

what God's will is for someone else. But it is God's will that everyone who believes in Him should be His representative and should be seeking to reach others for Christ. For everyone who is trying truly to serve Christ, these comparisons that our Lord gave are vital that we should be like the serpent in one regard. Not that the serpent is really like that. But that the serpent has been used in all nations as a figure for that and that we should be like the dove in the other.

Or that we should be like the salt-- the salt which he says is so important. But the salt should be pure like the dove is considered to be. It should be free from admixture from that which is harmful or evil. How easy it is even after we have turned to Christ for that which is harmful to him to creep into our lives.

I like to think a verse in 1 John as a good summary of this point. In 1 John 2:16 the Apostle says, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life is not of the father but is of the world." For those who believe in Christ and are endeavoring to follow Him it is good to think about these three aspects that John mentions here and to ~~we~~ watch out because these are three points at which we are so easily loose its savor. The salt-- our salt
our salt can
can become such that it is absolutely worthless.

First there is what the KJV calls the lust of the flesh. I like this verse better in the KJV than I do in the NIV though in general I like the NIV better than the KJV. I believe we should try to speak today's language, not try to speak the language of 300 years ago. I don't believe any of us can speak the language of 300 years ago and if we try we easily can give a wrong impression ~~th~~ rather than the impression we mean to give. But it is very very difficult to get the meaning clear at many places and sometimes when we try to get the meaning clear we get only part of the message, instead of the whole thing that is there.

Sometimes the KJV expresses matters succinctly and in a way that is very easy to remember even though it is not quite as accurate as we would like to try to get it. This verse in the NIV reads, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. For everything in the world, the pleasures of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does comes not from the father but from the world." "The cravings of sinful man" I think is too broad. The "lust of the flesh" can also give a wrong impression too.

Everyone of us has natural desires, desires which God ordinarily intends to be satisfied. But these desires have often become corrupted. C. S. Lewis gives a very fine illustration of the way in which one of these urges has become confused and twisted in modern times by comparing it with another. He said, "Imagine that a large group of people were gathered together in a theatre. And that someone were to come forward and were to have something up on a stand with a cover in front of it. And if he were to remove the cover from it and you were to see a T-bone steak there. And everybody would gasp with excitement at seeing the T-bone steak. There is a natural impulse, a natural craving of man which is not distorted and confused as this other has become in modern life.

So in all of our activities, in all the things we see this is completely emphasized completely out of proportion. The one who becomes a Christian may try to get away from everything connected with it. But it is a natural impulse, a strong impulse, an impulse which ordinary is to receive ~~p~~ proper gratification. God has provided for it in the proper way. But if it is impossible for a time for a