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Choosing Christian Companions

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CHOOSING CHRISTIAN COMPANIONSI Corinthians 15:33 - 34

John Locke's view of human mind: Tabula Rasa: Blank page. Each day of life marks something on that page. Good-bad. **Every companion, teacher, associate adds something to page.** Grand secret of Christian life: Know how much evil and doubt you can stand ^{and throw off,} and avoid too strong influences.

I. LIFE, AT BEST, IS A HARD INWARD STRUGGLE.

- A. Paul struggled to maintain his faith, build his hope, and increase love toward mankind. I Cor. 9:27.
- B. Paul knew one's daily associations help tip scales of personal decision. I Cor. 15:33. Rejected Mark. A. 15:38
1. Mark a coward, fearful, negative thinker?????
- C. Paul knew his limitations; also his only weapon. R. 7:14-25
1. Alcoholic didn't. Fat into the frying pan.
- D. Paul's battle-cry: Philippians 4:13. "Do all things...."

II CHRISTIAN PEOPLE ARE OFTEN WEAKER THAN OTHERS IN SOME RESPECTS.

- A. Because: taught to love all men. Be gentle, be kind. Meek
1. Too prone to accept everything everyone says. Error!!
- B. Because: great exercisers of faith. Trust God, and man.
1. Too prone to be gullible, and prey to worldly-wise.
- C. Because: great sympathizers of problems of others. Help!
1. Get in too deep before know it. Don't know way out.
a. Two girls trying to convert bad boys by dating them
- D. Two things every Christian should know.
1. You do not know how much evil you can throw off.
a. Higher education inflates the human ego out of proportion. Produces skepticism, doubts, sarcasm and intimidation: for the timid Christian.
2. Conduct your life as though you were the weakest person on earth. I Cor. 10:12.
a. Skip that first drink. Why? Too weak to handle it.
b. Skip that first dance. Why? Too weak to handle it.
c. Skip that first wild ride? Why? Same reason.

Conclusion: Sensible to jump in 30 foot water to see if you can swim, before ever having taken a lesson?

III. BE ASSURED: WE WILL BECOME LIKE THE INFLUENCES AROUND US.

- A. Phillip's translation: I Cor. 15:33. "Talking about things that are not true is bound to be reflected in practical conduct."
- B. If choose companionship with Devil's disciples will become a devil.

Mission work.
Matrimonial work.

INT:

- 1. Peter became a devil. Matt. 26:69-75.
- 2. Sit among scoffers long enough will be a scoffer. Psalms 1

a. Stay away from agnostics and athiests in Universities

C. If choose companionship with Christ's disciples, will be a Christian.

- 1. Paul kept himself surrounded by good men. Hear the end of such a course, II Tim. 4:6-7.
- 2. Paul defeated his Goliath the same way as David.
 - a. Be sure to keep your Goliath down to size.

CLOSE: Listen well and heed: Ecc. 12:1. "evil days coming."

Ill. Migratory duck kept out of formation beyond the period of "God-given instinct for motion" when turned loose will not want to fly.

need to be well grounded.

Decide to be fully prepared for all eventual problems to come by choosing Christian companions.

*Walketh counsel
Standeth way
Sitteth seat*

*ungodly
sinners
scornful*