

February 22/23, 2025

"The World"

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SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Ephesians 2:1-3](#) | The World

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. Ephesians 2:1-2

When Paul writes to the Ephesians about the enemy of "the world," he doesn't mean the physical earth or its people. God says his created world is very good ([Genesis 1:31](#)) and that he loves the world (its people) so much that he sent Jesus to die for them ([John 3:16](#)). Rather, Paul refers to culture that redefines good and evil and calls it normal.

We, too, experience the pull of the world. Our society normalizes behaviors and beliefs that oppose God's truth. In American history, society normalized slavery, which was opposed to God's truth that all human beings are made in his image and worthy of dignity. We feel pressure today to conform to the world's view on sexuality, which distorts God's gift and design for sexuality in marriage between one man and one woman. We battle the world's view on materialism, which opposes God's truth that the love of money is "a root of all kinds of evil" ([1 Timothy 6:10](#)). The world's values can seep into our thinking, and we may not recognize how they reshape us. Jesus calls his followers to live differently from the world. He sends us into the world to share the hope he offers through the gospel.

TODAY: Pray for discernment to recognize worldly values that feel normal and reshape how you live. Ask God to reveal how you've accepted things that contradict his Word. Pray: "Lord, open my eyes to see how the world has shaped me more than your Word. Give me the courage to stand firm in your truth, even when it means being countercultural. Amen."

Day 2 [1 John 2:15-17](#) | Loving the World

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 1 John 2:15

John delivers a powerful statement about undivided affection. He doesn't leave room for compromise—believers must choose between loving God or loving the world that opposes God's truth. For John's original audience, this meant rejecting the pagan values of Roman society that glorified power, wealth and sensual pleasure. Love wasn't just an emotion. Love also involves where people direct their attention and affection. Some early Christians were tempted to maintain allegiance to both Roman values and God's kingdom values. John challenges this divided loyalty with stark clarity: loving the world pushes out love for the Father.

We constantly face the choice between loving God or the world. Our hearts naturally drift toward whatever captures our attention. When we focus on worldly values and desires, our affection for those things grows, pushing out our love for God. The opposite is equally true: when we focus on God's truth and goodness, our love for him grows stronger, diminishing our attraction to worldly values. The devil's lies and our flesh's desires tempt us to pay attention to what God identifies as sinful. Each day presents countless opportunities to choose where we'll direct our love. Whatever we consistently focus on shapes what we ultimately love.

TODAY: Pray this simple prayer throughout the day: "God, help me to love what you love and hate what you hate." When you encounter situations that tempt you away from God's truth, pause and repeat this prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to align your heart with God's, helping you recognize what truly deserves your attention and affection. Notice how God begins to reshape your desires.

Day 3 [1 John 2:15-18](#) | The Battleground

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:16

Near the end of his life, the apostle John writes with wisdom gained from decades of following Jesus. Having witnessed countless believers struggle against worldly influences, John identifies three specific battlegrounds where the world wages war against believers' souls. The "lust of the flesh" refers to physical desires that become distorted and excessive—sexual temptation or any other physical appetite that controls people. The "lust of the eyes" describes coveting what people see—material possessions that promise satisfaction but never deliver. The "pride of life" encompasses self-glorification and autonomy—the declaration that "I am my own authority" or "I did this." John understands that these three battlefronts have ensnared believers since the church began.

We face these same battles today. The lust of the flesh manifests in our hyper-sexualized culture, substance abuse or even the endless pursuit of physical experiences through travel, food or entertainment—anything promising fulfillment through sensation. The lust of the eyes appears in our consumerist society, which constantly tells us that we need more possessions to be happy or successful. The pride of life emerges in our culture's celebration of self-sufficiency and personal authority—the belief that we determine and choose our own truth and morality. Each battleground offers counterfeit versions of what God grants: pleasure, provision and purpose.

TODAY: Identify your struggles on these three battlegrounds. Share your struggles honestly with a trusted Christian friend or small group member. Ask them to pray with you and hold you accountable in these areas. Victory comes through honesty, community and dependence on God's strength through the Holy Spirit. For more help and discussion on how to resist the enemy of the world, listen to this week's [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#). Got questions about the sermon? Submit your question [HERE](#). Your question could be answered on the podcast!

Day 4 [Romans 12:1-2](#) | Transformed not Conformed

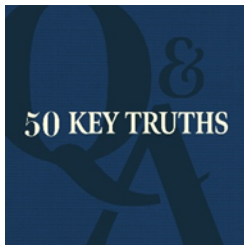
Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2

In ancient Rome, success came through conformity—adopting Roman values, practices and beliefs. The more "Roman" you became, the more you advanced in society. Rome saw itself as the pinnacle of civilization, the greatest empire the world had ever known. To question Roman culture was unthinkable. Yet Paul boldly instructs Roman believers to avoid conforming to the pattern of their world. Instead, he calls them to be transformed and live differently from the society around them. This transformation isn't about external behavior alone or sheer

willpower. Transformation requires an internal renewal—a complete change in thinking—through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We face similar pressures to conform to our culture. Society constantly pushes us toward values, beliefs and behaviors that contradict God's Word. The pressure comes through entertainment, social media, relationships and countless other channels. Like the Roman Christians, we must choose transformation over conformity. Transformation happens through the renewing of our minds—allowing God's Word to reshape our thinking rather than letting the world mold us. Spiritual habits like reading the Bible, memorizing Scripture, attending weekend services and discussing the Bible in a small group help us build our lives on biblical truth rather than cultural values. We begin to see the world through God's perspective. We aren't shaped by the world; we're shaped by the Word.

TODAY: Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[Better](#)." Reflect on how God and his love are "Bigger than the things I chase...better than all these things." Then, commit to memorizing [Romans 12:2](#). Throughout your day, notice moments when you feel pressure to conform to worldly values and ask God to transform your mind instead.



Day 5 [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#) | Question 8: What is the Bible?

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Answer: The Bible is God's inspired Word, revealing who he is and what he is doing in the world.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

This foundational text reveals the divine origin and practical purpose of Scripture. When Paul wrote this to Timothy, he was identifying the unique nature of these sacred writings. Unlike other religious or historical texts, Scripture came from God himself. These weren't merely human writings about God but God's own revelation to his people. The early church recognized these writings as authoritative because they carried God's truth and power to transform lives through teaching, correction and training.

Today, this understanding of Scripture as God's inspired Word transforms how we approach the Bible. It isn't simply an ancient book of wisdom or a collection of religious writings—it is God's living, active communication with us ([Hebrews 4:12](#)). When we read Scripture, we're not just studying history or literature; we're hearing God's voice. This changes everything about how we approach the Bible—from our attitude in reading it to our commitment to following its teachings. Because all Scripture is God-breathed, every part has purpose and value for developing our faith and understanding who God is and what he is doing in the world.

TODAY: When you read the Bible, remember that it contains God's words for you. Read [2 Timothy 3:10-17](#) slowly and carefully, asking God's Spirit to help you understand and apply it. Consider starting a journal to record what God reveals to you through his Word. Ask God to help you not only take in information but also be transformed by the Word's teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. Read our We Believe section on the Bible [HERE](#).