

## And Such Were Some of You Outline

### *1st Corinthians 6:9-11*

#### I. Context.

- A. The apostle Paul pauses his hard words with a salvation check for the Corinthians church—and us.
  - 1. The church had begin to look like their heathen culture, it's time for evaluation.
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:13 *Examine yourselves to see if you're in the faith...*

#### II. The passage.

- A. (9) *"Do you not know?"*
  - 1. More of an accusation: *By now you should not be surprised at what I am going to say.*
- B. The "unrighteous"—those who stand before God not being "right".
- C. "The Kingdom of God"—that spiritual sphere of salvation where God rules as king over all who belong to Him while awaiting to enter into the full inheritance of it in the age to come.

#### III. The possibility, practices and position.

- A. The possibility of deception (9).
  - 1. Satan causes deception.
  - 2. Coming prophets in the end times.
  - 3. False Messiahs
  - 4. False "Preachers" or "teachers".
  - 5. Evil People.
  - 6. Sin
  - 7. Yourself.
    - a. Deuteronomy 11:16.
- \* Circumstances that allow us to be deceived.
  - 1. We really don't believe there will be circumstances for our sin (Galatians 6:7).

2. We think we are very wise (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:18)
  3. Our own spiritual immaturity (Ephesians 4:14).
  4. Having an uncontrolled tongue (James 1:26).
  5. The reality of our being sinners (1 John 1:8).
- B. The practices of not inheriting the kingdom of God (9,10)
1. An error in understanding the list: *“if you are a Christian and you do any of these things, you will lose your salvation.”*
  2. The concern is in the “practice” of these things; lifestyle (Galatians 5:19-21).
  3. How do I know I am saved?
    - a. By our fruit: We crave the word of God, we can’t live with a sinful lifestyle, we desire righteousness.
  4. The list:
    - a. Are all nouns, not verbs, supporting the idea of lifestyle.
    - b. They are not a complete list.
    - c. Two of them are VERY controversial.
      - “Effeminate” *malakos* = “soft to the touch”
      - “Homosexuals” *arsenokoites* *male who sleeps with another male.*

Genesis 19:1-13; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:10
- C. The position we can have in Jesus Christ (11).
1. *“Such were some of you!”* There is hope for all! 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17
  2. What happened?
    - a. They were “washed” – by the blood of Jesus Christ.
    - b. They were “sanctified” – made holy, set apart for God.
    - c. They were “justified” – condemnation removed!

## **And Such Were Some of You Pastoral Notes**

### ***1st Corinthians 6:9-11***

Please turn in your Bibles to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 6... the words on the back of your bulletin are not the verses we will be looking at this morning...nor is the title of the message in your bulletin the title for this morning's message...next week we will be looking at that passage.... You may wish to take the advice implied by the title and "Run!" instead of returning here next week!

This morning we will be looking at just three verses that could have been glossed over last week... and that would have been tragic.... These are very, very important verses.... They have become some of the most controversial verses in our Bible by today's culture and today's "Christian" church.

These three verses are tucked in between some very confrontational passages... the apostle Paul had some very tough words to the church at Corinth regarding sexual immorality in the church specifically addressing the church's acceptance of one of its members living in sexual sin... then the problem of the church taking it's grievances between each other to heathen courts... having the unregenerate judging the regenerate... which we looked at last week...

And the other side of these three verses... the apostle Paul dives back into the issue of sexual immorality...which we will look at next week... it is important for us to remember that the apostle has a very deep love for this church... the whole purpose of this letter is to help the church see where it has been going wrong... off the rails of living lives pleasing to God which are lives marked by great blessing and joy... and peace.

Paul is not trying to be a legalist party basher... he is doing one of the most loving things a person can do for others... and that is through humility, love and compassion, help them see the errors of their ways which are preventing them from fully embracing their new lives as believers in Jesus Christ.... To build them up in their faith.

Faith is not a one-time event for the Christian... It is not merely something that we did at some point in our past....you came to Christ by faith ..You're in... done!...no... Certainly, there was a time when we moved from unbelief to belief... But that moment of initial believing ushered us into a life of faith.

A Christian is someone who, having initially trusted Jesus as Lord, goes on believing.... We continue depending on Christ... This trust is not perfect.... Sometimes it may grow dim and

waver, and other times it can be strong and sure... But faith, for the Christian, is continuous. It is ongoing. It is a way of life.

Paul calls this way of life a fight... In his letter to Timothy... he encouraged his young colleague in the ministry to “**Fight the good fight of faith**” (1 Timothy 6:12a)... Faith is a fight for the Christian in that we must work hard, discipline ourselves, and sometimes struggle to keep on believing....

The seeds of unbelief remain in our hearts and sometimes it seems as if they have so successfully sprouted that real faith is almost choked out... The Corinthian church has been choking out its faith by not fighting the good fight... by allowing sin to come in like weeds choking out a flower garden...

So in between these two confronting sections of this letter... Paul pauses and puts in front of the church a reality check regarding their salvation... their lifestyle was beginning to look like unregenerate Christians... (oxymoron!) They were looking like the unsaved... so this passage is along the lines of what Paul wrote in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:13... when he says:

**5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!**

We need this... all of us... we all need to examine ourselves... to make sure we really are saved!... one more thing before we look at this passage... remember all this is written to the Christian... the church... when it comes to our relationship with those outside the faith... we are to love them... remember... we are NOT to judge them... that’s not our job... God will do that... we are to associate with them... we are to care for them... we are to share Christ with them...

But as for us within the church... we are to hold each other to a much higher standard... God’s standard... We are to judge ourselves... and once we take the log out of our eyes... We are to help our brothers and sisters take the splinters out of theirs... Paul is de-splintering the Corinthian church!

### **Read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-11**

Those three verses will lead us to many other passages in the Bible this morning... everything we are looking at will be grounded in God’s word... not my opinion or anyone else’s... I want us all to labor through all of this for our benefit.

Paul begins the thought with a question... it is number three of six times he asks this question in this passage... “**Do you not know?**” ... it’s a favorite question asked by Paul to the Corinthians... nine times in the entire letter.

It’s not as much a question... it’s closer to an accusation... it’s like *You’ve been in this church for five, six, years... you’ve sat through hundreds of hours of sermons and teaching... what I am*

*getting ready to say SHOULD NOT astonish you!.... You should know this!...but let's make sure in case you don't.... this is the most important thing in all of life.*

So the question confronts us as well...some of you have been attending churches all your lives... 10...20...50 years... what I'm about to say...what Paul is about to show us SHOULD NOT ASTONISH YOU...but we can't risk assuming all of us grasp this...to miss this truth has eternal ramifications!.... **Do you not know... that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?**

[unrighteous & Kingdom of God]

Three headings:

- 1.The possibility of deception (9)...
- 2.The practices of not inheriting the kingdom of God (9,10)
- 3.The position we can have in Jesus Christ (11).

### **1. The possibility of deception (9).**

Verse 9...**Do not be deceived**...in Greek grammar it would read "*stop being deceived*"... the idea of being delusional...having a false belief about reality... it's being wrong!... interesting but that Greek word for deception is where we get our word for "planet".

The idea was that when people would observe the sky ...the stars and the movement of the planets...the said of the planets that they "*were wandering in the heavens*..."the idea that the planets were "moving away from....wandering away from a fixed position"... that's what being deceived is... our thoughts... **our beliefs have wandered from a fixed position.**

I think it's important we spend time on this... break it down... why did Paul put on that church and us... that very pointed command?... *Do not be deceived!*... what are the causes of deception?... what causes us to be deceived?... the Bible has a very exhaustive list... here's some of what I found...

**1. Satan causes deception**—surprising?... Revelation 12:9...speaking on the final days of Satan... says **And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.**

**20:3 and he threw him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer.**

**2. Coming prophets in the end times** that will come to deceive us... Revelation 13:14 **14 And he deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform.**

**3. False Messiahs**—Luke 21:8 8 **And He said, “See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not go after them.**

**4. False “Preachers” or “teachers”**.... Matthew 24:11 **And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people.** yes there are many false preachers today!...right?... some are so obvious!... 2 Peter 2:1 says **But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there are false teachers among you who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who brought them, bringing swift judgement.**

**Do not be deceived!** Paul says...that’s why it is so vital you are in God’s word!... you need to be biblically founded.... Test everything you hear against the word of God!

**5. Evil people**—2 Timothy 3:13 13 **But evil people and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived....** Reciprocal deception... deceiving and being deceived.... The ability to lie to others and having them believe it... and begin believing their own lies!

Do you feel being lied to today?... we live in a time when trusting anyone and anything is a gigantic leap of faith...politicians... news media...here’s another one... Romans 16...getting closer to home...what causes deception?...

Romans 16:17-18 **17 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances **contrary to the teaching** which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For such people are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.**

How do you know if someone is teaching you something that is “contrary to the teaching?...If you are not grounded in the word of God you will be easily deceived by those who are out for their own interests.

**6. Sin**—Romans 7:11 Paul speaking of sin in his own life...**11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it, killed me.** Paul was talking about once he heard the Law You shall not covet... all he could think about was coveting!... that was sin lying to him! Sin deceiving him.

Sin ever deceive you?... of course it has... it was enjoyable... made you happy... lied to you saying “you deserve this”... before you know it... sin controls you and destroys your life... sin deceives... but here is the big one...perhaps the biggest one...

Listen to Deuteronomy 11:16 16 **Beware that **your hearts are not easily deceived**, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods, and worship them.**

It is easy for us to deceive ourselves!...self causes deception.

**7. Yourself**—Galatians 6:3 **For if anyone thinks that he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**

James 1:26 **If anyone thinks himself to be religious, yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this person's religion is worthless.**

It is easy to deceive ourselves... our own hearts... DON'T BE DECEIVED...

Question—What are some of the circumstances that allow us to be deceived?

**1. *We really don't believe there will be circumstances for our sin***...if every time we sinned God would zap us... or have a boulder fall on our head... or crash our car... we might take things more seriously.... If we witnessed an Ananias and Saphira a few times... God instantly killing them for lying... we might think a little more about things....

Galatians 6:7 Galatians 6: **Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap.**

**2. *We think we are smart... wise... we think we understand it all***...1 Corinthians 3:18 **Take care that no one deceives himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.**

The wisdom of this world is coming at us from all angles... and as we embrace worldly wisdom we deceive ourselves as having obtained great wisdom... where does wisdom come from?.... it comes from above!

the world considers as foolish... what does the world consider to be foolish?...the foolishness of God... the foolishness of the cross of Jesus Christ.... Our own pride in thinking we are so wise opens us up for more deception.

**3. *Our own spiritual immaturity***... listen to Ephesians 4:14...**we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;**

That describes one who is spiritually immature.... If you haven't grown in the Lord... that very fact will be a circumstance that will lead you to be easily deceived....

**4. *Having an uncontrolled tongue***... an unbridled tongue reveals something about a person... if your mouth is always moving... as one said "like an unbridled horse"... you're always selling yourself... the focus is you...you actually believe that what you have to say is always so important....and when it comes to your "faith"...what you profess... your mouth destroys what you say you believe...

James 1:26 **26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this person's religion is worthless.**

The implication is a tamed tongue... a bridled tongue.... A controlled tongue represents a contrite heart...a pure heart...a listening and learning heart... but an unbridled tongue opens one to deception.....last one:

**5. As to the reality of our being sinners**...listen to this... 1John 1:8 **If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.** The idea that I'm a "good" person... I don't sin... God says the opposite.

Much of the deception we get into is caused by sin itself... remember Romans?... **sin deceived me**...if we get to the point we think we're pretty good... we've overcome sin... we will be deceived by the sin we think we don't have!

That's enough...Paul says "Do not be deceived..."... apparently the Corinthians church was being deceived regarding who will enter the kingdom of God....

## **2. The practices of not inheriting the kingdom of God (9,10)**

Paul emphasizes the unrighteous will not enter the kingdom of God... to be real clear... Paul hands out a short list...these are evidently some specific sins that the people in Corinth were dealing with... it is this list that has created the controversy around these verses...especially recently over the last 20 years or so.... Especially today... let's read the list:

### **Read verses 9-10**

First of all... there has been a big error through Christian history in understanding what this says:

*If you commit any of these sins, you will be considered as unrighteous and you will not inherit the kingdom of God.... if you are a Christian and you do any of these things.... You will lose your salvation.*

That's wrong... it is very important we get this right... over in Galatians chapter five, Paul gives us a similar, more detailed list with one additional very important word... listen to this:

Galatians 5:19-21 **Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, 20 idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who **practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.****

**Practice such things**.... In other words... IF YOU CONTINUE IN THESE THINGS... if any of these things are your lifestyle... then you are not going to inherit the kingdom of God... get this... IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU CALL YOURSELF... you can call yourself a Christian... you can say that you believe in Jesus....



You can do religious things... but if you can continue in a lifestyle of unrepentant sin... if you practice sin... you feel no remorse over what you are involved with.... You have no intention of ever letting go of it... you are one of the unrighteous!

This isn't to say that a Christian can't get into a season of sin... even justify it for a period of time... knowingly, willingly, wantonly doing something that goes in the face of God... Christians do.... But they can't stay there!.... they are there because they were... what?... deceived!...that's what Paul's warning about.

This is where we need to examine ourselves... **5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!**

Are you living in sin?... practicing sin?... then repent now!...get out of it!.. get help!.... because if you don't that is an indication you were never saved in the first place.... **How do I know I'm saved?**

*How do you know?....* the Bible often compares the spiritual life with the physical life... Being "born again" spiritually is compared to being "born" physically... how do we know when one is born physically?... this is not a trick question!

The baby comes out and what?... craves mommy's milk!... can't get enough!... wants it all the time!...evidence that the baby is alive!... the born again Christian not just desires the Word of God.... but craves it!... we know by our fruit... listen to 1<sup>st</sup> john 3:4-10

**4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness...6 No one who remains in Him sins continually; no one who sins continually has seen Him or knows Him. 7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. ....9 No one who has been born of God practices sin, because His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin *continually*, because he has been born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother and sister.**

Quickly the list... these are the specific practices...I'm not going to go through each one... most are straight forward... I don't have to tell you what the practice of adultery entails!...but I want to mention a couple of them... three things to keep in mind...

**1. These are not verbs...** they are nouns... which supports the fact that these are habits, practices, characteristics of lifestyle... if they were referring to individual acts of sin they would be verbs.

**2. They are not a complete list...** just samples... there are many more that could be added... Galatians has a longer list... so just because you don't see the sin you're living in on this list... don't get excited!... this list is not exhaustive.

**3. Two of these practices are greatly debated today...** they have to be... if you can't punch holes in the way these two practices are translated... you would have to admit they are God's word and if you practice them... you would be considered by God to be unrighteous.

And you may have guessed... they are the practices of the **effeminate** and **homosexuals**...some of your translations say **male prostitutes** and **homosexuals**... or **homosexuals** and **sodomites**...

The fact is...(according to PEW research) the majority of professing Christians in America today affirm the homosexual lifestyle... the LGBT+ has acceptance in representations of just about every denomination in the U.S. from Methodist, Presbyterian, Reformed Church of America, Baptist, Lutheran, Pentecostal, etc...

To have come to this overwhelming acceptance, professing Christians must:

1. Ignore Scripture—Not consider the Bible as absolute authority
2. Believe the Bible is outdated and was never intended to be relevant in all cultures for all time —“*Obviously the Old Testament is outdated and irrelevant today!*”
3. The apostle Paul is in error.
4. There are mistakes in the translation from the original languages to the English.

The last two are where the biggest battles rage... and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9 is the target...how the English translation came up with “Effeminate” and “Homosexual”...let's take effeminate... the Greek word *malakos*...literally it means “soft to the touch”... it was used in that culture to describe a “*soft person who allowed himself to be sexually abused contrary to nature....*” A “soft” person was weak in stature, easily taken advantage of, no resistance to abuse... soft in character...no standards.... Easily sexually abused...willingly

You might think there were only a few malakos.... But they were in fact everywhere in the Corinthian culture....the Greek word we translate as “homosexual” here is *arsenokoites*... used four times in two verses here and in 1 Timothy 1:10... literally it is translated as “*them that defile themselves with mankind*”

Arsenokoites is made from two words... “*arsen*” which refers to a male.... And “*koites*” which refers to a man who lies in bed with another man—a “homosexual”... these words are not unique to the New Testament.... These words are found in other extra-biblical writings and they mean the same things.

But the other side counters with:

*The Bible says nothing about 'homosexuality' as an innate dimension of personality. Sexual orientation was not understood in biblical times*

*At the heart of the claim that the Bible is clear "that homosexuality is forbidden by God" is poor biblical scholarship and a cultural bias read into the Bible.. - Human rights campaign*

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9 is not the only place it is very clear homosexuality is a sin... Genesis 19:1-13 the story of Sodom and Gamorrah... Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:10 etc....etc....etc....

### **3. The position we can have in Jesus Christ (11).**

Verse 11 is amazing... **“such WERE some of you”**.... In other words... no matter what you’ve been involved with in your life... no matter what addiction you have... no matter what lifestyle you feel trapped in... there is hope!... in Christ... you are a “new creature”... all things are made new... a supernatural change happens and you will be a **“WERE”!!!**

We have a new nature in the Lord that makes it possible to take on a completely new path.