

Briefing Document: 1 John Lesson 34, "God Hates This Love"

September 3, 2025

This briefing document summarizes key themes and important concepts from the provided sermon "1 John Lesson 34, September 3, 2025." The sermon primarily focuses on the Christian's relationship with "the world" and the ongoing spiritual warfare against anti-Christ ideologies.

I. Defining "The World" and Its Opposition to Christ

The sermon emphasizes a specific definition of "the world" when discussing God's hatred for it. It's not the physical creation or the people within it, but rather a "system that is against Christ."

- **Satan-Inspired System:** The world is everything that is Satan-inspired. This system involves the unregenerate, those that have not yet come to the Lord as children of disobedience.
- **Opposition to the Gospel:** The world's system opposes the gospel of Jesus Christ. For Christians, the purest and truest expression of their redeemed soul is that they should, according to John, hate anything that opposes Jesus Christ.
- **Common Denominator of Anti-Christ:** The dominant spirit of the world is antichrist. This includes agnosticism, atheism, sophisticated forms of religion, and aberrant forms of Christianity. The key characteristic is a misrepresentation of Jesus Christ and the glories of salvation.
- **False Prophets and Worldly Affinity:** False prophets hate Christianity and promote misrepresentations. The world understands their language better and has an affinity with them, while true believers are opposite from the world.

II. The Christian's Relationship with the World

- **Citizenship in Heaven:** Philippians 3:20 (NKJV) says, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."
- **Dead to the World, Yet Tempted:** While Christians have died to the world because of their calling in Christ, they can still find the world alluring and be tempted to draw back. This struggle is central to the Christian walk.
- **Hating the System, Loving the People:** Christians are not called to hate creation or people. Instead, they should love people just as God does, seeking to lead them to the Lord. God's common grace is shown as He "sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:45, NKJV)

- **No Place in False Religious Systems:** A Christian cannot remain in a false religious system for long because such systems hate everything true Christians love. Ignorance of a false system is not an excuse for God's judgment.
- **Divine Love and Exclusive Affection:** Love is a supreme affection and allows no rivals. True love for Christ excludes all other rivals. If one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them (1 John 2:15, NKJV).
- **Sin vs. Worldly System:** One can sin without the worldly system. Christians, however, are convicted when they sin and must repent and confess their sins to the Lord.

III. Spiritual Warfare and Destroying Strongholds

- **Militant Church:** There are two churches of God: the redeemed church in heaven and the militant church on earth.
- **Non-Carnal Weapons:** Spiritual warfare is not according to the flesh. The weapons are not human but mighty in God.
- **Pulling Down Strongholds:** Christians must pull down strongholds, which are worldly ways of thinking carried over into the Christian life. These are antichrist and degrade the Holy Spirit's work.
- **Casting Down Arguments and Lofty Thoughts:** Believers must cast down arguments, imaginations, and prideful thoughts raised against the knowledge of God.
- **Captivity to Christ:** Every thought should be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5, NKJV).
- **Individual and Corporate Responsibility:** Destroying the world system is both a corporate responsibility of the church and an individual duty of believers.

IV. Paul's Conversion as a Model

- **Former Anti-Christ Figure:** Paul, formerly Saul, was deeply entrenched in the antichrist system, acting as a false prophet who promoted the system of the world. He considered his religious achievements (circumcision, Israelite lineage, Pharisee status, and blamelessness under the law) as gain.
- **Encounter with Truth:** On the Damascus Road, Christ confronted Paul with the truth, humbling him.
- **Counting All as Loss/Trash:** Paul's transformation led him to declare, "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ." (Philippians 3:7, NKJV). He referred to his former achievements as skubalon (Greek: σκύβαλον, pronounced SKOO-bah-lon), meaning refuse, garbage, or trash.
- **Cessation of Worldly Love:** This marked the end of Paul's love for the world, including his ideological, theological, philosophical, and religious accomplishments.

V. Warnings and Encouragement

- **Spiritual Defection:** One of the most devastating issues in ministry is spiritual defection, when individuals claim to follow Christ but later forsake Him. Judas serves as an example that even those close to Christ can defect.
- **Spiritual Growth:** The sermon encourages believers to grow from spiritual children (easily swayed) to spiritual young men and eventually to mature spiritual fathers in the Lord, emphasizing purity and closeness to God.
- **Battle for the Mind:** Spiritual potential cannot be reached until the battle for the mind is won.

Greek Words

- σκύβαλον (skúbalon, pronounced SKOO-bah-lon): Meaning refuse, garbage, or trash. Paul uses this word in Philippians 3:8 to describe his former accomplishments as worthless compared to knowing Christ.