

WORLDLINESS

I John 2:15-17; James 4:4

The Most Dangerous Threat To God's People

WORLDLINESS

1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4

Worldliness is the greatest threat facing the church today.

It is the root cause of the majority of our problems, individually and collectively.

WHO HAS A PROBLEM WITH _____ ?

**Attendance / Giving / Spiritual Growth / Unity /
Doctrinal Purity / Evangelism / etc. ?**

WORLDLINESS

I John 2:15-17; James 4:4

WHAT IT IS ...

HOW IT IS MANIFESTED ...

WHAT IT DOES TO US ...

WHAT IS THE CURE?

WORLDLINESS

I John 2:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ ^v Do not love the world or the things in the world.

^w If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the ^u lust of the flesh, ^x the ^u lust of the eyes, and ^u the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And ^y the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

WORLDLINESS

James 4:1-4 (NKJV)

4 Where do ¹wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure ^athat war in your members? ²You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and ²war. ³Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ^{3b}You ask and do not receive, ^cbecause you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that ^dfriendship with the world is enmity with God? ^eWhoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Matthew 6:19-24 (NKJV)

¹⁹ ^t“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ ^ubut 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.

²² ^v“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is ⁷good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is ⁸bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

²⁴ ^w“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. ^xYou cannot serve God and ⁹mammon.

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WHAT IT IS ...



Merriam-Webster

1 : of, relating to, or devoted to this world and its pursuits rather than to religion or spiritual affairs

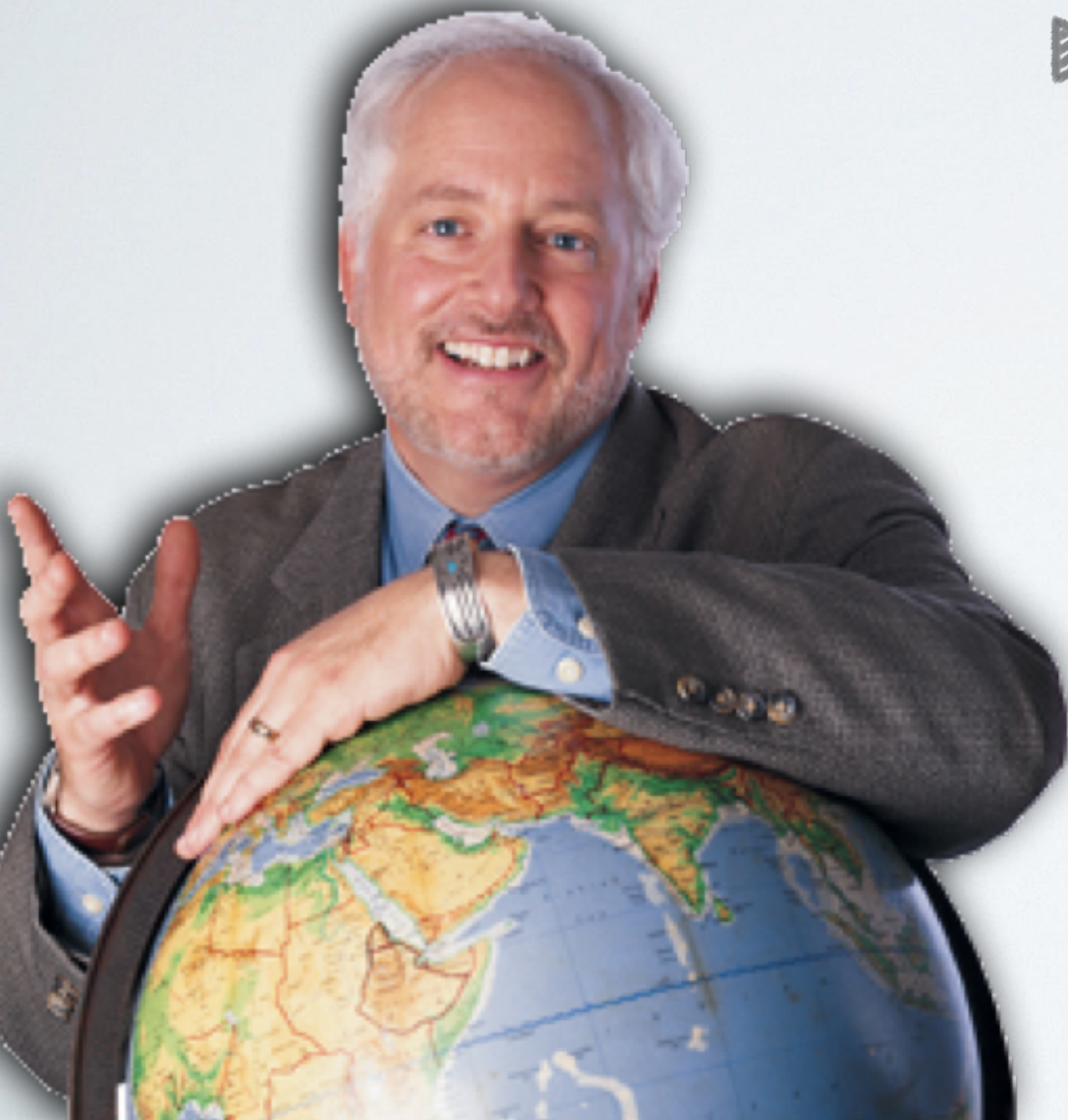
 Dictionary.com

1 : of or relating to this world as contrasted with heaven, spiritual life, etc.;
3 : devoted to, directed toward, or connected with the affairs, interests, or pleasures of this world.

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WHAT IT IS ...



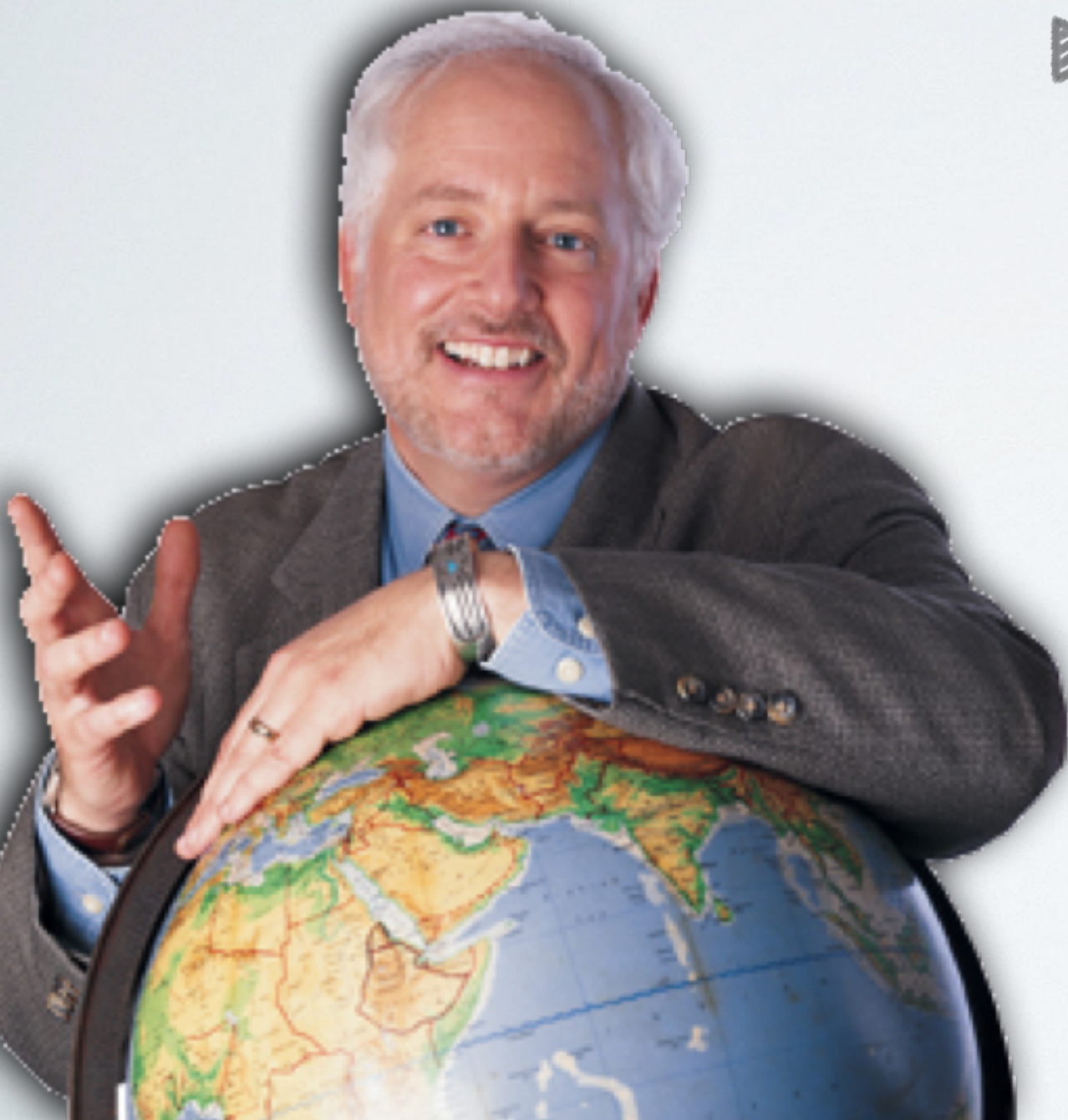
► Immorality / Things defined by scripture as sinful - 1 Cor. 6:9,10; Gal. 3:19-21;

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither 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.

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WHAT IT IS ...



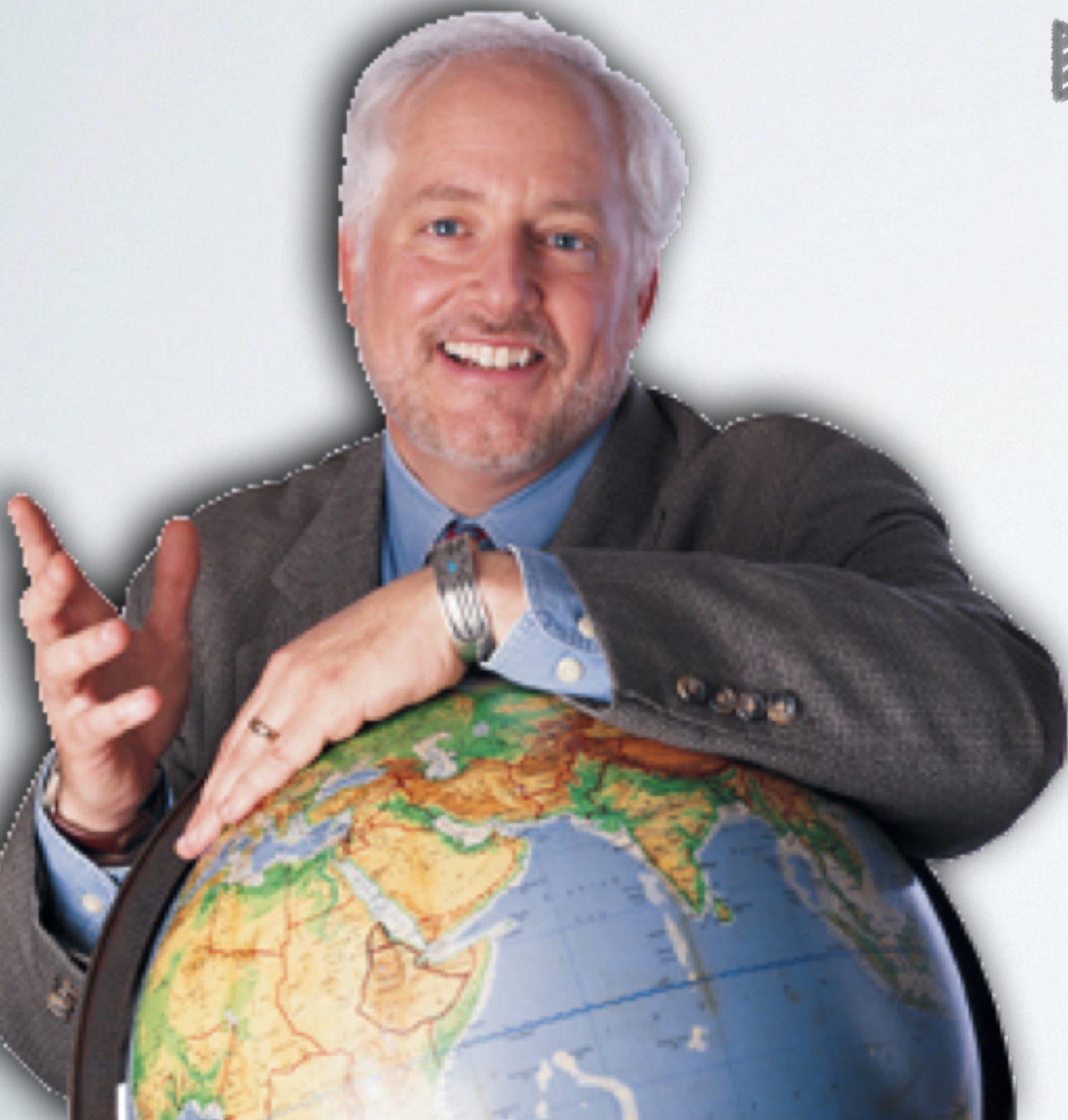
- ▶ Immorality / Things defined by scripture as sinful - 1 Cor. 6:9,10; Gal. 3:19-21;

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ ... 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; ...

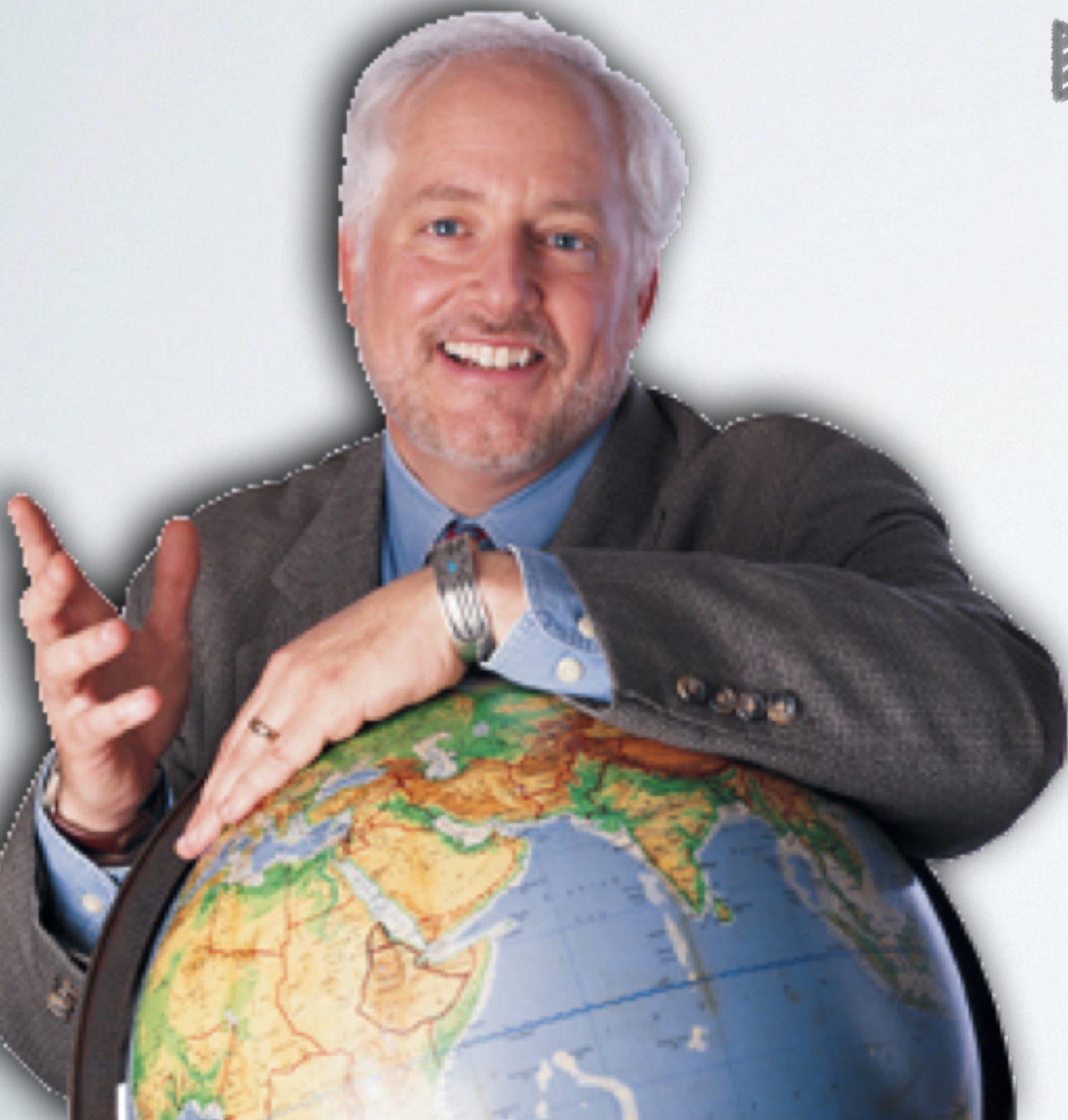
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WHAT IT IS ...



- ▶ Lust (*desires*) of the **flesh** -
I John 2:15-17 :
 - To selfishly seek things beyond the legitimate needs of the body and the desire to satisfy natural desires contrary to God's will — (e.g., gluttony; laziness; pleasure; covetousness; also fornication; adultery; stealing; etc.)
 - To place more value upon fleshly things than spiritual things.

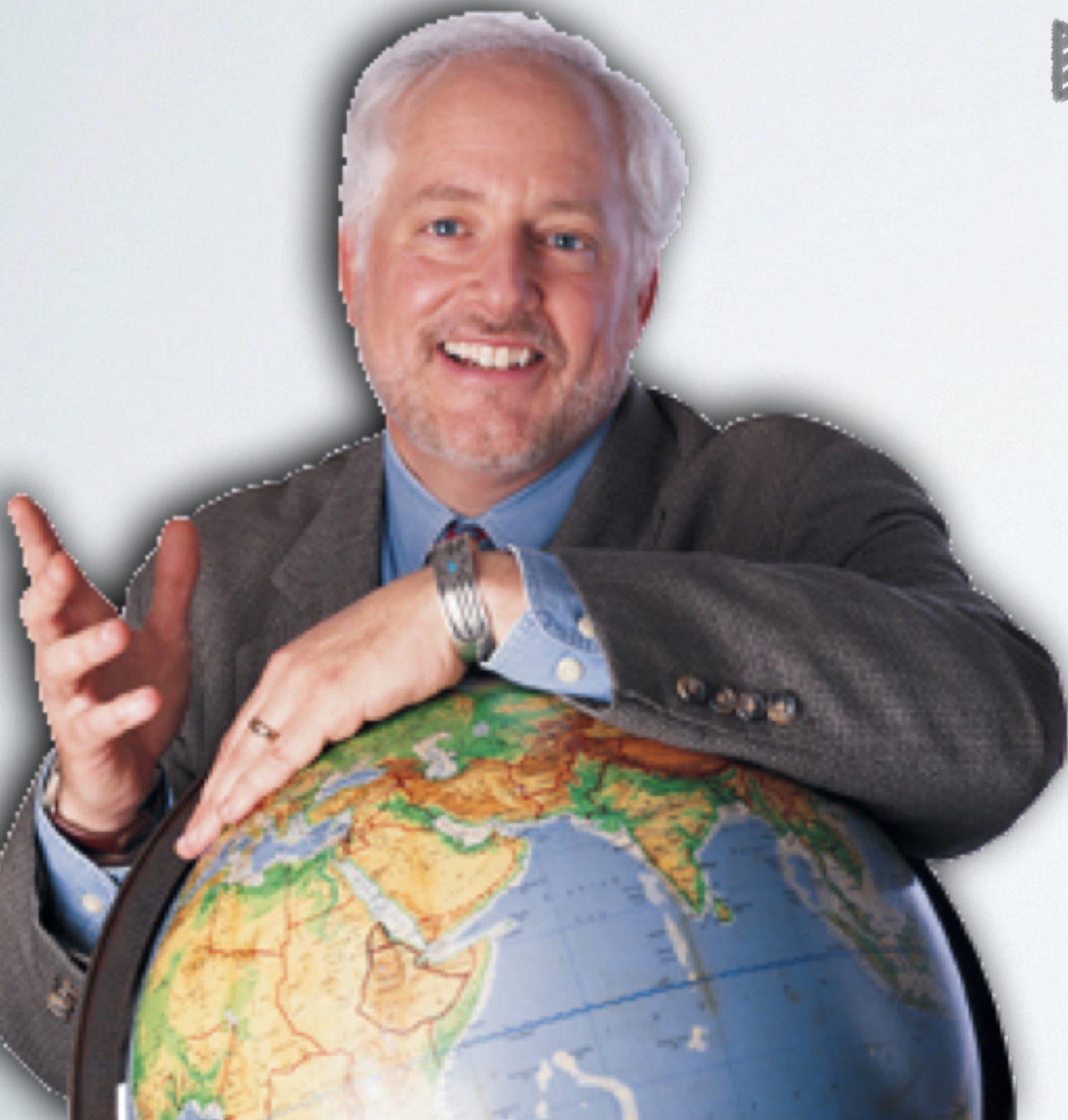
WHAT IT IS ...



- Lust (*desires*) of the **eyes** -
I John 2:15-17 :
- To selfishly seek things seen with the mind's covetous eye: e.g., money, possessions, pleasure, comforts, etc. (Jas. 4:1-3).
 - Life is not found in the abundance of things we possess! (Lk. 12:15; Matt. 16:26)
 - To focus our minds on things material rather than spiritual.

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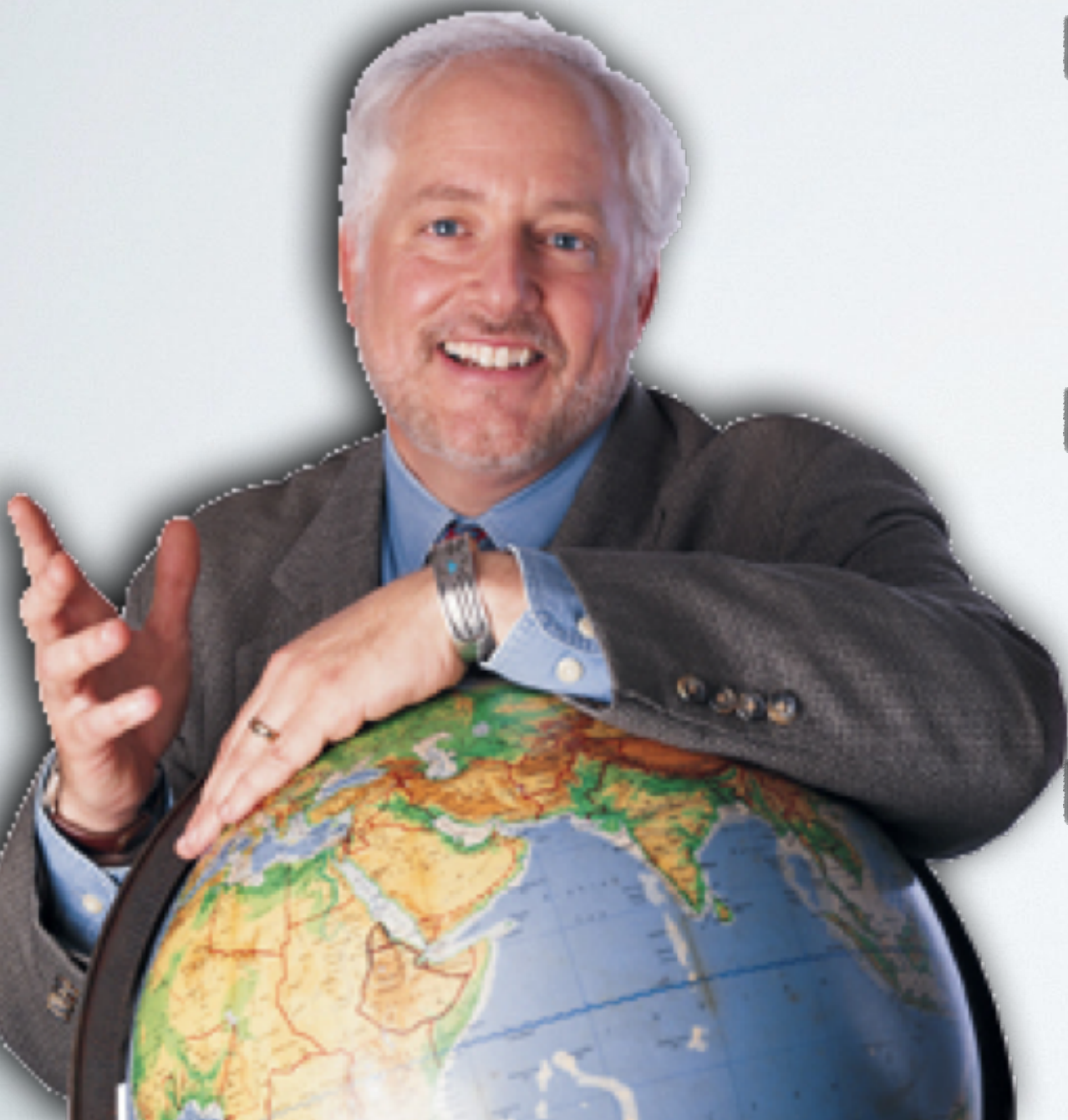
WHAT IT IS ...



- ▶ The **pride** of life (*exaltation of self*) - 1 John 2:15-17 :
 - The pursuit of things that will exalt us in the sight of men, not God (Jn 5:44).
 - The exaltation of self to the position of "self ruler" (Gen. 3:6; Rom 1:22,25)
 - To exalt our temporal life above our spiritual & eternal life (Jn 6:27; Mat 10:28)

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WHAT IT IS ...



- ▶ To have an affection for the things pertaining to this life with an accompanying lessening of affection for God and His will (Col. 3:1,2)
- ▶ To have our thinking conformed to the general thinking of the world rather than transformed by God (Rom. 12:1,2; James 3:14-16)
- ▶ Despite the fact that we must live "in this present world," we must deny "worldly lusts." (Jn 17:15-19; Titus 2:12; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1)

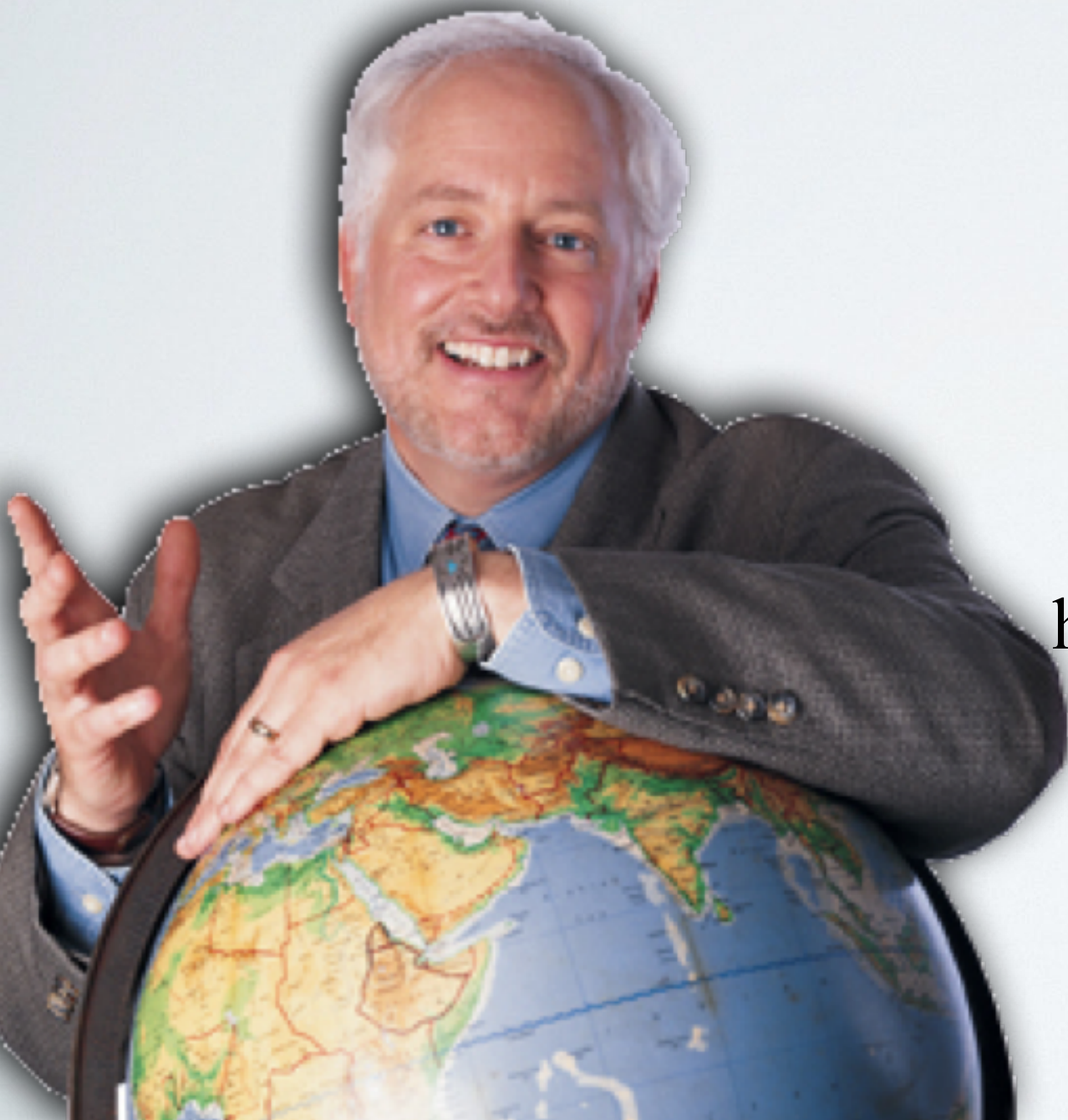
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WHAT IT IS ...

Titus 2:11–13 (NKJV)

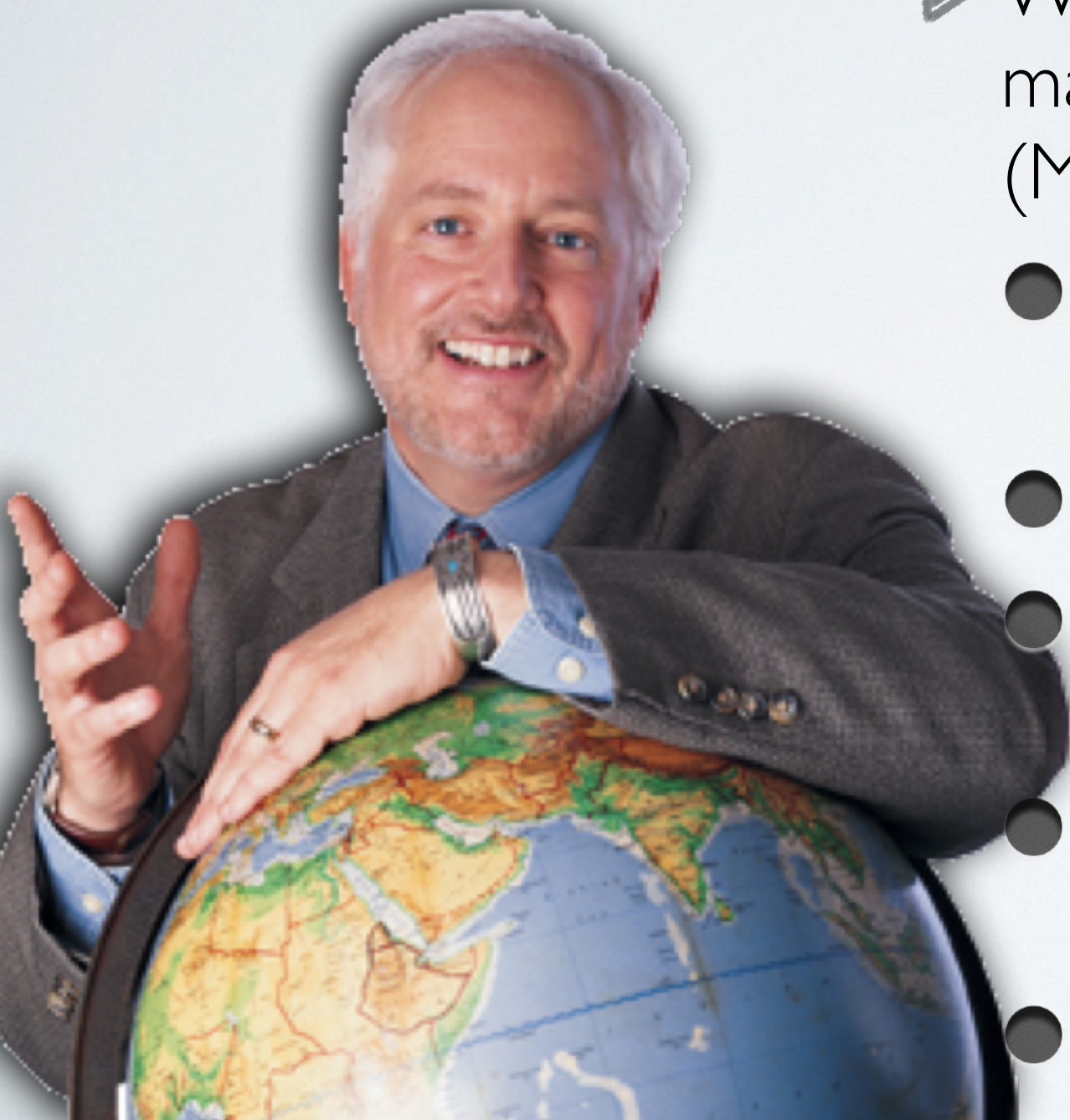
¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.



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HOW IT IS MANIFESTED ...

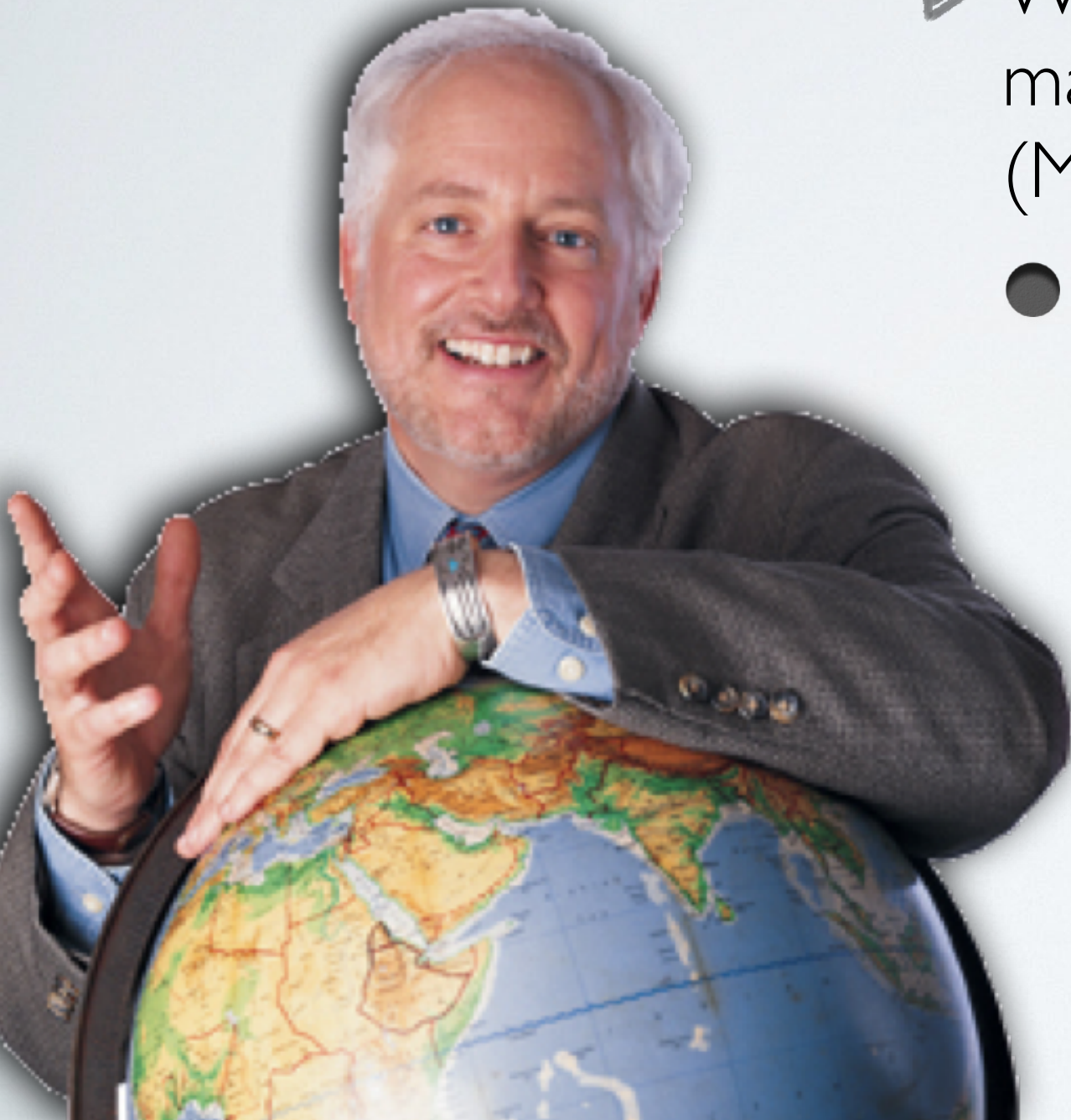


- ▶ Worldliness is a “state of mind” and is manifested in our **words** and deeds (Mat. 7:16-20; 12:23; James 3:12)
- Vulgar, filthy talk, dirty jokes (Eph. 5:4; Col. 3:8);
- Foolish talk (Eph. 5:4; Titus 3:9);
- Slander, blasphemy, backbiting (Eph. 4:31; Titus 3:1; 2 Cor. 12:20);
- Gossip, talebearing, busy bodies (1 Ti. 5:13; 2 Th. 3:11; 1 Pe. 4:15)
- Lying (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9)

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HOW IT IS MANIFESTED ...



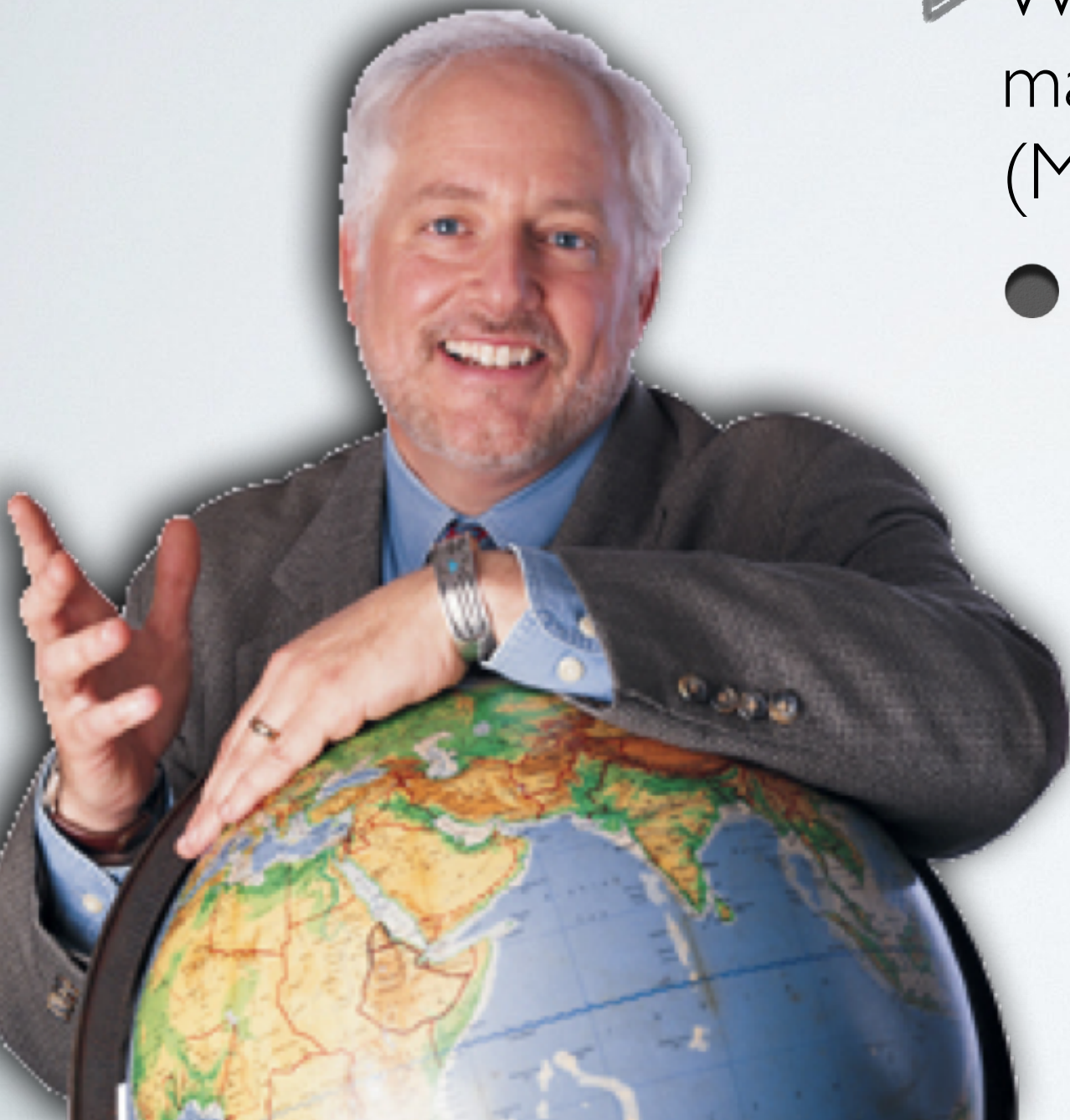
▶ Worldliness is a “state of mind” and is manifested in our words and **deeds** (Mat. 7:16-20; 12:23; James 3:12)

- **What we do** ; drunkenness / social drinking / recreational drugs / wearing immodest apparel / indecent bodily movements / ungodly and/or excessive forms of entertainment / prefer worldly friendships / exalt the opinion of men above God's word and God's people / etc. (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-18; 1 Tim 2:9)

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HOW IT IS MANIFESTED ...



▶ Worldliness is a “state of mind” and is manifested in our words and **deeds** (Mat. 7:16-20; 12:23; James 3:12)

- **What we do NOT do** ; attend worship & Bible class reg. / read & study Bible / Love the truth / pray / let light shine / talk to our friends and neighbors about Christ / good for others / submit to & respect gov. authorities / stand against evil / defend those standing for the truth / love brethren / etc. (Heb. 10:24,25; 2 Thes 2:10-12; Rom. 12:9-13:14)

HOW IT IS MANIFESTED ...



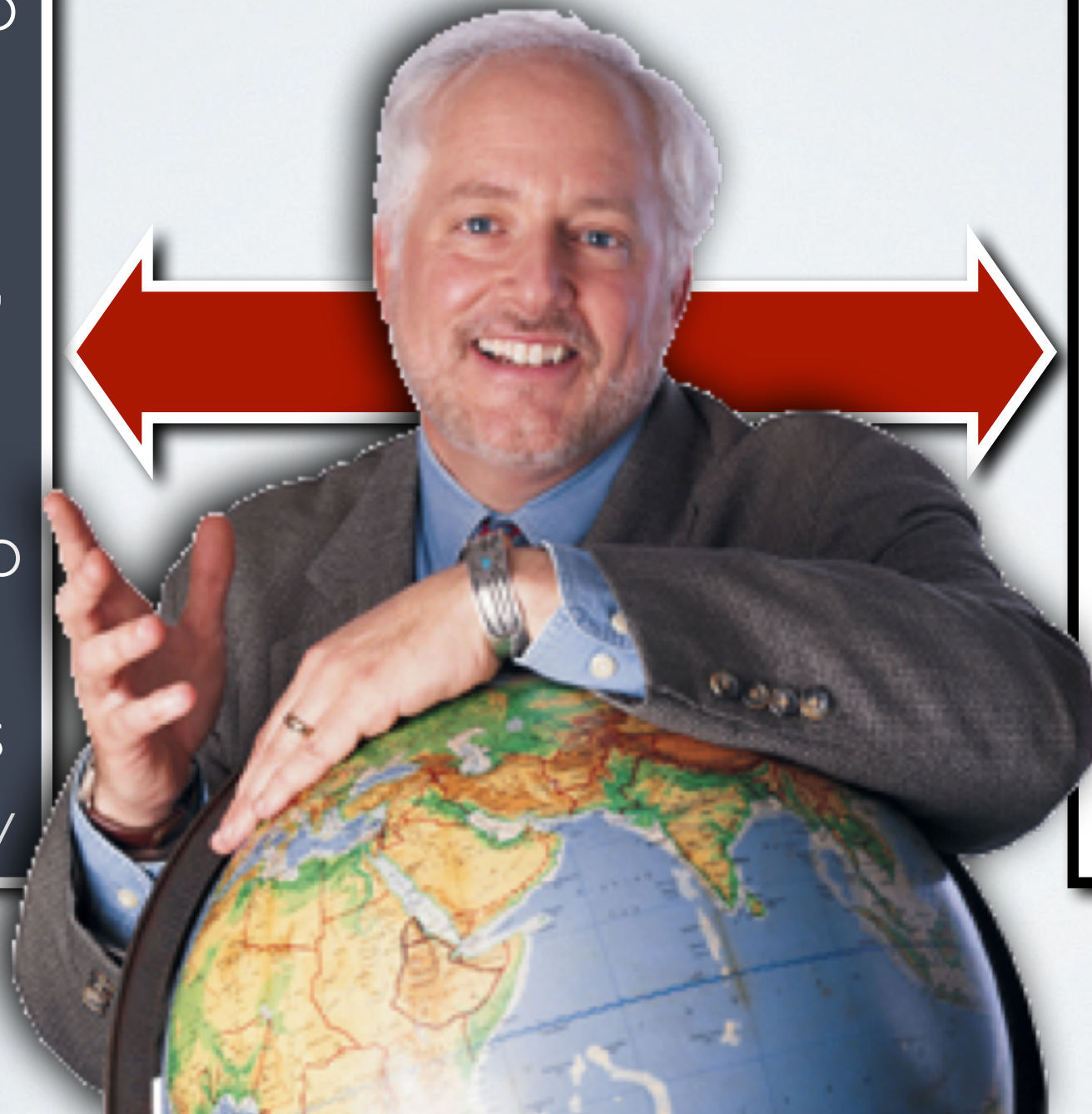
- ▶ The church in Corinth had a problem with worldliness in that he Paul declared them to be “carnal” (1 Cor. 3:1)
 - Divided - followed men (1:10-13)
 - Some respected human wisdom above God's revelation (1:18-2:13; 3:18-23; 4:6,7)
 - Tolerant of immorality (5:1-13)
 - Suing one another (6:1-11)
 - Abused Lord's Supper (11:17-34)
 - Abused gifts (12-14)
 - False teaching (15)

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HOW IT IS MANIFESTED ...

A Person Who Drinks, uses drugs, Curses, goes clubbing, wears immodest clothing, has no thought of spiritual things etc. Is Worldly



A Person Who does none of those things but is not in Christ, does not serve Christ, and does not seek the kingdom of God FIRST is in the same boat.

WORLDLINESS

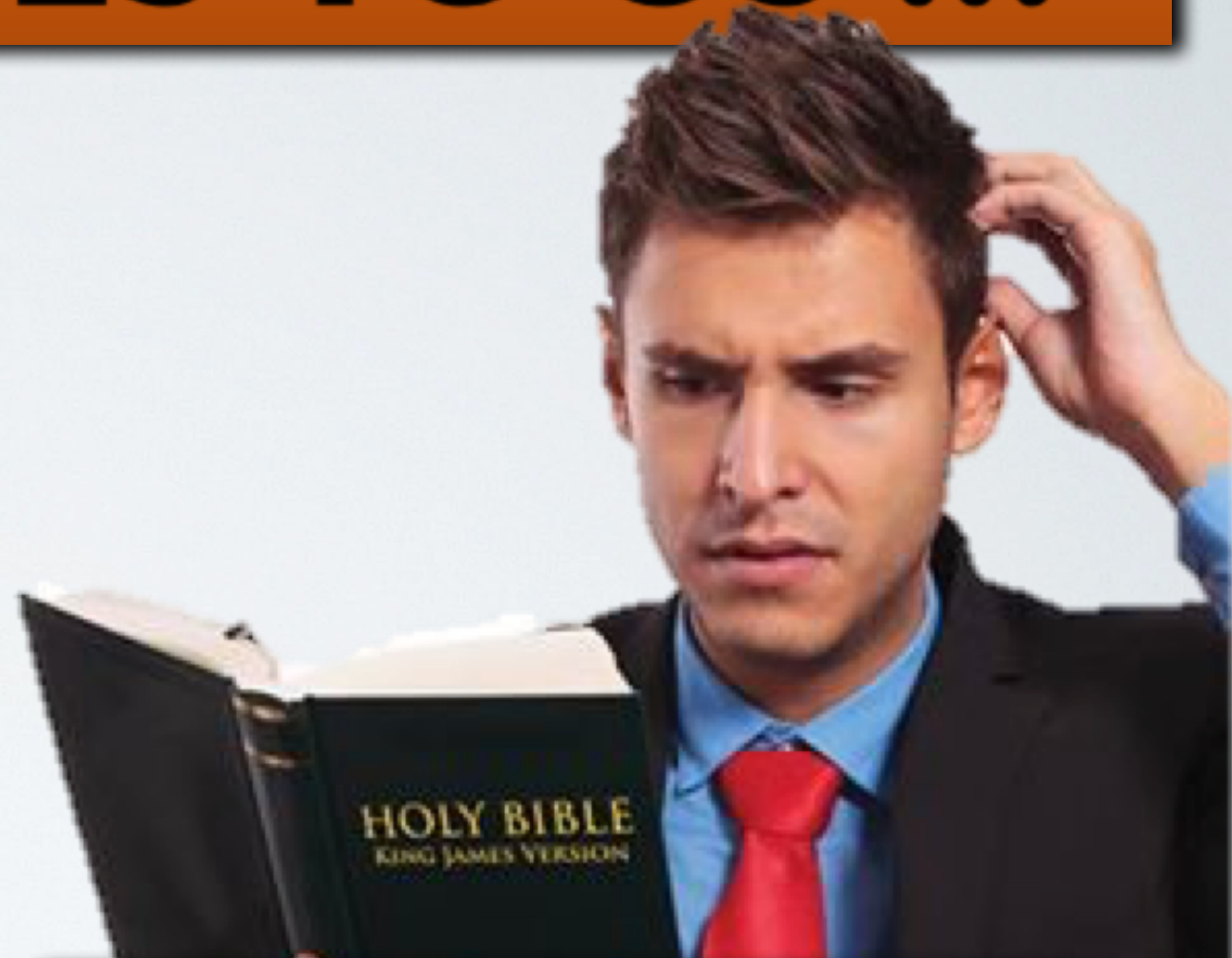
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WHAT IT DOES TO US ...

Ephesians 5:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that

He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.



Worldliness us makes us
**DEFILED, UNHOLY, &
RUINED.**

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WHAT IT DOES TO US ...

- ▶ Destroys our influence -
(Mat. 5:13,14; Rom. 2:24;
Phili 2:15)
- ▶ Makes worship vain –
(Prov. 1:28,29; Mic. 3:4;
Mat 15:7-9; Jn 9:31)
- ▶ Hinders our race and
growth - (Heb. 12:1-ff)
- ▶ Breaks fellowship (1
Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Thess.
3:6-15; 1 Jn 1:7-9)



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WHAT IT DOES TO US ...

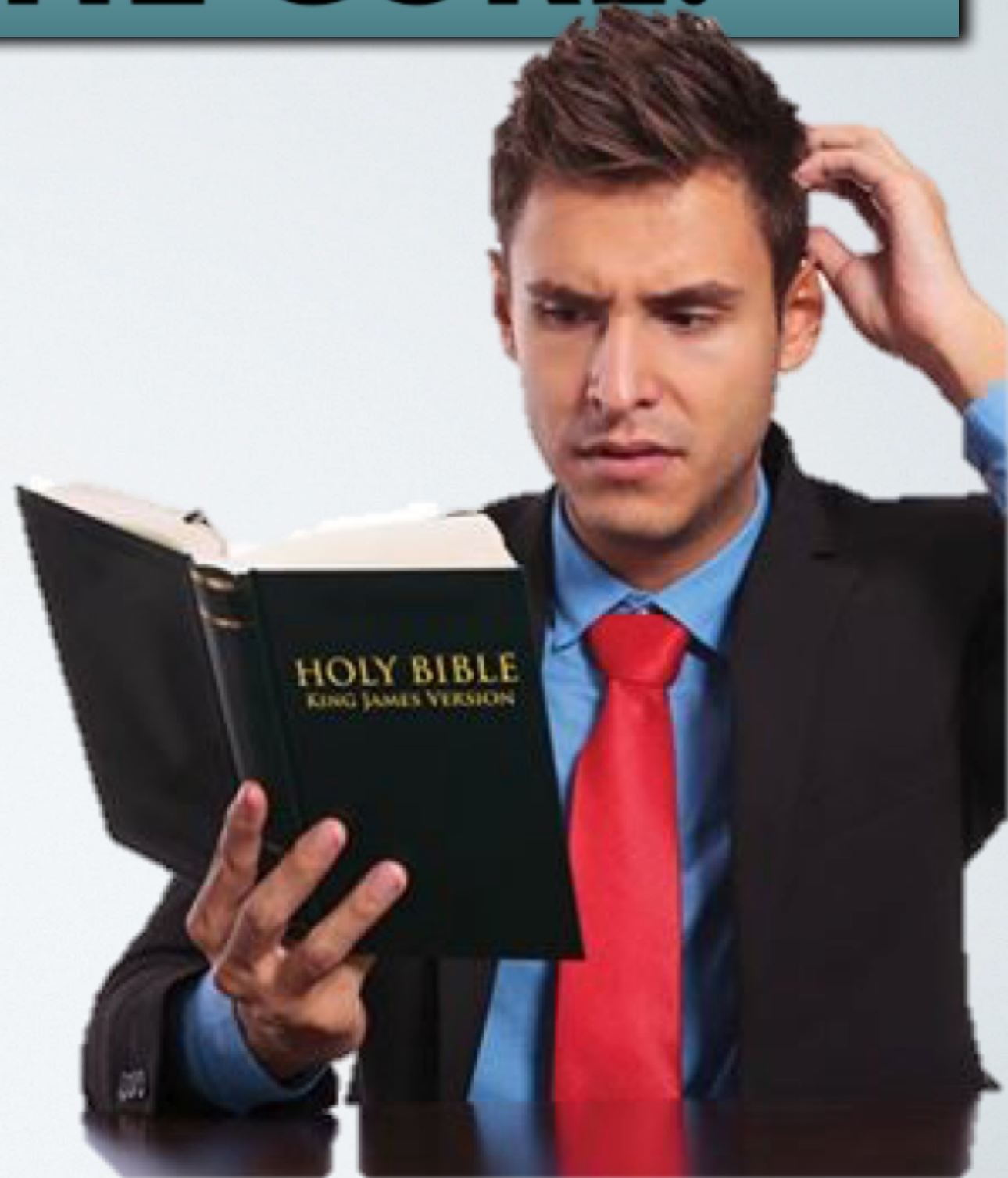
- ▶ Desensitizes to sin - (Eccl. 5:1; Rom 8:5; 1 Cor. 2:14)
- ▶ Separates from God – (Is. 59:1-2; Rom. 8:7,8; Jam. 4:4)
- ▶ Heart becomes hardened - (Mat. 13:15; Heb. 3:8,13)
- ▶ Suffer in this life - (Prov. 13:15; Jer. 2:19; Rom. 6:21)
- ▶ Eternal condemnation - (Rom. 6:23; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8)



WHAT IS THE CURE?

► **Obey the gospel -**

- Believe in Jesus enough to obey Him - Repent, confess Him, be baptized & live for Him) Rom 6:3-6, 16-18; 2 Thes 1:7-9; Col 1:13, 23; 2:12
- Grow in knowledge of Christ - 2 Pet 1:5-10; 3:16-18
- Continue to put on Christ - Col 3:12-17



WHAT IS THE CURE?

► **DIE TO THE WORLD:**

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



WORLDLINESS

1 John 5:1–5 (NKJV)

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. 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. 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?

WORLDLINESS

A nighttime photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, with numerous skyscrapers illuminated by lights. The Empire State Building is prominent on the right side, and the Chrysler Building is visible on the left. The lights from the buildings reflect on the water in the foreground.

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.

WORLDLINESS

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

WORLD LINES

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