

## LOVERS OF PLEASURES

**TEXT:**        *2 Timothy 3:4b: . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

### Introduction:

One of the easiest seen characteristics of youth is an inordinate love of sensual pleasure and worldly gayeties. The Word of God describes those who live in pleasure as “dead while they live” and classifies them with the most abominably wicked, who are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.



Though such are the declarations of the Lord; yet pleasure, earthly pleasure, is the chief object of thousands of the young. Some pursue it in the gross and brutish paths of rioting and drunkenness, of chambering and wantonness; others, in less reckless ways, but with hearts not less intent upon it. The card table, the sensual dancing, the bar, the horserace, the Fair, the bowling alley — all are the scenes of their highest bliss.

My young people, and I still hope “My Friends” . . . has this love of worldly pleasures dwelt in your heart also? Perhaps you have not run into scandalous and disgraceful excesses; but have you not had a greater love for worldly pleasures than for God and a hunger for righteousness and holiness? If you have, you surely bear that awful mark of being a child of destruction, that you are a lover of pleasures rather than a lover of God.

Have you not been present at scenes of sinful amusement and guilty festivity? Have you not been as anxious as others for those sensual delights which were most suited to your taste? While thus loving the things of this world, have you forgotten about that world which is to come, whether it be Heaven or Hell?



Have you not been more pleased with some shining bubble or glittering toy, than with the blessing of the Lord which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow? Think not I mean to insinuate that the Christian should be the slave of self-denials to become gloomy. Far from it; none have so much reason to be cheerful as those who read

their title clear in the Heavens. But, wide is the difference between the innocent cheerfulness and humble joy of the Christian, and the vain pleasures of a foolish world.

The truly righteous have their delights, though they know that there is no place or room for folly, jesting, and sensual joys.

***No room for mirthful trifling here,  
For worldly hopes or worldly fear,  
This life so soon is gone;  
As now the Judge is at the door,  
And all mankind must stand before  
The inexorable throne.***

***James 5:9: Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.***

Let conscience now answer:

- As in the sight of God, has the love of worldly and sensual pleasures been cherished in your heart?
- Has your situation prevented you from freely following the delights that are in the Holy Spirit?



If your answer is 'once in a while', you are still — in God's sight — a lover of pleasures just as if these had occupied every moment of your time. That may be a bitter pill to swallow, but this is what God has to say in:

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

***15 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.***

***16 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.***

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