

"Love not the world." - I John 2:15

Hey, teacher! Do your children know what the world is?
Do you know?

Today, there seems to be few who are *"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."* God said, *"Love not the world."* (I John 2:15) Jesus said, *"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."* (John 15:19) That's the way the church started out, but just look at things today. More and more, the world loves "Christian" music, "Christian" entertainers, "Christian" politicians, and the modern "Christian" message. It's a message that says, "be like the world in order to win the world" or "go ahead and sin that grace may abound." The fact is, more and more of what we call "Christian" today is not like Christ at all.

First of all, that word "love" in I John 2:15 is the kind of love that God has for us. It is the love that makes you sacrifice to meet the needs of others. It is the deepest kind of love. So the verse is saying that we are not to have that kind of love for the world.

Next, what is the world? I John 2:16 gives the answer. It is everything that appeals to your sinful human nature through the weaknesses of your body, your eyes, and your mind.

The lust of the flesh is your natural desire to provide easy, sinful pleasure for your body. These things feel good, taste good, smell good, and sound good, but they are transgressions of God's law. For example, God's law says, *"Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work."* (Exodus 20:9) Laziness and gluttony are sins that come from the lust of the flesh. You are lazy and gluttonous because your body craves more and more comfort and pleasure with little or no work. The opposite of this would be true Godly love which is **working sacrificially for others** - Christian, like our Lord Jesus Christ.

The lust of the eyes is your natural desire to see more of what God's law prohibits. You see an easy chair and there is no law against an easy chair. However, because of the lust of the eyes, it can trigger the lust of the flesh to be lazy. You see some delicious looking food and you may feel the lust of flesh to eat more than you need. The opposite is to **see things as God sees them** - Christian, like our Lord Jesus Christ. Seeing as God sees can only come through a study of the written record that reveals God to us.

The pride of life could be called the lust of the mind. Like the lust of the eyes, it can lead to the lust of the flesh. It is a desire to exalt yourself above others. The pride of life can enter through your silent meditations - times when you think on how to achieve a position of power and authority over others, or times when you glory in the position of power and authority you already have. The opposite of this would be a **servant's heart** - Christian, like our Lord Jesus Christ.

If we are to be salt to the world (Matthew 5:13), an offence (I Peter 2:8), a peculiar people (I Peter 2:9), we must define "the world" through thoughtful meditation on God's Word. The counsel of men is good, but remember, measure their counsel by the Word, not the Word by their counsel.

Object lesson: A "National Enquirer" or other *tabloid* magazine which features Predictions for the New Year.

Ask students: What is prophecy?

Ask students: How many of these "prophecies" do you think will come true?

True prophets were men through whom God spoke and told the future. Because what they said came from God, all -- 100% -- of what they prophesied came true! (Point to magazine) Much of what these men and women "prophecy" will not come true because they are either guessing or making it up. But the things God has spoken to us in the Bible will come true, because they are from God.

Matching Game: (teacher prep time - 25 minutes)

Using the Scroll pattern, make seven copies in one color, and seven copies in another color paper. (If colored paper unavailable, write in two different colored pens). One color signifies Prophecy, the other Fulfillment. Write out the verse on each scroll and place face up on the table. Have students in turn, read a prophecy and try to find the scripture which fulfilled that prophecy.

Hosea 11:1

Zechariah 9:9

Psalms 22:18

Isaiah 50:6

Isaiah 9:6,7

Isaiah 7:14

Micah 5:2

Matthew 2:14,15

Matthew 21:5

Matthew 27:35

Matthew 27:30

Matthew 1:16

Matthew 1:20

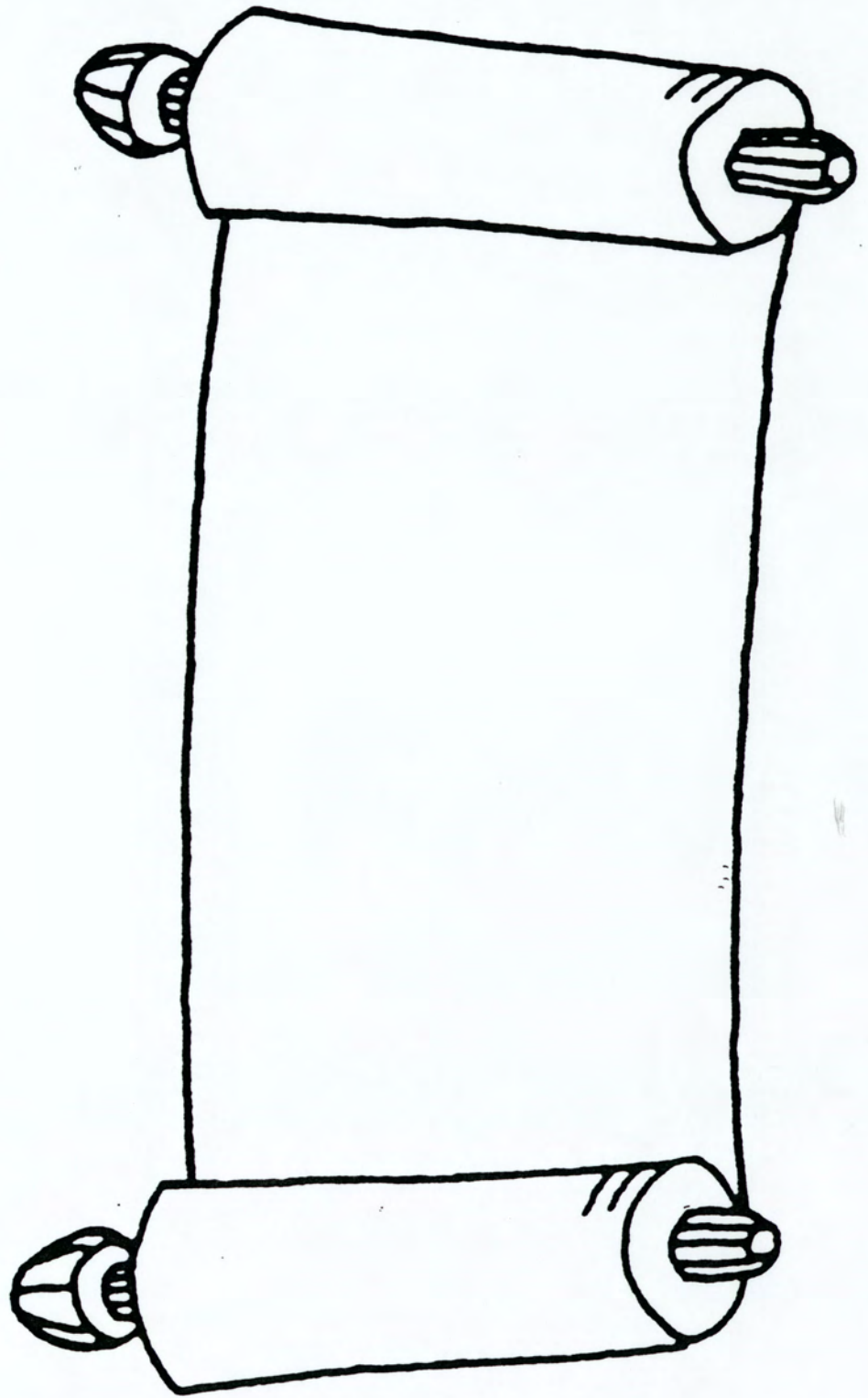
Matthew 2:1

Options for a larger class: Using a third color, copy the following verses which are Prophecies To Be Fulfilled. Discuss the fact that the same God who prophesied about Jesus' first coming has told us of His Second Coming, and these things will just as surely come true.

Acts 1:10,11

I Thessalonians 4:16,17

I Corinthians 15:51,52



Yes! It Shall!

Prophecy: Something that is declared by a prophet, especially a divinely inspired prediction of what is to come.

Fulfillment: A prophecy or promise coming to pass.

Promise: A declaration that something will or will not be done, given, etc.

You can read of many prophecies in the God's Word that have been fulfilled, but there are some that haven't happened — yet! We know that God always keeps His promises, and we are looking forward to the fulfillment of the prophecies and promises in the following verses. To help you remember that these will come to pass, read through the verses and fill in the blank lines with the words on the word list.

John 14:2-3 — “In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I _____ come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Acts 1:10-11 — “And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, _____ so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 — “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We _____ not all sleep, but we _____ all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet _____ sound, and the dead _____ be raised incorruptible, and we _____ be changed.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 — “For the Lord himself _____ descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ _____ rise first: Then we which are alive and remain _____ be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so _____ we ever be with the Lord.”

Word List

will
shall
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The disciples of Jesus wanted to know the signs of His Second Coming. Matthew 24, 5-14 lists things to look for. How have these prophecies been fulfilled?

“Many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”

“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...”

“There shall be famines...”

“Pestilences...”

“Earthquakes...”

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake.”

“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”



Match the prophecy with the fulfillment

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. — Matthew 2:16

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many.... — Hebrews 9:28

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. — I Thessalonians 4:16,17

NOT FULFILLED YET

Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. — Jeremiah 31:15

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. — Isaiah 53:6

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. — Micah 5:2

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. — Matthew 1:1

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. — Isaiah 7:14

NOT FULFILLED YET

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. — Acts 1:11

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. — Matthew 1:18

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king.... — Matthew 2:1

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. — Isaiah 9:7

History in Advance

Text: Isaiah 6,7; Matthew 1:16; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Acts 1:10,11; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17



What does the word prophecy mean?



How do you know if a prophet is a true prophet? See Jeremiah 28:9.



Why is the virgin birth of Christ important?



What future event does the Bible prophesy?



Do you think this will happen? Why or why not?
