

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

The Power of Love Sixth Day of the Octave of Christmas Saturday, December 30, 2017
8:15 AM 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40 (Everything given to us is for a purpose.)

We've been reading from the **First Letter of John**, which is a very beautiful letter, simple letter, **talking about basically the power of love**. Well love is an intrinsic faculty within all human beings, one could say even all life. **Life lives to love**. There is this intrinsic purpose to all living things, and they love to live. And this is true of bacteria. It's true of the smallest and the greatest life. But **life on the human level can become distorted**. So everything is interrelated. "Nothing came to be apart from the Word." But human life can twist and distort many of the blessings of life.

And this is where we get this statement: **"Do not love the world or the things of the world."** Well what is meant here is not the world in the sense of the cosmos; that is the Greek word, *kosmos*. But here he means **the distortions the human life created**; that's what he means here by cosmos. "If anyone loves the world," the distortions created by human life, "the love of the Father is not in him," because distortions obviously distort and twist. "For all that is in the world, sensual lust, enticements for the eyes, and a pretentious life," all of which are distortions of good things, "is not from the Father."

So the point that we have to make out of this is that **everything given to us is for a purpose**. **When we twist it to a different purpose, we actually render it, not only useless, but actually dangerous**. So this letter is calling us to **attentiveness to the goodness of God**, first and foremost, and **to the love of the Father**, first and foremost, **and then to all that is included in the goodness of God in its proper order for its proper purpose**.