

# The Bishop's Corner

## *Love Not the World*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever (1 John 2:15-17 KJV).”

We must stop seeing the world as just sin because the world (kosmos) includes the planet earth, people, things, and the social system. There's much of the world that's in us and it is not sin, but it hinders us in God (lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and pride of life). We touch the world in our daily lives so we must ask ourselves, “How does it affect our relationship with God?”

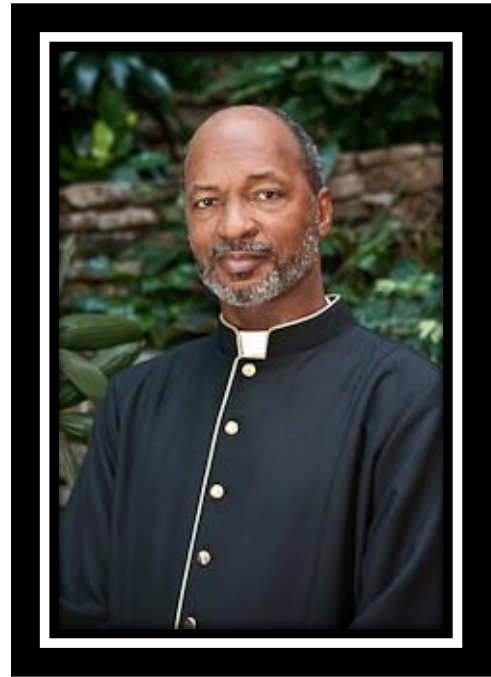
The world system causes us to be drawn to the things we like and desire such as money. In 1 Timothy 6:10 it says, “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows (KJV).” Money itself is not evil, but it can bring us to every kind of evil by leading us away from God and from doing His will. Other things such as art, music, education, fashions, etc., are not evil but are of the world and can also lead us away from God.

We grow in the Spirit not because someone lays hands on us, but we grow when we become more in line with God and His will. The love of the world stops us from growing in the Spirit and from being spiritual. The things we love in the world affect our judgment and provide a liability for Satan to draw us out of God. The Holy Ghost will reprove the world of sin, righteousness and judgement (John 16:7-11).

The pride of life (our status) is in all of our lives, and it hinders the work of the Lord. Competitiveness is a form of the pride of life, and we must make sure it doesn't spill into the things of God because the work of the ministry is not a competition. God gives His gifts and power to whom He wills. We need to be on guard against Satan, and we must be careful how we view the world because all of us touch the world in some way every day. (Matthew 26:41)

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
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*For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."*