

**READING:** Exodus 20: 1 – 17; 1 John 2: 1-19

**SINGING:** 7 – 333: 2, 4 – 136 – 32: 1,3,4 – 203

## **MERELY FLEETING OR ENDURING ETERNALLY?**

*By Rev. P. Mulder*

Text: 1 John 2: 17

*"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."*

### **The lusts of this world**

- Our text does not refer to a world that is the recipient of God's love. Quite the opposite!
- When God had finished creating the world and everything in it, He rested and saw that it was very good.
- All these evil things come forth from within man. That is what God sees when He looks at us.
- Instead, he refers to those lusts that no one knows about yet, those lusts that are only in your imagination.
- It is either the world – defined in all its depth and breadth – or the Lord. There can be only one conclusion: how utterly and totally we have become focused on this world!
- This people carried the promised Messiah. God's salvation was among them. Would that also be your choice, congregation? And yours, young people?

### **The passing nature of all things underlined.**

- John was the apostle of love. That is very clear when we read his epistles. He often specifically focuses on the concept of love.
- He writes to them about sin and grace, about God and life with God, and about His commandments that must be kept. He does this with all the love in his heart

- The service of sin is very demanding, every time it demands something more exciting, something new. Our very economy is described as a throwaway economy.
- Hear God's Word and live! Leave your sins and worldly lusts behind! Confess your sins and iniquities! Be reconciled with God!

### **God's will proclaimed**

- Being able to hear the Word is a great privilege. It is a great advantage to know the Word and have the Gospel proclaimed to us.
- What must we do to do the will of God? Doing the will of God involves self-denial and forsaking our own will.
- When God's Spirit brings us to that point and causes us to look into the mirror of the law, then we are shocked! Then we see God's holiness and our ungodliness.
- For there is only one name under heaven, whereby we must be saved. That is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Doing the will of God. We are poor sinners who need Jesus. Lost sinners who need a redeemer.

### **Life eternalized**

- Are all God's children as strong in their faith and so assured of their salvation? Oh, you can readily think of opposite examples.
- The eyes of Stephen see the King in His beauty. The eyes that see this will never look back.