

“FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD”

Jas. 4:4

“4 Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God,” Jas. 4:4. The word **“world”** is used in three senses, in the word of God: (1) This earth; (2) The people of the world, and lastly, (3) The sin and degradation of this life. This last meaning is what will occupy our thoughts for the next few minutes.

Should there be those who are Christians, that desire to be a part of the sinful acts and deeds of this life, he needs to know, he is an **“enemy of God.”** There is a list of evil deeds found in the book of Rom. 1. And these are the sins committed by the Gentiles. After listing these sins, in chapter 2 Paul observes the Jews did the same thing, and **they were guilty of sin.** A conclusion is drawn in Rom. 3:23 – **“all have sinned,”** *Jew and Gentile; and thus, a need for the Gospel, Rom. 1:16.* This was the means of God saving man. So, we can understand the need of preaching the Gospel; this, is the *“power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also the Greek.”* One who is an **“enemy of God,”** needs to be cleansed of his sins before he can have **fellowship with God,** I Jno. 1:6-9.

In I Jno. 5:19, the Devil is presented as being possessor of the whole world: *“.....and the whole world lieth in the evil one.”* *“If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and do not the truth,”* I Jno. 1:6. Remember, if you are of the world, you are an **“enemy of God.”** When one becomes associated with the world, he has cast his lot with the Devil. Look at the contrast in II Cor. 6:14: *“14 Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? Or what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what portion hath a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? For we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them: and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”* It should be remembered, one is not able to straddle the fence and still be pleasing to God: *“15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth,”* Rev. 3:15-16.

Why not make a strong determination to be on the side of the Lord. We need to work, honor and extend to the God of heaven our appreciation for all the **“good and perfect gifts that come from above,”** Jas. 1:17. We should be ever thankful for who we are, and what we are. We should express thanks for all we have and what we hope to attain. *“33 Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals. 34 Awake to soberness righteously, and sin not; for some have no knowledge of God: I speak this to move you to shame,”* I Cor. 15:33-34. Our **hope, trust, and confidence** are with God and may we ever extend to him the devotion of our hearts.

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