

2:17

A loving God takes away what we cannot keep anyway, to give us things which last forever!

Dying to an old life; living to a new life that increases in glory.

All done by moment –to- moment choices, if you know Christ.

The overcoming of these things are done from within, by the Holy Spirit .

He causes us (when we ask for help), to choose love for God over the things of the world.

Summary *****

John 17: 15 "I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one."

(tereso- "protection from within," not removal from the circumstances.

same word in Rev. 3:10 – Protection from (within), the hour of testing)

Ex. Augustine 430 A.D. "The best men and the worst men I have ever met; I met in a monastery!"

Cannot control the flesh by asceticism or legalism or self-righteousness, or being outwardly religious:

I Timothy 4:1-4 Colossians 2: 20-23

All things are made by God, and good to enjoy, to a point:

Ex. C.S. Lewis "I will have my Michael!" (The book- The Great Divorce- page 93)

" ,, no natural feelings are high or low, holy or unholy, in themselves. They are all holy when God's hand is on the rein. They all go bad when they set up on their own and make themselves into false gods."

Expositor's Greek Testament- "The things in the world are transient: Do not set your affections on them, else you will sustain a bitter disappointment. The world is a good and beautiful gift of God, to be used with joy and gratitude; but it is not the supreme end; it is not the home of our souls."

Fallen man looks only at the gifts of God and forgets about the One who loved them so much to give them the gifts in the first place.

Ex. If a bridegroom made a ring for his bride, and she took more joy in the ring than in the bridegroom,

would not the ring become the vehicle of an adulterous spirit in the bride?

Ex. Next week you will be tempted to fall into the old "flesh" pattern.

Ask yourself as you are tempted, "Do I love Him more than I love this?"