

Those Blessed Interrogatives!

I John 2:12-17

What?

Where?

Who?

Why?

When?

How?



"Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How"

The third in a series of lessons based upon the book
of First John, and delivered to the
Berean Bible Class of Victory Baptist Temple—Piedmont, MO

Introduction:

Remember in your composition classes the constant repetition of those wonderful words that would enable you to write a ten page paper on such wonderfully narrow subjects as the spiritual lessons learned from a peanut? You constantly had to be asking and answering, "who, what, where, when, why, and how?" These wonderful little tools are going to help us understand what John meant and to whom he was speaking when he said, "love not the world!"

1Jn 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

1Jn 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

1Jn 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 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 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

First, we must ask:

I. WHO are the little children? - vs. 12-14

A. They are the *fathered*—"little children"

B. They are the *forgiven*—"your sins are forgiven"

C. They are the *fathers*—"fathers"

D. They are the *faithful* and *fighting*—"young men...overcome"

E. They are the *fledglings*—"little children"

II. WHY not love the world? - v. 15a

A. The answer lies in its *identity*—"the world"

B. The answer lies also in its *ideals*—"things that are in the world"

III. WHAT effect does loving the world have on the children? - v. 15b

A. Worldliness is not an activity, but an *attitude*

B. *Love* of the world brings a *lack* for the father

IV. HOW does the world seek to gain our love? - v. 16

A. Through our *flesh*

B. Through our fortunes

C. Through our *fruitfulness*

V. WHERE can we find a means of help? - v. 14

A. Through *strength* in the Lord

B. Through the *Scriptures*

C. Through *subduing* the devil

VI. WHEN will the world pass away? - v. 17

A. The world of *sinner*s is *passing presently*

B. The World of *saints* is *prevailing perpetually*