

John - Commentaries by Tim A. Roach

Pella Conference: 2016, Living for Jesus (17:14,22,24)

Address—Tim Roach

Good afternoon Uh, we've had a little bit in our readings about the, uh life of a Pilgrim and a stranger in this world and the life of faith. Umm like to speak a little bit about uh the Christian living in this in this world. And let's start by seeing #234. We're not of this world which fadeth away. We're not of the night, but children of day, the chains that once bound us by Jesus. Are riven. We're strangers on earth. Our home is in heaven, and I want us to look at the difference there is between the church, the believers, and the world. There is a difference, and God looks at us as being different and special to him #234. How may I help you today? Thank you so much, Mr. And how long will it take me to subscribe to the next day? Thank you for this number. Speaking to someone. Uh, because I'm not going to do that. I don't want to buy a plane and everybody if I'm going to run so many of my life. Nsnoise. I want to talk and we Christians, we live in a corrupted, sin, corrupted world. And this present world, it has much to offer and to attract the Christian, but at the same time this world is drawing our hearts away from the Lord Jesus. In this present world, it offers some things that maybe aren't bad in themselves, but we might allow these things to entertain us and to amuse us and to. And to make us forget about living for Jesus. And so we end up becoming distracted by this present world. But we also live in a present evil world.

And there's a world that includes pride, jealousy, *****. As like was mentioned yesterday. Homosexuality. It's a cop out. ***** is a cop out. This world offers a girlfriend or a boyfriend. No, no, that's not a bad thing if the boy is old enough to work and to provide for for the the family and but. But the problem is that this present world offers you a boy or a girl. Who wants to have an emotional attachment? And that's good for marriage, But after the emotional attachment comes. Then there comes the body, the touching the body and what you need to know is that romance is a progression and after you touch the body the eventual step is. Sex without marriage. And so we need to be careful in these, in in our romances and our affections for one another, until we're ready to be married, until the unbelievers. At school or at work or wherever you may meet them, they appreciate your Christian qualities. But they don't want Christ. They want the Christian qualities, but they don't want Christ. And you will eventually be forced to make a choice between Christ or your friend. And so the present all evil world. It offers sex without marriage. It offers suicide. It offers abortion. It offers disobedience to parents and other bad things that Christians that we've done before we were saved. And so in this present world, we Christians were called to live a holy life in separation from this present world. Sometimes when we talk about holiness, the teaching of holiness is presented as a bunch of do's and don'ts, and then we become under law. And some people think that's holiness if we can keep these laws. But that's not what holy living is. Holiness is what I think. It comes from the Holy Spirit, and you turn in the new life, the eternal life that we have, the life of Christ, and part of that is energizes us to. To love our neighbor and to love those in our assembly, and to love the lost Sinner next door, or to reach out in kindness to someone who's suffering from an addiction. I know it's easy to criticize. I know from experience that it's easy to criticize those who maybe don't live up to a standard that I think they should. But the love of God should be able to flow through us and out to others. I know we tend to shy away from that homeless alcoholic who's begging on this side of the street because we know he's going to use that money. He'll probably use that money to buy more alcohol. And I've I've done this myself. I cross the street when I see someone up at the way so I don't have to meet them, so I can avoid a confrontation. But is that the way we should do it? If we're always avoiding the alcohol, like we're the beggar on the street, how then will they hear the gospel? Let's go to Romans 10. We had this verse earlier this weekend, Romans 10 and verse 14. How shall how then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? I understand that many of these addicts, they need Jesus. They need him so bad because they're bound in their sin and they're bound by their addictions and they cannot get free by themselves. But just a little act of kindness by you might be what the spirit of God can use to blow like the wind. And we don't know where it's coming from. We don't know where it's going. But the Spirit of God can work. In a person's heart and soul through a little act of kindness.

And so the Spirit of God can accomplish the purposes of God to set that captive free from his addiction, whether it's an addiction, an addict on the street. Or if it's a ***** addict in your home, or if it's a backslidden Christian, that little act of kindness can represent Christ. Can represent the goodness of God that leads to repentance. It's the goodness of God that leads the Sinner to repentance. Now let's look at Galatians 6. Galatians chapter 6 and let's look at verse 10. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men. OK, so from this verse we understand that we do not have a choice to whom we are good. The verse says do good to all, and so Christ died for all. Said whosoever will may come. And so we go into all this present world, and we and we do good to all, so that some may hear the gospel. All may hear the gospel, and so that some might be saved. And so God uses us. We're his vessels, and it is by you and myself that it's by us. The gospel is preached. Now, God could have, I suppose, have sent an Angel down to to preach the gospel, but he chose you. He chose us believers to do this job. It's a privilege for us. And he says this is your ministry, and he gives you this ministry to tell others and so young people. And and older people here too. All the believers here today. You have a purpose. Here in this present world, let's go to 2nd Corinthians chapter 5. 2nd Corinthians chapter 5 and verse 18. All things are of God who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ. And hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. There's the ministry he's given to us, verse 19 to it, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and has committed unto us the word of reconciliation. And so God has given to each of us, you included. He's given us the ministry of reconciliation, and he says to us, go and preach the gospel. But first we need to love the sinners. We need to love our neighbors. We need to love the backslidden Christian. And so you can't witness to somebody on your own. God has to put that love into your heart, and he already has. We have that love when we're saved. We have eternal life. And and when we believe, the Spirit of God dwells in our hearts. And what is the fruit of the spirit? The fruit of the Spirit is the first thing is love, and so we have the love. We just need to use the love. We love because he first loved us. And so we don't go out and preach the gospel as a job. We don't share the word of God as a Job, but we do it as an overflow of love in our hearts that is put there by the Spirit of God. Let's go to John, Chapter 15. John chapter 15 and verse 9. If you are of the world, the world would love his own. But because you're not of the world. But I

have chosen you out of the world. Therefore the world hates you. We are born into this world. We live in this world with all the wickedness and the temptation around us, and we are influenced by all the entertainment and the amusement and the pleasures of this world. Yes, we are in this world, but we don't belong to this world. As you, as you go through life as a Christian, you need to understand that we are different from the unbelievers. You, as a believer, are special to God. We are the children of God. We're the heirs of God. We're joint heirs with Christ. We are more precious to God than the people of the world, and so He has separated us. He sanctified us and separated us from the world.

And so we are peculiar to him. We're peculiar we're his special possessions. And so the world we understand, the world is in no way equal to you, the believer, the people of God. John 18 verse 36. Jesus answered. My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews? But now is my Kingdom not from hence? In other words, Jesus is saying do not lower yourself. Two, to the equality of this present world by faith. By faith, we have a higher purpose for the Lord. We're here to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We're here to live for Jesus. We can give glory to the Lord Jesus. We are the light of the world that can shine for Jesus. And not only that, we have a heavenly position. We're the bride of Christ. And we will be married to Jesus. We have a home in heaven, and that's where our future is. Our future is in heaven. The people of this world, they don't have a future like that. But you do. You are special to God. And so that our future is in heaven, we're not put here in this world to clean it up. As we heard in the readings, we're not here to clean it up and get it ready for Jesus to come and reign with us. That's not what we're here for. We believers are above that. We are above the worldlings in importance to God and the Lord. Jesus emphasizes this in John chapter 17. Let's look, let's go to John 17. And in verse 14. He says. I have given them thy word, and the world has hated them because they are not of this world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. And so we are in a more privileged place than the world. And therefore the world will hate you. If you live like a Christian, if you represent Christ to the world, they will hate you. Now look in verse 22. And the glory which thou gavest me, I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are one, I and them and thou and me, that they may be made perfect in one. And that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and has loved them as thou hast loved me. God wants the world to know that he loves us and has put us into a special place. Into the one body of Christ, and he wants us to act in a way as to represent the fact that the body is 1. And even though there is a lot of division and confusion in the body of Christ, we are required by the desire of Christ to function as a witness to the world that there is one body. Yes, we may be separate. We may be separate from many of the Christians. Who do not act in the unity of the Spirit, but that does not take away our responsibility to function as the one body being gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the unity of the Spirit. Let's read verse 24. Father I will that they also whom thou hast given me. Be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me, for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world. Jesus wants us to be with Him where he is. You see, Jesus does not want the worldlings to be with him in the Father's house. He wants you. He wants us believers to be with him in the Father's house until you see we believers. We are peculiar to God. We are His special possession. We belong to Jesus Christ. And so we know. We know from all of this that God.

Is not a God of equality we often hear people demanding. Equal rights? And when we're in Malawi, often we'll give food, a little food to one person. And if you do that, you need to give a little bit of food to everybody, because everything must be equal. Communism and socialism, they try to keep the the common people all at the same level. One of the presidential candidates recently stated that she wants to put a six cent tax on every soda pop sold in the country. And she wants to do that because she wants to support universal daycare from from very young age. And so she wants to take the children out of the sphere of the parents authority and so that the government can begin to indoctrinate the children at an earlier and earlier age. Governments do not like home schoolers, or perhaps private institutions. They prefer to institutionalized children and teach them all the same way and the government system is controlling what the children are learning and in this way the government is able to control what the world is becoming. The government of this world, they are attempting to equalize man in order to form one world government. And in part, they're using global warming, climate change, the green revolution, sexual identity. And they want to bring all nations into conformity so that all the nations have one goal, even in Africa, unless unlo, they're they're bribing the nations to accept homosexuality. And if they don't accept it into their into their culture, they're not going to receive any funding from the Western world. And so governments of this world are attempting to equalize man in order to form one world government, and this requires taking God out of society. It is, Mrs. Clinton said recently. She said we need to redefine religion. Hi. I'm afraid of what that might mean. But Mr. Obama, he also said we are not a Christian country and so this world. Is becoming a degraded and immoral and godless society. There's one thing that's happening in the world that I think we should all realize, and because I believe it's going to be a spiritual danger that's on the rise and you can Google it and check it out. The Western world is fast turning to the worship of Baal and Asterisk. Yeah, the Arch of Bell was recently destroyed over in in that area where ISIS is. The ISIS destroyed it and and now if you check it out, they wanted to build an arch of bail in New York. There's a lot of uproar about it. So they they they haven't. I'm not sure if they've done it yet or not. They put one in London, they put several of them in other parts of the Western world, the Arch of Bail. And so they want to worship Bail and Astra, the very God that Israel worshipped and it's becoming on the rise in today's society. And so this is all a precursor to A1 world system that's headed by the satanically energized beast and he. Who is going to be aided by the Antichrist And Satan knows that he's going to have that Jesus is going to have. One perfect, oh the perfect, one world system of government. And so Satan is quickly trying to to set up his own system in place to get that in place in order to override what he thinks is the future of Christians and and the Jews. And so Satan is bruising, the heel of Jesus, the seed of the woman. Now if the government can eliminate Christianity in schools. And the universities that they can bring all the students into an equality that the governments can control. Let's go to Ephesians 6.

Ephesians chapter 6. Now I want to address families because all of this Antichrist control of the children, it puts a big strain on the Christian family and the Christian family culture. And it adds a great responsibility to the parents to prepare their children for what they're going to face in this present world and in this society and in this culture that's being promulgated in the schools. And let's look at Ephesians 6 and verse 4. It says here in ye father's provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. There is a a what can I say? There's an ideal ideology of raising children, allowing them to make their own decisions, and not really disciplining them because they want to. They want their children to make their own decisions. And so it's not turning out very well, as you can imagine, without discipline, but. The Word of God condemns that it says fathers. Raise your children, and nurture and admonition of the Lord. So we are required by God to raise our children as Saints. Because they are Saints, if they're saved, if they know the Lord is their savior, we're required to raise them as Saints. But if they are not saved, we need to raise them as Christians anyway. It doesn't delineate here in this verse whether or not your child is saved or not. You raise your children as Christians on Christian principles with Christian values, and God tells us to bring your children up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. And so. Years ago and even today, women fought for equal rights to work like a man and to be able to go to war. And now men are fighting for equal rights to be gay and to use the women's restrooms. Why? It's because equality is an attempt to deny the reality of sin and eliminate God from society, and so everybody must feel equal. Or it isn't. Or it isn't fair.

But that's not so with God. God has special plans and special blessings reserved for certain people that he has chosen to spend the time of eternity with. And we're gonna and he wants to spend that time in the Father's house in heaven. And these special people are the ones who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their savior. If you want to be one of these special people. You need to repent to God and have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in Acts 16:31 Says Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved and you will be added to the body of Christ and you will be put into this special position that God has special care for these ones. Let's go to Galatians chapter one. Galatians chapter one and verse 4. He gave himself about the Lord Jesus who gave himself for our sins. That He might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of God and our Father. And so, with all the preparations that God has made for us, get this A believer cannot remain the same spiritually. You'll either progress or you'll regress. You'll go forward or you'll go backward. You'll either live for Christ or you'll live for yourself. In this present world. Now, as a believer in this world, we need to be prepared to live as a Christian in this present world. And baptism, I believe, prepares a person for the Christian life. Whether a person is saved or not, the meaning of baptism is the same. Now there's some people say baptism doesn't do anything or mean anything, but there's many things that baptism means.

And does. But baptism states in one aspect that from this day forward, this person is going to live and act like a Christian in this present world. And that is why some heads of households in the Bible, they baptized everybody in their household. And it was their way of saying that if you live in my house, you're going to act like a Christian in this present world and so in this present world. Where authority is not respected. We often find that heads of households do not take the responsibility for those who live in their house and they don't insist that they should live and act like a Christian. And this responsibility fathers and heads of households. This responsibility includes such things as music and the movies. I'm not saying all music, I'm not saying all movies, but you need to be discerning of what you allow into your home in these areas, in the magazines and the deck of playing cards that introduces the occult into your. Family. Do you allow these things into your home? If you want to have a Christian home, the people living in the home must act like Christians, and the things that we allow into our homes must give honor to Christ. And that is why somebody like Lydia in Acts Chapter 16 made sure that everybody in her household was baptized. It didn't matter whether it was a mother-in-law or a servant or perhaps a child. If you were going to live in Lydia's house, whether you're saved or not, you'll be baptized as a Christian because from now on you're going to live and act like a Christian. That's part of the meaning of baptism and so. Lydia respected that, and she wanted that for her family so that they might learn to live and honor Jesus Christ, so they might become a part of their their life, so that they might someday realize that they need to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior so they can live to what they're to what they're symbolizing through the baptism. And so. Baptism is even more critical for a person who has been saved to be sure that he is baptized in preparation for the life he is about to begin the life of a Christian in this present world. Let's go to Romans chapter 6. Romans chapter 6 and verse 4. We are buried with him by baptism into death that, like his Christ, was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father. Even so, we also should walk in newness of life. This verse shows us that baptism has more meaning for a true believer and so when you accept to be baptized. You are like acknowledging that you are special to God. You are like the one special Pearl in Matthew 13 for which the merchant man sold all that he had to buy you for his own self. Having made some comments about baptism, I'm not trying to to promote household baptism. That's not my that's not my responsibility. That's for the head of the household. You can decide what you want, but I'm just telling you what the people in the OH in the Bible did and why they they did it. And that same responsibility whether you baptize your children or not. If you're going to have a Christian household, you need to raise your children as Christians. Because Ephesians 6, verse 4 doesn't say anything about baptism. It says parents, fathers, you have the responsibility to raise your children in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord and so. Baptism. It says that you no longer belong to this present world, you belong to Jesus Christ, and you are ready to walk in the newness of eternal life. And so baptism again, it looks forward to the change that will take place in your life as you live like a Christian in this present world. Let's go to Second Timothy 4.

Second Timothy 4. Now as a as a Christian, as a person who's been baptized, it is wise for you to be true to your baptism and to live a life devoted. That gives honor to the Lord Jesus Christ. And now here let's look at Second Timothy chapter 4 and verse 10. It is a demos has forsaken me, having loved this present world and is departed. Demas was not faithful to his baptism. Demas deserted Paul and he preferred the easy life without the stigma of Christianity. How does this happen to a person like Demas? It is a slow process. This present world offers simple pleasures that take the place of our Bible readings, our Bible studies, and our personal prayer, our communication with God. And so then, worldly friends, they begin to take our interest and turn away our interest from spiritual things. And then the sin that we allow in our lives. It makes it hard for us to distinguish between right and wrong. And it's like a Christian in a in school who has unbelievers for friends and he's going to con. He's either going to conform to the and he's going to conform to the world in order to be accepted by his friends. And So what was, what was Demas chasing in this world, in this present world, we don't know exactly. Maybe it was a girlfriend. Maybe it was food. Or success. Or luxury. Maybe he wanted a fast chariot. Maybe. Maybe he was down at the Roman Coliseum, uh, watching the Olympic Games on a Sunday afternoon instead of going to the Assembly fellowship meeting where they were discussing Paul's doctrine. Or maybe he was looking for a more dynamic and exciting church. There's reproach. As we heard earlier today, there's reproach to living like a Christian, and Demas felt the reproach of being gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ back there when Paul was here on earth. There's also a cost to live as a Christian. You may have to miss the Sunday afternoon playoff games. Or you may have to miss a family reunion. In order for you to be assembling together with your fellow believers on Lord's Day Morning. Let's go to Luke chapter 14. Now we know Demas. He turned his back on the Lord Jesus and he deserted Paul. Perhaps Demas was afraid of persecution, and so he turned to the world for his comfort and his protection. Whatever his reasons were Demas denied the name of Christ. He wanted Christianity without the cost, without any loss, anyone of Christianity without the reproach, and look what it says in Luke 14, verse 27 says, whosoever does not bear his cross and come after me. Cannot be my disciple. Other Christians can easily become discouraged and disheartened by a Christian who backslides into the world and they go back to things they used to do before they were a Christian, or they go back to new things that the world has to offer. Demas was probably a discouragement to his family and friends, and we know he was a discouragement to the Apostle Paul. Well, there's another bad consequence of of running with the world. And dishonouring your your baptism. And that is that a much needed light in this thin darkened world is being hidden. When demons started running with the world, he deprived the world of a light, a light to the testimony of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. When Demas had been baptized, he had put on Christ. And once you have put on Christ through baptism.

You cannot take Christ off. You cannot undo your baptism. You are still responsible to live like a Christian in this present world. Demas, we find, was not true to his baptism. Let's go to Galatians chapter 3. Galatians chapter 3 and verse 27. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. If I have put on Christ, that means that I should look like Christ. And then I should act like Christ. When I have been baptized, I am accepting my responsibility to live like a Christian, and by my fruits, that is, by my actions, you should know that I am a Christian. Well, baptism. It also looks forward to a godly life. A godly life both morally and doctrinally. But you know, not every Christian needs to be baptized. I see some of you looking. That's true. Not every Christian needs to be baptized. Umm. I'll have it. I'll give you

an illustration I've used before and you so you've probably heard this but and there was a war and the soldiers they were fighting each other and they were in there in their trenches and. The one soldier was fighting and he got shot. He was mortally wounded and he was dying laying there in the trench, and he said to his friend next to him in the trench, he says, hey, I'm dying. And I I'm not ready to meet God. What do I need to do? How? How can I be saved? And so he asked his friend. His friend didn't know, so his friend asked the next man in the trench. And it went on down the line. Nobody knew what this man needed to do. Finally they got to 15 or 16 men down the line. And man had a New Testament. And he opened the New Testament and put his finger on a verse and said, here, show him this verse and read this verse to him until they send it back down the line, showing each one the verse. And when it got back to the first man, he read it to his friend John. 316 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Well, the man he heard that wonderful news, he says, I believe, and he died. That man did not need to be baptized. Why? Because that man was not going to live here in this world. He was going straight to heaven. He was like the thief on the cross who died there on the cross, the Lord. He didn't need to be baptized. The Lord said today, you're going to be with me in paradise. Baptism is for our life that's going, look, looks forward to the future of our life, that we're going to live here in this world as a Christian. And so baptism looks forward to the change that's going to take place. In your life, in this present world. Baptism does not look back as a reward for a person who has proved that he is a Christian. Let's go to Titus, chapter 2. Titus chapter 2 and we'll see here in verse 12 That it gives both a negative aspects and the positive aspect of living a godly life in holiness. And it says here in Titus two teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts. That's the negative side. We deny those things that we should live. And here's the positive side, we should live soberly, righteously and godly. In this present world, so soberly, living soberly is dealing with ourselves. Living righteously, I believe, would be interacting with other people, and living godly would be interacting and dealing with God. And so we should live soberly dealing with ourselves. There's a number of things we can do in dealing with ourselves in this present world, and that is. Timothy Paul told Timothy. Keep yourself pure.

And Judith says, keep yourselves in the love of God. It says keep yourself unspotted from the world. And another place that says keep yourselves from idols. And so there's these things that we have in our own responsibilities, our own lives, so we deal with ourselves in our lives. We live soberly. Let's look at Philippians chapter 4. Now God has given us a spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. And so in dealing soberly with ourselves, it is important that we control our thoughts because our actions and our words, they they all they come from our thoughts and so we need to have a sound mind. And let's read Philippians chapter 4, verse 8 and this these give. This verse gives us some things that we can think about. Philippians 4, verse 8. Finally, brethren. Whatsoever things are true, Whatsoever things are honest. Whatsoever things are just. Whatsoever things are pure. Whatsoever things are lovely. Whatsoever things are of good report. If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. So living soberly. Effects my body, my spirit, soul, and body, and that relates to my thoughts. My feelings and my actions. And so it's all taken in and living soberly before God. The second point in our verse in Timothy was that we should live righteously, and this is interacting with others. And we have that verse we read in Galatians 6, verse 10 doing good about doing good to all men. I'll read that verse again Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men. Especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Some of some examples perhaps of doing good to all men is we love our neighbor as ourselves. Who is my neighbor? I believe that could be anybody who's within your area. Your neighbor might be that guy who dangerously cut you off on the highway 5 minutes before you both got into the exited off into. A rest area. Can you love that man as yourself? It generates feelings in our hearts when someone cuts us off on the highway and we feel we need to get back, get even with them, and we. But that's not the way we need to think. God he the Lord Jesus died for that person just like he died for you. And so love our neighbor as ourselves. And then we have another verse that tells us bear ye one another's burdens and so it is your responsibility. From this verse it it gives us the responsibility to sympathize with the suffering Saints. And and if, if you suffer from a similar ailment, God expects you to empathize with your companion. And so we need to realize, however, that if somebody is showing you care and concern, you need to accept that love and don't think that you're above the cares and the prayers of your brethren. And then another another point. Of doing good is hospitality. We can be hospitable. We can be hospitable, especially to the household of faith. And that is other believers, not just the ones here in this assembly hall. But the household of faith extends to all Christians that to common bond that we have with all believers and so we can be hospitable and that's one way we can do good to all men. The Third Point in that verse we had in in Second Timothy was that we should live godly. Now when we live godly, this is interacting with God. We said earlier maybe about reading and praying and sort of communication with God. But we need to live with the consciousness. Of who God is, who he is, He is the Almighty. He's the everlasting. He's the creator God, to whom belongs all the glory, honor, power, praise, love, and respect. That all belongs to him because of who he is. And this will result in worship and praise to God because of who he is. And so the results of godly living, I believe, will be a life of obedience, love.

In reverence towards God. We have reverence towards God. We can We can be reverent toward God when we are at school, or when we are at work or in We can be reverent with our actions and with our words. And we can even be reverent according to who our friends are. To give God honour by whom we choose to be our friends. And so we also give reverence to God when we come into His presence at the Bible meetings. If you listen, everybody's quiet. We're giving reverence to the person of the Lord Jesus. In reverence, I believe it starts at home and then it's carried over into the assembly meetings, and it also extends out to other areas of life where we can be reverent to God. I think another point of godly living is to give place in our life to Jesus as Lord, allow him to have authority and rule. In our lives and so we can ask. Lord, what do you have me to do? And so, as we've seen, Christians should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Maybe we could close by saying hymn #247. Now this. This this tune has to be fit, sort of. Umm, as I love. You man, for I can't hear you. Come on tomorrow to be just No. What happened when I saw the sun and so on and so I'm going to go and find a boy and I can't have a great day ahead of me. I'm going to.

Dartmouth Conference: 2016, We Are Called to Live a Holy Life (15:9)

Address—Tim Roach

Afternoon. We can begin our meeting this afternoon by seeing #234. And continuing the theme of the meeting today and as we've seen some of the verses of this hymn to notice the difference between. The believer and the world and so. Listing #234 Verse one, two and five. We're not of the world. With Strangers on Earth. And in heaven. I've been happy, dangerous. I don't know why your eyes were hanging in the heart. Journey in the heart and thrilled. And soon shall we endeavor our own prominent land. Rover. Fire, Song Man, Glory and. And I have a

very troubled. A lot of children. I'm glad I'm sitting in the Lord. It's hard to remember the beginning. So I want to talk about Christians in this present world and we Christians we live in a sin corrupted world. And this world has so much to attract the Christian and at the same time the world's drawing our hearts away from the Lord Jesus. This present world offers us some things that like we heard in the meeting earlier. They're not bad in themselves, but we might allow these things to entertain us and to amuse us and so that we forget about living for Jesus. And then we'll become we become distracted by this present world, but we also live in a present evil world which includes perhaps pride, jealousy, *****. Maybe you think ***** is not a sin. Maybe you think everybody does it. But. The children of Israel, they were told to destroy the pictures. What kind of pictures do you think they were told to destroy? Well, maybe this present world has a boyfriend or a girlfriend. That's not a bad thing if the boy is old enough to work and to support a wife. But the problem is that the present world offers you a boy or a girl who wants an emotional attachment from you, and then after that, emotional attachment. Then comes the body. And because romance is a progression after you touch the body, the next step in the progression is sex without marriage. And in qualities. But they don't want the Christ. They like they they they like they. They want the Christian qualities, especially an employer. But they don't want Christ. And you will eventually be forced to make a choice between Christ or your friend. And so the present evil world offers you sex without marriage it all. It offers murder, disobedience to parents, and other bad things that Christians do before they're saved.

We Christians, we're called to live a holy life in separation from this world. Let's go to John 15. John 15 and we'll read verse 9. If you are of the world, the world would love his own. But because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. We are born into this world. And we live in this world with all the wickedness and the temptation around us. And we are influenced. We are influenced by by entertainment and amusement and and pleasures of this world. And yes, we are in this world, but we don't belong to this world. And so we need to understand that as a believer, you are different from the unbelievers. Because we are special to God. Were the children of God? Were the heirs of God? Were joint heirs with Christ? We are more precious to God than the world. And so the Lord has separated us from the world. And so we are peculiar. To the Lord Jesus, that means we're his special possession. And so the world. The world is in no way equal. To the people of God, so in John 18. Verse 36. Jesus answered. My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews? But now is my Kingdom not from hence? In other words, Jesus is saying don't lower yourselves to the equality of this world. He doesn't want us to be equal with this present world. Because we're not equal by faith. We have a higher purpose for the Lord Jesus. We can share the gospel. We can live for Jesus. We give glory to the Lord Jesus. We're the light of the world to shine for Jesus. Not only that, we have a heavenly position. We are the bride of Christ and we will be married to Jesus and we have a home, a home that's in heaven, and that's where our future is. Our future is not here in this world. We're not here. We're not put here to clean up this old world and to get it ready for Jesus to come so that he can reign here on this earth. That's not why we're here. We believers are above that. We believers are above the worldlings in importance to God and the Lord. Jesus emphasized this in John 17. Let's look at some verses in John 17. And verse 14. 'Cause I have given them thy word, and the world has hated. World, but that you should keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. You see, we we believers, we are in a more privileged position, a privileged place more than the world. And therefore the world hates you because. Christ has put you into a special place and He's given you a special privilege and he values you and the world will hate you. Because if you live like Christ, if you live like a Christian and you represent Christ, the world is going to hate you. Look in verse 22. And the glory which thou gavest me, I have given them. See, the Lord Jesus gave glory to you. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. You have been given the glory which thou gave us. Me. I have given them. He hasn't given any such glory to the world. But He's given it to them, the believers in the Lord Jesus, that they may be one, even as we are one, I and them and thou and me, that they may be made perfect in one. And that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them as Thou hast loved me. See God. God wants the world to know that He loves you, that He loves me.

Verse 24. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me, for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world. Jesus wants us to be with him where he is. You see, the Lord Jesus doesn't want the worldlings in heaven with him. He doesn't want them in the Father's house. He wants you to be with him in the Father's house. He wants us believers. And that's that's why, because we believers, we are peculiar to God. We are His special possession because we belong to Jesus. So we know that God is not a God of equality. Everybody demands equal rights, and we we, uh, we often hear. A lot of people demanding their rights, they want to be equal in Malawi, in Africa, often if we give a little food to one person. Everybody. You have to give it to everybody else too. Everybody has to receive the same amount. It has to be equal or it's not fair. And so in communism and socialism, they try to keep the common people at the same level. Not too long ago, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, she was saying she wants to put a a six cent tax on every soda pop that was sold in the country and she wants to do that in order to create and support a universal daycare for the little children. She wants to take the little children outside of the sphere of the parent's authority. And so that they can begin to indoctrinate the children at an earlier age so the government can control the children. You know, governments do not like home schoolers, and I'm not trying to promote home schooling, but it's just a fact. They prefer to institutionalized the children and to teach them all the same way, teach them all the same thing. And the government system is controlling what the children are learning. And in this way, the government is able to control what the world is becoming. And so the governments of this world are attempting to equalize man. So they can form A1 world government. The the the Western powers, they are in part using global warming and climate change and the green revolution and sexual identity to bring all nations into conformity so that all nations have one goal. Even in in you hear this a lot in Malawi, that in in Kenya and some of the other countries, Uganda. The Western powers are demanding that they that these countries accept homosexuality and the gay lifestyle and if they don't accept it then they don't get any funding, they don't get any sponsorship and so they're blackmailing, if you will, these third world countries and so. It's, uh, these nations want to have one goal. It's another another thing that they're doing. President of Malawi. With all the people, they're starving, they're hungry and the president says to them, don't worry about the little things like hunger and foods and food supply. You need to think about the real important things like global warming and climate control. That's how he cares for his people and that's being forced on them by the by the Western powers. Well. To have all nations have one goal requires taking God out of society. And as Mrs. Hillary Clinton says, she says, we need to redefine religion. And it scares me what that might mean. Then Mr. Obama, he says about America. We are not a Christian country.

You see, this world has become a degraded, immoral and a godless society. And so all of this I believe is just just a precursor to the one world system that's gonna be uh uh, satanically energized by by the beast. And the beast is gonna be aided by the Antichrist. And so Satan knows that Jesus is going to have the perfect one world government and. He's going to have a a good system of government. And so Satan is quickly trying to get his own system into place in order to override the future of Christians and Jews. And so Satan, as we were told in Genesis 3, Satan is bruising the heel of Jesus, the seed of the woman. You know, if the government can eliminate Christianity in schools and universities. They can bring students into an equality that they can control. Let's go to Ephesians Chapter 6. All of this Antichrist and anti Christian control

of the children puts a big strain on the Christian family. And in Ephesians chapter 6 and verse four, says, Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. Fathers, we are required by God to raise our children as Saints. Because they are Saints if they know the Lord as their savior. If they are not saved, we're told to raise our children as Christians anyway. That's what our verse tells us here, he says. God tells us to bring your children up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. You know. Women fought for equal rights so they could work like a man and so that they could go to war. Now men are fighting for equal rights to be gay and so that they can use the woman's restroom. Why? Because equality is an attempt to deny the reality of sin. And they want to eliminate God from society. And so everybody, everybody, must feel that everything is equal, equal rights or it's not fair. But it's not so with God. God has special plans and blessings reserved for certain people that he's chosen to spend the time of eternity with. He's not a God of equality. He wants to bring you into blessing. He has brought you into blessing. You are not, and he sets you in a separate. Place that is safe and secure. And so he wants you and I to be with him in the Father's house. And these special people are the ones who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. If you want to become one of these special people, if you want to become special to God in this way, you need to have, we're told in Acts chapter 20, you need to have repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ. And in Acts 301631 Says believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. And then you can be part of the family of God. You can be part of this special class of people who are going to be with Christ. In heaven? Well, Jesus has made all these preparations in order to deliver believers from this present world. And let's look in Galatians chapter one and we'll read a verse about this Galatians chapter one. Talking about. The Lord Jesus says who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of God and our Father.

So with all the preparations that God has made for us, a believer cannot remain the same. He cannot remain the same spiritually. Either He will either progress or he will regress. He will go forward or he will go backward. You, as a believer will either live for Christ. For you will live for yourself and this present world. A believer. In this world, a believer needs to be prepared to live as a Christian in this present world, our. Are you ready? Are you prepared to live for Christ? I want to talk a little bit about baptism. Baptism prepares a person for the Christian life. Whether a person is saved or not, the meaning of baptism is the same. It means that from this day forward, this person is now going to live like a Christian in this present world. And that is why some heads of some households in the Bible, they baptized everybody in their household. It was their way of saying if you live in my house, you're going to act like a Christian in this present world. In this present world where UH authority is not respected. We often find that heads of households, they don't take responsibility for those people who live in their house and they don't insist that they live and act like a Christian. If you want to have a Christian home, the people living in the home must act like Christians. Or else the name of the Lord Jesus will be dishonored. And that is why someone like Lydia in Acts Chapter 16, she made sure that everybody in her household was baptized. So there was a mother-in-law or a servant if you're going to live in her house, whether you are saved or not. You will be baptized as a Christian because from now on you're going to begin to live and to act like a Christian, and that was the privilege that the head of the household has, and Lydia was the head of her household at that time. Now this isn't this is even more critical for a person who has been saved. To be sure that he is baptized in preparation for his life that is about to begin here in this present world. Let's look at Romans chapter 6. One verse here in Romans chapter 6. Verse four we are buried with him by baptism into death. That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father. Even so, we also should walk in newness of life. This verse shows us that baptism has more meaning for a true believer. Accepting to be baptized. Is like like you acknowledging that you are special to God. You're like the one Pearl of great price in Matthew chapter 13, for which the merchant man, he sold all that he had to buy you for himself. Baptism says. That you no longer belong to this present world, you belong to Jesus Christ, and that you are ready now to walk in the newness of eternal life. Baptism looks forward to the change that will take place in your life. As you live like a Christian in this present world. Let's go to second Timothy chapter 4. Second Timothy Chapter 4. If we're going to be baptized. It is wise for us to be true to our baptism. And that we would live a devoted life to that would give honor to the Lord Jesus.

And so let's look in second Timothy 4 verse 10. Dimas hath forsaken me. Having loved this present world, and is departed. Dimas was not true. He was not faithful to his baptism. Demas deserted Paul. He preferred the easy life without the stigma of Christianity. It's like a Christian in school who has unbelievers for friends. He conforms in some way to the world so he can be accepted by those friends. It's just a natural thing that we have. We want to be accepted and but we need to be careful of that because if we want to be accepted by the world, we have to do worldly things in order to be accepted. And So what was chasing in this world? We don't know what he was chasing exactly. Might have been a girlfriend. Living food. Maybe it was success. Maybe you was looking for a luxury. He wanted to be rich. Maybe he just wanted a fast chariot. I don't know, Maybe he went down to the Roman Coliseum to watch the Olympic Games on Sunday afternoon instead of going to the fellowship meeting. Or maybe Dimas was looking for a more dynamic and more exciting church. Whatever it was. Demus he forsook Paul. He didn't want the teachings of the apostle Paul for some reason. At that time. And so there's a reproach to live as a Christian. And Demas felt the reproach of being gathered to the Lord's name only. There is a cost. If you're going to live as a Christian, you may need to miss the Sunday afternoon football game or the hockey game in order for you to be assembling together with your fellow believers. Let's go to Luke chapter 14. Luke, Chapter 14. And thinking again of demons. Demas turned his back on the Lord Jesus and he deserted Paul. Perhaps. Perhaps Amos was afraid of persecution. And so he turned to the world for his comfort and his protection. Whatever his reasons were, Dimas denied the name of Christ. He wanted Christianity with off the cost. He wanted Christianity without the law and without the reproach. Let's look at Luke chapter 14. And verse 27. It says here, whosoever does not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Bear the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. That means that you're going to suffer in this world for the name of Christ. The Lord Jesus suffered here, and he suffered on the cross for our sins. And if you're going to be a follower of Jesus Christ and you pick up the cross of Christ, you're going to suffer for him. But if you don't want to bear that cross, you can't be a disciple of Jesus. Other Christians? Can become easily disheartened and discouraged. When a Christian who turns his back. On Christ and goes to the world like a dog that returns to his own vomit. It can discourage other Christians. And Demas, I'm sure, was discouragement to his family and to his friends. And we know he was a discouragement to Paul. Let's look in Proverbs chapter one. Proverbs, Chapter One. Verse 10.

My son of sinners entice thee. Consent thou not? Verse 11 If they say come with us. Verse 15 If they say, Come with us, my son, walk not thou in the way with them, refrain thy foot from their path. For their feet run to evil. Don't allow others to change, to twist, to control your life for Christ. Another bad consequence of a Christian running with the world is that a much light, a much needed light in the sin darkened world is put under a bushel. The sun is hidden. Like that children's song that we sing? Hide it under a bushel? No. It's the light of mine. I'm going to let it shine. When Demas started running with the world. He deprived the world of a testimony to the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Now when Dimas, when Dimas had been baptized, he had put on Christ. Once Christ has been put on you, you can't take Christ off baptism, or Christ is put on you through baptism. And once you've been baptized, Christ is on you and you can't take it off. You can't undo your baptism. And so. You and Demas are still responsible to live like a Christian in this present world. And sadly, Dimas was not true to his baptism. Let's

go to Galatians 3. Galatians 3 and verse 27. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have. Put on Christ. So if you've been baptized, that means you have put on Christ. And if I have put on Christ, I should look like Christ. And I should act like a Christian. And so when I have been baptized, I'm accepting. I am accepting the responsibility to live like a Christian. And by my fruits you will know that is by my actions. You will know. You should know, that I am a Christian. And so. Christianity or baptism makes me a professor, a professor. And so I am professing the fact that I'm going to follow Christ. And so baptism also looks forward to a godly life. And both morally and doctrinally, baptism looks forward to a godly life. And so. Not every Christian, though, needs to be back first. You know, you're gonna shake your head and say, well, why doesn't every Christian need to be baptized? Well, let me tell you a story. I may have heard this before, but there was in, during the war, one of the wars. There was one of the soldiers. He was down in the trench and they were shooting at the other, other at the enemy, and he got shot and he was dying there, bleeding to death. And so he calls to the next man in the trench. He says, I'm dying. I want to know how I can be saved, how I want to get right with God. And then his friend. He didn't know, so he asked the next man. That man didn't know, so he asked the next man and it went on down to 15 or 16 people before they found one man who had a New Testament in his pocket and he took out his New Testament and he opened. The Bible to a verse and he put his finger on the verse and says show him this verse. And so they said the Bible back down through all the 16 men to the dying man. His friend read it to him. John 3:16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. The man said. I believe, I believe. Then he died. That soldier did not need to be baptized. Why? Because he wasn't going to live here on Earth.

Baptism doesn't save you. Baptism expresses the fact that you want to live the Christian life, but if you're not going to live here in this world, he did not need to be baptized. He went straight to heaven to be with the Lord Jesus. Just like the thief on the cross, the thief on the cross didn't need to be baptized. The Lord Jesus said to him, today you will be with me in paradise, and so that thief on the cross went straight to heaven. And so Christian baptism is for people who are going to be living here. In this world, living in this present world. And so let's go to Titus chapter 2. Chapter 2 and verse 12. And gives us both the negative aspects and the positive aspects of living a godly life in holiness in Titus 2 verse 12, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts at the negative side, denying ungodliness and worldly not lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. And so that's the positive. Live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, so soberly that would be dealing with ourselves. Righteously would be dealing with other people, and godly would be interacting with God. And so we should live soberly. One thing. As we deal with ourselves, one thing is to keep ourselves pure. This is a difficult time in life to live. In the world it's very impure, but the Lord tells Timothy. And also it's for us too, says keep yourself pure. Then another thing, he says. Keep yourselves in the love of God. And so that's part of our our. Our living soberly in this world. It's our dealing with ourselves. And so we should live in the power of love and of a sound mind. And there's a verse in Philippians 4:8 that it would also go along with living soberly. Philippians 4. In verse 8. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest. Whatsoever things are just. Whatsoever things are pure. Whatsoever things are lovely. Whatsoever things are of good report. If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. And so we see. These are things we can think about feeling soberly. Deals with ourselves. And so it affects my spirit, my soul and my body. And so we are we can think on these things if our mind, if our mind is right, and thinking about things that that are of virtue, it's going to have a keeping effect. On our daily Christian life, we mentioned some of these verses about keeping ourselves. There's some others about keep yourselves from idols, keep yourselves from things strangled, keep yourself from from fornication. And so there's things that we keep ourselves from. And so that's part of living soberly in this life. That's man's responsibility. God's sovereignty says we are kept by the power of God. And so we can't keep our salvation in Christ. The Lord Jesus is the one who keeps that for us. Well, the second point is that we should live righteously, and living righteously is interacting with others. Doing and let's look in into Galatians 6.

So as we interact with others. We do good to all men. That would be our neighbors. Galatians 6 verse 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Examples of perhaps doing good to all men would be loving your neighbor as yourself. There's that, that beggar in the street. Do you avoid him, walk across the street and and ignore him or do you say, Oh well, if I give some money to him, he's just going to buy some more alcohol and get drunk again. And so we we ignore him. And the Bible says do good to all men because it's the goodness of God that leads to repentance. And it may be that that little act of kindness will be what the Spirit of God uses to blow the wind. The blows were we don't know where it's coming from or where it's going, but the wind is blowing. And it may be that that act of kindness will touch the heart of that drunkard, whether he buys alcohol with your money or not. Do good to all men, then we can bear one another's burdens. We can give sympathy to those who are struggling, empathy to those. Who are experiencing the same difficulties that we've experienced comfort to those who need comfort. Then we can be hospitable in our homes, do good to all men. We can invite people to our homes, be kind to them, umm, And then we can maybe help someone stranded on the side of the road. There's so many things that we do that are good to all men. We don't do these good things just to get a little pat on the back or or. Acknowledgement from our fellow man, but these good things are things that are done. Because we have the new life, we have the spirit of God, and it's an overflow of the love of God flowing through us and out to others. But then the verse says especially to the to them who are of the household of faith, that means other believers. And so we can be good, do good to other believers, not just the ones in this room. It says to all men the household of faith. The household of faith includes all believers. And extends to all other Christians. And so we have this common bond. Christ is the common bond that we have. With other believers. And so the Third Point is that in our verses that we should live godly, and this is interacting with God. And so we can give love, we can give reverence towards God. We interact with God and so live godly, so we can live as if we are always in the presence of God. If you knew the Lord Jesus was with you every day when you go to your bedroom, when you go to your school, when you go to your job. In the Lord, Jesus is walking there with you and he's working at this station right next to your job. Live as if he's with your in your presence all the time, because spiritually He is with you. You can't see him, but Jesus is with you. He's here in this room today. He He knows what you're thinking. He knows how these things are being processed in your mind. He knows how you're going to respond to the word of God and so. Live as if you're always in the presence of God. So we live godly, and then we live with the conscience of who he is. Who is Jesus? He is the Almighty. He's everlasting. He's the Creator to whom belongs all the glory and the honor and the. Power and the and the love and respect. And we worship him, and we praise Him because of who he is. And so then another point is that the results of godly living will be a life of obedience. We have love and reverence towards God. And we can live godly, and we can reverence God or at school while we're at work. In our words, it's evident by our friends. And then finally, we can give reverence to God when we come into His presence at the meeting. I know sometimes there's circumstances.

But we can get to a meeting. Be quiet, not whispering. And we train our children to know that when we come to the assembly meetings that there needs to be reference towards God. But they don't learn that when they come to meeting they may, but that they really learn the reverence towards God. At home. And so we need to instill a reverence in a godly fear, a godly living in the home, and so that when we come to the into the presence of the Lord in the assembly meeting, we will know how to behave ourselves and. So another point of of godly living is

to give place in our life to Jesus as Lord and so we can ask the Lord Jesus. Lord Jesus, what do you want me to do? What would you have me to do today? And be ready for the answer. It may be something that would surprise you. It might be something you don't really want to do. But if you're obedient and you do what the Lord has put into your pathway for you to do. There can be blessing in your life, and so as Christians we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Let's sing hymn number. 316. We are by Christ redeemed. The cost is precious blood. The Lord Jesus paid a great amount in order that you and I would belong to Him, so that he would keep us separate from the world, and so that He would put us into a peculiar place of His. Where we are, we are in it. We are valued in a special to God. We are, by Christ. Reading #316. Somebody start that, please. Provide your eyes. Great day in the day. I'm alive. I'm a lot of life. I'm all right now. I'm all right. I'm all I'm all right. I'm not saying that I'm sitting right. I'm all right. I'm glad. I'm not sure. I'll show you. All right. I'll show you.

Great Children's Glory together. They can be lost. No way. It's very hard. About the wind, the blood flow, the blood flow. Information to run the half of the day. The relation to that we shall see you in the end of the day, and pray stood your brain. The way I'm saying. Let's pray our God and Father we have.

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