1 John 2:15-17

2/25/19

I think that we (I) sometimes take spirituality for granted. We take a rather cavalier approach to Christ. John significantly challenges that way of thinking.

In these verses, he reminds us that we are in a constant battle for our affections. By that I mean the things on which we set our hearts. The things (persons, places, objects, attitudes, etc.) that own us. Or at least they own a part of us because we give parts of ourselves to them.

The world around us constantly bombards us with images, ideas, attitudes, and stuff that is contrary to what we will choose to love if we love our Lord and Master. A question that I have been asking is, "What turns my head?" What causes me to "gaze" longingly at something other than the One who can and will satisfy?

I am not saying that we cannot and should not enjoy what God provides – He made all for us. However, we are to understand who made it, why it was made, and how we are to savor it for His glory and praise.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What are the three things that John cautions us about loving? How would you define those things?

- What are some things in each of those areas that "turn your head" so to speak? What takes your eyes away from loving God?

- What makes these things so attractive?

- What are some ways that you have found to effectively deal with these specific things in your life? Might Hebrew 12:1-2 have some input here? (Both a positive motivation and an admonition)

- What one thing can you apply this week to your life?