

KEEPING THE WORLDLY OUT

SCRIPTURE:

For what will I profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26)

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) tape measure
- (1) scissors
- (1) package of weather stripping

MAIN MESSAGE:

The world is constantly trying to enter our homes. We need to be aware of this and on the lookout for it so that we are prepared to combat it. We must hit the world head on. If we sit idly by on our hands and let the world penetrate our lives, the ultimate cost may be the loss of our eternal salvation.

SONG: "I Shall Not Be Moved"

LESSON:

Recently my family bought a new house. This house isn't really new because it was actually built in 1930, but it is new to us. It is a house with character. The house has old wooden windows, creaky stairs, and a mustard yellow front door. Remember, I said the house has character!

This door appears to be original to the house and appears to have several layers of paint on it. It has a door knocker door bell which lets us know when visitors are there waiting to come in. It has a dead-bolt lock which keeps unwanted visitors out. The door bell and dead bolt lock are both very good functions to have on a door, and if either of them go out, they are usually spotted pretty quickly. Fortunately, we have had no issues with either of them on our front door.

There is something else that is also crucial to have on a door, but it isn't usually something you think about. The thing I am talking about is weatherstripping. Since it is out of sight and mind, most of us don't really pay attention to it.

The primary purpose of weatherstripping is to keep out warm or cold air, hence the name "weather" stripping. As the weatherstripping gradually wears out, your heating or cooling costs gradually go up. The costs may not be noticeable at first because the change happens in small increments, but eventually you will open a bill up and see a number that looks like the national debt!

Keeping the world out of our homes is something we are called as Christians to do. We are to be different than the world, but sadly, it is now hard to distinguish between a Christian and a person of the world. Paul teaches us in Romans 12:2 that we are not to be conformed to this world. Many let the world slip into their home little by little until they wake up one day and realize the costs that their lack of preparation of them or their families. Do not be one of these people that is caught unaware, instead do as Paul says in the second part of Romans 12:2, and "be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

PRAYER: Help our family to prepare and be aware of worldly things that may enter our lives.