

Have you ever seen that picture of a cat with two paws clinging to the boat dock and two paws clinging to a boat that has been set adrift? The caption says, 'Hang in there, baby!' Trying to hang on to two such diametrically opposed forces such as the world and God will have the same effect on us; it will try to rip us apart!

To look at it another way, we want to be able to walk down the middle of the road so that we can run to whichever side we want to when we see something that we want. We want to be able to mix hot and cold together and still keep them separate. Hot and cold together, however, merely become lukewarm. And lukewarm spirituality is extremely distasteful to God.

We want to have worldly things and spiritual things at the same time in life; we want to 'have our cake and eat it too.' But that just cannot be. To those of such mind Jesus warned in Matthew 6:24, 'No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and mammon.'

If you are like me, you have done it a hundred times; you go shopping, you come home with several bags of items, and you try to gather it all up so that you will only have to make one trip. Invariably, you begin to drop things as you walk toward the door. It's not that you are really lazy, but you just want to do it all at once. But since we cannot do that, we must choose which packages to set down and which ones to keep.

We will drop whatever is the least precious to us and hang on to what we want the most. Unfortunately we get confused about what is the most precious. The world blinds us to the real and lasting value of things. But is there anything more precious to us than the goodness of God? We must be able to see that there is nothing on earth that compares. But so many people make the wrong choices.

In Mark 7:8 we read, 'You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.' I am reminded of the arm full of packages here. To the people Christ was talking about, there was nothing more precious than their own tradition, not even the word of God. But Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:2 that we must 'hold on firmly to the word.' We must hold on to that truth with as tight a grip as we can; it is the anchor of our soul and without it we are simply adrift in the world of sin. But we must let go of the world to do that.

How far does our commitment to God go? What of the world are we willing to give up to please Him? We must make a decision and stay there, remembering that there was nothing more precious to God than His own Son whom he gave up to die for us.