

Don't Waste Your Life

1 John 2:15-17

Intro

Time is a precious commodity. When you really think about it we live for a short time. The average life expectancy in Canada is 81.24 years (according to 2012 stats).

I did an interesting calculation about how much time is used in an average person's life. For instance if a person sleeps 8 hours a day for 81 years – that person will sleep for a total of 26 years of their life. That's 32 per cent of their life in bed.

If a person works for 45 years, a forty hour week – they will spend 10 full years in the work force.

If a person spends three and a half hours per day for 70 years in watching TV and computer – they will spend 10 full years of their lives in front of the screen.

Now if you consider personal care like bathing, brushing your teeth, eating etc. for 3 hours a day for 75 years – you will spend a total of about 9 years of your life.

If you consider that the first 15 years of your life is spent in infancy and adolescence, that doesn't leave you much time.

When you add up all the years it comes to a total of 70 years of your life.

One more thing to consider - if you attend church for one hour per week for 81 years – you will spend a total of 5 months in church.

When you consider the 70 years spent sleeping, in front of the screen, working, personal care and early childhood AND you subtract it from the average life expectancy of 81.2 years; you have 11.2 years to do something significant with your life and for God.

Don't waste your life – it's very short!

Let's make the most of your time. Look at 1 John 2:15-17. Here we are warned not to waste our lives on worldly things.

1 John 2:15-17

-In this passage we find the word "world" 6 times.

-When Scripture speaks of not loving the world, it speaks in the ethical spiritual sense rather than the cosmological.

-Creation was made for humans to enjoy and experience its beauty.

-The ocean, beach, forest, mountains, lakes, flowers, night sky, the stars etc. all were created for our enjoyment and fulfillment.

-Creation also speaks and testifies to us about God.

-His attributes, power, and intelligence are evident in and through creation.

Romans 1:20 "*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*"

-It was also created for us to give God the glory. We are to worship Him as the creator and sustainer of all things (Rom. 1:21).

Verse 15 "Do not love the world or any thing in the world"

-It can be puzzling when we read that "for God so loved the world He gave His one and only Son" (John 3:16) and here we are told not to love the world.

-There are 2 explanations:

- 1/ The world is the people, and they are to be loved.
- 2/ In the other sense the world is the evil system, organized under the dominion of Satan and not of God, it is not to be loved.

-Worldliness or worldly

“Love” (Gr. Agape) The word love here is not the selfless love for one’s fellow human being but it is love that is enticed by evil desire or a base appetite that is forbidden.

-Love here is not an uncontrollable emotion but the steady devotion of the will.

John 3:19 “...but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”

“World” (Gr. Cosmos)

-Dictionary definition of worldly or worldliness: devoted to this life and its practical concerns and pleasures rather than to spiritual concerns.

-The Bible teaches us that the prince and ruler of this world is Satan. It is under his influence and control.

-John later in his epistle 1 John 5:19 writes, “*We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*”

-Rom. 12:2 “*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*”

-In this passage John defines what he means by the word “world”, especially in verse 16. He describes to us 3 things of the world by which we are not to love

- 1/ The cravings of sinful man
- 2/ The lust of the eyes
- 3/ The boasting of what one has and does

John 17:14-18

“I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

Verse 15b “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.”

-We cannot love the world and God at the same time.

-If anyone gives his or her heart to this world then that person cannot truly love God.

The two are diametrically opposite of one another.

James 4:4 “*You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*”

-God does not accept a divided heart. You cannot serve two masters.

Jesus said, “*No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money/Mammon.*” (Matt. 6:24).

Jesus also said, “*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*” (Matt. 6:21).

-What do you value and treasure more than anything else in your life??

-Where is your passion? What consumes you and your time?

-Where is your love? What do you cherish the most?

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is “*You shall love the Lord your God with **all** your heart, and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind*” (Matt. 22:37).

Verse 16 “For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man...”

Cravings (Gr. Epithumia): it denotes a strong desire of any kind. Here it speaks about evil desires or tendencies towards things. It speaks of a strong desire for materialistic things, egocentric thoughts, exploitative and selfish ways.

Verse 16b “The lust of the eyes.”

-It can refer to sexual lust but also can mean that which entices the eyes.

-The basic thought is the desire for things aroused by seeing them for selfish purposes.

Examples:

-When Eve looked upon the forbidden tree. “When the woman **saw** that the fruit of the tree was good for food and **pleasing to the eye**, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.” (Gen. 3:6).

-When David looked upon Bathsheba from the top of his roof as she bathed.

“From the roof he **saw** a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful...” (2 Sam. 11:2).

Verse 16c “The boasting of what he has and does”

Boast (Gr. Alazonia) means an arrogant display; a pretentious person who glories in himself or in his possessions.

-One who thinks this way: “my reputation, my public image matters more to me than the glory of God or the well-being of others.

Verse 17a “The world and its desires pass away”

Pass away:

-There are 2 things in this passage we learn about the world

1/ We are commanded not to love the world

2/ This world is transient

-Nothing in this world will last. In the end everything will be destroyed.

-2 Peter 3:10 “*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*”

-Matt. 24:35 Jesus said, “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*”

-1 Cor. 7:31 Paul writes, “*...those who use the things of this world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.*”

-The worldly life and its desires is a corpse yet not buried.

- It is the life that has no future.

Verse 17b “But the man who does the will of God lives forever”

-It means to put into action and practice God’s will.

-To walk in God’s will daily.

Jesus said, “*Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven*” (Matt. 7:21).

Conclusion

Don’t waste your life on the things of this world that don’t last.

According to recent statistics, single young men are wandering in a prolonged phase of immaturity and irresponsibility. Researcher Kay S. Hymowitz claims that single young men (or SYM's) often loiter "in a hormonal limbo between adolescence and adulthood." In this limbo

SYM's "often seem to hang out in a playground of drinking, hooking up, playing [video games], and, in many cases, underachieving,"

Hymowitz points to one particularly telling statistic:

Once upon a time, video games were for little boys and girls ... Those boys have grown up to become child-man gamers, turning a niche industry into a \$12 billion powerhouse. Men between the ages of 18 and 34 are now the biggest gamers; according to Nielsen Media, almost half—48.2 percent—of American males in that age bracket had used a console during the last quarter of 2006, and did so, on average, *two hours and 43 minutes per day*. (That's 13 minutes longer than 12 to 17-year-olds, who evidently have more responsibilities than today's twenty somethings.)

But after analyzing these trends among SYM, Hymowitz offers a hopeful challenge, especially for followers of Christ: "With no one to challenge [young men] to deeper connections, they swim across life's surfaces Young men especially need a culture that can help them define worthy aspirations. Adults don't emerge. They're made."

Matt Woodley, managing editor, PreachingToday.com; source: Kay S. Hymowitz, "Child-Man in the Promised Land," City Journal (Winter 2008)

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18).