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## Love Pt 4 The wicked love evil, money & pleasure

This is our fourth and final study on the word “love” in the scriptures. Last week we established three points– (i) love the truth, (ii) love instruction and knowledge, and (iii) love **not** the things of the world.. This week we establish an additional three points– i) Israel are an example– they hated the good and loved the evil (ii) The heathen walk, they love according to the course of this world, and (iii) The heathen walk, they love according to the prince of this world.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our points–

### 1. Israel are an example– they hated the good and loved the evil

“Who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones” (Mic.3: 2)– CF.– 1 Cor.10: 11– “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come”.

They loved a reward

“Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as [other] people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor” (Hos.9: 1).

Israel was corrupt in her inordinate (without restraint) love

“And when her sister Aholibah saw this, she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she, and in her whoredoms more than her sister in her whoredoms” (Ez.23: 11).

\*the hypocrites are those who love to pray in the synagogue – to be seen of men

“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men...” (Matt. 6: 5).

### 2. The heathen walk, they love according to the course of this world

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world” (Eph.2: 2)– CF.: 2 Jn.1: 6– “And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it”.

The heathen–

\* Loves strife and so loves transgression

“He loveth transgression that loveth strife: [and] he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction” (Prov.17:19).

\* loves the wages of unrighteousness

2Pet 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam [the son] of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

\* Loves evil more than good

“Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. [3] Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying...” (Ps.52:2, 3).

### 3. The heathen walk, they love according to the prince of this world

“Wherein in time past ye walked according...to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph.2: 2) – CF.: 2Jn 1:6– “And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

The god of the world, the devil- lusted, was a murder, and loves lies  
"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar..." (Jn.8: 44).

#### Illustration

I remember preaching the gospel to a customer at Corys – it was during smoko and he was attentive to the good news message. He sat and listened to the bad news- if he rejected God's love, God's sacrifice for his sin- His Son the Lord Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. As we walked out of the lunch room he said – I accept the warning you have given me to be true, but I will not accept Jesus as my Saviour as I do not want to give up my pleasures of this world – women, beer and rugby. I simply replied – I understand. At least he was honest- he fulfilled 2 Tim.3: 1, 3, 4- "...that in the last days perilous times shall come. [3] For men shall be...[4] lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God".

#### Questions of the scriptures

- i) Why do the heathen love darkness?
- ii) What is the consequence of a person not loving Jesus?

#### Answers from the scriptures

i) Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil  
"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (Jn 3:19).

Because they do not have the love of God in them

"Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. [42] But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you" (Jn.5: 18,42).

Because they do not hear Jesus' words- therefore they are not of God

"He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (Jn.8: 47).

ii) those that love NOT Jesus will-

\* receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thes.2: 10).

\* not keep His sayings

"He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me" (Jn.14: 24).

\* be accursed at the judgement

"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha"  
(1 Cor 16:22).

\* not obey the gospel, therefore will be punished with everlasting destruction

"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: [9] Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"  
(2Thes 1:8, 9)

Therefore, to those that have ears to hear and eyes to see, we beseech you –

Love not the world (1 Jn.2: 15), for the love the world is vain, it is empty (Ps.4: 2).

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1Jn 2:16). Be lovers of God more than lovers of pleasures. Amen!

