

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Sin

Vexed by Ungodliness

Bill Brinkworth

When given a choice by his Uncle Abraham, Lot chose the choicest of lands to raise his cattle and family (Gen. 13:8-11). He left Abraham (named Abram at the time) the less appealing land, and kept the “best” for himself.

His selfish pick may have appeared to be the best choice; however, there was one important matter Lot did not consider when choosing where to live. He did not consider what his soon-to-be neighbors would be like.

As it turned out, the place he chose to live near was near the twin cities: Sodom and Gomorrah. Those cities were known for their rampant sin, particularly homosexuality. It was there that the righteous man, Lot, chose to live.

It was not long before he was involved in the city’s government (Gen. 19:1, 9). He was not only living among wickedness, but he was also involved in the choices made to help manage the city.

Shortly, his constant exposure to godlessness and their sin affected Lot. The Bible says that he was “... vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked ... in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;” (II Peter 2:7-8). The part of Lot that wanted to live and please the Lord was “irritated, harassed, teased, and disturbed” by the lifestyle he was allowing himself and his family to be exposed.

As a Christian, we usually cannot live on top of a mountain, away from the world and all their sin. Most of the time, we have to live around sin, see it in the workplace, hear it on television, and be exposed to its consequences and involvement wherever we go.

However, if we are not wary of iniquity and do not do all we can to limit its exposure, we too will be “vexed” by sin. It will wear on us, and if we are not careful, sin will be commonplace to us.

We will be hardened against it. Seeing or hearing sin will not bother us as much as it used to. The spiritual part of us will be desensitized to sin’s evilness. If we are not careful, we will even be involved in it, thinking it is normal because “everyone is doing it.”

Despite what the unsaved world is doing, sin is and always will be wrong to God. The only protection against being desensitized by it or involved in it is to do one's best to avoid contact with it.

If you are vexed by filthy language on television, there may be some channels you should never listen to again, or you may have to stop watching the "hellelevision". Filthy words creeping into your own language? Maybe there are some foul-mouthed influences that you should no longer listen to or associate with.

Seeing things your eyes should not be seeing on the internet? Limit where you browse, or maybe you will have to stay off the internet altogether.

Dirty images you have already viewed plaguing your thought-life? Avoid further looks and recite Scripture verses, particularly about what you are thinking. It is difficult to have the clean Word of God and filthiness in your thought-life at the same time. The filthiness will flee!

The key to keeping a holy, unsoiled life and testimony for the Lord is to separate (II Cor. 6:17) from the world. It is possible to remain undefiled in this ever-increasing sinful world.

If we purpose in our hearts not to be defiled by ungodliness in this world, the Lord will do His part to help us. He will give the believer "a way to escape" sin's vexing grasp, if the believer wants it!

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13

"If you can get along with the world, then you are out of step with God!"

— Dr. Harold Sighler

Let Go!

Author Unknown

This world holds nothing so dear
That Christ cannot give us more:
His love, His peace, His Joy —
Far more than heart could implore.

Our lives lose much He has for us
As we cling to our earthly ties:
In Him are pleasures forevermore,
Let go — for Christ satisfies.

"Ultimate success depends on loving things above more than things below!"

— Author Unknown

It Will Rub Off on You!

Bill Brinkworth

Little Seymour was dressed in the suit he had to wear for his uncle's wedding. Being the ring-bearer, he had to wear what was picked out for him. In this case, it was an all-white suit. Even the coat, shirt, pants, socks, and shoes were white.

Like many six-year-olds, he was quite squirmy. It was impossible for him to sit or even stand still. Some part of him just had to wiggle or wander — all the time.

Being unsupervised for just a couple of seconds allowed the child the opportunity to sneak outside on the dreary, rainy day. Partly out of instinct to be where he should not be, little Seymour found himself close to a very inviting puddle.

The child's inquisitiveness led him to investigate if the surrounding mud was "really the kind that is squishy, and the kind you sink into?" An inspecting finger verified, "Yep, it was squishy". Muddied shoes also proved the discovery.

The little mind continued to wonder, "Is the water deep enough to splash really good? Yep!" A now muddied coat and pants also gave him the answer, as they were now splattered with mud and water.

Of course, the inevitable happened, and the wearer of white fell face-first in the muddy puddle. He was not the clean member of the wedding party he was ten minutes prior.

Sin is very much like the mud puddle the little boy investigated, and the child of God is very much like little Seymour. A born-again person has all their sins forgiven. If the indwelling, convicting Holy Spirit is obeyed, the believer will have many of the sins he was involved in "cleaned up" in his life. He may not be perfect, but many of the things he used to do will no longer be part of his life.

Honesty will replace a lying past. Everyday conversation will no longer include the filthy words that used to be said. Reading filthy magazines will be replaced by reading the Word of God.

Sundays may no longer spent guzzling beer with friends, and the believer will regularly be found in a local church learning more about the things of God. The believer should be a new creature in Christ, and much different from what he was before.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17

However, a mistake could have been made. He got too close to sin. Maybe it was just "one puff" on a cigarette that God had helped him keep away from. Perhaps it was just a "little sip" of his friend's beer, or it was not turning the television station he knew he should not be watching on. Maybe it was his involvement in "just a little sin", but soon the "cleaned up" Christian found himself in the same mud puddle of sin.

The only prevention from this happening in any believer's life is to keep away from sin. Sin will rub off on you! No one is exempt! However, sin cannot rub off on you if you are far away from it!

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Galatians 5:13

“Whatever you love more than God is your idol!” — *D. L. Moody*

Get Far from Evil

Adam Clark

Abstain from all appearance of evil. Sin not, and avoid even the appearance of it. Do not drive your morality so near the bounds of evil as to lead even weak persons to believe that ye actually touch, taste, or handle it. Let not any form of it appear with or among you, much less the substance. Ye are called to holiness; be ye holy, for God is holy.

Seek the Better Things

C. H. Spurgeon

Many years ago, there was a crossing-sweeper in Dublin with his broom at the intersection of two roads. His responsibility was to keep the crossing clean. He was paid one penny for doing so.

One day, a lawyer put his hand upon his shoulder and said to him, “My good fellow, do you know that you are heir to a fortune of ten thousand pounds a year?”

“Do you mean it?” said the road sweeper.

“I do,” he said. “I have just received the information. I am sure you are the man.”

The sweeper walked away from his job, and left his broom behind. Are you astonished? Why, who would not have forgotten a broom, when suddenly made possessor of ten thousand pounds a year?

So, I pray that some poor sinners, who have been thinking of the pleasures of the world, when they hear that there is hope, and that there is Heaven to be had, will forget the deceitful pleasures of sin, and follow after higher and better things.

“This world is not my home! I’m just passing through. Thank the Lord.”