

# WORLDLINESS AND WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS

**BIBLE TEXT** : I John 2:15, 16; John 15:19; Romans 12:2;

I Corinthians 10:23, 24, 31-33; 14:26; Titus 2:6-10.

LESSON 265 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31).

## BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

### **1 John 2:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

### **John 15:19**

<sup>19</sup> 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.

### **Romans 12:2**

<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

### **1 Corinthians 10:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

<sup>24</sup> Let no man seek his own, but every man another's *wealth*.

### **1 Corinthians 10:31-33**

<sup>31</sup> Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

<sup>32</sup> Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

<sup>33</sup> Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own

## BIBLE REFERENCES:

### **I Worldliness**

1. The Word of God commands all not to love the world, neither the things in the world, I John 2:15; Romans 12:2;

**Colossians 3:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

2. Men are commanded to love God, and to forsake earthly riches and gain,

**1 Timothy 6:6-12**

<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain.

<sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

<sup>8</sup> And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

<sup>9</sup> But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

<sup>11</sup> But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

<sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

**Haggai 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it into a bag with holes*.

**Proverbs 23:5**

<sup>5</sup> Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

**Proverbs 27:24**

<sup>24</sup> For *riches are* not for ever: and doth the crown *endure to every generation?* \

**Ecclesiastes 2:18**

<sup>18</sup> Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

**Ecclesiastes 2:26**

<sup>26</sup> For God giveth to a man that *is* good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to *him that is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

**Matthew 6:19**

<sup>19</sup> Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

**Luke 12:20**

<sup>20</sup> But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things

profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

### 1 Corinthians 14:26

<sup>26</sup> How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

### Titus 2:6-10

<sup>6</sup> Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

<sup>7</sup> In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

<sup>8</sup> Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

<sup>9</sup> *Exhort* servants to be obedient unto their own masters, *and* to please *them* well in all *things*; not answering again;

<sup>10</sup> Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21

<sup>21</sup> So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

3. The lusts of the flesh is of the world, I John 2:16;

Numbers 11:4

<sup>4</sup> And the mixt multitude that *was* among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

Numbers 11:34

<sup>34</sup> And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted.

Psalms 78:18

<sup>18</sup> And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.

Psalms 78:30

<sup>30</sup> They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat *was* yet in their mouths,

Matthew 5:27-30

<sup>27</sup> Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

<sup>28</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

<sup>29</sup> And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

<sup>30</sup> And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Romans 13:14

<sup>14</sup> But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

1 Corinthians 10:6-10

<sup>6</sup> Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

<sup>7</sup> Neither be ye idolaters, as *were* some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

<sup>8</sup> Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

<sup>9</sup> Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

<sup>10</sup> Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Galatians 5:16

<sup>16</sup> *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Ephesians 2:3

<sup>3</sup> Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Titus 2:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

<sup>13</sup> Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:14

<sup>14</sup> As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

1 Peter 2:11

<sup>11</sup> Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

**1 Peter 4:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

<sup>3</sup> For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

**2 Peter 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government.

Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

**Jude 1:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words*, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

<sup>17</sup> But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

<sup>18</sup> How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

**4. The lust of the eyes is of the world,**

**Genesis 3:6**

<sup>6</sup> And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

**Genesis 13:10**

<sup>10</sup> And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

**Joshua 7:21**

<sup>21</sup> When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they *are* hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

**Psalms 119:37**

<sup>37</sup> Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

**Ecclesiastes 5:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: *this is* also vanity.

<sup>11</sup> When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good *is there* to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of *them* with their eyes?

**Luke 4:5**

<sup>5</sup> And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

**5. The pride of life is of the world,**

**Esther 1:3-7**

<sup>3</sup> In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, *being* before him:

<sup>4</sup> When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, *even* an hundred and fourscore days.

<sup>5</sup> And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;

<sup>6</sup> Where were white, green, and blue, *hangings*, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds *were* of gold and

silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.

<sup>7</sup> And they gave *them* drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.

**Psalm 73:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them *as* a garment.

<sup>7</sup> Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

<sup>8</sup> They are corrupt, and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression: they speak loftily.

<sup>9</sup> They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

**Daniel 4:30**

<sup>30</sup> The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

**Ezekiel 28:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

<sup>13</sup> Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

<sup>14</sup> Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

<sup>15</sup> Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

<sup>16</sup> By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

<sup>17</sup> Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

**Acts 12:20-23**

<sup>20</sup> And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's *country*.

<sup>21</sup> And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

<sup>22</sup> And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.*

<sup>23</sup> And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

**Revelation 3:17**

<sup>17</sup> Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

**Revelation 18:11-16**

<sup>11</sup> And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

<sup>12</sup> The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most

precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,  
<sup>13</sup> And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

<sup>14</sup> And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

<sup>15</sup> The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

<sup>16</sup> And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

## II Worldly Amusements

1. The Christian is separated and distinct from those whose affections and desires are worldly, Romans 12:2; Titus 2:6-10; John 15:19.

**Titus 2:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

<sup>12</sup> Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

2. Christians are to please God and not men; and to live lives that help, not hinder, their brethren, I Corinthians 10:23, 24, 31-33;

**1 Corinthians 14:26**

<sup>26</sup> How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

3. Carnal festivities are an abomination unto God,

**Exodus 32:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*:

**1 Peter 4:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

<sup>4</sup> Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*:

**Galatians 5:21**

<sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

**Isaiah 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear *them*.

**Daniel 5:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

<sup>2</sup> Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which *was* in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

<sup>3</sup> Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which *was* at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives,



and his concubines, drank in them.

<sup>4</sup> They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

<sup>5</sup> In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

**Luke 15:13**

<sup>13</sup> And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

### **NOTES:**

#### **Love of the World**

The words of the Holy Spirit, through the Apostle John, to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world" are not just idle words. They were the inspired command of God to all men, everywhere, who entertained any hopes or desires of dwelling in eternal peace with Him. To love the world is to hate God! In the Epistle of James we read, "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). That man or woman who dares ignore such warnings does so at his own peril. There are many religions of the present day whose philosophy, precepts, and tenets permit and encourage fellowship and association with the world. Those religions are of the world. The lives, desires, affections, and the very being of those who accept them are part and parcel of the world, and cannot be separated from it. The Gospel of Jesus Christ gives no license for worldly associations and fellowship. The follower of Jesus Christ keeps the commands of his Master, and separates himself from the world.

When a soul harbours affection for the world, and the things it affords and promises, he cannot be a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Bible draws a picture of the world in its true colour; and declares in many ways, and in many places, that it is gaudy, sensual, devilish, and doomed to a soon and certain destruction. (**James 3:15** <sup>15</sup> **This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.** **1 John 2:17** <sup>17</sup> **And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.** **Luke 21:34** <sup>34</sup> **And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.** **Matthew 24:38** <sup>38</sup> **For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark)**

Many people think that if a majority of their neighbours indulge in some sinful passion or vice they are justified in doing likewise. Though all the world goes contrary to the will of God, there is not one single person who can justify his action in doing likewise. God is capable of bringing the whole human race to the bar of judgement for an accounting for sin, and He has promised man that He will do it in the proper time. To indulge in sin and be a partaker of worldly appetites will cause one to suffer the wrath of God for his wickedness.

The world has by a large majority rejected Christ and remained indifferent to His cause. These are the people who make up the world. Their actions, their thoughts, their deeds are a continual and constant digression from God, and the end of their lives is the opposite of holiness and righteousness. Their friendships, clubs, businesses, their every movement of life are toward the satisfying of themselves through sinful desires and pleasures. One must, then, either live a life that is pleasing to God, or be adjudged part of the world, whose end is everlasting damnation.

## Not of the World

The Christian is in the world, but not of it. He does not hide himself away in a monastery, away from the vices and evils that are in the world; for men need to be told of the Gospel and the power of God to save men from sin. A Christian can work and live a life pleasing to God in the midst of a perverse and wicked generation, and be a testimony for God. There is no excuse for men to say they cannot live a Christian life at their work or in everyday life, because it is the testimony of God's people everywhere that they can and do live a victorious life. In the armed forces, in business, at home, anywhere and everywhere, God's people live for Him (**Daniel 1:8** <sup>8</sup> **But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Hebrews 11:24-26** <sup>24</sup> **By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; <sup>25</sup> Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; <sup>26</sup> Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward)**

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1, 2). If our affection is on godly things, on the Kingdom of God, we can rest assured we are not of the world. Those in the world have their treasure in the world, and Jesus said that where a man's treasure is, there is his heart also (**Matthew 6:21** <sup>21</sup> **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also**).

## Lovers of Pleasure

One of the signs of the last days is that men shall be "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (II Timothy 3:4). The widespread seeking after pleasure, which is so universally accepted, has become one of the worst forms of worldliness and ungodliness. Without question, God wants His people to be happy and to have true pleasure. And within the pages of the Word of God is the proper place to find its source. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

When a nation of people goes out, en masse, on the Lord's Day to become a nation pleasures seekers, without thought of God, but only to indulge in whatever thing with which they hope to satisfy their souls, that nation is rapidly becoming reprobate and worldly, to a serious degree. There is not a civilised nation today that has not indulged in eating, drinking, and making merry until it has become sin. Jesus said of such, "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:38, 39).

The Bible further states of those who eat, drink, and are merry for no other purpose than to satiate some carnal desires: "Many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things" (Philippians 3:18, 19). Gluttony is ranked with drunkenness by God, and is sin. (**Proverbs 23:21** <sup>21</sup> **For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. Isaiah 56:12** <sup>12</sup> **Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant. Luke 12:19** <sup>19</sup> **And I will say to**

**my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 1 Timothy 5:6 <sup>6</sup> But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth)**

### **Exercise unto Godliness**

The Christian does not support by participation or association organised sports, dances, and theatres, because first of all the atmosphere and spirit of such things are directly opposed to the Spirit of Christ. Those who participate in or attend such are sinners, and the entire purpose of all such entertainment is to entertain the carnal heart, the heart of sin. The little good that can be found in them is more than undone by the great amount of evil with it. The modern movie has become the greatest perpetrator of criminal tendencies in children that the world has ever seen. The movie industry has exploited the evil tendencies of men's hearts toward sin, and has flooded civilisation with a tide of iniquity and evil. The screen has taught men to do evil, has applauded all manner of wickedness and derided that which is wholesome and good.

The invention of television has been hailed as one of the great steps forward in civilisation in recent years. Perhaps it would be if it were used for the good of mankind and the glory of God. It has already proved itself just as adept at the preaching of evil as the movie, and more so than the radio, because it combines the medium of the eye and the ear, which are the two greatest avenues of learning. For a Christian to look at and listen to the portrayal of crime and sin in every form imaginable, which comprises the majority of programs on television, is to condone that which they see and hear, and to be a part of it. The two greatest promoters of television are the liquor and the cigarette industry, which have helped to damn untold numbers of people into a lost eternity; and even to listen to their sales talk is enough to make one liable to like condemnation.

Parents should warn their children in connection with magazines and "comic" books, some of which have a definite influence upon them to think and do evil.

What is wrong about Christians' playing in organised sports? is a question often asked. Paul said to Timothy, a young minister: "Bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8). Organised sports of the present day are first of all, a mild form of the old Roman gladiator games when contestants fought to the death. Modern sports are based upon the principles of competition. To win is everything; and men are trained to great degrees of ability in some particular field that they might win against all. Nothing is more contrary to the Gospel of Christ than the spirit of strength and ability to win against all. (**Zechariah 4:6 <sup>6</sup> Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. 1 Samuel 2:9 <sup>9</sup> He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail**) The Christian seeks to excel in godly virtues, but desires to excel that he might glorify God, and does not seek to glorify himself.

The Christian is told by the Word of God, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Romans 12:10). Such an attitude is not found in organised sports. A winner is exalted because of his own ability and powers. No thought or honour is given to God who made the body, and in whom we live, and move, and have our being. God denounces the exaltation of self as it is being satanically inspired. (**Proverbs 25:27 <sup>27</sup> It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to**



search their own glory is not glory. Matthew 23:12 <sup>12</sup> And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. Genesis 3:5 <sup>5</sup> For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Isaiah 14:14 <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High) Christ died to save men from the wages of sin, and gave men power to overcome the power of evil and self.

Long ago, the public has been told of widespread bribery and crime within college sports. Young men by the scores have had their lives ruined by crime; many sentenced to jail because of deliberately losing games in order to win gambling bets. College sports have become so corrupt that many colleges and universities are seriously considering dropping all intercollegiate sports from their curriculum. Does a Christian belong in such things?

What one good thing can be said for boxing and wrestling? Men's lives are tossed away continually, losers in the bloody business of modern sports. God alone knows the extent of corruption to men's souls and morals that has been caused by public demand for boxing, wrestling, horse racing, and all the other so-called "clean sports."

There is much clean and wholesome recreation that a Christian can partake of that is beneficial to mind and health, such as boating, fishing, hunting, and swimming. The Gospel enables people to enjoy life and these various activities better, because it gives them inner peace and satisfaction. The Christian does not need to be involved in worldly deals and harmful recreation in order to be happy.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What is meant by worldliness?
2. How has radio, movies, and television done great harm by their programs?
3. What is the reason Christians do not participate in organised sports?
4. Suggest several forms of activity a Christian can have for healthful exercise and enjoyment.
5. Why is a Christian not to love the world, nor the things that are in the world?