

Assurance of Salvation Part 109

SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD:

Why would anyone choose to be "unequally yoked"?

TODAY'S THEME

Why would you...
How could you...

I WANT TO GO
BACK TO THE
YOKE OF
SLAVERY!




For those who are genuine followers of Jesus.

- God has called you out of a world of **darkness**.*

Why would you... } ... ever want to become
How could you... } ... entangled in it again??

* (If you belong to the world, you probably won't call it "darkness." But GOD does.)



God has called YOU to a new way of life.

- YOU are a new creation; YOU are different.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)

- God has given **YOU** a new way to live.

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Galatians 5:16 (NIV)

- Holiness and righteousness is to characterize **YOUR** life.

[You were taught] ... to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephes. 4:24 (NIV); see also v. 22-23.

- SO:

WHY WOULD YOU
HOW COULD YOU

... want to pursue the things you used to love?



(Things you loved when you were dead in sin!)

As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins, ...

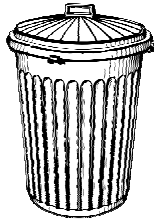
But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us **alive** with Christ even when we were **dead** in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been **saved**.

Ephes. 2:1, 4-5 (NIV)

- Why would you want to throw away God's love?

If anyone **loves the world**, the **love of the Father** is not in him.

1 John 2:15b (NASB)



- Why would you want the way of death, when God offers you the way of life?

The mind of sinful man is **death**, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is **life and peace**; ...

Romans 8:6 (NIV)

The world wants to pressure you to compromise...



- Are you resisting that pressure, or thinking about giving in to it?

HELP, Jesus!!

OR:

Maybe it's not that bad!

Perhaps I could even "minister" to them!

If you're tempted to "flirt" with the danger of being "unequally yoked":

LEARN from those who have "shipwrecked" their lives... or even their salvation...

LEARN ...
but don't follow their ways!

HELP!!!

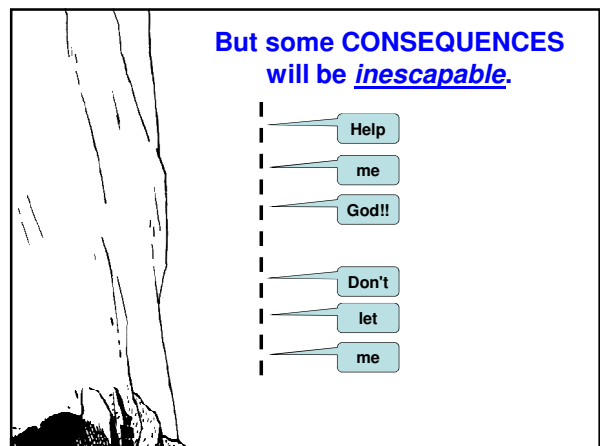
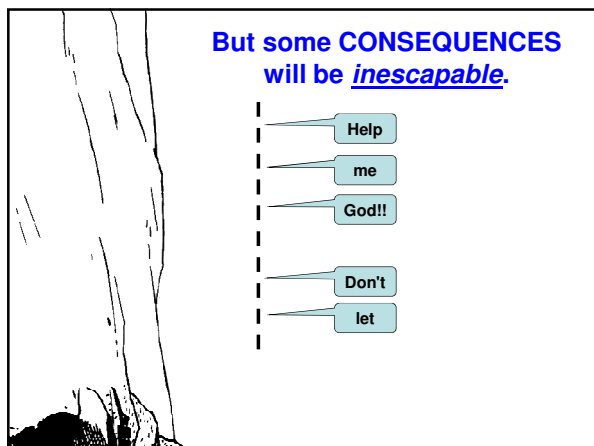
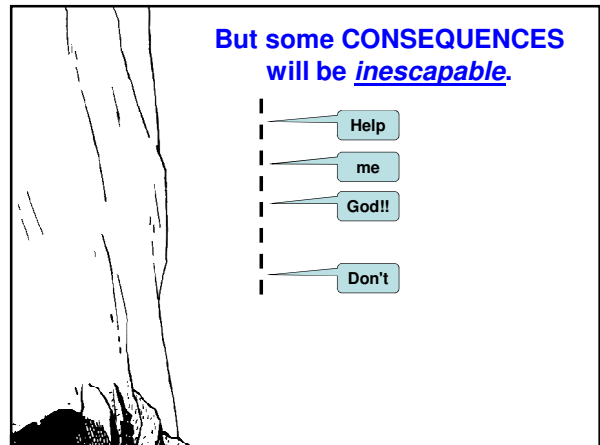
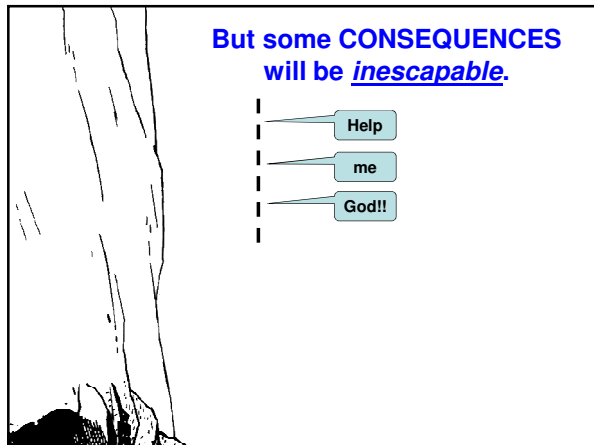
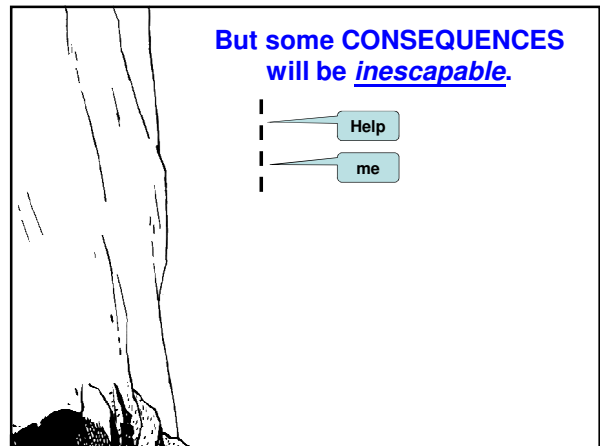
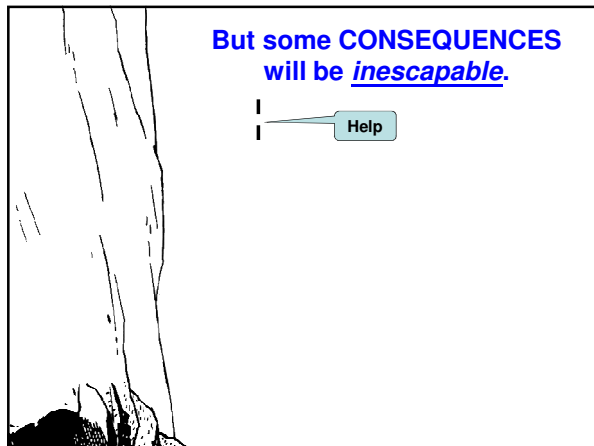
There is **NO GUARANTEE** that you'll escape unharmed.

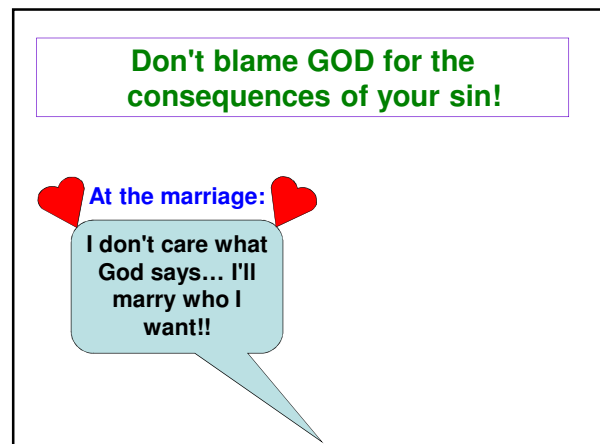
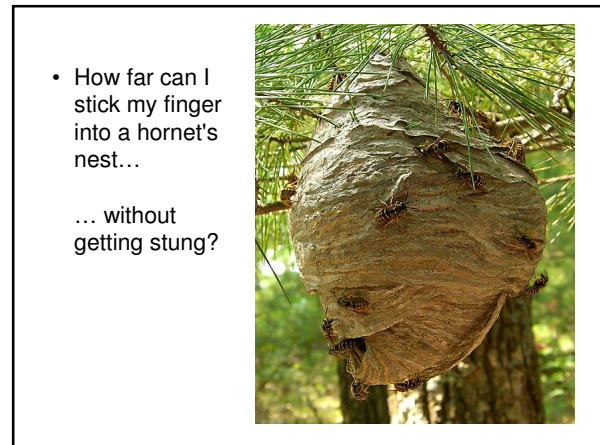
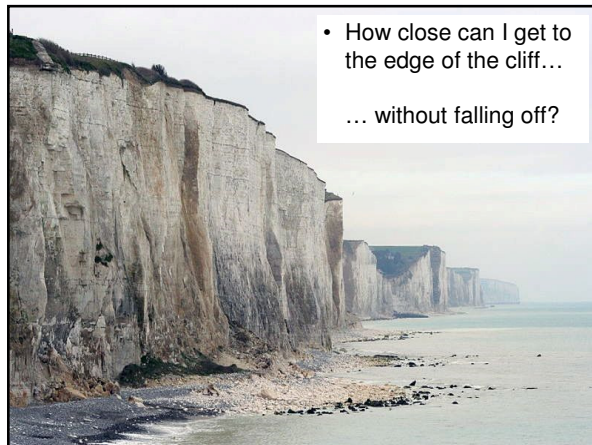
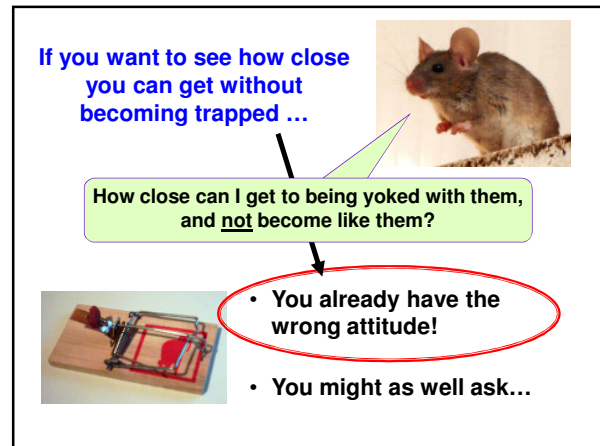
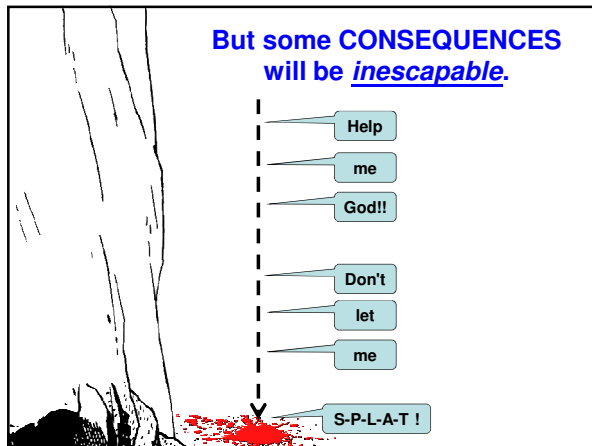
Don't jump off the cliff!

They may pretend that everything will be OK ...

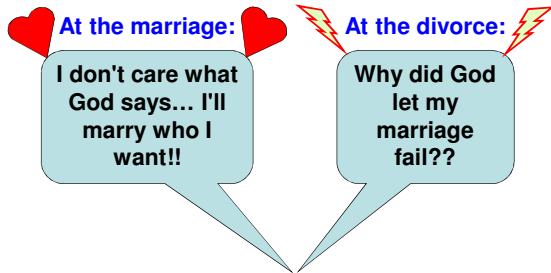
I don't care what God says... I'm going to jump!

But some **CONSEQUENCES** will be inescapable.





Don't blame GOD for the consequences of your sin!



**DISCLAIMER #1 –
The "marriage" example**

- 1) We used this example because so many young people are destroying their lives in this way.
- 2) In countries where people don't get to choose their marriage partner, this example might not apply.

**DISCLAIMER #2 –
Other examples could be used**

- 1) There are many other ways you can become unequally yoked.
Through careers, sports, hobbies, entertainment, unsaved friends, organizations, "good causes"...
- 2) Any time they pull you away from God's calling for you, don't become yoked to them!
Even if they are fun, friendly, pleasant, etc.

**NOW
JUST SUPPOSE ...**
... YOU'VE REALLY
MESSED THINGS UP
with irreparable damage.

NOW WHAT?

The following suggestions are for a "worst case scenario" – but the basic principles will apply in other situations.

There is "HOPE" among the ashes."

- If you're a genuine follower of Jesus, God will use your sin to accomplish good in your life.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NASB)

You may have brought upon yourself unnecessary pain.
Even so, you will reach that that goal!

"WHAT SHOULD I DO?"

1. HUMBLE yourself and TRUST God to fulfill his promise (even through the pain, if pain occurs).

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:10 (NIV)

2. Have a "FUTURE FOCUS." The day is coming in which your pain and sorrow will be gone.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Rev. 21:4 (NIV)

DISCLAIMER #3

We don't like to have
such a sad conclusion;
BUT AS ALREADY STATED...

Some CONSEQUENCES of our
choices are inescapable.

S-P-L-A-T !

THOSE WHO ARE GENUINE...

- **THEY WILL LEARN:**
 - 1) The wisdom of NOT choosing to be unequally yoked.
 - 2) To accept what God says about "separation" (rather than opposing it).
- **THEY WILL CHOOSE:**
 - to live a way that demonstrates their salvation.
- **GOD WILL MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS!**

... it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Philip. 2:13 (NIV)

YOUR MISSION

BE "YOKED" ...
but in the right way!

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.

2 Cor. 6:14a (NIV)

NOT YOKED the wrong way!

- WHY would you } ... want to see how close
HOW could you } you can get to **DEATH**?

... the elation of the wicked is brief,
the joy of the godless lasts but a moment...

Evil men will soon disappear; you will stare at
the spot where they once were, but they will
be gone.

Job 20:5; Psalm 37:10 (NET)

God has YOKED you to a new family –
the "family of believers."

(Galatians 6:10)

- **Get to know them.** They are to be your closest associates.
- **Build each other up.** Both you and they need it!

Even the apostle Paul needed it!

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you
some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is,
that we may be mutually encouraged by each
other's faith, both yours and mine.

Romans 1:11-12 (ESV)

Credits (1)

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