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THINK ON THESE THINGS

It is so easy to get caught up in the things of the world. What do I mean by that? The scriptures tell us in I John 2:15-17 ***“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. 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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”*** The word lust means to desire especially for something forbidden. We can lust after many things.

With the present situation of “lock down”, many things that had been of the world have been silenced in our lives. The Sports have ceased for the most part, in person and television. Many people live their lives for sports. Many times, it was put before God on Sunday. People worshipped those that were involved with sports, and those players were given millions of dollars to perform. Now, it isn’t available. Many find themselves not knowing what to do with their time. Do you think God allowed this to try to bring us back to Him? Perhaps yes, because He doesn’t want anything to come before Him.

The three things that are mentioned belonging to the world are the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. We know that what we look at long enough will eventually control us. It started with Adam and Eve. Eve looked upon the tree of knowledge of good and evil after Satan told her it would make her like God. The more she looked at it, the more it enticed her, and she finally gave in. We must be careful at what we put before our eyes. I remember watching the movie “Fireproof”. The main character had a problem looking at pornography on his computer. It was destroying him and his marriage. Finally, he took the computer out of the house and destroyed it because he knew if he didn’t that he would continue with this “looking” sin. Many are caught up with this sin, and it must be stopped. Many are caught up in other things that they look at too. A flirtatious look can turn into an adulterous affair. We must not allow our eyes to control what our spirit does.

Then there is the pride of life. That one seems easy. We have all met those that think they are better than others. This isn’t talking about just this. It is putting ourselves above God. It is when we make decisions based on our vain thoughts instead of consulting God first. We know that Satan fell because of pride. The television is full of commercials stressing on how to look better, how to dress better, how to be this and that. If we dwell on the outside instead of the inside, we will fail every time.

Philippians 4:8 tells us to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of a good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy. These are the things to think on. We are to control our senses by thinking on things of God. He is the only truth, the only one honest and just. He alone is pure and lovely. He was full of virtue, and the only person worthy to receive praise. When we crucify our own flesh, and let Christ rule in us, then we are truly His. Until we do that, we are putting ourselves before him. As an old saying says: "Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words because they become actions. Watch your actions because they become habits. Watch your habits because they become character. Watch your character because it becomes your destiny. We control our destiny by what we think about.