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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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The Reality of The World

1 John 2:15-17

Series: Reality Check – (re)Aligning Our Lives to the Way of Jesus

Central Passages

1 John 2:15–17 (ESV) — **15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. **17** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Central Thought: In a world of misplaced, inordinate and fleeting desire, John calls us to faithfulness to our heavenly Father as the source and satisfaction of all that we really need and truly want.

- ❖ The way of “the World” and the way of God are diametrically opposed to one another.

Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV) — **19** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24 (ESV) — **24** “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

- ❖ The way of the world entices each of us toward...

- The insatiable pursuit of pleasure...
- The endless accumulation of possessions...
- The relentless drive for prestige...

James 4:4 (ESV) — **4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Ephesians 2:1–3 (ESV) — **1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- ❖ The love of the Father and the way of Jesus leads us...

- To true and lasting joy and satisfaction.
- To deep contentment and security.
- To a genuine sense of dignity, self-worth and community.

Psalm 37:4 (ESV) — **4** Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

John 14:6 (ESV) — **6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 6:35 (ESV) — **35** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.