CONSIDER THIS

3. Does the sort of company we keep really matter?
   Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Proverbs 1:10-19

   Read 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 8:26

It has been said that evil company corrupts good habits. Today we are faced with temptation on all sides. It takes a man of courage and conviction to follow Jesus Christ. The world may mock, but deep down everyone knows there is a God. (Romans 1:20-32)

The world wants to get God out of the equation because it fears His judgment, and if people can dismiss God from the equation then they can do what they like.

Jesus promised to send the Helper, the Holy Spirit (John 14:16) to help me in my weaknesses. (Romans 8:26) No matter how great the test and temptation, God will help me overcome - therefore I will decide to absolutely trust God.

INTEGRITY

WARM UP

Your roof is leaking and you call a plumber to fix it. When he has completed the job he asks you whether you want an invoice or if you prefer to pay cash. Obviously he wants to avoid tax by making it a cash job. You know it is going to cost you more if you pay by invoice because he will have to add GST which you cannot recover. Are you going to be a party to defrauding the Inland Revenue and getting a cheaper price? Or are you going to pay the extra amount?

BACKGROUND

Job was extremely wealthy and had seven sons and three daughters. God allowed Satan to test him and he lost his wealth and his sons were killed. Despite this calamity Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. God then allowed Satan to strike Job with boils. Even his wife said, “Do you still hold to your integrity? Curse God and die”. His three friends accused him of sinning and foolishness. Job never lost his faith in God. He said, “Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him”. (Job 13:15) Because of his integrity and trust in God he was healed, he had a further seven sons and three daughters and his possessions were doubled.

READ Matthew 7:13-14

QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION

1. What is God teaching us as a result of Job's experience?

2. How do we maintain our integrity particularly against sin?
   Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

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