

# What Concord Hath Christ With Belial?\*

- Written by James C. Farley

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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## INTRODUCTION

Though read often by believers, quoted in context by zealous Christians, and preached expositively by courageous preachers, never was the true meaning of a phrase in the Bible so glossed over, so misunderstood, so misinterpreted and so misapplied as the phrase from **II Corinthians 6:15**, “And what concord hath Christ with Belial?”

The passage, really is all too familiar to Bible believers, being flanked on either side by, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...” and “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? ...Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing.” But how many believers have really studied out the meaning of “And what concord hath Christ with Belial?”

Many commentators will briefly tell you, for instance, that Belial is simply the system of Satan. Some would say that Belial is another name for Satan himself. Is this true? And, do these give the full import of the passage at hand?

Is it possible that the vast majority of Christianity is missing a real gem of truth here in **II Corinthians 6:15**? Is it possible that this phrase, “And what concord hath Christ with Belial,” if fully understood, would affect common practices in Bible believing churches today? This writer's contention is just that - namely, Christianity must re-examine this passage, certainly not to discover new truth, but to understand God's Words and stand where Bible believers of old have stood, in light of God's Holy Word.

## OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE TERM “BELIAL”

A brief study of the word “Belial,” in our English Bible will reveal seventeen results, sixteen of which are in the Old Testament. The Hebrew word בְּלִיָּעַל (Bel-e-yah'-al) means, “without profit, worthlessness, destruction, wickedness.”<sup>1</sup> It has a definite connection with death and hell. And, in **Nahum 1:15** it is even translated, “the wicked,” appearing to pertain directly to Satan.

The first mention of Belial in the Bible is **Deuteronomy 13:13**, which states “Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known.” The immediate context, in chapter 13, is a series of commandments from the Lord to beware of men who would lead His children away from serving Him, Who brought them out of the land of Egypt and redeemed them from the house of bondage. These children of Belial are clearly, in the context, adherents to the worship of false gods.

The last mention of Belial in the Bible is our text, **II Corinthians 6:15**. The word Belial is translated from the Greek word, “Βελιάλ” (Bel-ee'-al) and the meaning is astonishing. According to Vines Expository Dictionary, “it is set in contrast to Christ, and represents a personification of the system of impure worship connected especially with the cult of Aphrodite.”<sup>2</sup>

We would assume that “Βελιάλ” (Bel-ee'-al) is a transliteration of the Hebrew בְּלִיָּעַל (Bel-e-yah'-al) and, of course, our English word “Belial” is a transliteration of the Greek word, “Βελιάλ” (Bel-ee'-al). Thus, this system of idolatrous worship connected to Aphrodite has the same weight of condemnation by the Lord, found in **Deuteronomy 13:13**.

## HISTORICAL RECORD OF APHRODITE WORSHIP

When one delves into the study of the times and culture of the city of Corinth, it is readily apparent that this city was absolutely full of pagan (heathen) worship. No

wonder Paul felt it necessary to deal with the matter of separation from idols. Indeed, the Spirit of God, by inspiration of Scripture, has given us a command for today and an inspired record of Belial. But, who is Aphrodite?

The unmistakable identity of Aphrodite, not merely the “goddess of love,” was Queen of Heaven in the city of Corinth. Hislop documents this connection, stating:



*“Now while the mother derived her glory in the first instance from the divine character attributed to the child in her arms, the mother in the long-run practically eclipsed the son. ...Now the Son, even in his new incarnation, when Nimrod was believed to have reappeared in a fairer form, was exhibited merely as a child, without any very particular attraction.... This Babylonian queen was not merely in character coincident with the Aphrodite of Greece and the Venus of Rome, but was, in point of fact, the historical original of that goddess...for Sanchunianthon assures us that Aphrodite or Venus was identical to Astarte, and Astarte being interpreted, is none other than ‘The woman that made towers and encompassed walls’ - i.e., Semiramis.”<sup>3</sup>*

This Aphrodite was also referred to as, “the wrath-subduer” - “who by her charms could soothe the breast of angry Jove, and soften the most rugged spirits of gods or mortal-men.”<sup>4</sup> She, “as Aphrodite, or the ‘Wrath-subduer,’ was called Mylitta, ‘the Mediatrix.’”<sup>5</sup>

## THE CONNECTION TO BELIAL

Having established the fact that Aphrodite is equivalent to Semiramis, the “Queen of Heaven” (called Ashtoroth in the Bible - see **Judges 2:13** - Baal is the son of Ashtoroth), it is here that we establish the bridge to our Bible application from **II Corinthians 6:15**, “And what concord hath Christ with Belial?”

Hislop, in his book, “The Two Babylons” gives exhaustive details concerning the worship of the sun god Nimrod (called Moloch in the Bible - see **Amos 5:26, 7:43**), the violent death of the sun god on December 21<sup>st</sup> (the winter solstice), and his reincarnation as his son Tammuz (called Baal in the Bible) on December 25<sup>th</sup>. The mother of this child is Astarte (Ashtoroth), referred to as the “Queen of Heaven.” This “Queen of Heaven” is inseparable from the child, who is *perpetually a baby* from year to year on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December.

The term “Belial” in **II Corinthians 6:15**, therefore, is a direct reference to this same idolatrous worship, written down in history and recorded in the Old Testament through inspiration by the Spirit of God in His Word.

## BIBLE APPLICATION FROM II CORINTHIANS 6:15

The “concord with Belial” in **II Corinthians 6:15** can *only* be pertaining to the false worship practiced historically and presently by pagans (heathen) on December 25<sup>th</sup> - the “holy day,” commonly referred to as Christmas (Christ’s Mass). “Belial” directly pertains to the false worship of Ashtoroth and the birth of Baal, the reincarnate sun god. The passage in **II Corinthians 6:15** is essentially saying, “And what concord hath the birth of Christ with the birth of the son of Aphrodite?”

What must believers do in response to this truth, as revealed in the Word of God? The Lord commands us, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing.” (**II Corinthians 6:14, 16**) Further, the LORD, in reference to this same paganism (heathenism), says in **Jeremiah 10:1-5**, “...Learn not the way of the heathen...For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest...they deck it with silver and gold...neither also is it in them to do good.”

Therefore, the only conclusion is this - Believers must forsake the celebration of Christmas. May believers, in this present day and age, take courage, as our brethren of days gone by, to separate from this false day of worship.

1. W. E. Vine Vines Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1997) p. 108
2. Vine p. 108
3. Rev. Alexander Hislop, The Two Babylons (Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1959) pp. 74, 75
4. Hislop p. 158
5. Hislop p. 264

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