***Why I Left the World***

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***Introduction:*** There are some things common to all Christians.

 A. All that have come to Christ were *once under the power of Satan*.
 **(Titus 3:3; Eph 2:2-3)**

 1. It not an enjoyable thing to look back at *a time of self-deceit and bondage*.

 2. Paul found this *a good teaching opportunity* to describe his past struggles.
 **(1 Tim 1:12-15)**

 3. It is my prayer that this study will help us not only to hate worldliness but to
 rejoice in the grace of God that has *freed us from the bondage of sin*

 B. One must be born again to leave the world! **(Jn 3:3-5; Rom 6:3-4)**

 1. The new birth by necessity involves *a radical change of thinking*.

 2. Sadly some are “in the church” but in reality *are still in the world*.

 3. Let us look back on that painful time when Christ was not in our lives.

***I. What is the “Worldliness”?***

 A. Worldliness is *a philosophy of life*. **(1 Jn 2:15-17)**

 1. **The lust of the flesh** – We have God given desires and emotional needs. Do we

 control them or do they control us?

 2. **The lust of the eyes** – We make judgments on the things we see. What is

 reality? What will really last?

 3. **The pride of life** – It is easy to compare yourself to others and gain “esteem”

 from that. This desire is like a drug addiction that *must be fed and increased*.

 B. The root idea of worldliness lies in *an unrestrained fulfillment of our lusts*.

 1. How do you make decisions? The worldly person *looks within* and is essentially
 self-centered. He makes judgments on what he can see and hold.

 2. The godly person *looks to God*. He seeks the council of the unseen as found in
 the scriptures.

 3. Worldliness is very subtle; *most worldly people do not know it*!

 4. One is worldly if *his guide is self and not God*.

 a. He may focus on what **seems good** such as family**. (1 Cor 7:32-33)**

 b. One may even *talk about serving God* and be worldly! **(Col 2:8)**

***II. Worldliness thrives on deception***

 A. In the world I confidently *thought of myself as being in control*.

 1. A worldly man **does not control himself**, his lust do! **(Eph 2:1-3)**

 2. This mind is from “the prince of the power of the air.” *Satan is the ruler of all* *worldly people*! **(John 12:31, 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor 4:4)**

 3. Worldly people *find comfort in numbers*. Because of this they think of
 themselves as “pretty good.” What did Jesus say? **(Mt 7:13-14; Lk 6:26)**

 4. Inwardly *I was fearful* and allowed the pressure of *what others thought* to mold
 me. I was a slave! **(Rom 6:20-21)**

 B. I sought things that would not last and *acted as if they would not end*.
 **(1 Cor 7:29-31)**

1. In high school my happiness depended on *meeting the standards of the world*.

 2. Things that *were not wrong within themselves* were seen as the road to success.
 Such as dating, career, having good looks and many other things.

 3. Deceit is easy to accept *as long as things did not change*. My first challenge
 came when I graduated from high school and looked change in the face.

 C. I claimed to be a Christian but *hated the “rules” of righteousness*.
 **(Jn 15:18-19; 1 Jn 3:13)**

 1. When you really stand as a Christian *the world will not like it*!

 2. At one time in my life I did not like Christians either (that is real Christians, not
 the name only kind).

 3. Those who would dare be against drinking, dancing or other social norms would
 be considered “judgmental” (*Even if they did not say a word*!). **(1 Pt 4:3-4)**

 4. The world screams out:” Do Not Correct Me!” The present day
 “non-traditional” movement in churches *is full of this spirit*. **(John 16:20)**

 D. I thought I was going to heaven! **(John 16:2-3)**

 1. I has the “Good old boy” concept. I had *no daily concept of God’s judgment*.

 2. I did not understand *the consequences of my own sin*. **(Rom 3:23; 6:23)**

 3. I wanted a religion to salve my conscience but *not one that changed me****.***

 4. My goals, heart and life was in the world. ***But*** *I thought I was going to heaven****.***

 E. I had ***no peace*** in my life but I was afraid and did not know what to do.

 1. Yes I had my **highs**, but they were **temporary.**

 2. I was not in control! I had to constantly look for that “high”.

 3. In fact *I wanted escape*. What a vain life! **(John 14:27; 16:32-33)**

 F. I *had to wear a mask* because of my self-deception.

 1. With the world, **you wear a mask**. Dishonesty is a must. **(Jn 14:17; 2 Cor 4:4)**

 2. There is another way! **(Rom 7:24-25)**

***III. How I was able to be freed from the slavery of the world***

 A. I *asked God for light*. **(Jn 7:17)**

 1. I was moving too fast into sin. I began through peer pressure to try alcohol

 2. I faced death and *my mask was removed in terror*. I knew I was lost.

 3. I *began to seek God* from a reading of the Bible.

 B. We must *die to the world*.

 1. We must *be* ***sick*** *of it*! **(James 4:3-4)**

 2. We must **die** to our lusts. **(Gal 6:14)**

 C. We must *live a life of* ***Conviction* - (1 John 5:4-5)**

***Conclusion: What does the worldly life lead to? Let us wake up and live for God!***

 A. Sadly many who leave the world later find a way back in. **(2 Pet 2:20; 1 Jn 4:4-5).**

 B. What a great salvation we have in the Lord**! (1 Tim 1:15-17)**