"THOU SHALT NOT FOLLOW A MULTITUDE TO DO EVIL"

Exodus 23:2

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Moses said this to Israel of old.

2. Man is prone to follow the MULTITUDE.

3. The example of the crowd is infectious; it takes a man of principle and back-bone to resist the example of the crowd.

4. The tendency is to follow the multitude even when it is to do evil.

5. Men like to be on the side that is POPULAR.

   (1) Men don’t like to be out of fashion.
   
   (2) Israel wanted a king, to be like the nations around them -- I Sam. 8:5

6. The fashion of the day can never make that right which the Law of God declares to be WRONG.

7. The voice of the multitude is one thing today, and another thing tomorrow -- Truth and Duty remain the same.

8. Many in the church follow what the multitude is doing in the world.

I. WHAT IS FASHIONABLE IN OUR PRESENT AGE WITH THE MULTITUDE?

1. Men and women wearing immodest and lascivious dress, going as near-naked as possible -- I Tim. 2: 9 - 10

2. Women and men not having distinctive hair styles -- I Cor. 11:14 - 15; Deut. 22:5

3. Social Drinking -- I Pet. 4:3

4. Dirty, filthy conversation, swearing, taking the name of God in vain -- (PROFANITY) --Ex. 20:7

5. Dancing -- Gal. 5:19

6. Going to dirty movies, renting dirty movies, watching dirty movies on Television.


8. Pre-marital sex; fornications -- I Cor. 6:18

9. Extra-marital sex; Adultery

10. Drugs

11. Mixed Swimming

12. Petting
II. THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE MORAL STANDARD

1. In the midst of a culture which is presently changing its MORALS, the Christian might tend to think that what was wrong twenty years ago for him is now acceptable.

2. NOT SO -- the Lord's people must remember that God's Word does not change -- Psa. 119: 89; I Pet. 1:25; Matt. 24:35; James 1:25

3. The Bible, the Word of God, still condemns sin and exalts righteousness -- Gal. 5: 19 - 21; Tit. 2: 11 - 12

4. What was SIN on Pentecost is still sinful today.

5. We need to understand that the gospel is not tempered to fit into the mold of the various cultures, but RATHER, the gospel when it is preached to the people of various cultures changes the people to conform to the gospel -- Rom. 12:1 - 2

(1) When Paul preached in Corinth he did not WATER DOWN the gospel -- I Cor. 6: 9 - 11

(2) The gospel does not change to fit the world; the world MUST CHANGE to be acceptable to God -- Acts 17: 30; Matt. 19:28; Eph. 4: 21 - 23; II Cor. 5:17

III. WHAT DOES THE TERM "WORLDLINESS" MEAN?

1. We are not to love the World -- I John 2:15

2. We are not to have Friendship with the World -- James 4:4

3. We are to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world" -- James 1: 27

4. We are not to be conformed to this world -- Rom. 12:2

5. The Devil is the god of this world -- II Cor. 4:4; John 14:30

6. The world in these passages is the dominion of Satan --the reign of Satan through lust -- I John 2:16

7. Everything that is worldly is embraced in the:

   (1) The lust of the flesh

   (2) The lust of the eyes

   (3) The pride of life -- I John 2:16
8. The three classifications of worldliness:

(1) The "lust of the flesh" refers to the evil desires; the works of the flesh -- Gal. 5: 19 - 21

(2) The "lust of the eyes" is an evil desire to gratify what is seen with the eyes -- Matt. 5:28

(3) The "vainglory of life" refers to human pride in all of its manifestations; popularity...

9. Several Bible terms which describe the consuming sin that we call "worldliness":

(1) The "Sensual" -- Jude 19; James 3: 15
   1. The "sensual" are persons given to the gratification of the senses -- II Pet. 2: 14, 18

(2) The "Carnal" -- I Cor. 3: 1 - 3
   1. A carnal person is one who permits his body to control his spirit.
   2. Paul was not this kind of man -- I Cor. 9:27

(3) Worldly persons are also called "fleshly" -- Col. 2:18; I Pet. 2:11

(4) The Bible speaks of worldly lust -- Tit. 2:12
   1. Worldly lusts are desires for those things which are a part of the world's system of evil of which Satan is head.

IV. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE CHRISTIAN MUST TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO BE FREE FROM THE WORLD AND ITS INFLUENCE.

1. "And be not conformed to this world" -- Rom. 12: 2

2. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord" -- II Cor. 6:17

3. "Abstain from all appearance of evil" -- I Thess. 5:22

4. We are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts -- Tit. 2:12

5. We are to keep unspotted from the world -- James 1:27

CONCLUSION