

Is there a difference between being
Convinced and Convicted?

What about Noah? Was He convinced
or convicted?



Noah's faith became evident: He was Convicted!

- “Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did” (Genesis 6:22).
- Noah prepared the ark by faith (Hebrews 11:7). God told Noah how to build and prepare it.

Thomas Jefferson wanted a Bible that he could feel comfortable with.





He wanted a Bible that fit his
personal worldview.

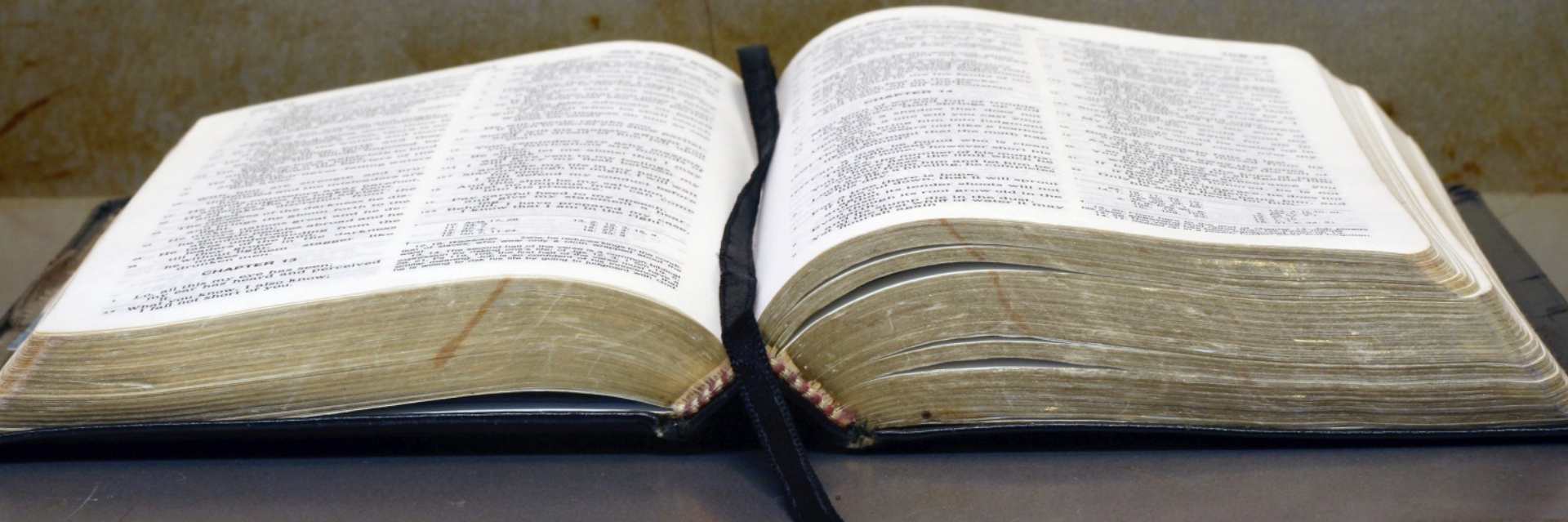
He didn't want a hell.
He didn't want a God who
unleashed His wrath on sin.

Is it possible that we have—in a metaphorical way—done the same thing.



“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

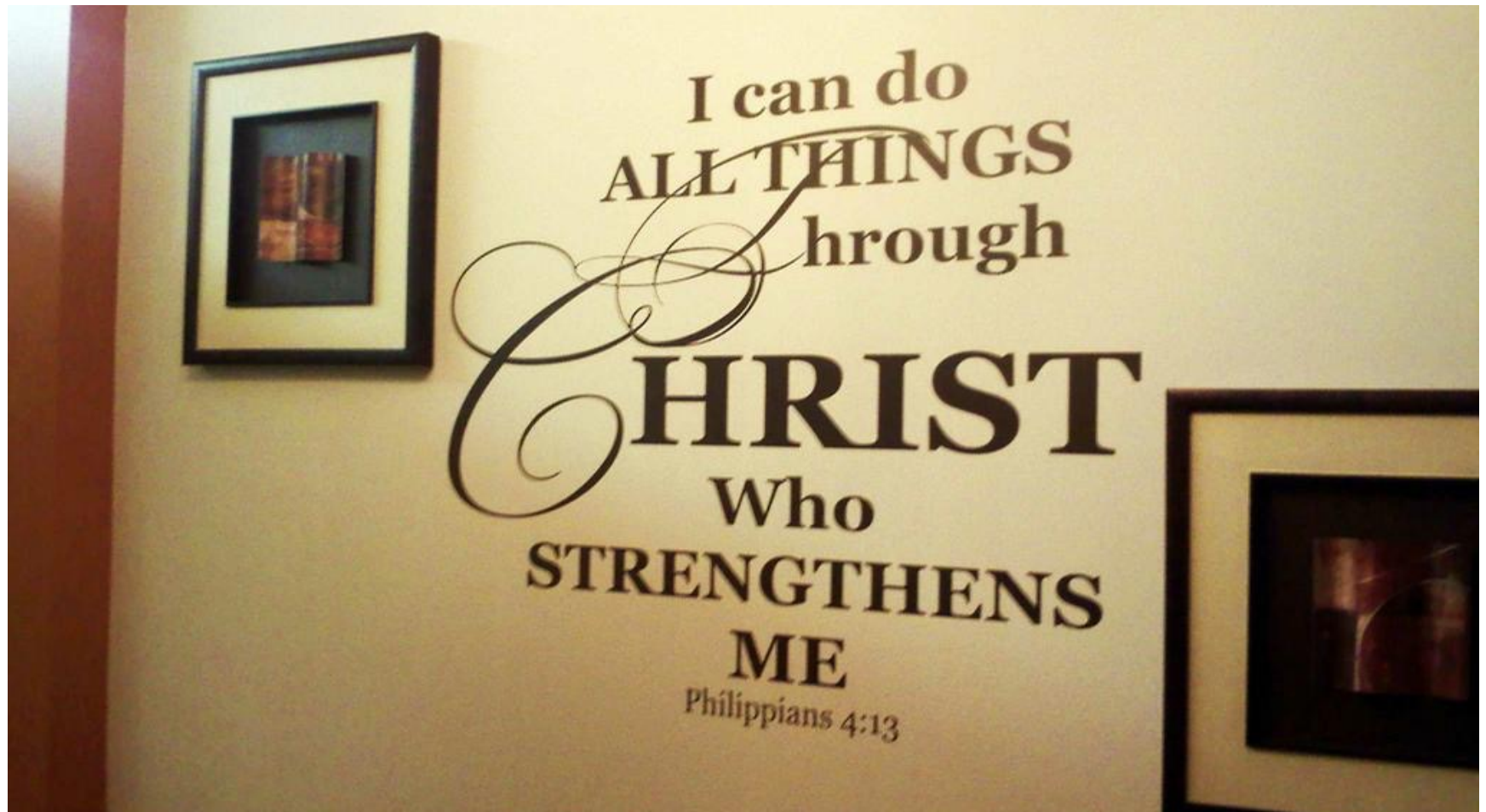
1 John 2:15





Friends, one does not need to be a Biblical scholar to understand precisely what this passage means.

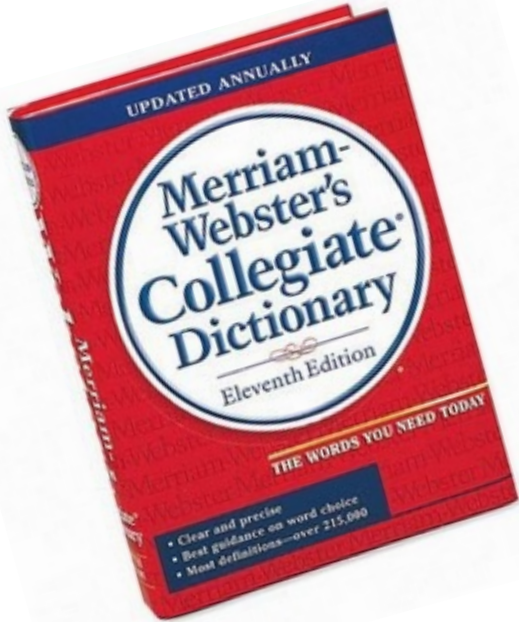
This is not one of those verses people put on their walls or on their pillows.



This morning I want to diagnose the
cardiology of worldliness.



How does one define worldliness?



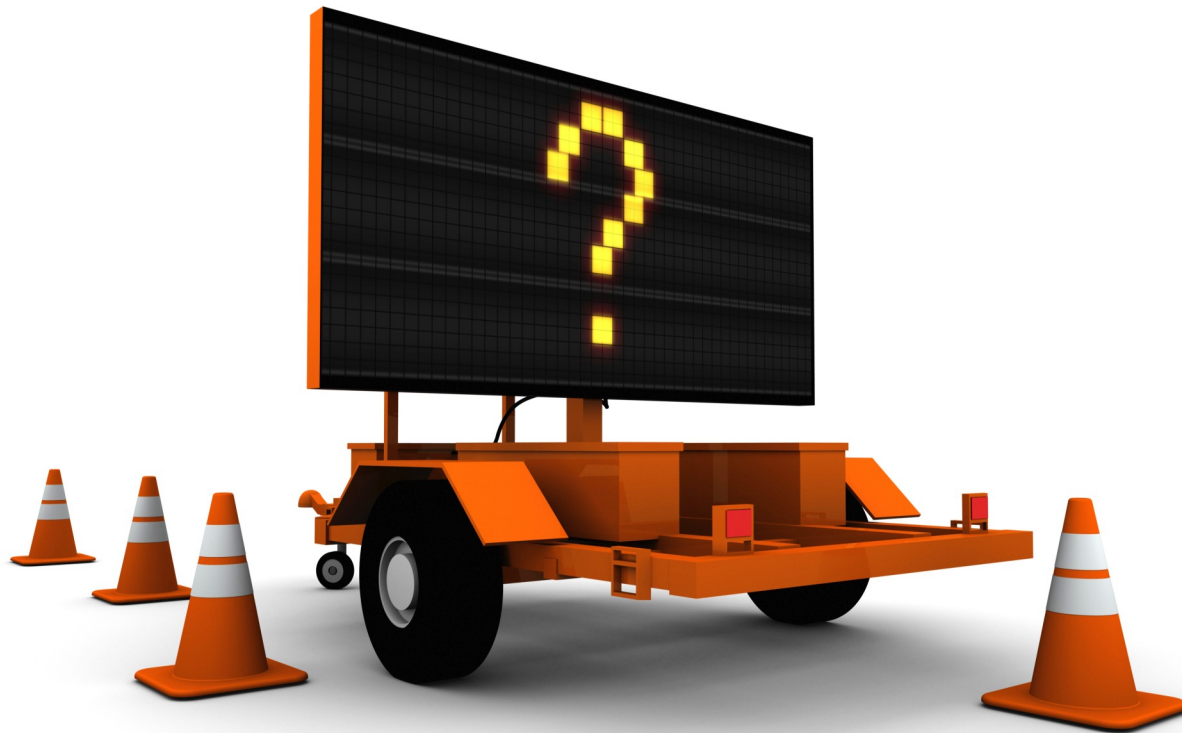
- Worldliness is a **love for this fallen world** and the things in it. It is loving the values and pursuits of the world that stand opposed to God.

What does it mean to be worldly?

- Does it mean I can't go watch a R-rated movie?
- Do I have to change my music habits?
- Does it mean I have to change my clothing?
- What about luxury vacations or 2nd homes?
- Does it mean I shouldn't desire a new car?



We all know the questions. Here's the real question...do we honestly want the answers to these questions?



In addressing worldliness most Christians focus on the “externals.” But the root of the issue of worldliness **is a heart issue.**



“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.” 1 John 2:15-16

Enlarging upon this concept of what is “in the world,” notice John doesn’t say, “worldliness is this particular mode of dress, this way of speaking, this music, these possessions.”

No, instead he focuses on three things: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.



As we begin to truly consider worldliness we realize the evil of our desires often lies not in what we want, **but in the fact that we want it too much**—so much that it affects our relationship with God.



There is this sense in America that you can be a true Christian and have an deep burning for the world.

Scripture says the exact opposite.



Imagine I take a blind test in which my task is to identify the follower of Christ (you) vs. someone in the world.



I'm given two reports detailing things like:

conversations

Internet activity

iPod playlists

manner of dress,

television/movie habits

leisure time

financial transactions

thoughts

passions

hobbies

dreams...

The question is: **Would I be able to tell you apart?**
Would I be able to discern a difference between you
and your unconverted neighbor, coworker,
classmate, or friend?



Worldliness does not offer you a future!

“And the world is passing away,
and the lust of it; but he who does
the will of God abides forever.”

1 John 2:17



A boat is made to float on the water...



But what happens when water gets into the boat?



There may be some of you who realize water (the world) is getting into your boat...and you're actively trying to bail.



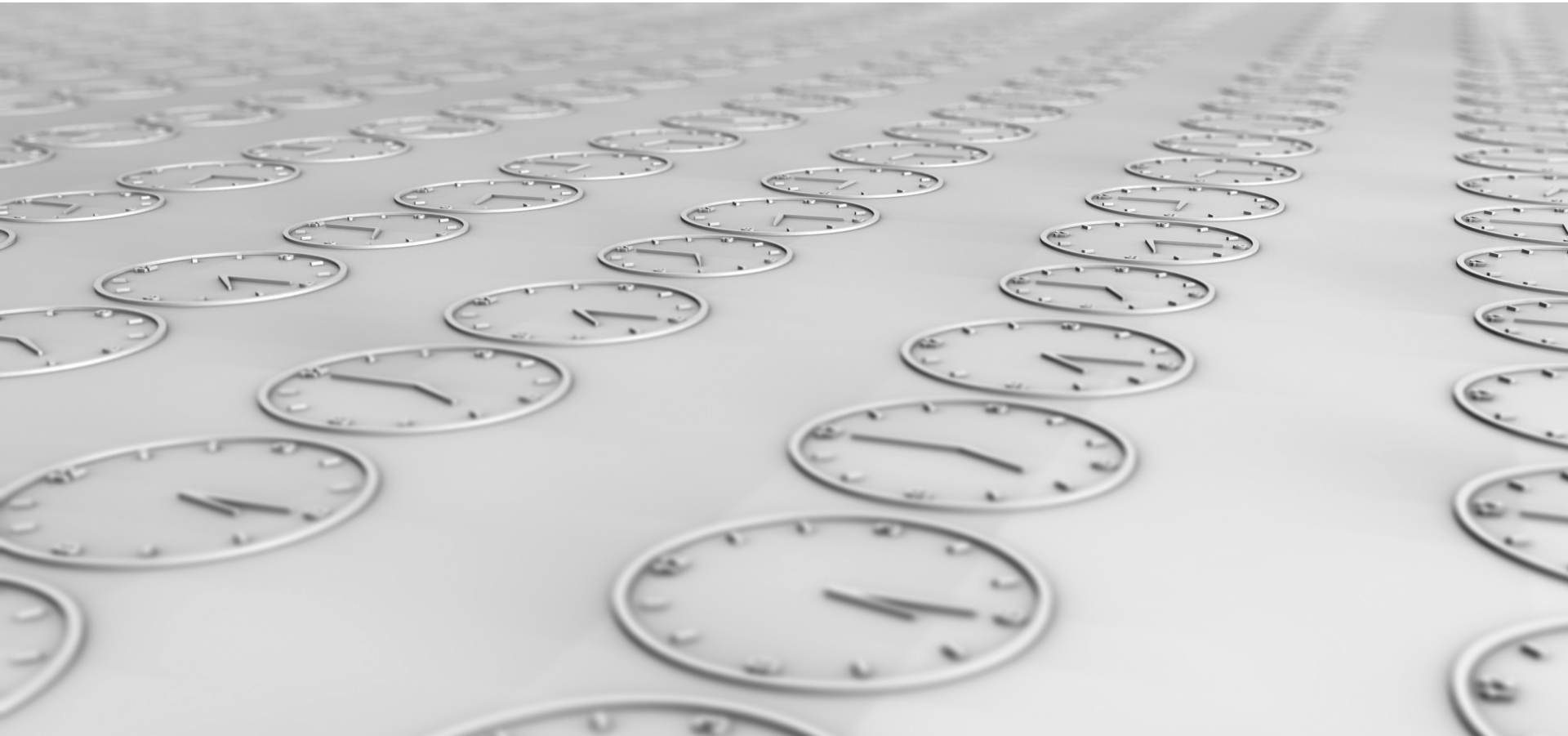
Others, you know water is getting into your boat and you stopped bailing a long time ago.

Amos 6:1

“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,”



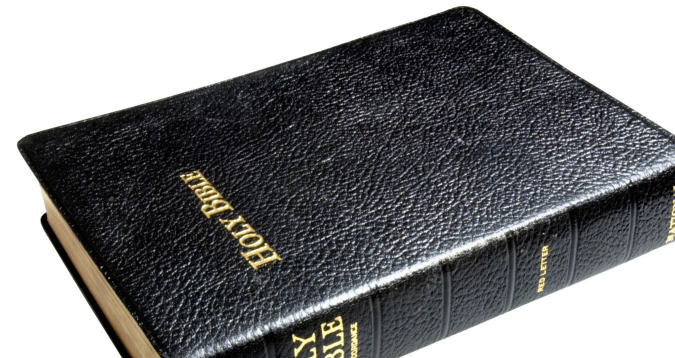
Every moment of every day we're making choices –whether we realize it or not— between love for a world that opposes God and love for the risen Christ.



James 4:1-4

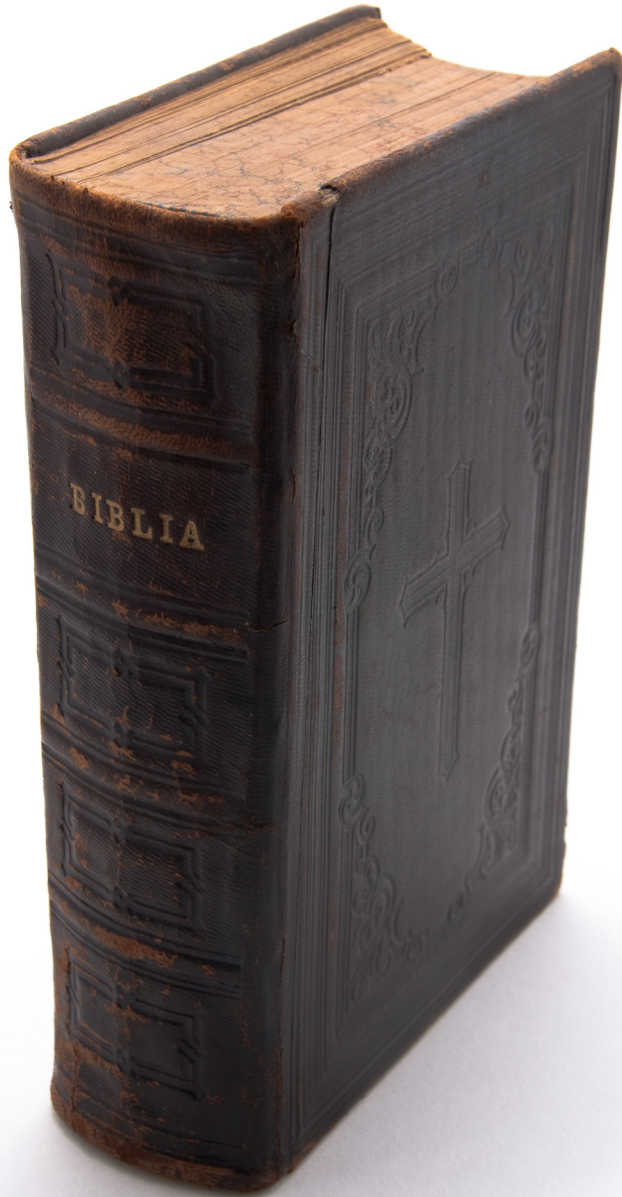
“Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? **Do they not come from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members?** You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! **Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”**



Few things are as dangerous in your home as a love for the world. If you train your children to be friends of the world then according to this Scripture they are enemies of God.





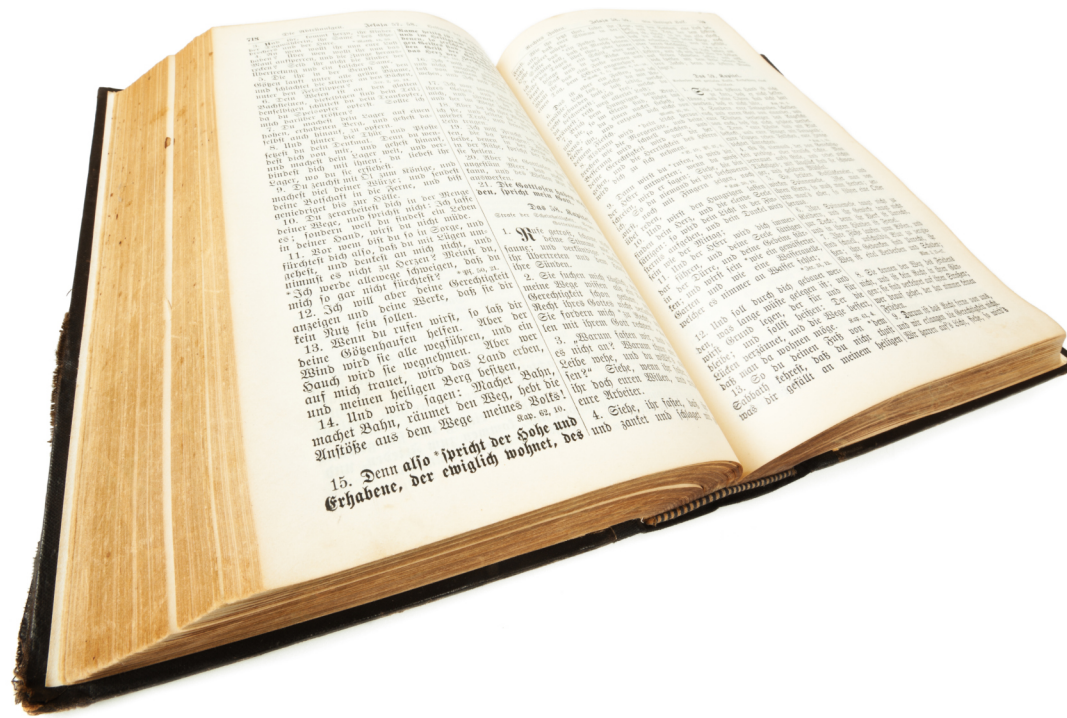
Consider Demas

“Luke the beloved physician and **Demas** greet you.” Colossians 4:14

“Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, *as do* Mark, Aristarchus, **Demas**, Luke, my fellow laborers.” Philemon 1:23-24

2 Timothy 4:9-10

“Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica.”



How did Demas go from passionate follower of Christ, close companion to the apostle Paul, willing to risk all for the sake of the Gospel, to a deserter?



His conversion to the world wasn't overnight. He drifted. He allowed water into his boat.



Worldliness is not just a problem with young people.

Young and alike need to comprehend
that the world is after your affections
every single day!





Do you honestly want to rid yourself of worldliness? Focus on Christ! Think about the cross.

Galatians 6:14 “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

How can we love the very things for which
Christ was crucified?



Can you love the nails?
Can you bless the hammer?
Can you kiss the hands that crushed His head with
the crown of thorns?
Because when you say you are a disciple of Christ,
yet love the world you do that very thing!



You are not your own.
You were bought with
a price, if indeed you
belong to Him.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)





Everything in your life should be
guided by God's Word:



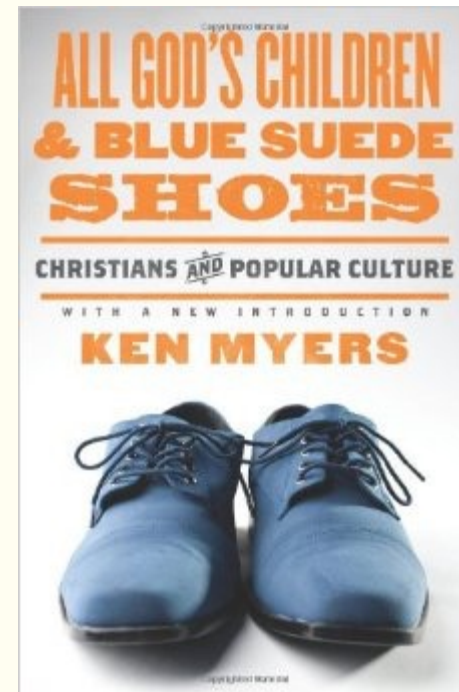
Worldliness and Media

Consider the
life in the
typical
American
home.

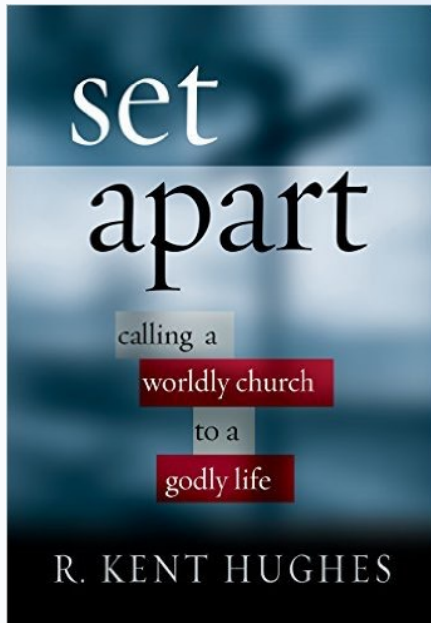


“Not all citizens of Christendom were Christians, but all understood it, all were influenced by its teaching...I can think of no entity today capable of such a culturally unifying role except television. In television, we live and move and have our being.”

Ken Myers, 1989, *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books), pg. 160.



“Today the all-pervasive glow of the television set is the single most potent influence and control in Western culture. Television has greater power over the lives of most Americans than any educational system, government, or church.”



Kent Hughes, 2003, *Set Apart*,
(Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books),
pg. 51.

Many of us don't think about actively filtering our viewing. Sure, we avoid obvious traps like pornography...but are we **deliberate evaluating** content?

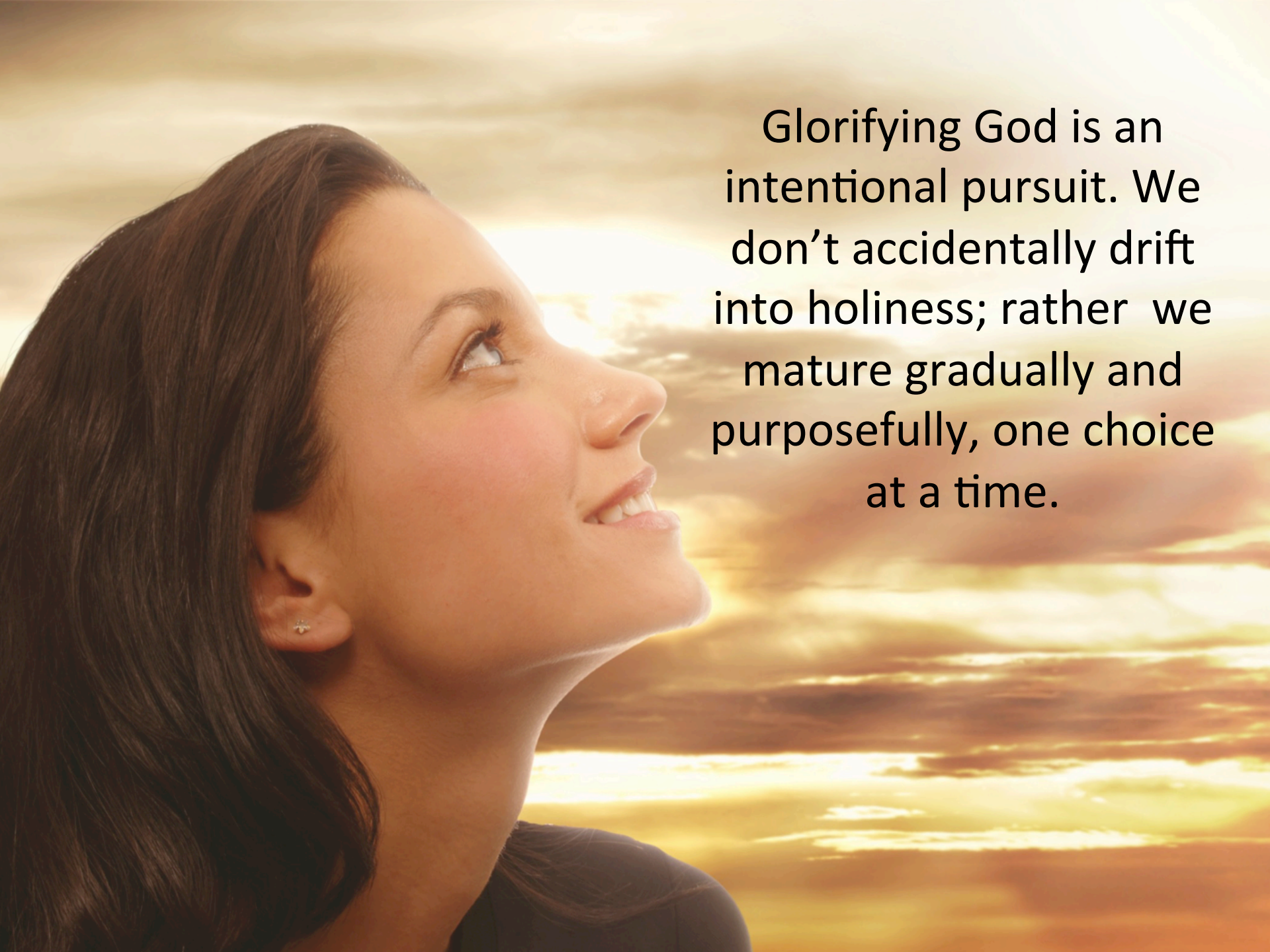




We watch because others watch. Please don't misunderstand. I'm not saying it is wrong to watch television, rent a DVD, surf the internet, or spend an evening at the movie theater.

The hazard is thoughtless watching.

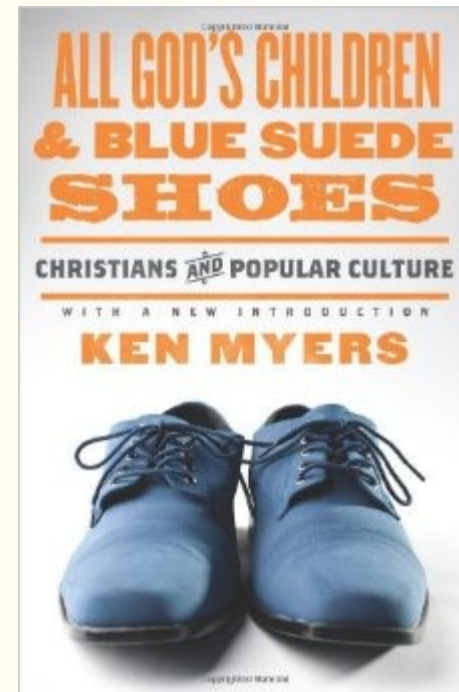
\$215 Billion is spent annually on television commercials.
(From an anti-God world!)



Glorifying God is an intentional pursuit. We don't accidentally drift into holiness; rather we mature gradually and purposefully, one choice at a time.

“I believe that the challenge of living with popular culture **may well be as serious for modern Christians as persecution and plagues** were for the saints of earlier centuries.... Enemies that come loudly and visibly are usually much easier to fight than those that are undetectable.”

Ken Myers, 1989, *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books), p. xii-xiii.





Time Questions

- Am I skipping or delaying something important in order to watch this now?
- What are my other social/entertainment options besides watching television or going out to see a movie?
- How much time have I already spent on media today?
- How much time have I spent surfing the internet or on social media today?
- In the last week, how much time have I spent on spiritual growth, building relationships, or serving at church compared to time spent consuming media?
- After investing the time to view this, will I look back on it as time well spent?




Heart Questions

- Why do I want to watch this program or film? What do I find entertaining about it?
- Am I seeking to escape from something that I should be facing by watching this? Am I seeking comfort or relief that can only be found in God?
- What sinful temptations will this program or film present?
- Do I secretly want to view something in it that is sinful?
- Am I watching this because I'm bored or lazy? What does that reveal about my heart?
- Am I watching this simply because other people are? Am I trying to be relevant or to fit in?



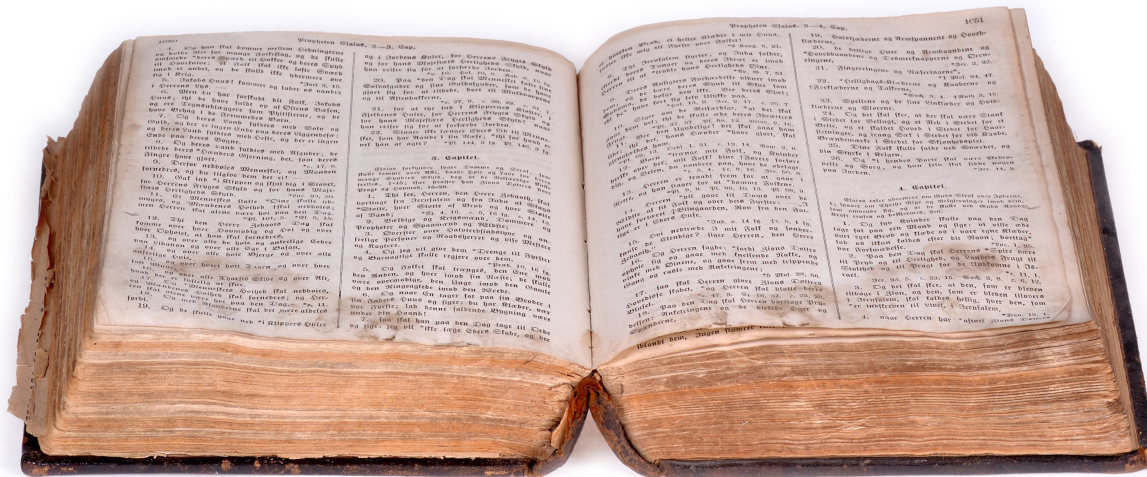
Content Questions

- What worldview or philosophy of life does this program or film present? What is the view of man? What is the view of sin?
- What does this program or film glamorize? What is valued or considered important?
- Is sin shown as having negative consequences?
- What is the sexual content?
- Would seeing this help me better understand God's world?
- Will I benefit in any way from watching this or visiting this website?
- Is the language in this film glorifying to God?



Drifting toward worldliness may be slow, its symptoms not immediately apparent. This drift is usually a sign of a dulling conscience.

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,”
1 Timothy 4:2



Coram Deo

“Before the face of God.”
Christians should live their entire lives
coram deo.

“And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:17

Psalm 101:2-4

“I will behave wisely in a perfect way.
Oh, when will You come to me?
I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.
I will set nothing wicked before my eyes;
I hate the work of those who fall away;
It shall not cling to me.
A perverse heart shall depart from me;
I will not know wickedness.”



Worldliness and Music

- Listening to music without discernment and godly intent reveals a heart willing to flirt with the world.
- Music can deeply affect us.





Ephesians 5:3-12

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.

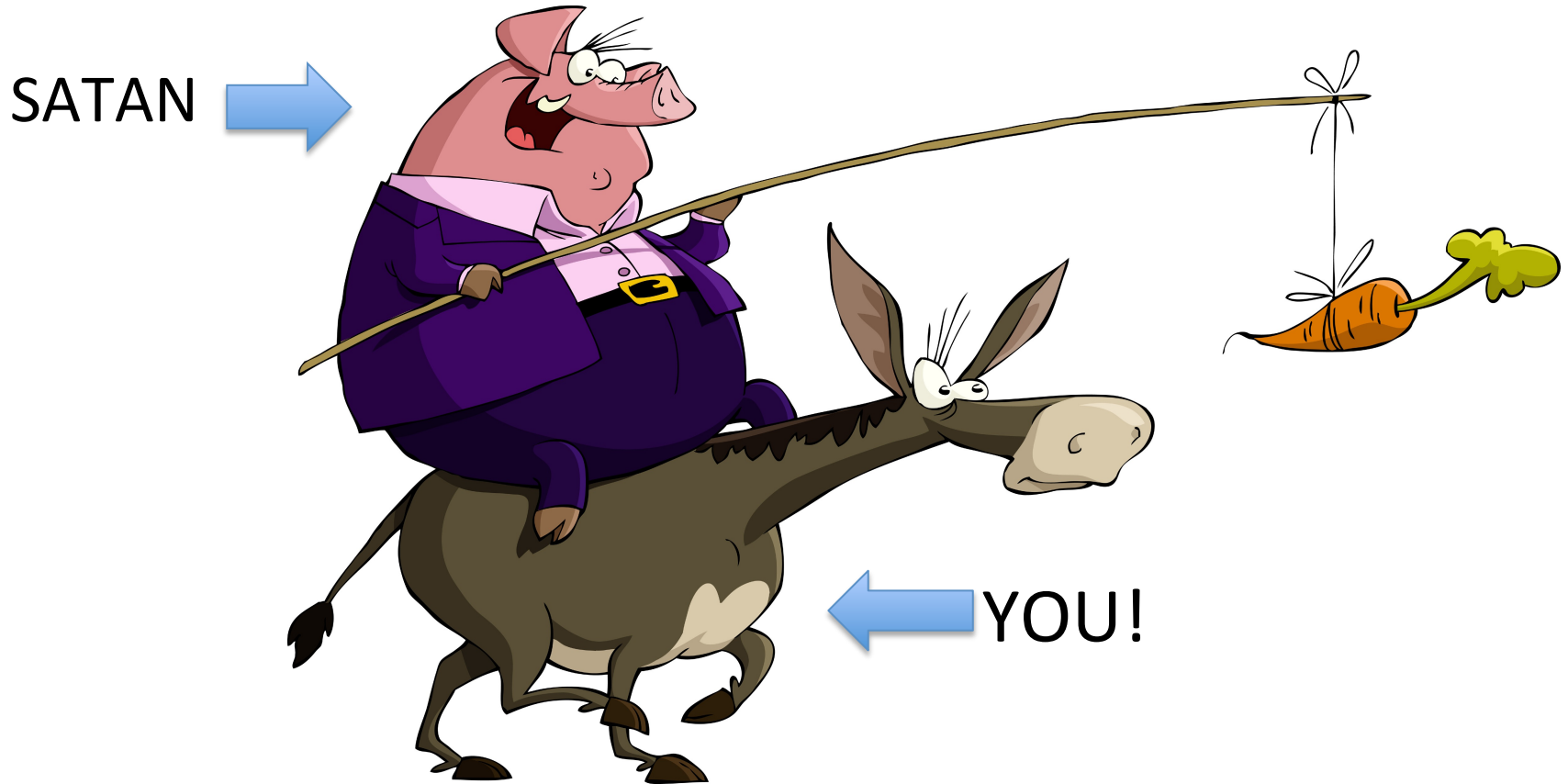
For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Worldliness and Stuff

- Coveting has been defined as desiring stuff too much or desiring too much stuff. It is replacing our delight in God with joy in stuff. Materialism is what happens when coveting has cash.



Most of us have seen the cartoon...



Luke 16:13

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”



Worldliness and Clothes

“in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,”
1 Timothy 2:9

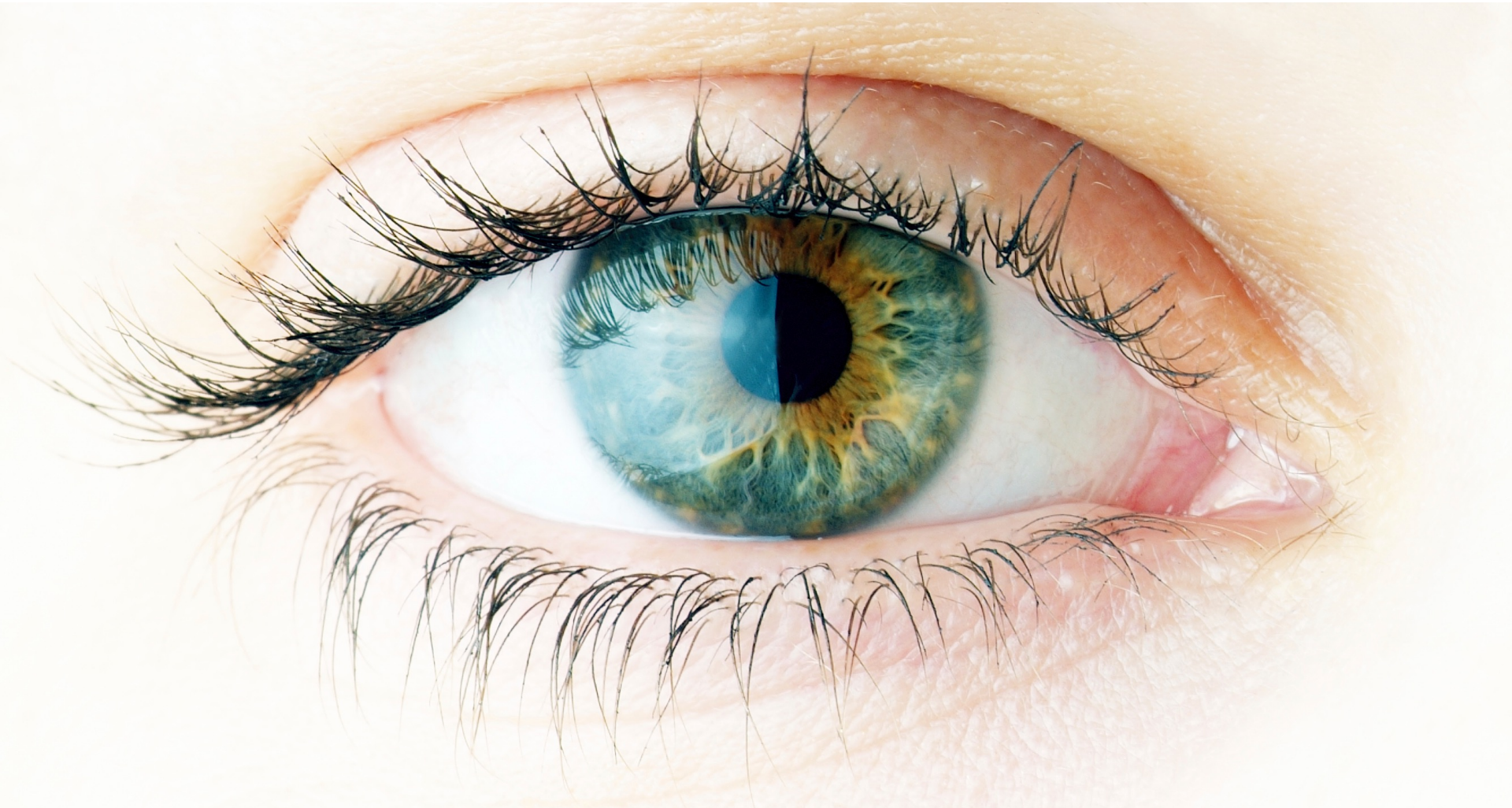


From “Dangerous Curves Ahead”

“The young lady had no idea that on this particular day she would cause a similar internal battle in over 25 males, aged 11-87, all of whom had gathered to worship and honor God. She never realized that some of the men in the congregation had purposefully selected a pew or angled themselves with a clear line of sight to her backside. Or did she? She didn’t realize that 2-3 of the men sitting behind her would later go home and feed their porn addiction while substituting mental images of her for the actress on the screen. Did she have any inkling that she was being devoured in the minds of men who were supposed to be worshipping God? Did she care?”

By Brad Harrub, <http://focuspressblog.com/2015/12/07/when-the-church-building-becomes-a-place-of-temptation/>

What do your eyes chase?
What does your heart long for?

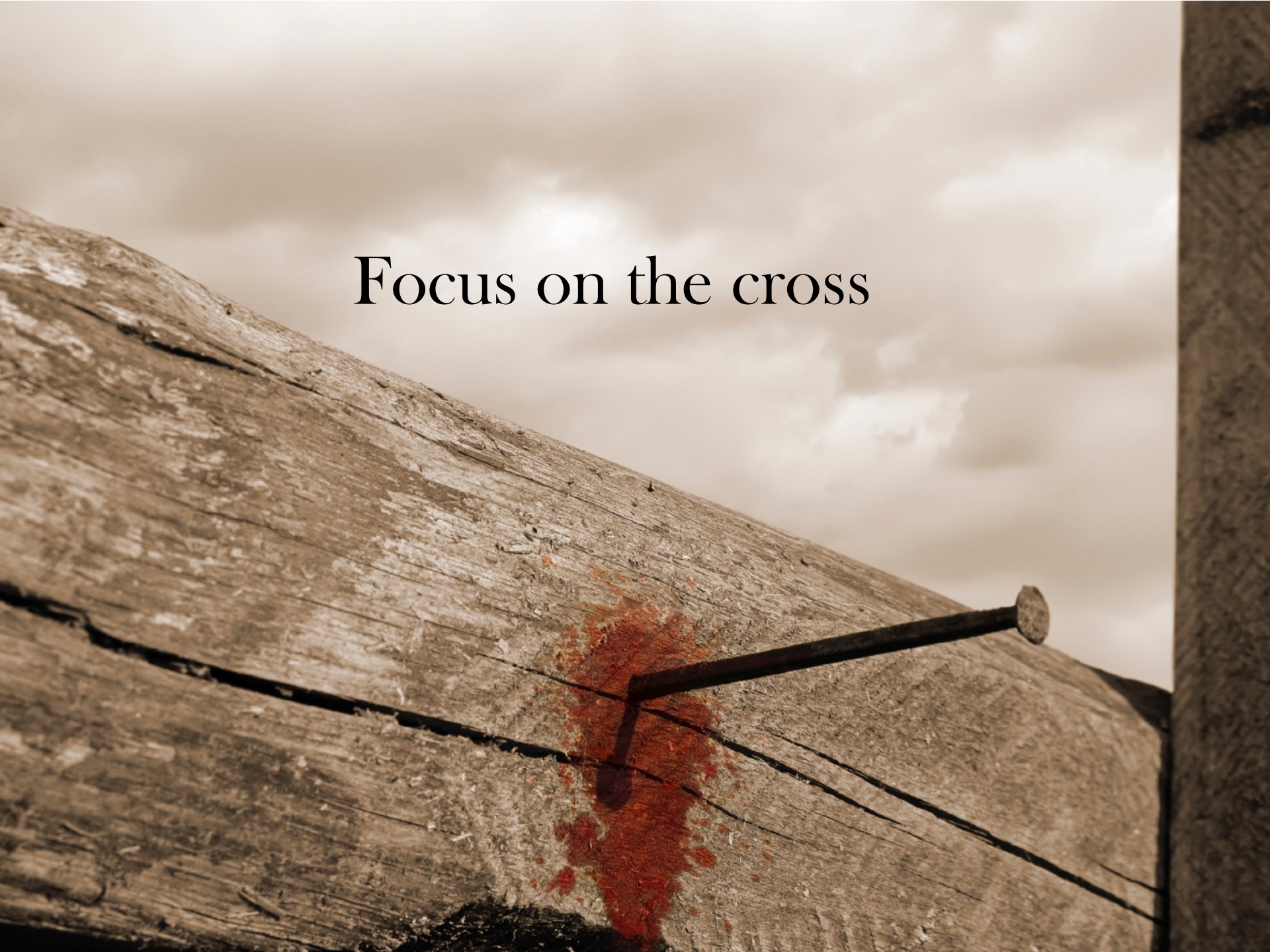




Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—think on these things.”

Focus on the cross



It is my prayer that this year we will
repent of worldliness and turn our focus
to Christ and God's Word.



