

# Are We Christians? or Are We Worldlings?

by Horatius Bonar

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*Horatius Bonar challenges believers to examine their lives for signs of complacency and self-indulgence, urging a return to true self-denying Christianity.*

**Duration:** 4:52

**Scripture:** Isaiah 32:9, Luke 9:23, Romans 12:2, Galatians 6:14, Philippians 3:18-19, 1 Peter 4:3, 1 John 2:15

**Topics:** "Separation From World", "Self Denial"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher addresses the issue of Christians becoming too comfortable and indulgent in the world. He emphasizes the need for self-denial and separation from worldly pleasures. The preacher highlights the contrast between the self-indulgent lifestyle of many Christians and the self-sacrificing example set by Jesus and the early disciples. He calls for a return to the true essence of Christianity, which includes taking up the cross and living a life of self-discipline and devotion to Christ.

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## Transcript

Are We Christians or Are We Worldlings? by Horatius Bonnard. Self-Denial Christianity. Woe to those who are at ease in Zion.

Amos 6.1. What do we say to our self-indulgence, our sloth, our love of ease, our avoidance of hardship, our luxury, our pampering of the body, our costly feasts, our silken couches, our brilliant furniture, our gay attire, our braided hair, our jewelled fingers, our idle mirth, our voluptuous music, our jovial tables loaded with every variety of rich viands. Are We Christians or Are We Worldlings? Where is the self-denial of the New Testament days? Where is the separation from a self-pleasing luxurious world? Where is the cross, the true badge of discipleship to be seen, except in useless religious ornaments for the body, or worse than useless decorations for the sanctuary? Woe to those who are at ease in Zion. Is not this the description of multitudes who name the name of Christ? They may not always be living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and detestable idolatry, but even where these are absent, there is high living, luxury of the table or the wardrobe, in conformity to this present evil world.

At ease in Zion, yes, there is the from hard service, from spending and being spent, from toil and burden-bearing and conflict, from self-sacrifice and noble adventure for the Master's sake. There is conformity to the world instead of conformity to Christ. There is a laying down instead of a taking up of the cross, or there is a lining of the cross with velvet, lest it should gall our shoulders as we carry it, or there is an adorning of the cross, that it may suit the taste and the manners of our refined and intellectual age.

Anything but the bare, rugged, and simple cross. We think we can make the straight gate wider, and the narrow way broader, so as to be able to walk more comfortably to the heavenly kingdom. We try to prove that modern enlightenment has so elevated the race, that there is no longer the battle, or the burden, or the discipline, or has so refined the world and its pleasures, that we may safely drink the poisoned cup, and give ourselves up to the inebriation of the siren song.

At ease in Zion, even when the walls of our city are besieged, and the citadel is being stormed, instead of grasping our weapons, we lie down upon our couches. Instead of the armour, we put on the silken robe. We are cowards when we should be brave.

We are faint-hearted when we should be bold. We are lukewarm when we should be fervent. We are cold when we should be full of zeal.

We compromise, and shuffle, and apologise, when we should lift up our voice like a trumpet. We pare down truth, or palliate error, or extenuate sin, in order to placate the world, or suit the spirit of the age, or unify the church. Learn self-denying Christianity, not the form or name, but the living thing.

Let us renounce the lazy, luxurious, self-pleasing, fashionable religion of the present day. A self-indulgent religion has nothing in common with the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, or with that cross of ours, which He has commanded us to take up and carry after Him, renouncing ease and denying self. Our time, our gifts, our money, our strength, are all to be laid upon the altar.

Woe to those who are at ease in Zion! Amos 6.1

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