

## Daily Devotional, August 9, 2020

### 'Choose Good Company', (1 Corinthians 15:33)

*“Do not be deceived. Evil company corrupts good habits.”* (1 Corinthians 15:33, NKJV)

The Bible warns us against keeping bad company. We can often become like those we choose as our friends. This can be a good thing or a bad thing. Samson was born into a godly family (**Judges 13**). But he made bad choice after bad choice. His choice of women was particularly bad, and it ended badly for him. Samson had seen **“a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines”**, and over his father’s wise counsel and objection, he said, **“Get her for me, for she pleases me well”** (Judges 14:2-3). Then, when things did not work out, **“he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah”** (Judges 16:4). Samson’s own ways and his poor choice of women landed him in trouble, **“and he became a grinder in the prison”** (Judges 16:21). Samson’s choice of friends was not any better. Samson’s best friend even ended up marrying his first wife after an estrangement (Judges 14:20).

Our choices in friends and love interests have consequences. We can spite our parents, our wise counselors, God’s Word, and Jesus Christ Himself. But for the moment of satisfaction of rebellion and self-gratification, the consequences come, and sometimes last a lifetime. Please, I speak to you young people in particular today, be careful who you hang with, who you choose as friends, who you choose to date, and ultimately who you choose to have a long term relationship with and marry. If they are living life ungodly, don’t join them and learn their ways. You may think you can be a good influence and not get mixed up in the parties, dangerous activities on chats on the smartphone, or whatever else they may be up to. Maybe they excuse their behavior away and you are tempted to do the same because you want to be accepted and loved. But it’s not worth it. **“Do not be deceived. Evil company corrupts good habits.”** Please, choose godly friends, which can have the opposite effect. I know, young people, that you want to show that you can make your own independent decisions. But please, get wise counsel. If you want to make some great independent decisions that will really show Mom and Dad that you know what’s what, learn your Bible and do it God’s way. Arm yourself with Bible truth, which will work out better for you than any worldly counselors or opinions. A good Bible church and godly folks who have been there and done that can help you out here. It’s a win-win doing things and choosing godly friends, dates, and ultimately your spouse, Amen!