
Words of Truth

Vexed With The Filthy Conversation Of The Wicked

By: Brian A. Yeager

Peter, through inspiration, wrote the following concerning Lot: *“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)”* (II Peter 2:6-8).

The Scriptures show us that we live in an evil world. Notice some of those Scriptures: *“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil... Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father... Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever... And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness”* (John 7:7, Galatians 1:3-4, I John 2:15-17, and I John 5:19).

It is no wonder why we often find ourselves frustrated by the things we see around us. The world is a place full of evil. We’ve just read very clear Scriptures that point that out. As Christians, we’re a people who live perfect, holy, just, pure, and blameless lives (Matthew 5:8, Matthew 5:48, Romans 6:1-2, I Corinthians 15:34, II Corinthians 7:1, II Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 1:4, Ephesians 4:24, Philippians 2:14-16, Colossians 1:28, I Thessalonians 4:7, I Timothy 1:5, Hebrews 12:14, I Peter 1:13-16, II Peter 3:10-14, I John 3:1-3, and Revelation 3:2).

Living perfect, holy, just, pure, and blameless lives leaves us as outsiders in this world (Psalms 119:19-24 and I Peter 2:11). We do not conform (Romans 12:1-2), therefore we do not “fit in” among those who are worldly (I Peter 4:1-5). Rather than trying to “fit in”, we are often trying to help people be converted to the Lord through His word (Psalms 19:7, Psalms 51:13, and Romans 1:16). To add to our frustrations, we often find our efforts to reach the lost fruitless (II Corinthians 4:3-7; cf. Luke 13:23-24). In fact, we often find our efforts met with hatred (Proverbs 9:8, Proverbs 23:9, and Matthew 7:6; cf. Proverbs 29:27). There sure are a lot of reasons for us to find ourselves vexed. In fact, the same reasons exist today as did in the days of Lot.

The Conduct Of The Wicked Is Still Filthy

Lot had to witness fornication and even had such come right up to his doorstep (Genesis 19:1-5). Today, we see unlawful sexual intercourse all through society. Soul damning acts of fornication such as

homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Matthew 19:4-6, Romans 1:18-32, II Peter 2:6, and Jude 7), adultery (Exodus 20:14, Romans 13:9, and Galatians 5:19-21), premarital sex (Hebrews 13:4), and even bestiality (Exodus 22:19, Leviticus 18:23, and Deuteronomy 27:21) are almost glorified in our sinful society. Television shows, news medias, movies, and books try to portray these sinful acts of fornication as “normal” and “innocent”. The old “no harm no foul” idea get’s tossed about frequently. Yet, people fail to consider that they have transgressed God’s will in these things and eternal harm will come to all involved (I Corinthians 6:9-10 and II Thessalonians 1:7-9).

The reason we cannot help people that are caught in these transgressions is because their hearts are the problem (Proverbs 6:18, Proverbs 15:28, and Mark 7:21-23). The heart is where the Gospel needs to be planted so that conversion can take place (Deuteronomy 6:6, Deuteronomy 32:46, Psalms 119:11, Proverbs 4:4, Luke 8:11-15, Romans 10:8, and Hebrews 4:12). When people have their hearts full of mischief (Psalms 140:1-2) we’ll not see or hear good things from them (Proverbs 6:14).

We are a people of truth (II John 4). Yet, we live in a world full of liars who are following their father’s lead (John 8:44). We’re working hard to have heaven as our home (II Peter 1:10). Yet, we live in a world full of people that are working hard to go to Hell (II Thessalonians 2:12). It is hard to watch these things happen for several reasons. For one, we don’t want to be around evil (I Thessalonians 5:22). We also understand the danger of worldly temptations (Proverbs 9:6, Proverbs 13:20, Matthew 26:41, and I Corinthians 15:33). On top of all of that, we are troubled when we consider how many people are lost (Romans 9:1-3 and Philippians 3:18). There sure is a lot to be saddened about. Yet, we have a lot of bright sides to look at also.

There Are Some Bright Sides Here

If we always just focus on how bad things are, we forget about the bright sides. Darkness is noticeable because it surrounds us (John 3:19-21). However, like Lot, we’ve been delivered from the power of that darkness (John 12:46, Colossians 1:12-13, Ephesians 5:8, I Thessalonians 5:4-5, I Peter 2:9, and I John 2:8-9). While we live in a world of evil, we are not of this evil world (John 17:14). We do not have to be vexed by the world for we are overcoming this world (I John 5:4-5). We don’t always have to think about the many who are lost, we can think about the few whom we have helped be saved (Luke 15:7 and Luke 15:10). Rather than turning on the television or paying too much attention to other forms of media wherein we become vexed, we can turn our attention to the word of God and find comfort therein (Psalms 1:1-2 and Romans 15:4). Most of all, we don’t have to focus on where the world is heading. Instead, we can focus more on where we are heading (Colossians 3:1-4). We can be encouraged in the thought of the Resurrection (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) and eternal life (Psalms 13:5, Psalms 20:5, and I Peter 1:3-9).

Conclusion

When I walk outside I try hard to focus more on God’s creation (Acts 17:24-28) than on man’s destruction (Ecclesiastes 7:29). The more attention we pay to the wicked the harder it is to be joyful. We cannot put our heads in the sand. We have work to do (Ezekiel 3:18-21 and Acts 5:42). What we can do is spend more time focusing on our work than on the works of the world. We can spend more time with our brethren (Acts 2:42-46 and I Peter 4:9). Don’t get vexed over things we can’t control.