

II Corinthians 6:17

Z	A	A	N	D	L	T	F	T	C	B	D
E	N	B	X	O	H	E	U	O	S	R	C
H	D	E	R	E	V	R	H	C	U	O	T
T	U	D	M	I	C	O	N	M	O	R	F
S	D	N	E	R	S	F	A	X	G	Z	C
I	E	C	O	Q	E	E	E	T	Y	S	R
T	E	P	Z	T	A	R	L	H	E	A	G
R	R	A	A	N	L	E	C	E	U	I	N
W	B	M	D	R	Q	H	N	D	A	T	I
I	T	O	O	B	A	W	U	U	K	H	H
L	E	N	H	U	S	T	O	A	E	S	T
L	F	G	H	M	T	Y	E	C	O	M	E

Words to Find:
"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

A "Clogged" Life

C. H. Spurgeon

Beware of growing covetousness, for of all sins this is one of the most insidious. It is like the silting up of a river. As a river comes down from the land, it brings with it sand and earth, and deposits all these at the waterway's mouth. Soon, unless the conservators watch it carefully, it will block itself up with all the silt, and leave no channel for ships to enter in. By daily deposit, it imperceptibly

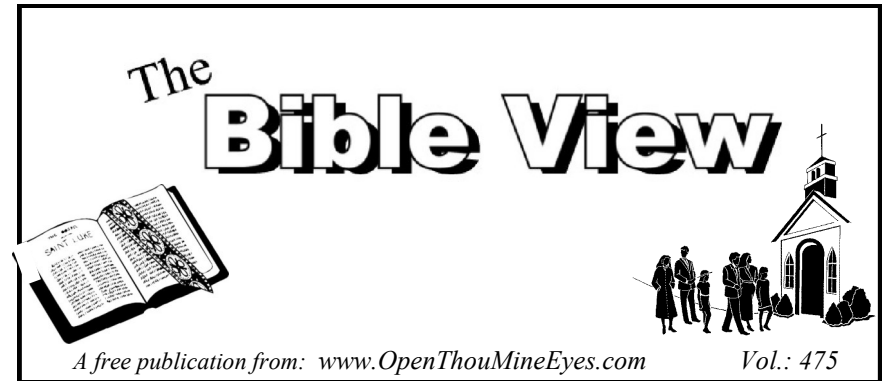
creates a sandbar, which is dangerous to navigation.

Many a man when he begins to accumulate wealth, and the things of this world, commences at the same moment to ruin his soul. Often, the more he acquires, the more closely he blocks up the very mouth of spiritual life. Instead of doing more for God, he does less. The more he saves, the more he wants, and the more he wants of this world the less he cares for the world to come.

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"I'm in for a Good Time"

H. A. Ironside

"But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth."

I Timothy 5:6

Some years ago, I had been preaching Christ as God's remedy for man's ruined condition, in a beautiful



mining town in the mountain regions of Northern California. One afternoon, I noticed in the meeting hall a young woman whose sin-marked face, weary look, and careless demeanor could not fail to attract attention. Stepping over to her at the close, I asked, "What about your soul? Have you ever thought of preparing for eternity?"

"My soul? I ain't got none," was the flippant reply, accompanied by a foolish laugh. Further conversation seemed to make no impression, for, after solemnly warning her of coming judgment, she exclaimed, "You ain't going to scare me into religion. Wouldn't I look nice

joining you folks? I'm in for a good time."

"But when you've had your day, when your so-called good time is over forever, when death, judgment, and eternity have to be faced, when God has to be met, what then?"

"Oh, well, of course, I don't intend to live like this all the time. I'll get religion when I grow old. I ain't got time for it now."

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Separate!

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

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"I'm in for a Good ..."

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"The devil has deceived thousands, but you may never live to grow old. You may not have time to prepare for eternity, though you must find time to die." Another laugh greeted this warning, and she was gone. It seemed almost impossible that so young a person could be so hardened. I was told she had abandoned herself to a grossly, wicked life, though little more than a child, and was an outcast from respectable society. How sin degrades, hardens, and blinds its poor victims.

Some weeks after the above conversation, an undertaker came to the house where I was staying. He said that he had a funeral to conduct that was a source of much embarrassment to him. The person to be buried was a young woman of such a notorious character that he could scarcely persuade anyone to act as pallbearers. Mentioning her name, he asked if we knew any who might do her this last service. We promptly offered ourselves. Some former companions of her folly had already promised to be the other bearers.

I finally saw the remains of the deceased. It was the girl I had recently spoken to, cut down in a moment, "... *suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy....*" Two days earlier, after a public holiday spent in a revolting manner, she was brought home drunk and put into a bed, from which she never arose. In a few hours, she had passed into eternity, having died in great agony from the baneful effects of her long debauchery. The wine-cup and its accompaniments had claimed another victim.

Awful was the sight of her pale, swollen face. A minister had been called in, but what could he say? What comfort could he give? Of deathbed repentance there would be no opportunity. No hope could he hold out that she might ever be saved. She had been asked by her mother if she wanted someone to come in to pray with her. "No," she said, "no one." Couldn't she remember a prayer, then, to say herself—the Lord's Prayer, or any other?" "No, I can't," and instead of prayer there were curses and groans of anguish.

"She had lived her life," the minister said, "I shall not speak of it, for it cannot be altered now. You here have your life to live yet. I speak then to you," and he faithfully urged them to flee to Christ alone for refuge.

As I helped lower the coffin into the grave, my heart was sad indeed. As I turned away, I heard someone exclaim, under his breath, "Just think of it, only seventeen years old, and gone to hell!" That sad reality has haunted me ever since.

Separate!

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what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" II Corinthian 6:14

The double negative "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 binds two farm animals together. It was common that two oxen or mules would be joined together with this device, so they could plow a field together. We are not to be going in the same direction as the world is going. We should not be plowing the same "field" as they. We should not be connected to them.

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. 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 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 direction. We should not be following those that do not know the Way. We should be guiding others in the right direction, not following their wrong pathways through life.

The Bible says there are two spiritual sides in this life: God's and the devil's (also called Belial). What can we possibly have in common with an unbeliever's thinking and goals? "*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 Cor. 6:15-16.

"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. Ye are called to holiness; be ye holy, for God is holy." — Adam Clark