

## Sermon Study John 8:12

Read John 8:12

*Problem:* The world distracts, and the world gains our love, and in so doing, the world has eclipsed heaven. Read John 3:19.

A.W. Tozer finishes his great work, *Man: The Dwelling Place of God*, with this statement,

“The weakness of so many modern Christians is that they feel too much at home in the world. In their effort to achieve restful ‘adjustment’ to unregenerate society they have lost their pilgrim character and become an essential part of the very moral order against which they are sent to protest. The world recognizes them and accepts them for what they are. And this is the saddest thing that can be said about them. They are not lonely, but neither are they saints.”

What are some of the riches, pleasures, and comforts that cause us to become more comfortable in this world? How is worry also a symptom of this?

How has the wealth of information changed our relationship with the world? Watch this video for laughs: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ4o1N4ksyQ>

*(Note: There is no sacred/secular split. The world is dangerous as it becomes an idol, distracts us, and enables our selfishness. The battle is a philosophical battle. Wealth and comforts are not evil in themselves.)*

### The World –

Read 1 John 15-17. The agenda of this world is set by its leader. Read 1 John 5:19.

Remember: The sin of Satan was pride (Ezekiel 28:11-19). His lie was independence from God (Isa. 14:12-15; Gen. 3:5). How does the philosophy of the world follow in the steps of this sin and lie? How does the world promote self and independence from God? What commercials, news, movies, motivational speakers, facebook posts, or common advice resemble this?

How has the church embraced this philosophy? Listen to or read the lyrics of the song “What Faith Can Do?” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1JBSQMkQEO&feature=kp> How does this song take Amazing Grace and make it Amazing Faith? How does this subtly resemble the lie of Satan? Would you have caught this yourself while driving down the road and jamming to your Christian radio station? How can we grow in discernment?

## **Application –**

### *Spiritual Warfare*

Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-6. What does this tell us about true spiritual warfare? What does it tell us that after John 8:12 Jesus is engaged in a heated debate? What is spiritual warfare not? How then may we become more discerning? Is the harder battle against philosophies that are overtly against God or subtly undermining?

C.S. Lewis wrote, “Not to be able to meet the enemies on their own ground- would be to throw down our weapons, and to betray our uneducated brethren who have, under God, no defense but us against the intellectual attacks of the heathen. Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered.”

How susceptible are we to the “intellectual attacks of the heathen”? Do you think we are any more susceptible in this day and age than others?

Remember, the battles often happen when we are least expecting. The battle of worldviews happens at work, on facebook, while talking with our family on our phones. What makes it hard to speak up in the times? Should it be easy?

When it comes to spiritual warfare, the world is promoting the lie of independence from God which always leads to death. This lie glorifies self and diminishes sin and Savior.

### *The Larger Narrative*

R.C. Sproul writes, “Sin is cosmic treason. Sin is treason against a perfectly pure Sovereign. It is an act of supreme ingratitude toward the One to whom we owe everything, to the One who has given us life itself.”

Every time we sin we are following in the steps of Satan. We are rebelling against God and striving for independence from Him. We desire to make ourselves like the Most High. Life, salvation, and everything we have that is good is given by the grace of God. It is undeserved.

How does viewing things from a cosmic level help set priorities here? What does the magnitude of our sin say about the magnitude of the Savior?

### ***A Couple Bonus Application Suggestions:***

1. Pastor’s Corner may be the best kept secret at our church. Each week on Tuesdays, Pastor Matt teaches theology, doctrine, and good philosophy. Attending this meeting over time will help you discern the truth from the lie.
2. Check out the reading list on the Barabbas Road website.