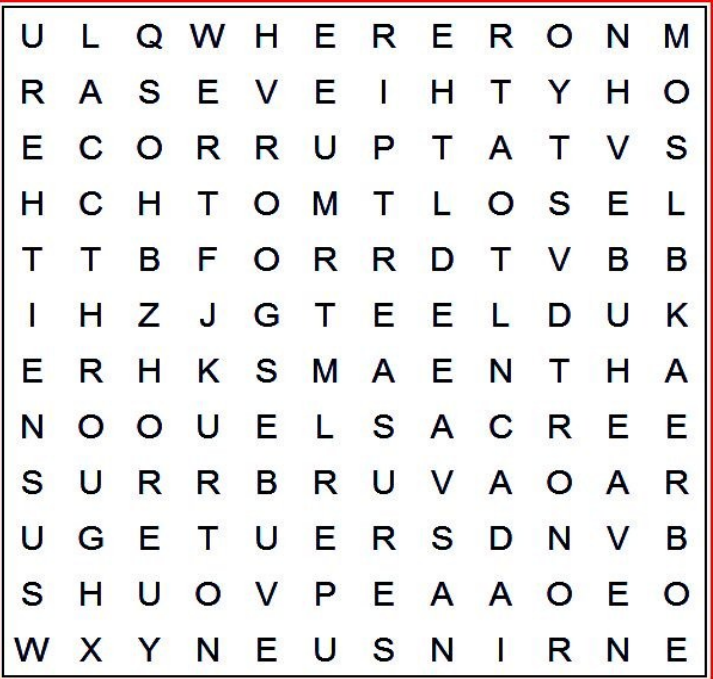


Matthew 6:20



Words to Find:
 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

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 he forgot his broom. 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.

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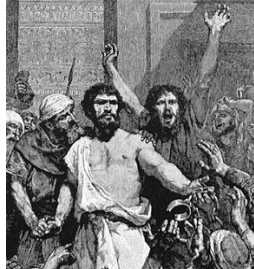



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Vexed by Ungodliness

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 in picking where he would 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 Gomorrha. These 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 government of the

city (Gen. 19:1, 9). He was not only living among wickedness, but he was involved in the choices made to help the city being managed. 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).

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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 to wear. In this case, it was an all-white suit. The coat, shirt, pants, socks, and even the 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 seconds allowed the little

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Vexed by Ungodliness

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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 the television, and be exposed to its consequences and involvement wherever we go. However, if we are not wary of it, and 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 like 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 that it is normal, because “everyone is doing it.”

Despite what the unsaved world is doing sin is, and always will be, wrong. The only protection from being desensitized by it, or being involved in it, is to do one’s best to avoid its contact. 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 “hellevision”.

Filthy words creeping into your own language? Maybe there are some influencing foul-mouths 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 just have to stay off the internet all together. 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’s sin. It is possible to remain undefiled in this ever-increasing sinful world. If we purpose in our hearts to not 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 Cor. 10:13

It Will Rub Off on You!

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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”. Muddy 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. One born-again 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 not be part of his life anymore.

Honesty will replace a lying past. Normal conversation will no longer include the filthy words of his past. Reading filthy maga-

zines will be replaced by reading the Word of God. Sunday’s no longer are spent guzzling beer with friends, and the believer is regularly found in a local church learning more about the things of God. The believer is a new creature in Christ, and much different than he was before.

However, a mistake is made. He gets too close to sin. Maybe it was just “one puff” on a cigarette that God had helped him keep away from; maybe it was just a “little sip” of his friend’s beer; perhaps it was not turning the station on a program he knew he should not be watching; or perhaps it was his involvement in “just a little sin”, but soon the “cleaned up” Christian finds 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!

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.

“If you can get along with the world, then you are out of step with God!” — Dr. Harold Sighler