

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 6:14-18**.
- B. Jesus came into the world to save men from their sins. His death makes our salvation possible. As Xians, we are to live according to the principles of X, and not the world (Eph. 4:17-20).
- C. Xians must learn to live in the world and be separate from it. At times this is quite difficult. In this morning's lesson let's look at what it means to be separated from the world.
- D. Read the text.
 - 1. When a Xian is so entangled in the things of the world, and so much in the midst of sinful people that he cannot get out, it is said that he is unequally yoked. This bond is unequal because the Xian and the non-Xian have so little in common.
 - 2. There is no reason for a Xian to find himself in such a state. He is to be different from the world, not unequally yoked to it. (Remember, it is much easier to pull someone down than it is to pull someone up.)
- E. The apostle Paul list five things, or reasons as to why this unequal yoke is not good:
 - 1. It is righteousness vs. lawlessness.
 - 2. It is light vs. darkness.
 - 3. It is Christ vs. Belial,
 - 4. It is a believer vs. a non-believer.
 - 5. It is the temple of God vs. idols.

I. RIGHTEOUSNESS VS. LAWLESSNESS.

- A. The faithful Xian has two laws that he must follow to be pleasing to God:
 - 1. First, he must follow the law of the Spirit, Christ's law (Rom. 8:1,2; Ac. 5:29).
 - 2. Second, he must follow the civil law of the land (Rom. 13:1,2,5).
- B. Lawlessness has no respect of people, things or morals. Anarchy is one of the most deplorable situations ever known.

II. LIGHT VS. DARKNESS.

- A. People like physical darkness because in it they think they can hide their sins. If it is done in the dark they can get away with it, so they think.
- B. But those who practice the truth have nothing to hide and can do all things in the light.
- C. Notice the emphasis as found in Eph. 5:7-10, as Xians are different in that they are trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
- D. We must walk in the spiritual light to have the continual forgiveness of sins (1Jn. 1:7).

III. CHRIST VS. BELIAL.

- A. The word "belial" is found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and is a synonym for Satan. It literally means, without value, or useless.
- B. Whatever it might be, when we deem something as useless was quickly discard it. (Ex.: eating soup with a fork is useless, or writing with an ink pen that is dry.)
- C. We must discard everything that is not of X (2Tim. 1:13).

IV. BELIEVER VS. UNBELIEVER.

- A. When a person puts on X, they claim to have a new master that will now be our Lord. An unbeliever will act in accordance with his own wishes not in accordance with what X, would have him to do.
- B. We cannot be removed from the world, but we can live apart from it. We must learn to draw proper lines of activity as to what we can do and what we can't (1Cor. 5:9,10; Jas. 1:27).

- C. One said it this way, "A Xian with money went into business with a non-Xian with experience, soon however, the non-Xian had the money and the Xian had the experience." Think about it!!

V. THE TEMPLE OF GOD VS. IDOLS.

- A. God seeks true worshippers. There is a right way and a wrong way to worship God. In both covenants God has been One to be worshipped on His terms not man's (Jn. 4:23,24).
- B. The NT church is a place of worship that needs not be a temple that serves idols. It is a worshipping community that praises God.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The blessing comes to those who will leave the things of the world and be separate and apart (2Cor. 6:17,18).
- B. We need to put away lawlessness, darkness, useless things, acts of unbelievers and idols.
- C. We need to practice things of righteousness, light, Christ, acts of believers, and true temple (church) worship.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.