

HEAVEN—DON'T EXCHANGE FOR THE WORLD

By Keith Greer

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." {1 John 2:15-17}

Eternity has us all going toward one of two directions—Heaven or Hell. By the manner in which each person conducts himself while living in this world, he determines his eternal destination. We must live in this world, but we need not—indeed, we must not—live like we love it. Whether he knows it or not, each person wages a constant battle with the world in which we all exist. "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." {Romans 7:23} What can we do to reject the world's pull?

Understand the world's temporal nature. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up." {2 Peter 3:10} The world will literally go up in smoke! Let's not fall so in love with it that we lose out on an eternal home in Heaven. There are many wonderful things here in life "under the sun." Yet none can be compared to the splendor and majesty of our reward promised by our Heavenly Father!

Appreciate Heaven. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." {Revelations 21:4} In this world, we must endure pain, misery, suffering, and death. In Heaven, we will no longer be troubled by these things. There, we will not know death, pain, and sickness; and we will never grow old. It sounds wonderful doesn't it?

Please be very careful. Do not fall in love with the world at the expense of the eternal home God has prepared for the faithful. Sadly, that would become a never-ending tragedy! ***