

Dangers Facing The
LORD'S CHURCH

**DANGER
AHEAD**

**DANGER OF THE
WORLD'S LEAVEN**

REVELATION 2:18-29

REVELATION 2:18-29 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹ “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first. ²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

REVELATION 2:18-29 (NKJV)

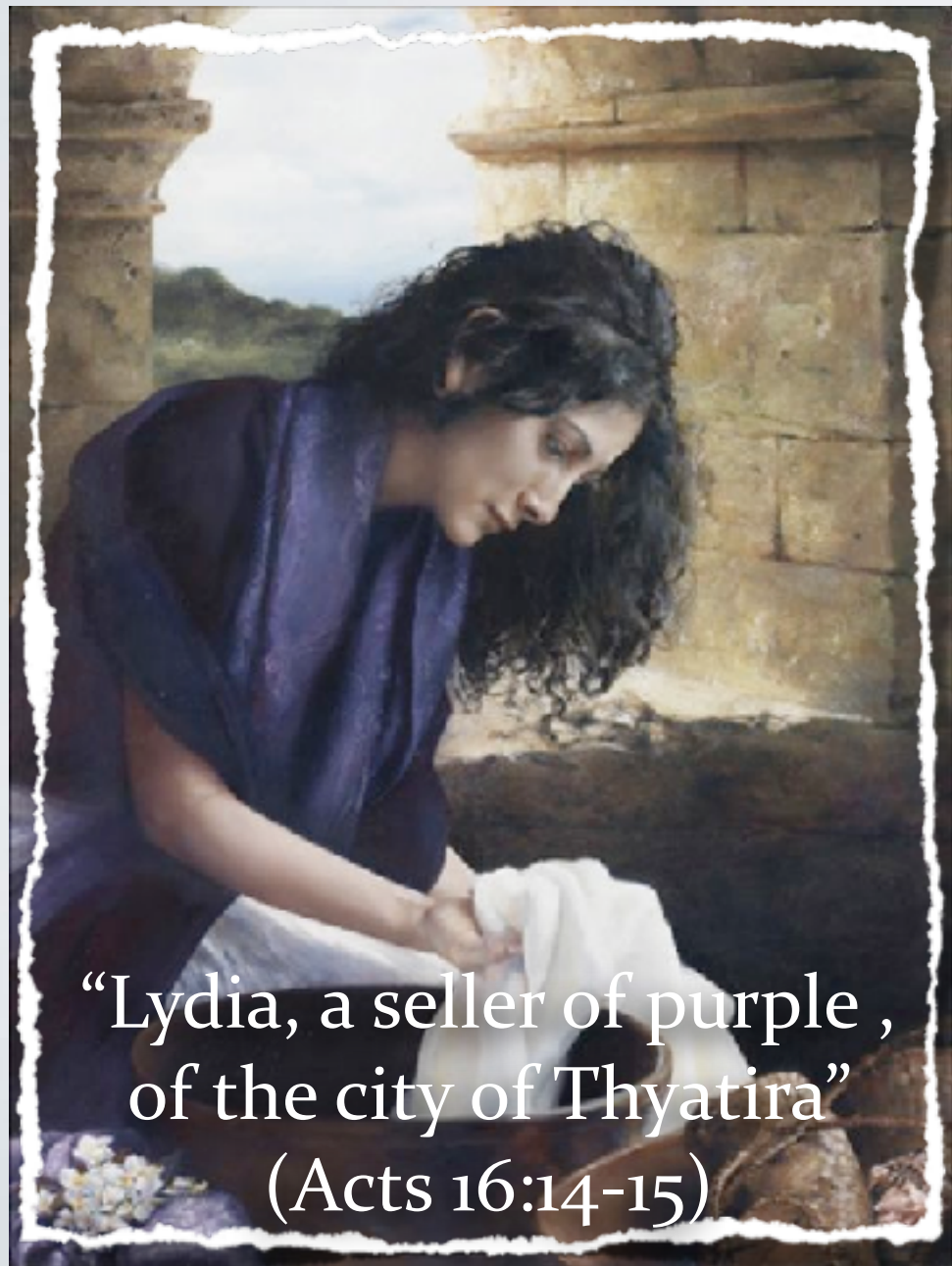
²² Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³ I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. ²⁴ “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ But hold fast what you have till I come.

REVELATION 2:18-29 (NKJV)

²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— ²⁷ ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’— as I also have received from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira ..." Rev 2:18



- ▶ A small, but wealthy city known for its purple dye used in coloring clothing for royalty and the wealthy, (cf. Acts 16:14).
- ▶ Contained a number of trade guilds (wool, leather, linen, bronze, garments, dyers, potters, bakers, slaves, etc.) which tied to pagan religion immoral practices.
- ▶ A Christian's livelihood was affected by the issues involved in membership in these associations.

THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira ..." Rev 2:18



- ▶ Jezebel is still at work.
- ❁ She asks us not to believe in absolutes.
- ❁ She asks us to tolerate that which God says is evil –
- ❁ She asks us to give in, just a little at a time, until there is no real noticeable difference between us and the world.

THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

John 17:15–19 (NKJV)

¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

Given to following passions

- **Lust of the Flesh** – Mat 4:3,4
 - ◆ Seeking to fulfill the appetites of the natural body apart from God's law.
- **Lust of the Eyes** – Mat. 4:8
 - ◆ Seeking to obtain the temporal things our carnal mind desires.
- **The Pride of Life** – Mat. 4:6
 - ◆ Self reliance, selfish-interest, authoritative control -



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

Given to following passions

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh . . . adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; . . .



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

Given to following passions

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ . . . fornicators, nor idolaters,
nor adulterers, nor
homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰
nor thieves, nor covetous, nor
drunkards, nor revilers, nor
extortioners will inherit the
kingdom of God.



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

The sphere of iniquity

Ephesians 2:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ . . . who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

Of the World – Not Separate

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

Focussed on temporal / secular

Colossians 3:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.



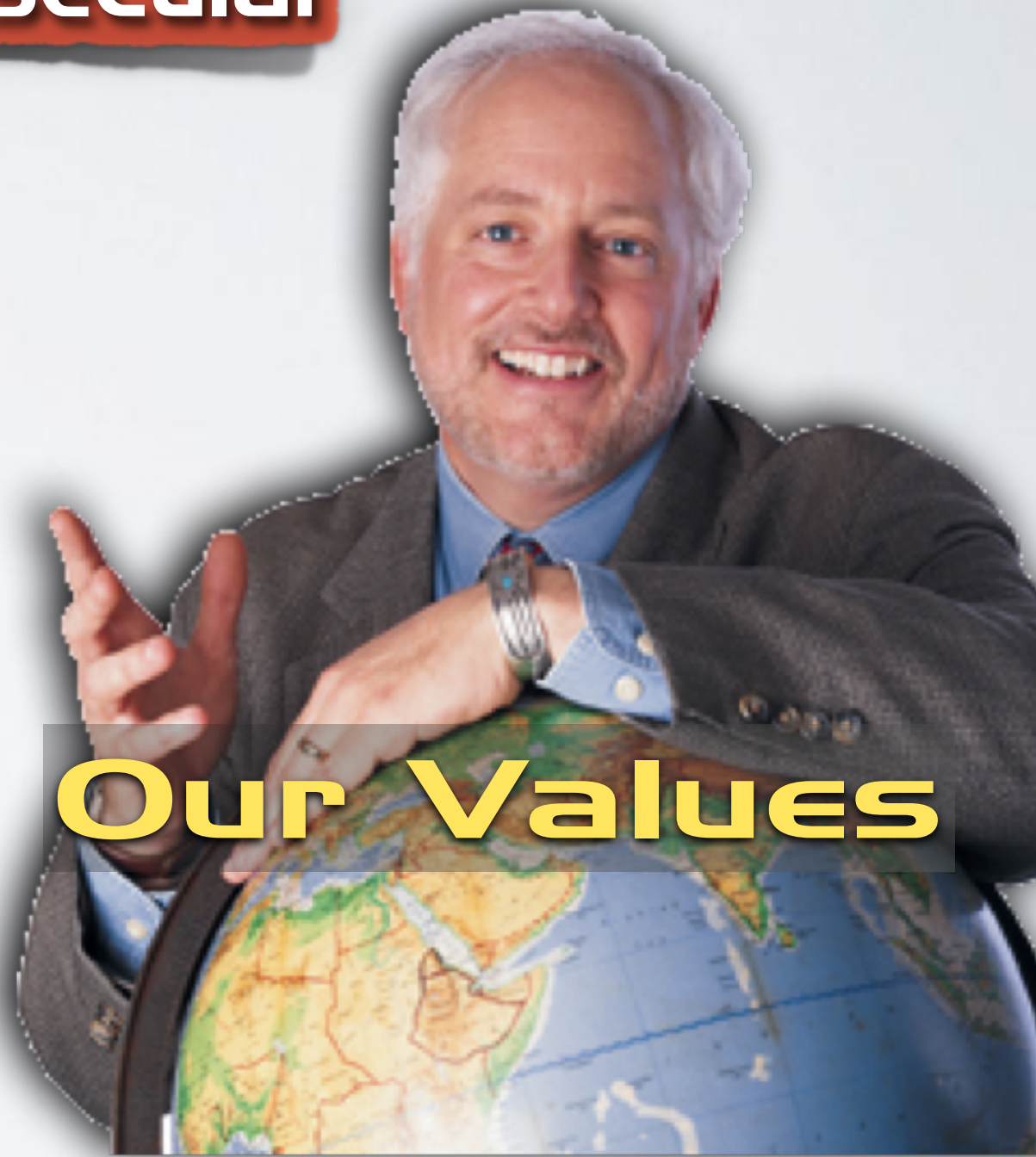
THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

Focussed on temporal / secular

Matthew 6:19–24 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



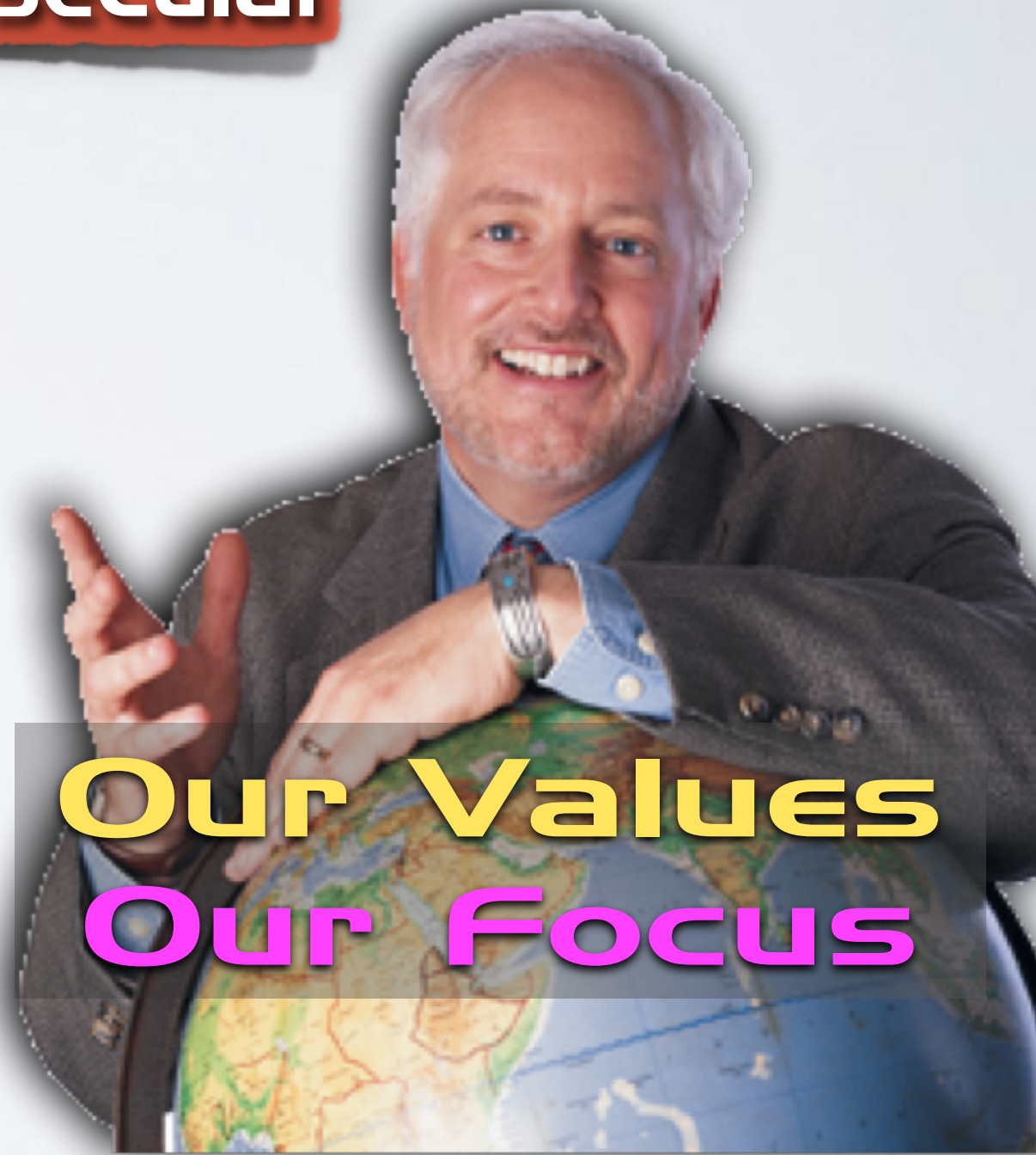
THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

Focussed on temporal / secular

Matthew 6:19–24 (NKJV)

22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!



Our Values
Our Focus

THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

Focussed on temporal / secular

Matthew 6:19–24 (NKJV)

24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.



Our Values
Our Focus
Our Effort

THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

WHAT IS WORLDLINESS?

Focussed on temporal / secular

A PERSON WHO
DRINKS, USES DRUGS,
CURSES, GOES
CLUBBING, & WEARS
IMMODEST CLOTHING,
ETC. IS WORLDLY ...



A PERSON CAN
BE WORLDLY BUT
NOT DRINK &
CURSE ... ETC.

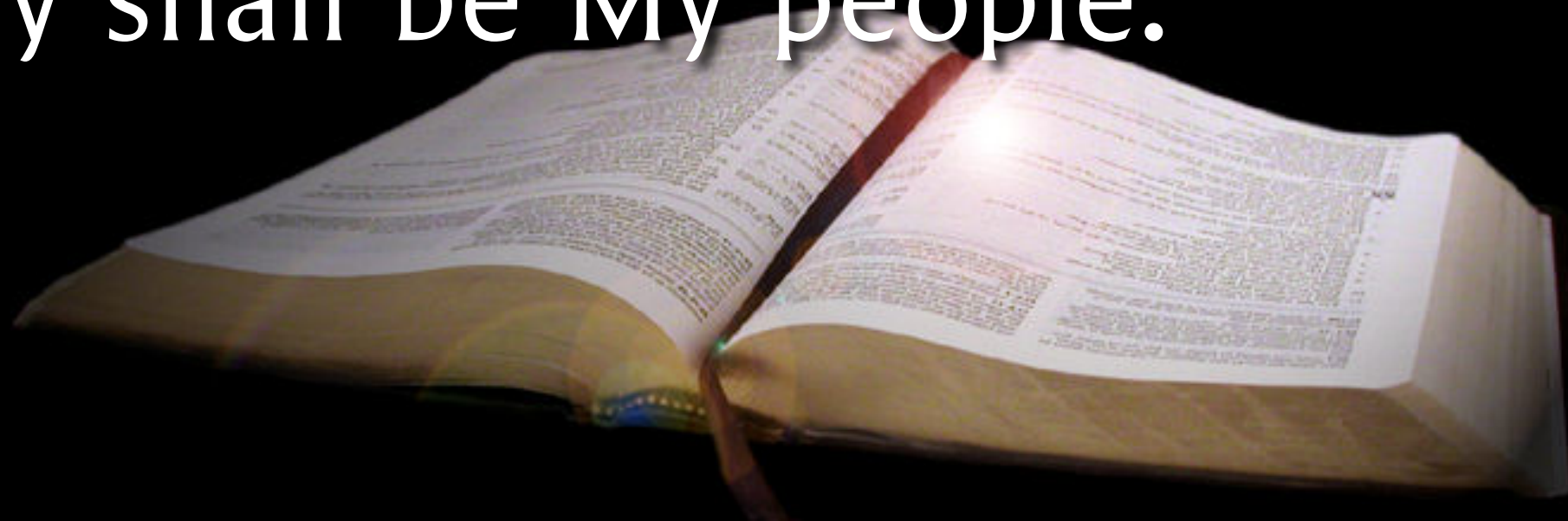
2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:1 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?



2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:1 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."



2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:1 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” ¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.”



2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:1 (NKJV)

7:1 ¹ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

THE WICKEDNESS OF WORLDLINESS

Worldly Living:

- Separates from God –
(Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 8:7,8; Jam 4:4)
- Desensitizes to sin - (2 Pet 2:20;
Luke 11:26; Eph 4:18,19)
- Heart becomes hardened -
(Mat. 13:15; Heb. 3:8,13)
- Makes this life hard - (Prov.
13:15; Jer. 2:19; Rom. 6:21)
- Eternal Condemnation - (Rom.
6:23; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8)

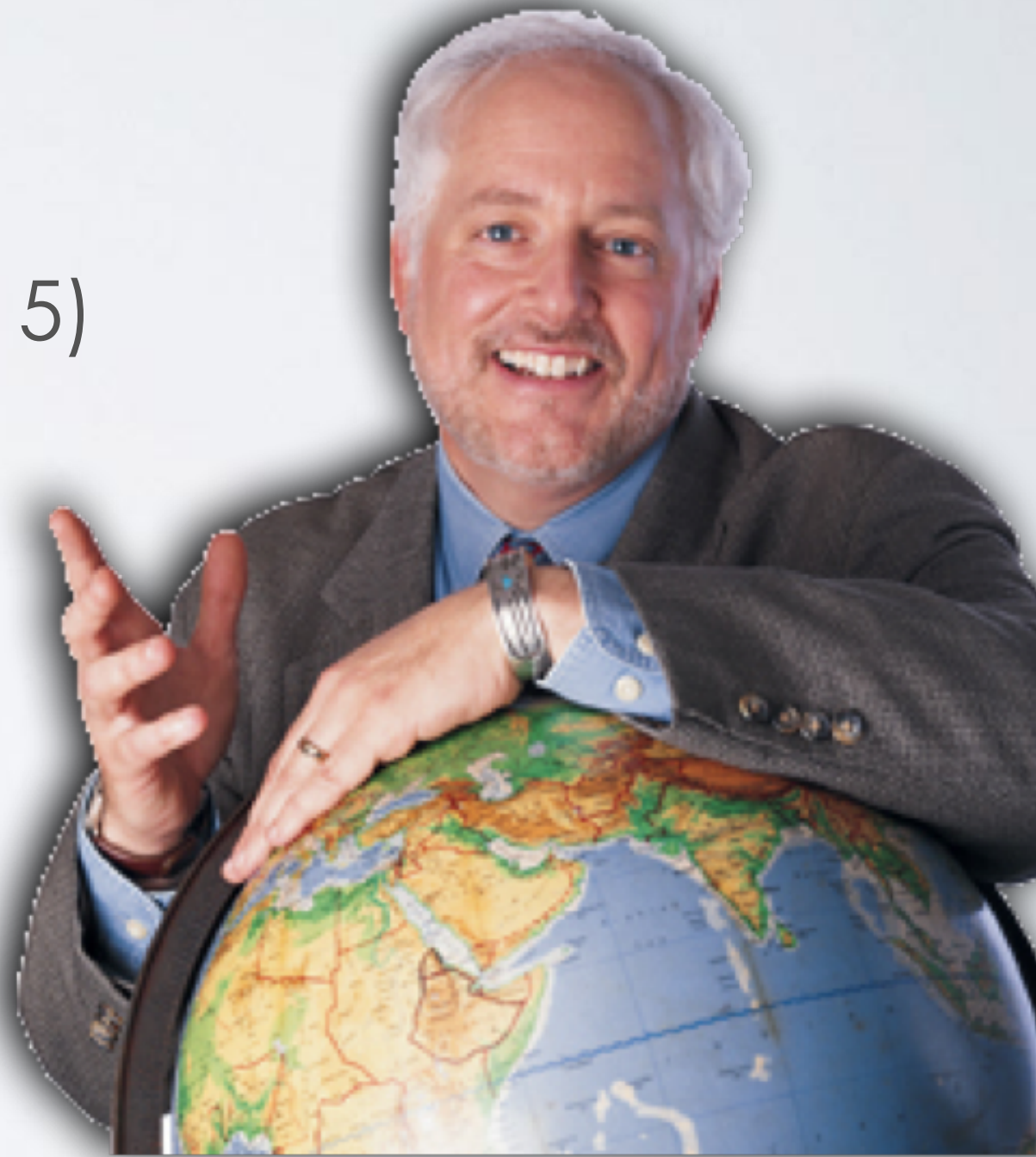


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THE WICKEDNESS OF WORLDLINESS

Worldly Living:

- **Destroys my influence -**
(Mt. 5:13,14; Rom. 2:24; Phili 2:15)
- **Makes my worship vain -**
(Prov. 1:28,29; Mic. 3:4; Mat 15:7-9; Jn 9:31)
- **Hinders my race and growth -**
(Heb. 12:1-ff)
- **Defiles the church -** (Josh. 7;
1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Thess. 3:6-15)



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

THE WICKEDNESS OF WORLDLINESS

Why Worldliness Is A Threat To The Church!

- We Are Bombarded With It Everyday – (John 17:15-19)
- Some brethren ARE Worldly – (Rev 2:18-3:6, 14-22; 1 Cor. 3:1)
- More Toleration, (i.e. less preaching & teaching on it; less discipline) — (1 Cor. 3:1; 5:1-6)
- Destroys our influence & our souls!! — (Phili 2:14-16)

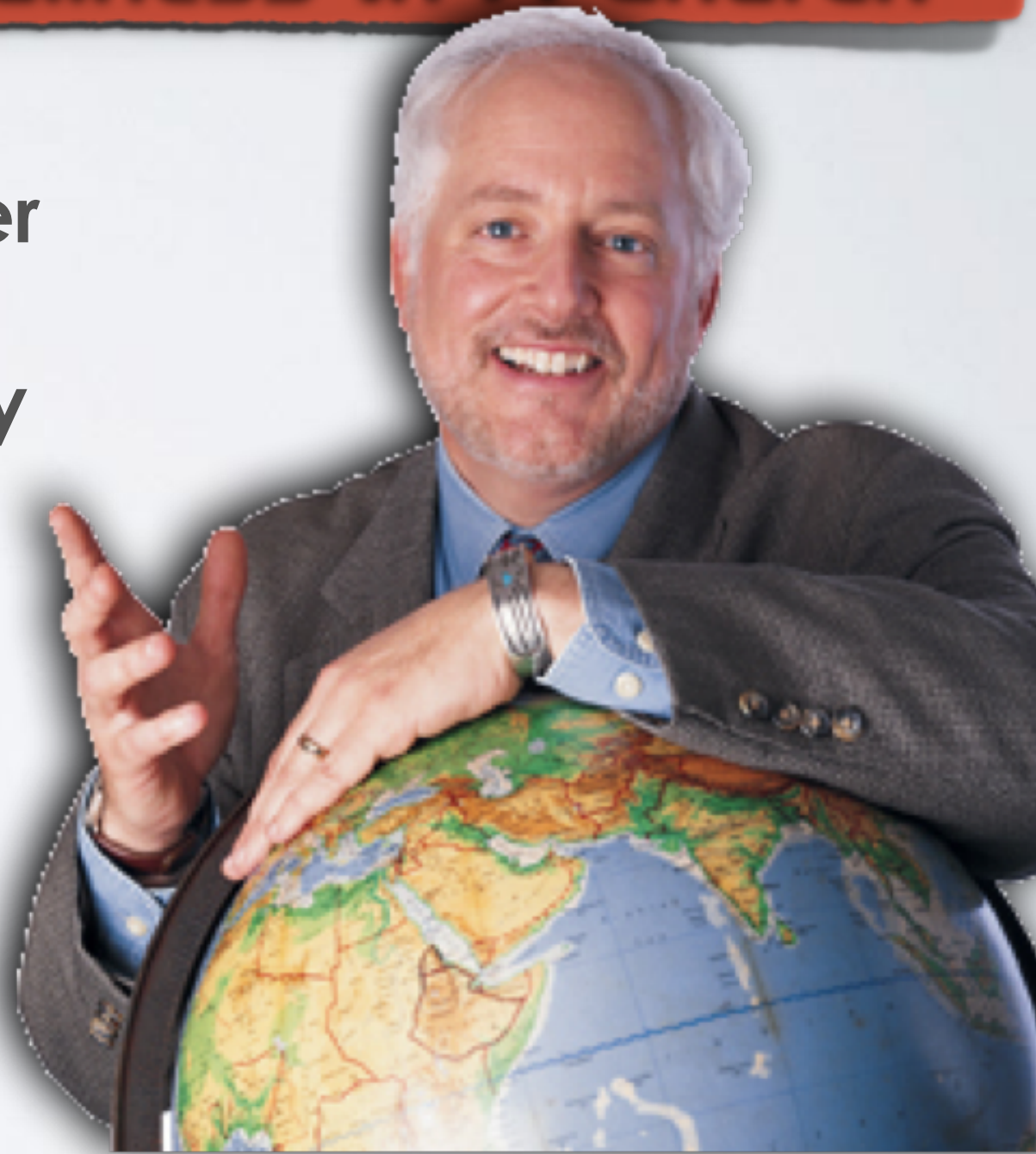


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THE WICKEDNESS OF WORLDLINESS

Manifestations of Worldliness In A Church

- The preaching emphasis is on what is socially “relevant” rather than what is TRUE doctrine and how we are to please and obey God — (2 Tim 3:1-5; 4:1-4)
- Toleration of immorality, but intolerant of those who teach against it — (John 3:19.20)
- When style, entertainment & pragmatism replaces what is Biblical & RIGHT — (John 4:24)

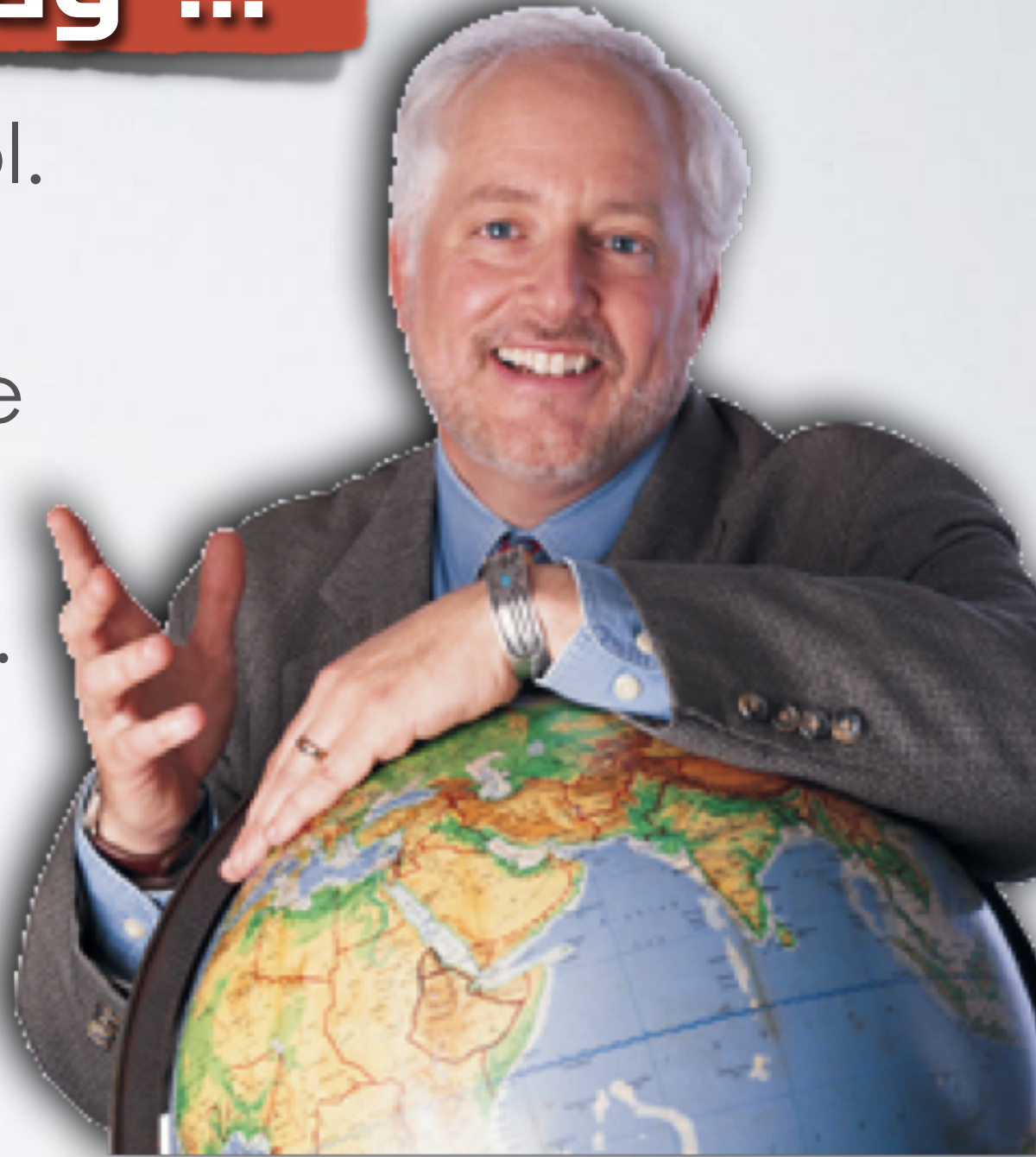


THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

THE VICTORY OVER WORLDLINESS

There is a better way ...

- Keep our **thoughts pure!!** – Col. 3:1,2; Rom 12:1,2; Phil 4:8
- Keep our **conscience** sensitive – 2 Peter 2:6-8
- Keep a **safe distance** – 1 Thes. 5:22; 2 Cor. 6:17; Prov 23:31
- Retain **fear & love for God** & be filled with His word — Ps 119:11; Mk 12:29-31; Ec 12:13



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

THE VICTORY OVER WORLDLINESS

There is a better way ...

- Always be mindful of potential **consequences** — where can “**THIS**” lead — Prov 2:11-19
- Always be mindful of the **influence** “**THIS**” can have — Rom 14:21; 1 Cor. 8:13
- Always be certain that “**THIS**” is **RIGHT!** — Col. 3:16; 1 Thes. 5:21; 1 John 4:1



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

THE VICTORY OVER WORLDLINESS

There is a better way ...

- **Obey the gospel** - Rom 6:3-6, 16-18; 2 Thes 1:7-9; Col 1:13; 2:12
- **Put on Christ** - Col 3:12-17; Phil 2:1-5
- **Grow in knowledge of Christ** - 2 Pt 1:5-10; 3:16-18



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

THE VICTORY OVER WORLDLINESS

There is a better way ...

- **NOT to continue to sin** - (Ps. 119:11; Rom. 6; 1 Jn 3:1-10)
- **Abstain from every form of evil** - (1 Thes. 5:21,22)
- **Holy / Pure / Godly** - (1 Pet. 1:15-16; 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; 1 John 3:3; 1 Tim. 2:9; 4:8; James 1:27)



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

THE VICTORY OVER WORLDLINESS

There is a better way ...

1 John 5:2–5 (NKJV)

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

THE VICTORY OVER WORLDLINESS

There is a better way ...

1 John 5:2–5 (NKJV)

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



THE DANGER OF *The* WORLD's LEAVEN

THE VICTORY OVER WORLDLINESS

There is a better way ...

There is NOT ONE
THING that this
world has to offer
that is worth losing
your soul over!!
(Mat 16:26)



Dangers Facing The **LORD'S CHURCH**

REVELATION 2:18-29

**STORMY
WEATHER
AHEAD**

**DANGER OF THE
WORLD'S LEAVEN**

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1 PETER 1:13-21 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*” ¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear;

1 PETER 1:13-21 (NKJV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.