

WHAT WE LOVE

By Keith Greer

Let us consider some of the things we can choose to **"love."**

Ourselves. "For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy." {2 Timothy 3:2} The man who loves himself is a selfish man. In God's children, this character trait is unacceptable. We must be humble and think more of others than we do of ourselves. "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." {Philippians 2:3,4}.

Pleasure. "Traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." {2 Timothy 3:4} The person with whom love of pleasure comes first is not qualified to be God's servant. This person is serving Satan rather than God. Christians must practice temperance and self-control. Sadly, we live in a world that is "pleasure driven" and have temptations bombarding us daily to seek instant gratification. Christians must not yield to these subtle attempts to compromise our faith!

The world. "For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica--Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia." {2 Timothy 4:10} The one who places this world's cares and desires ahead of God loves the world. The apostle John warned against the danger of doing this {1 John 2:15-17}. Such friendship with the world places one at odds with God. 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." {James 4:4}

Christ's appearing. "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." {2 Timothy 4:8} The Christian patiently waits, and looks forward to, Christ's second coming. Why? To receive his eternal reward from the Father.

Each of us holds things that we prize or love in this world. What do you love? Where have you placed your affections – Things above – or things on the earth? ***