

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Perishing Together

Bill Brinkworth

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” Prov. 13:20

Recently, I saw a photograph that showed a biblical principle quite clearly. In the snapshot was a tangle of two large snakes. A King Cobra had bitten a large Boa Constrictor behind its head and hung on to it with its deadly bite. In reaction, the constrictor quickly wrapped its large muscular body around the Cobra’s body.

In a short time, both died. The constrictor eventually died because of the Cobra’s venom. The Cobra died of the other snakes unrelenting death squeeze. Both snakes died because of the other’s harmful action.

So many people are similarly a danger to each other and are not aware of their “death grip” on others. They live the way they think or feel is right to them. Many times, they even encourage others to live just as they do, even if it is against common sense and contrary to God’s will. In the end, both suffer great loss.

The drunk drinks with other drunks. Thieves gravitate to other thieves. Adulterers sin with others that are also desensitized to committing their iniquity against their spouse and the Almighty's commandments. Those guilty of murdering babies in abortion ease their guilt by attempting to erase the guilt of others that have also committed the same offense against God's law.

Sinners are more comfortable around other sinners as their conscience is not stirred about the atrocity they have committed. Quite often sinners flock together rather than socializing with those that do not do what they do or those that disapprove of what they are doing. Their activity no longer seems wrong but seems "normal" when they are around those of like sin

However, somewhat free from a reminder of what they have done or are doing, they are taking others down with them. They are inadvertently encouraging, spreading, and condoning sin. Their approving influence in another's wrong-doing could have silenced a conscience that would often have stopped one from continuing with their sin.

Just as the snake's natural ability destroyed the other, so will one's sin lead to the destruction of themselves and others. Ultimately, unsaved people will find themselves in Hell as they may have been encouraged to continue in that damning direction. A sinning Christian will lose the joy of his salvation, his testimony, and will not be what God intended of him.

If they had only stayed away from those that approved of what they were doing, they may have made the right decisions rather than the wrong, and not faced the consequences of sin. That is why God wants all to stay away from even the appearance of sin, as it will ruin any that get tangled with it.

“Abstain from all appearance of evil.” I Thes. 5:22

Beware the Yoke

Bill Brinkworth

One of the principles that will distinguish a strong Christian from a weak one, when practiced, is taught in II Corinthians 6. Not adhering to God’s teaching on this doctrine has ruined many Christian lives and testimonies. It is the number one robber of joy for a child of God. The doctrine Paul teaches in this chapter is the separation of a Christian from those who are not saved (II Cor. 6:14-17).

*“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” II
Corinthian 6:14*

The double-negated “not unequally yoked” can be somewhat confusing to our modern vernacular, but it simply means “do not be yoked together with unbelievers.” The yoke spoken of here is referring to the wooden implement that bound two farm animals together. It was common that two oxen or mules would be

joined together with this device so that they could plow a field together. We are not to be going in the same direction as the world is going and closely joined with them. Many times, we should not even be doing the same things they are doing.

We should not be yoked to unbelievers in marriage, business relationships, friendships, or other close relationships. When we are yoked together closely in such a relationship, we end up going the wrong direction and ending up not doing what God desires of us. Also, our appearance around or participation with those doing wrong weakens our testimony of living God's way.

We are in the world, and we naturally may be in close contact with unsaved. That happens and is a good opportunity to be a witness and an example to them, but getting into the position that we are going in their direction and committing their sin is what God is warning us about.

A child of God is on the winning side. Why in the world would he want to go in the same direction as the losing side? We have a Leader that will take us in the right, successful direction.

We should be guiding others in the right direction, not following their wrong pathways through life. We are to be yoked up with God's guidance, not following the unsaved.

“And what concord [agreement, union in opinions, sentiments, views or interests] hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?”

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

II Corinthians 6:15-16

The Pet Rattler

Robert G. Lee, in Whirlwinds of God

The Memphis Commercial Appeal carried a news dispatch which told of a man across the river in Arkansas who had a pet rattlesnake. The fellow found the snake as a baby snake. He took it, fed it, and made quite a pet of it. The reptile would come when he whistled. It would eat from his fingers. It would coil around his arm and let him stroke its head with the palm of his hand or with the tips of his fingers.

One day he took it to town to exhibit it among his friends. They marveled at its gentleness, marveled at the way it coiled itself with apparent gentleness around his arm, marveled at the way it would come when he whistled and marveled that it would eat from his hand.

He went back home with his pet. After arriving, with only the slightest provocation, the reptile became angry. Quicker than the zig-zag lightning flashes from the bosom of a dark cloud, that pet rattler buried its fangs in the man's arm. In a few hours, the man was dead. In one quick instant, with poisonous fangs, the serpent had killed its owner. Two nights after that, the man who should have

been sitting with his family in their humble but happy home, was buried in the mud of an Arkansas grave.

With such dread cometh such an hour to every man and woman who makes a pet of sin. So cometh such a horror and death to every man who refuses when God calls. An hour of kindred terror awaits the man or the woman who regards not when God stretches out his hand. A day of dreaded despair like that man met when he pulled the pet snake's fangs from his arm and hurled it to the ground, is out yonder somewhere to all who set at naught God's counsel and will have none of his reproof.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7

Turn you at God's reproof. Turn now! There's danger and death in delay. Let go that sin! Drop it now, before its "bite" is the destruction of you!

"Sin wouldn't be so attractive if its wages were paid immediately!"

Sin

Author Unknown

Man calls sin an accident; God calls it an abomination.

Man calls sin a blunder; God calls it blindness.

Man calls sin a chance; God calls it a choice.

Man calls sin a defect; God calls it a disease.

Man calls sin an error; God calls it an enmity.

Man calls sin fascination; God calls it fatality.

Man calls sin infirmity; God calls it iniquity.
Man calls sin luxury; God calls it leprosy.
Man calls sin liberty; God calls it lawlessness.
Man calls sin a trifle; God calls it a tragedy.
Man calls sin a mistake; God calls it madness.
Man calls sin a weakness; God calls it willfulness.

A church sign read: "Sin will fascinate you, then it will assassinate you."