## **Conquering the World Bible Study Series: INTRO**

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I.

The understanding of the term "world" has been grossly skewed in Christian thought, particularly in the Western World. God's intent for its use has moved from a range of different meanings within Christian culture to one primarily "negative" concept - of which we will uncover and dismantle. That one meaning has distorted the way we view and interact with humanity, understand creation and the universe; and how we interpret its use and meaning in the Holy Scriptures.

What if changing our view or expanding our view of this simple word could impact the trajectory of our ministries for eternity?

What if it could impact our respond to creation, sin and death and abundant life so profoundly, that our efforts to reach the lost and preach the Gospel would be amplified for the better? Would you be willing to change your perspective after full counsel is presented? In this series, we are conquering the "WORLD" by digging into the true meaning of its use in the scriptures and aligning our hearts to the heart of God and the ultimate purpose of salvation -- reconciliation. It is our prayer that you come to know how one seemingly small word - when used in proper context - can completely change how we understand God's love for us, our view salvation, our interactions with one another and the way we represent and present our faith.

**SOME SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Ephesians 2, John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 4,** Psalm 4:3, John 17:15, 1 John 4, Romans 12, 1 Peter 2, Revelations 11:15, Revelations 18:4, 2 Corinthians 5-7, Colossians 3, **Mark 2:14-17** 

Our focus is this session is on considering the predominant view of how the word "WORLD" is perceived overall among the congregation; and the impact it has had on our understanding of Scripture and the world overall.

Words & the	Bible			

a.	How is this word widely used in the congregation today?
b.	List the first three scriptures that come to mind when you consider the term world?
c.	Why do you believe these passages are the first ones that you thought of?
d.	Why do you believe our perspectives on this specific word are so critical?

b.	Inability to accurately understand the difference between sacred and secular; spiritual and worldly (fleshly, carnality).
c.	Lack of concern for anything good or positive that comes from the world – like humanitarian efforts, social concerns – positive aspects of culture. Causes us to be quick to devalue and dismiss them.
d.	Development of cynicism, despair becoming desensitized to what concerns others.
e.	Critical misunderstanding and dismissal concerning nature (the environment), the cosmos, etc.
f.	Super spiritualism can develop.
g.	Superiority complexes can develop, causing us to relate to people different from us with prejudices.

## IV. Sacred, Secular & Sinful Things: Three Critical Categories

a. What does sacred mean to you?

b.	What does secular mean to you?
c.	What are sinful things?
d.	What is fleshly to you?
way?	is discussion caused you to consider how you view the world? If so, in what Seriously consider why this discussion is important – especially in light of
	a worshipper, scribe and/or artist.