

Sermon Discussion Questions | April 17, 2016 **Hebrews 12:1-2, I John 2:12-17 | “Look Unto Jesus, Not to the World”**

1. Can you recite *Hebrews 12:1-2* yet from memory? Isn't it wonderful? Keep trying!
2. Can you explain our foundational principle that: “the human eye cannot simultaneously focus on two objects at two different distances with equal clarity at the same time.”?
3. What was the topic of last week's admonition? – Focus on Jesus, not your _____.
4. What are the three general meanings of the world, *world*?
5. What are the three great “enemies” of the Christian (the “trilogy of terror”) that we must be aware of and do battle against (see *Gal. 5:19-21; I Peter 5:8; I John 2:15-17*)?
6. Can you effectively fight this battle alone? What role does the church play in this warfare? What role does Scripture study and prayer play in this battle?
7. The corrupt *world* of which John speaks in our passage has three distinct features. What are they, what do they mean, and how have they personally tempted you? (If you are in a study group, you may want to compare various Bible translations of vs. 16).
8. Five reasons are given for why you should and can resist the corrupt influence of the *world* in your life. Ponder and discuss them:
 - (1) its spiritual competition (*vs. 15*)
 - (2) its addictive attraction (*vs. 15*)
 - (3) its godless origin (see *vs. 16*)
 - (4) its temporal duration (*vs. 16*)
 - (5) its lethal deception
9. Discuss the four specific lies mentioned as the *world's* lethal deception was explained:
 - (1) pleasure
 - (2) success
 - (3) freedom
 - (4) identity

10. The *gospel* vs. the *world* in the battle for your identity: two formulas

(1) YOUR APPEARANCE + YOUR PERFORMANCE = YOUR ACCEPTANCE

(2) CHRIST'S APPEARANCE + CHRIST'S PERFORMANCE = YOUR ACCEPTANCE

(3) MY ACCEPTANCE (in the gospel) = MY APPEARANCE + MY PERFORMANCE

11. Read, ponder, and celebrate the glorious truth of your true identity in vs. 12-14 and in *1 John 3:1-2*. How does gospel identity empower us to resist worldly seduction?