

AN APPEAL TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

I John 2:12-17

Introduction:

- A. What does the world need?
 - 1. Someone said once a better mouse trap.
 - 2. Bigger, finer T.V.'s, Autos, Homes.
 - 3. Cure for poverty and disease. Would be wonderful if there was a cure for cancer.

- B. The crying need of the world is Righteous Christians as salt and light of the world.
 - 1. One only has to look at crime record, the amount of lying and cheating, etc. to see some salt is needed.
 - 2. The need was present in John's day. He makes an appeal for righteous living.

I. THE BASIS OF THE APPEAL

- A. vs 12,13,14 The fact they are Christians.
"Little children because your sins are forgiven."
 - 1. Forgiveness of sin makes one a Christian.
 - 2. We all come as little children.
 - a. Matthew 18:3.

"And he said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

- B. The fact some are supposed to be mature Christians.
"Unto you fathers because ye have known him."

- C. The fact that some are young in the faith.
"Young men, because you have overcome the wicked one."
 - 1. Verse eleven is only a re-emphasis. John also mentions how the young have overcome.
"The word of God abideth in you."

II . THE APPEAL TO SEPARATION

I John 2:15-16

"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. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

- A. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."
 - 1. This does not mean we cannot love the beauties of nature, or fine music, or the arts.
 - 2. T.V., Auto, Boat, Social gatherings are all fine things so long as they do not interfere with our worship of God.

- B. "If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him."
 - 1. God still loves but man's love for God is side-tracked.
 - 2. Cannot serve two masters.
 - 3. House divided against itself.
 - 4. Cannot serve God and mammon.
 - 5. Let a man deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

- C. Things to avoid.
 - 1. "Lust of flesh."
 - a. "And when the woman saw it was good for food."
 - b. Sex is wrong only outside of marriage.
 - c. Many things are not wrong in themselves - it is where they lead too.
 - d. Paul said it is not good to do anything whereby thy brother stumbleth.

2. Lust of the eyes.
 - a. "It was pleasant to the eyes."
 - b. Jesus said you can commit adultery with a look.
 - c. Lust of eyes could lead to covetousness.
3. Pride of life.
 - a. "And tree desired to make one wise."
 - b. Desire to possess for possessions's sake. Keeping up with the Jones.
 - c. Some go so far as to neglect to bring to God what is rightfully his because of the desire to possess things.

I I I . R I G H T E O U S N E S S E N D U R E S

- A. World's pleasure passes.
 1. Only regret a person has that does the will of God is that he didn't do it sooner.
 2. Riches pass, beauty passes, opportunity passes.
- B. Those that do the will of God live forever.
 1. His will that we repent and trust Christ.
 2. Only the things done for God last.
 - a. Matthew 6:19-21

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal; For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."