

Worldliness

Introduction:

- A. Tell about watching the ships come through the Houston Ship Channel in Baytown.
- B. As a ship must be in the water, but the water must not be in the ship; so Christians must be in the world, but the world must not be in us. - Titus 2:11-14
- C. What should our attitude be toward worldliness?

I. What is worldliness?

- A. To be worldly is to be conformed to the world. - Romans 12:1-2
- B. This includes things that are **not** sinful in themselves. - 1 John 2:15-17
 - 1. The "world" here does not mean the natural creation, for it is not of God. - cf. Acts 17:24; 1 John 2:16
 - 2. Nor is it the people of the world, for we must not love this world. - cf. John 3:16; 1 John 2:15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
 - 3. Rather, it is sin and its allurements. - 1 John 2:16; cf. Genesis 3:6; Ephesians 2:1-2
- C. But, if we place the material things of the natural creation or our relationships with people of the world ahead of God, we are worldly. - Matthew 13:22; 2 Timothy 4:10

II. Christians must not be worldly. - Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 2:15-17

III. How can we overcome worldliness? - e.g., fighting the flu

- A. prevention (vaccination)
 - 1. spiritual mindedness - Colossians 3:1-4
 - 2. Bible study - Psalm 119:11
 - 3. prayer - Ephesians 6:10-12,18
 - 4. church attendance - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - 5. sound preaching - Titus 2:1,11-15
- B. cure
 - 1. repentance (inoculation) - Revelation 3:19
 - 2. corrective discipline (amputation) - 1 Corinthians 5:3-6

Conclusion:

- A. Christian, we cannot love both God and the world. - James 4:4
- B. We shall reap the results of our choice. - Galatians 6:7-8
- C. Will you not choose God and spurn the world?