

Yoked to Jesus Alone

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

"Our text is a great, as deep, as wide, as long as all the revelation of God. It is a part of God's mind, heart, and purpose for His people, from the day when He flung the stars in space until the day when we shall see His lovely face, and we are part of that great plan. Therefore, come ye out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord Almighty..."

To what extent do you think Christian principles are really applied in modern society? I suggest to you that the veneer is very thin, not even more than skin deep. It is the same world that rejected Christ, and it does so still. It is a civilization which is under the judgement of God. and it is doomed to destruction. The Babylon of the Old Testament has its counterpart today, and in the great last Book of the Word of God, in the picture of the overthrow of world civilization, , God says: '...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.' (Revelation 18:4-5)." Redpath

- I. Our ability to be on our guard, stand firm in the faith, be men and women of courage, be strong and do everything in love rests solely on the strength of our relationship with Jesus Christ. His yoke enables us to live the gospel well in the midst of this evil world system. It is imperative that we do not in any way allow ourselves to transmit its force and drag its load into our lives and the lives of others.

2 Cor. 6:14

Deut. 22:9-11

1 Cor. 16:13

"Do not be yoked together..." Do not bind yourself to and consequentially become inseparable... Do not transmit a force together... Do not drag a load together to do what God never intended you to do."

*"A bow yoke (/'bou/) is a shaped wooden crosspiece bound to the necks of a pair of oxen (or occasionally to horses). It is held on the animals' necks by an oxbow, from which it gets its name. The oxbow is usually U-shaped and also **transmits force** from the animals' shoulders. A swivel between the animals, beneath the centre of the yoke, attaches to the pole of a vehicle or to chains (traces) **used to drag a load.**"*

Galatians 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

- II. The act of separating ourselves from anything or anyone that could keep us from living well for the Lord takes a decisive determined effort to do so. It means to set up impenetrable spiritual, moral, principled boundaries around our heart, mind and soul to keep us true to Him.

2 Cor. 6:17-18

Isa. 52:11

Ps. 5:11-12

Jer. 31:9

Hosea 2:14,20

ἀφορίζω aphorizō to mark off from others by boundaries, to limit, to separate

Matthew 25:32-32 *All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*

Philippians 3:20 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the LORD Jesus Christ,*

- III. We are citizens of Jesus' kingdom, which is not of this world (**Jn. 18:36**). This world is not our home and never will be. It is wicked, dark, controlled by Satan and full of idols that vie for our affection; it hates that we know the Lord. We must be very careful to keep a biblical mindset so that we are not influenced by its system of belief, its reasoning, its philosophy and its ethic of what is considered right or wrong so that we can perfect holiness out of reverence for God.

2 Cor. 6:17-18

Jn. 15:18-19

Luke 9:23

1 Jn. 5:19

2 Cor. 7:1

1 Jn. 2:15-17

1 John 5:19 *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

Matthew 11:28-30 *28"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*