

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART TWENTY ONE OF SIXTY FOUR*

"Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

As we live on the earth we are confronted with two kingdoms. The kingdom of God is opposed by the kingdom of evil which James here identifies as "the world". The government of Satan is the world of evil. It corrupts, contaminates, pollutes, stains, and spots those who become involved with it. Every child of God must guard against the corrupting influence of Satan's way. We must "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" (I John 2:15). "Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?" (James 4:4). God alone determines what is acceptable to Him thus we must receive His word which "is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).

We must not defile ourselves with the sinful pleasures of the world. We must avoid the worldly spirit which concerns itself with "worldly affairs; the aggregate of things earthly, the whole circle of earthly

goods, endowments, riches, advantages, pleasures, etc., which, although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ" (Thayer). Worldliness is not things as such, but anything and everthing, if God is left out.

So many have failed to see that sin is defiling and corrupting. This makes it easy for the devil's corrupting influences to work on us. All around us are vices and temptations. We must exercise all the care possible for our "adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about" (I Peter 5:8). It is only by the aid of grace from above we are able to make our words and actions consistent with pure religion. Still we must "strive to enter in by the narrow door" (Luke 13:24).

When one is baptized into Christ he is made free from sin (Romans 6:3,18) and made part of the church which is to be a "glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27). Let us walk as children of light and remain free from spot.

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