

Evil Companions

by Bill Crews

One is not only known by the company he keeps; he is also influenced -- for good or ill, and for time and eternity -- by the company he keeps. Faith in God and faithfulness to God bring us into a right relationship with God, enable us to live rewarding and worthwhile lives, and provide us with the hope of eternal life hereafter. The destruction of our faith and faithfulness would be far worse than the destruction of our physical health and even our physical lives. For that reason we should strengthen our faith and faithfulness and guard against anything that would destroy them. One such thing is evil companions.

The Context Of 1 Corinthians 15:33

"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die" (v. 32) was a familiar and popular philosophy in the ancient world (just as it is today). It was in Isaiah's day in the 8th century B.C. (when repentance was called for, God's people responded with this philosophy; Isaiah 22:12-13); the Epicureans of Greece lived by this principle; the rich fool embraced it as his guide (Luke 12:16-21); the statue of Sardanapalus (the traditional founder of Tarsus, birthplace and home of the apostle Paul) was made snapping his fingers and speaking the words, *"Eat, drink and enjoy thyself. The rest is nothing."*

If this life is all there is (but it isn't), if there will be no resurrection of the dead (but there will be), then, writes Paul: *"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die"* (1 Corinthians 15:33). To accept and to put in to practice this Epicurean philosophy will throw you in with a hedonistic crowd of evil companions who will surely corrupt your good morals.

Other Passages

Psalms 119:63 reads: *"I am a companion of all them that fear thee."* Such make good companions. Who are your companions and friends? Says Proverbs 28:7: *"Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son; but he that is a companion of gluttons shameth his father."* If it can thus shame our earthly fathers, then how much more our heavenly Father? Isaiah said to the people of Judah and Jerusalem, *"Thy princes are rebellious and companions of thieves"* (Isaiah 1:23). Let us not desire the companionship of wicked people.

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