

Series: 1 Corinthians
Title: Awake to Righteousness
Text: 1 Cor 15: 33
Date: November 17, 2016
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

The Corinthian church had begun to receive as companions, false preachers and false believers. These men preached there was no resurrection. They preached false doctrine in Christ's name. They taught that Paul was not a true apostle. So the apostle Paul gives this serious, serious warning and this stern rebuke to the Corinthian believers.

1 Corinthians 15: 33: Be not deceived: evil communications (evil companions) **corrupt good manners.** (they lead you away from the truth, destroy good character and morals) **34: Awake to righteousness,** (awake to truth, to right and justice) **and sin not;** (leave these evil companions) **for some have not the knowledge of God:** (some who claim to preach the gospel of Christ are ignorant of God) **I speak *this* to your shame.** (it was to the shame of true believers that they made false preachers/false brethren their companions)

Proposition: Believers should make fellow believers our constant companions rather than evil companions.

BE NOT DECEIVED

1 Corinthians 15: 33: Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Be not deceived into thinking that this statement is false! Remember our Lord's parable of the 4 kinds of hearers! The first was the way side hearer

Mark 4: 15...but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Immediately, Satan uses any means to take away the truth you heard preached. He may use someone you love who contradicts the truth you heard preached. He may use an ipod full of music to immediately take the word out of your heart. He may make you think you know better so that you reject this truth. Satan uses many means. Paul told the Corinthians,

2 Corinthians 11:3:...I fear, lest **by any means**, as the serpent **beguiled** Eve through **his subtilty**, [Satan is crafty] **so your minds** should be **corrupted from** the **simplicity** that is **in Christ**.

Pauls' fear I my fear. That your minds should be corrupted from singleness of heart for Christ, corrupted from liberty in Christ to bondage of law, corrupted from trusting Christ's promise to provide all things we need. So before we go any further, be not deceived. God would not have this recorded in his word if it is not true!

EVIL COMPANIONS CORRUPT

1 Corinthians 15: 33: Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Evil companions are corrupting. He does not mean we are to treat others with a holier than thou attitude. He is speaking of two kinds of companions that corrupt.

One, those who preach and believe a false gospel are evil. They will corrupt you from the truth of the gospel. Those who preach and believe man's will is the final say are evil and will corrupt. We must hear the truth that God choose his people, we did not choose him. We must consistently hear the truth that God regenerates his people, we do not give life. Our will is in bondage to sin until Christ makes us willing by his power. It is by God's will that his people are saved that God might have all the glory!

False preachers declare and false brethren believe that the sinner must add to Christ's work: be it law of Moses or new testament commands turned into law. They are evil. They shall corrupt you. We must constantly hear the truth that it is from Christ that his people receive all fullness of wisdom, righteousness, holiness and redemption. We must be constrained by Christ to obey his commands that no flesh glory in his presence.

False preacher corrupt by preaching and false believer corrupt by promoting the lie that sinners are given liberty to walk sinfully in this world or who deny the resurrection for a sinful course of life are evil and shall corrupt you. After declaring that we are made righteous by Christ's obedience alone. After declaring that grace much more abounded over sin that "as sin hath reigned unto death, even so [shall] grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord". Paul wrote

Rom 6:1: What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2: God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?....11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Brethren, there are no exceptions—each and every person—who preaches Christ is not All in every aspect of our salvation are guided by evil motives and shall corrupt if we make them our companions.

2 Peter 2: 2: And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

The second kind of evil companions are worldly, irreligious, immoral companions—If we make them our companions we will destroy our good character and morals

Proverbs 13: 20: He that walketh with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 4: 14: Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil *men*. 15: Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. 16: For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause *some* to fall.

2 Timothy 2:16: But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 17: And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18: Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Pastor Henry Mahan wrote an article to his congregation back in the 80's that I'd like to read for us:

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS!

I know most of you are faithful to the Sunday worship services, and I know you tarry after services to visit and talk with one another. But what about the other six days of the week? Do you have much fellowship with those whose conversation is seasoned with grace and who are a good influence on you and your children? The people of the world (religious world and social world) are not an influence for

good or spiritual growth. "Evil companions and associations corrupt good character" (1 Corinthians 15:33). But our brethren comfort us, encourage us, instruct us, and regular fellowship with them and their families will be a great blessing to you and your children. Do not spend your social and family time with those who do not know God (86% of the week) and expect to correct the effect with a couple of hours on Sunday. As much time as you can, devote it to good fellowship in Christ with other believers. It will reap great blessings to you and your family.

WAKE UP AND TURN FROM THEM

1 Corinthians 15: 34: Awake to righteousness, and sin not;

If we have evil companions then God says we are to wake up and turn from them. The word "awake" means "return from being drunk-minded." The effect these evil companions had on the Corinthian believers was that it intoxicated their minds.

Awake **to righteousness**. Awake to Christ the Truth. Awake to Christ our Righteousness. Awake to Christ who suffered and died for us! When we consider how Christ sacrificed all for us, how he willingly bore our sins and our curse, how he suffered in shame and humiliation, how he was separated justly from God, all to make his elect people to have honored God's law perfectly—knowing this, how can we receive evil companions when Christ says depart from them?

Romans 13: 11: And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12: The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13: Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14: But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

But we are not only to awake, he says "**and sin not.**" Receiving evil companions is sinful. He says "do not continue in this sin." We are told this by God in many places in scripture.

Ephesians 5: 11...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. 12: For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13: But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. 14: Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Isaiah 60:1: Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

Believer, our light has come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon us. We have Christ word and we are to obey him for our own good and the good of his people. "Come out from among them," he says, "Unite with my people." This is a command of Christ our Savior. Some might say "I don't feel led of the Lord." Pastor Todd Nibert said, "When I was a child and my dad gave me a command, if I answered him, "I don't feel led to obey" then he would have let me have it."

Brethren, refuse not him that speaketh from heaven! He has come and given us light. He laid down his life for a particular people. He gave us hearts to believe. He has made us the righteousness of God in him. When we hear the gospel preached, don't let satan take it away with vain excuses. Believe on Christ today! He promises to provide whatever we need! He will!

In 1999, Melinda and I moved from Nashville to Franklin to be closer to fellow believers. We never regretted it! Christ gave us more light! He edified us through that good companionship!

DISCERN THOSE WHO ARE IGNORANT

1 Corinthians 15: 34...for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame.

It is important to obey our Lords' command here so that we continue able to discern those who are ignorant of God. Some at Corinth who claimed to preach and believe the gospel were, in fact, ignorant of God. They proved it by denying the resurrection.

But it was to the shame of the true Corinthian believer's that some of them did not discern the lies of the false preachers and received them as companions rather than turning from them. That was the corrupting effect evil companions had on them. They were not using discernment and rejecting these men who did not have the knowledge of God. Maybe they were good friends; maybe they were relatives. Maybe they were dull of hearing. But none of those are excuses. Christ addresses each one in the word and right here in our text saying, "It is to your shame!"

Many who claim to preach sovereign grace receive as brethren those who preach free will works religion. They reject us but receive them. They call it love. God calls it sin.

In our day, this world is full of false preachers and evil companions—some are very, very subtle—Christ said "if it were possible they would deceive the very elect." Thank God it is not possible! God chose us by free grace and he will keep his people by free grace. Christ perfected us with his blood and no charge can be laid to those for whom he died and shall not be laid to them. The Spirit of God who quickened them shall make them hear this gospel and come out from among evil companions and unite with true brethren.

Knowing that I say, brethren, hear this word as coming from Christ himself. Be not deceived: evil companions will corrupt us. Awake and turn from evil companions. Make true brethren our constant companions. Whatever sacrifice we have to make to do it, Christ promises he will give us light just as Christ provided by laying down his life for us. Christ will provide whatever his people need as we obey his word! If it is in our heart to obey, Christ put it there. Fight the fleshly nay saying and believe Christ. Despite the fact it may look impossible—we will find that Christ always makes good on every promise.

2 Corinthians 9:8: And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

Amen!