go from disciple to deserter in a day. No, it was a gradual weakening, a subtle contaminating, and an eventual conforming to this world."[15]

- Some of the warning signs that a believer is drifting like Demas:
  - Sin does not grieve like it once did…the conscience gets duller and duller
  - The spiritual disciplines like time in the Word and prayer begin to wane
  - Passion for Christ begins to cool…the soul becomes listless and affections grow dim
  - Little excitement to be in church…and little joy in singing praises to our great God…then church is avoided altogether as late Saturday nights bleed into missing Sunday mornings
  - Little conviction when the Word is preached or taught
  - Eagerness to tell others about Christ fades
  - Growth in godliness slows to a crawl and then stops altogether
  - Money and time are spent on personal pleasures rather than investing in the things of eternity
  - A deep love for the things of the Lord is abandoned…and involvement in worldly interests grows slowly but steadily

James 1:27 ~ Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

- What pure "religion" looks like in terms of conduct: visit orphans and widows in their distress…i.e. helps others in need out of a heart of compassionate love
- What pure "religion" looks like in terms of character: keep oneself unstained by the world…i.e. keeps himself pure and uninfected by the evil world system

James 4:4 ~ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- "friendship" = *philia* = the close relationship that characterizes friends…the word is related to the verb *phileo*

1 John 2:15-17 ~ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves 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 boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

[15] Mahaney, *Worldliness*, 20.

- Believers are not to love the world…to do so is to betray they don't belong to God (v. 15)
- Loving the world is manifest in: the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and boastful pride of life (v. 16)
- The folly of loving the world is evident in the fact that it is temporary (v. 17)

- "This age is that which stands on this side of what we often call eternity. It is the temporal and the transient age. Conformity to this age is to be wrapped up in the things that are temporal, to have all our thought oriented to that which is seen and temporal. It is to be a time-server. How far reaching is this indictment. If all our calculations, plans, ambitions, are determined by what falls within life here, then we are children of this age. Besides, this age is an evil age…and if our fashion is that of this age then the iniquity characteristic of this age governs our life…We must have patterns that abide, patterns that are the earnest of and are continuous with the age to come. We do well to examine ourselves by this criterion: are we calculating in those terms which the interests and hopes of the age to come demand?"[16]
- "The world is a seducer. It seeks to attract our attention and our devotion. It remains so close at hand, so visible, so enticing. It eclipses our view of heaven. What is seen vies for our attention. It entices our eyes lest we look up for a better country whose builder and maker is God…this is where the conflict ensures, for pleasing the world so seldom overlaps with pleasing God"[17]
- "All the danger is when the world gets into the heart. The water is useful for the sailing of the ship; all the danger is when the water gets into the ship; so the fear is when the world gets into the heart."[18]
- "[Satan] represents the world…in its beauty and bravery, which proves a bewitching sight to a world of men…Ah! how many professors in these days have for a time followed hard after God, Christ, and ordinances, till the devil has set before them the world in all its beauty and bravery, which has so bewitched their souls that they have grown to have low thoughts of holy things, and then to be cold in their affections to holy things, and then to slight them, and at last, with the young man in the Gospel, to turn their backs upon them…Where one thousand are destroyed by the world's frowns, ten thousand are destroyed by the world's smiles. The world, siren-like, it sings us and sinks us; it kisses us, and betrays us, like Judas…The honours, splendour, and all the glory of this world, are but sweet poisons, that will much endanger us, if they do not eternally destroy us. Ah! the multitude of souls that have surfeited of these sweet baits and died for ever."[19]
- "Unless there is within us, that which is above us, we will soon yield to what is around us."[20]

HOW THE WORLD OPERATES

- Daniel 1:3-7 describes Nebuchadnezzar's attempt to force Daniel and his friends into the mold of Babylon …to retrain them in the ways of Babylon…to make them live and think like citizens of Babylon
- He used several tactics to conform these citizens of God's kingdom to his own kingdom
- These tactics are similar to the ways the world seeks to seduce us today

Isolation

Daniel 1:3 ~ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles

- Daniel and his friends were chosen out of the "royal family and of the nobles"…from the nobility of Israel …children of Jewish kings and rulers

[16] John Murray
[17] R.C. Sproul, *Pleasing God*, 59.
[18] Thomas Watson
[19] Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, 103.
[20] Alfred Gibbs

- Nebuchadnezzar's clear intent was to isolate them from the influences that would keep them near the Lord
- He took them away from their families, homes, the regular worship of God, the teaching of God's Word, and the fellowship of God's people…he removed any godly influence in their lives
- "Separated from the furnace of godliness, the king anticipated that the last dying embers of true faithfulness to the Lord would die out."[21]

- This is first step in the world's attempt to seduce believers…to separate them from the things that inform their mind and enflame their heart spiritually, the things that keep them close to the Lord
- Isolation is one of the devil's key strategies…he wants believers to be far from the furnace of godliness…so their hearts cool to the things of the Lord
- When that happens, the embers of integrity, godliness, and holiness start to die out
- Isolation due to worldliness is a serious threat to the life of any Christian

Indoctrination

Daniel 1:4 ~ youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

- Nebuchadnezzar chose those who were physically superior ("youth in whom was no defect, who were good-looking")
- Those who were intellectually superior ("showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge")
- Those who were socially superior ("who had the ability for serving in the king's court")
- Clearly, Nebuchadnezzar prioritized the external rather than the internal, image over substance…which is how the world also works

- His intent was to retrain them and "he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans"
- His goal was to make them full-fledged Babylonians by educating them in the Chaldean ways
- He wanted them trained in the Babylonian learning and literature, probably including the sciences and the humanities, agriculture, architecture, history, mathematics
- He also wanted them trained in the Babylonian language…they would have spoken Hebrew…so he wanted them to learn to converse in the language of the Babylonians
- Undoubtedly, this education would have been done from a pagan religious perspective…without any consideration of the true God
- This was intentional…he wanted the culture of Babylon to take the place of Scripture as their source of wisdom and worldview… he wanted to retrain their minds to think like Babylonians rather than Israelites

- This is also how the world works…it wants believers to think like it does and seeks to press them into its mindset

Concession (Compromise)

Daniel 1:5 ~ The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and *appointed* that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.

- This was "the king's choice food and wine which he drank," the best of the best

[21] Sinclair Ferguson, *Daniel*

- The word "food" can be translated "delicacies," meaning the food was rich, fit literally for a king

- Daniel and his friends were to be given that food likely so that they would become accustomed to a life of dependence on their new master
- Nebuchadnezzar wanted to create within them a sense of obligation as part of their brainwashing
- He wanted to lift up their standard of living to the point where they would never want to return to their past lifestyle

- "Perhaps what Daniel perceived (correctly) in this food allotment was an effort to seduce him into the lifestyle of a Babylonian through the enjoyment of pleasures he had never before known. High living easily masters the senses and blunts the sharp-edged commitment of young Christians. The good life that Daniel was offered was intended by the king to wean him away from the hard life to which God had called him. It would encourage him to focus on himself and on a life of enjoyment…Somebody in Nebuchadnezzar's palace knew enough about the human heart to see that most men have their price, and that good times, comfort, self-esteem, and a position in society are usually a sufficient bid for a soul."[22]

- This is what the world wants believers to do…to compromise little by little

Assimilation

Daniel 1:6-7 ~ Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Then the commander of the officials assigned *new* names to them; and to Daniel he assigned *the name* Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.

- *El* means "God" and *-iah* or *-yah* is an abbreviation for "Yahweh"
  - Daniel = God is my Judge
  - Hananiah = The Lord is gracious
  - Mishael = Who is what God is….or Who is like the Lord?
  - Azariah = The Lord is my helper
- All of those names invoke the true God of Israel

- But Nebuchadnezzar desired to strip them of their Jewish heritage and identify them by association with Babylonian gods…anything that reminded them of their Jewish heritage was removed
- He wanted to divorce them from their Hebrew background…make them forget their roots...erase their memories of their belief in God
- Neb substituted their godly names with ones that referred to pagan deities:
  - Daniel changed to Belteshazzar = "Bel protect the king" (Bel was a Babylonian god)
  - Hananiah changed to Shadrach = "The command of Aku" (Aku was a Babylonian god – the moon god)
  - Mishael changed to Meshach = "Who is like Aku"
  - Azariah changed to Abed-nego = "Servant of Nego/Nebo" (Babylonian god of vegetation)
- Changing their names was done to obliterate any testimony to the God of Israel from Babylon...to get them to compromise the truth…to change their convictions…to cause them to doubt God…to stop them from even thinking about God…to ASSIMILATE them into the Babylonian culture

- This is what the world does today as well…it seeks to reprogram the minds of believers
- The world wants you to forget God…to indoctrinate you with the worldly ways of thinking
- It wants you to depend on the material comforts of this temporary world rather than on God

[22] Ferguson, *Daniel*

- Daniel's and his friend's resistance to these attempts to get them to compromise are significant…they model for us how to resist the seduction of a fallen world
- They were willing to submit to the education process…because they could filter it through the Word of God
- They were willing to accept the new names…because that had no impact on their hearts
- But when it came to the food, they drew a hard line

Daniel 1:8 ~ But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

- Daniel had already made up his mind before these attempts to assimilate him even happened…he was a man of principles and convictions…he had a deep inner resolve
- Long before he had arrived in Babylon, he had a well-established set of convictions informed by the Word of God and by the fear of the Lord

- Eating the king's food and drinking the king's wine were against his convictions because:
  1. The food provided by the king did not meet the requirements of the Mosaic law – it would have been prepared by Gentiles and would have included meat from forbidden animals
  2. The meat and the wine would have been offered to Babylonian idols as an act of pagan worship

- Daniel had already "made up his mind that he would not defile himself"
- The word "made up his mind" (*sim*…meaning "to put or to set") in v. 8 occurs twice in v. 7 ~ Then the commander of the officials assigned (i.e. "set") new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned (i.e. "set") the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.
- But…v. 8 ~ Daniel made up his mind (i.e. set) that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food
- Nebuchadnezzar had an agenda for Daniel and his friends…but…Daniel had his own agenda
- He had determined to walk in the way of faith and in obedience to God's will…he was decisive…he would not negotiate his convictions
- He was committed to remaining separate from the world…he resolved that even though he was in a culture that did not follow God's law, he would not participate in what was contrary to it
- He possessed an inner conviction that could not be shaken

- "He recognized that if Babylon gets into you, the show is over. Hence he had to draw the line at some point to preserve some distinctiveness, to keep from being totally squeezed into Babylon's mould."[23]
- "He realized that for the child of God some things cannot be negotiated or compromised. From the outset, therefore, he refused the court's delicacies. In many ways his usefulness in the kingdom of God throughout the rest of the book depends on this single decision. Had he not made it, or even left it until later while he maneuvered for a position of bargaining strength, he would not have found himself in the positions he later occupied nor would he have been faithful enough to cope with them as he did. Instead, from the beginning, in what others seemed a trivial matter, he nailed his colors to the mast. In doing so, he gained a bridge-head into enemy-occupied territory and found himself increasingly strong in the Lord." [24]
- Daniel did not leave his actions to a spur-of-the-moment response…he made up his mind ahead of time
- He had already entered into a solemn covenant with God that he would turn away from worldliness in whatever form he encountered it

- This is how believers resist the allure of the world…they draw lines of conviction where Scripture does
- Resistance to worldliness starts with a mind already made up before the situation arises…because a resolved mind leads to a resolved life

---

[23] Dale Ralph Davis, *The Message of Daniel*
[24] Ferguson, *Daniel*

THE ANTIDOTE TO WORLDLINESS

Galatians 6:14 ~ But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

- Paul links the death of Christ on the cross as the means by which a believer dies to the appeal of the world
- The same cross the connects us to God separates us from the world…a dead man is done with the world
- The cross puts us into the place of peace with God…and it puts us into the place of hostility with the world
- Paul clearly looked upon the world as a thing which ought to be nailed to the cross
- Thus, the cross involves us not only being done with our sins but also done with the world

- The infection of worldliness is overcome by a greater affection for and commitment to Christ
- Christ is more precious and satisfying than anything this fleeting world has to offer
- Only by fixing our minds and hearts on him will our hearts be drawn away from the empty and deadly pleasures of the world
- Only when we "turn our eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, will the things of earth grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace"

- "When someone sets his affections upon the cross and the love of Christ, he crucifies the world as a dead and undesirable thing. The bats of sin lose their attraction and disappear. Fill your affections with the cross of Christ and you will find no room for sin."[25]

- "What should consume our thoughts and affections is not resisting worldliness but the glory and grace of God revealed at the cross. We must take the sin of worldliness seriously, to be sure…But its eradication is not an end in itself. Resisting worldliness is absolutely vital but not ultimately most significant. Jesus Christ is most important. We must fight worldliness because it dulls our affections for Christ and distracts our attention from Christ. Worldliness is so serious because Christ is so glorious."[26]

- Before the days of modern navigational aids, a traveler made the Atlantic crossing in a boat equipped with two compasses. One was fixed to the deck where the man at the wheel could see it. The other compass was fastened up on one of the masts and often a sailor would be seen climbing up to it to examine their course. During one trip on one such boat, a passenger asked the captain, "Why do you have two compasses?" "This is an iron vessel," replied the captain, "and the compass on the deck is often affected by its surroundings. Such is not the case with the compass on the mast; that one is above the influence of the iron. We steer by the compass above."

- "Are the lines between Christianity and worldly conduct blurry in your mind – and more importantly, in your life? To put it another way, is your lifestyle obviously different from that of the non-Christian? Imagine I take a blind test in which my task is to identify the genuine follower of Jesus Christ. My choices are an unregenerate individual and you. I'm given two reports detailing conversations, Internet activity, manner of dress, iPod playlists, television habits, hobbies, leisure time, financial transactions, thoughts, passions, and dreams. The question is: Would I be able to tell you apart? Would I discern a difference between you and your unconverted neighbor, coworker, classmate, or friend? Have the lines between Christianity and worldly conduct in your life become so indistinguishable that there really is no difference at all? If the difference is hard to detect, you may be in danger of drifting down the deserter's path with Demas."[27]

---

[25] John Owen, *Sin and Temptation*
[26] Mahaney, *Worldliness*, 35.
[27] Ibid., 24.