

Now More Than Ever

By

David A. Dean

The church I attended in my youth did its best to warn me against “worldliness.” It insisted that being a Christian required us to turn away from the values and pleasures of this world and to follow Christ instead. “The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever” (I John 2:17).

The fact that we don’t hear that message today is a tragedy because we need it now more than ever. And we need it in a more basic sense. Worldliness doesn’t concern recreation and entertainment nearly so much as values, attitudes and ways of thinking which leave God out. Worldliness considers God unimportant and of no consequence either in our thinking or in our practices.

Today more than ever the values of a godless culture (i.e., the world) saturate every segment of society and fill every moment of time. The old battery-operated radios of my youth have given birth to a conquering army of electronic media. The first generation of television, video recorders, and wireless telephones has quickly spawned new monstrosities — computers interact with telephones, printers, and laser disks — technology constantly impacting our lives.

In theory, this technology can be used for good. In practice it almost always imposes alien values on God’s people, cultivating a self-satisfying focus on this material world. It banishes God from daily life into the privacy of our churches. And its not-so-subtle influence entices us into non-Christian thinking. Like the pigs in George Orwell’s book *Animal Farm* who begin to look and act like human beings without realizing it, we unsuspectingly look increasingly like our own godless generation.

Now more than ever we need to return to our spiritual roots. We need to recognize how much society has perverted our attitudes and values. And we need to repent of our indifference to the things of eternity. And we need to seek with all our hearts God’s kingdom and righteousness (Matt. 6:33).

Only by returning to God’s Word can we do this. We must turn our back and shut our ears to the modern world-enticing propaganda. Amidst life’s busy din, we must carve out for ourselves a “quiet time” to be alone with God and his Word. We must no longer permit secularism to brain-wash us into worldliness. Rather we must refocus our minds upon the words of Scripture in order to think God’s thoughts after him.

Why not begin with a schedule of daily Bible reading which will take you systematically through the Bible? Read an average of only four chapters of Scripture daily (about fifteen minutes_ and you will complete the Bible in a year. For thirty minutes of you time, you can do it in six months. And as you expose yourself to new passages of Scripture, you will become increasingly aware how different are God’s views from those of our society.

You will not find this easy. Satan — not wishing you to let God’s Word change your values — will proclaim that you have more important things to do. But you don’t! Christians cannot live apart from every word that God has spoken (Matt. 4:4). He’ll convince you that you don’t have time. Fight back! Just give up one television program a

day, and you'll have time. Certainly, God's message to you is more important to you than the world's.

Following a daily Bible reading schedule will change you life. As the Lord commanded Joshua, "Meditate on [this Book of the Law] day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it" (Joshua 1:8). And that we need today; now more than ever!

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