

AMCL 2013

What in the World? – Speaker: Dr Bill Salier
Public Lecture Overview – Thursday 15 August, 8 pm

Part A: Why are we doing this?

Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why this topic?

John

Feeling worldly?

'The enduring problem'

Questions, questions...

Part B: Overture

A presentation of some ancient, modern, sophisticated, popular and other thought about the world.

Part C: How we are going to proceed

i. What are we discussing?

1. The material world

- a. The material/natural universe/creation: Matt 24.21; 25.34; Jn 17.5; Heb 4.3, 9.26
- b. Sense of human life/abode of mankind: Jn 1.9; 11.27; Rom 5.12, 13; 2 Cor 1.12; 1 Tim 1.15; 1 Peter 5.9; 1 Jn 4.1, 9, 17
- c. Earth and its treasures: Matt 4.8; 16.26 [Mk 8.36/Lk9.25]; Rom 4.13
- d. Scope for Christian proclamation: Matt 5.14; 13.38; Mk 14.9; Rom 1.8; 1 Tim 3.16

2. The world of humanity

- a. The majority of people: Jn 12.19
- b. 'the public': Jn 7.4; 18.20
- c. (idiomatic use – James 3:6)

3. The 'world gone bad'

- a. World as man hostile to God: Jn 1.10; 1.29; Jn 7.7; 16.20, 33; 1Jn 3.1, 13; 4.4, 5
- b. A sphere of influence (with a 'spirit', 1 Cor 2.12); 1 Cor 1.20, 21, 27, 28; 2 Cor 7.10; 1 Jn 2.15-17
- c. The object of judgement and saving mercy: Jn 1.29; 3.16-19; 4.42; 6.33, 51; Rom 3.6, 19; 1 Cor 6.2; 2 Cor 5.19; 1 Jn 5.5

ii. A whole Bible approach

iii. **The Week Ahead:**

Monday:	The Word and the World
Tuesday:	Living with the Opposition of the World
Wednesday:	Living with the Allure of the World
Thursday:	Living in a World Passing Away
Friday:	Living in the Story of the Word and the World

iv. **Some of the main ideas....**

The Bible's teaching on the world is complex and provides resources for reflection and action rather than a single pattern.

Israel amongst the nations provides the analogy and background to Christians living in the world.

God's mission is the overall context in which we are to do our thinking.

The world in every sense provides a context for faithful Christian living.

The twin challenges of the 'world' in the negative sense are opposition and allure.

The 'world' provides a reason for faithful Christian living.

At the heart of the negative concept of the world is humanity with the world at its heart.

The Christian person relates to the world in and through Christ, who loved the world but did not take it to heart.

Worldliness flows from the simple thought that the most important person in the world is you.

The best way to think of relating to 'the world' is not through a single paradigm but rather by locating oneself in the story of the Word and the world.

With a little bit of thinking about our contemporary world along the way...