

leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you” (v.25).

The world seeks to shut Christians down because they do not want to be convicted about what they are doing. They use words like wowser, party pooper, spoilsport and holy Joe. We see this in **(1 Peter 4:4)** *"In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you."*

A Catholic bishop has recently made comments that we normally hear from the world. He wrote in August 2016,

"I have an old grievance about the way a relatively small group has appropriated to itself, in Australia at least, both the designation and the popular image of 'Christians'.

I began to resent this, as I recall, back in the 'seventies when figures like the Rev Fred Nile somehow came to be accepted as expressing 'the Christian position' on matters of the day like 'victimless crime' law reform, licensing laws, gambling and so on. To me, the puritan, 'wowser' tradition never represented the views of most Christians in Australia, so how did they come to be accepted as the public face of Christianity, the 'Christian lobby'?...

The 'wowser' in Australian folklore is against all drinking, smoking, gambling and any number of other aberrations, possibly including dancing and bikinis. This is demonstrably not the stance of most Australian Christians, but somehow the expectation persists that 'Christians' are like that. Every priest has stories of people who are astonished when they discover that priests drink or smoke or have a bet. Every priest has stories of people apologising for doing such things in their presence, or even referring to doing such things. ... a quarter of the Australian population is Catholic, to say nothing of non-puritan Anglicans and others. How do these images persist? I am a Christian, right? And very proud to say so. Perhaps you are too. But I am not a biblical fundamentalist or a wowser. And I'm getting jolly sick of being lumped in."

Bishop Bill Wright

Most Reverend William (Bill) Wright is the eighth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and is the pastoral leader of more than 150,000 Catholics in the region.



We should never let the put-downs of the world or even other 'Christians' divert us from doing what is right. Of course we can't expect others to understand our love for Christ and desire to please Him in all things. When we do right they are convicted and they will want to deal with us as Felix wanted to deal with Paul. Take courage.

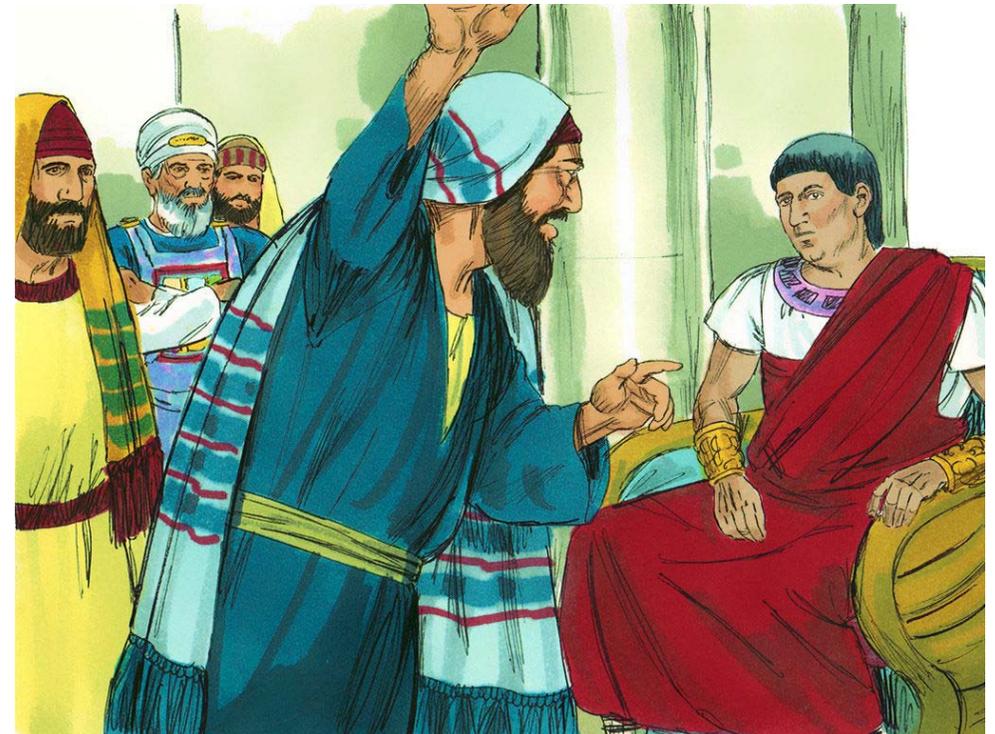
Central Mountains Baptist Church

AUGUST 14, 2016

Wowser

In the story of the apostle Paul appearing before Felix the governor in Caesarea (Acts 24), we read of one who saw Paul as a wowser.

Paul, speaking with love and boldness, decided to instruct Felix on the Christian worldview regarding "righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come." And not being one given to self-control, Felix was convicted by Paul's revelation about people being held accountable to God for their immoral behaviour. So, like any person of the world he sought to shut Paul down. Felix said to Paul, "That's enough for now! You may





I Peter: Overcoming Suffering Spoilsports

(Matthew 7:13-14) *""Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. [14] "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."*

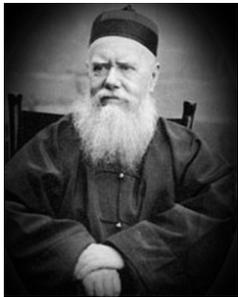
In 1 Peter 4:1-6 Peter is quite up front about the two ways to travel:

1. A _____ track,

verses 1-2, 3:18

(Philippians 2:5) *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,"*

(Philippians 2:8-9) *"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. {9} Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,"*



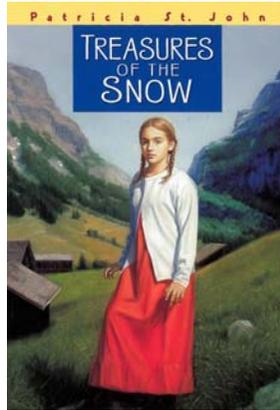
Hudson Taylor

2. The _____ motorway, verses 3-4

(Romans 12:2) *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

(Ephesians 5:1-7) *"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. {2} And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. {3} But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; {4} neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. {5} For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. {6} Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. {7} Therefore do not be partakers with them."*

(Genesis 6:5) *"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."*



- *Of course, your former friends are very surprised when you no longer join them in the wicked things they do, and they say evil things about you. [paraphrase]*
- *Nonbelievers think it is strange that you do not do the many wild and wasteful things they do, so they insult you [paraphrase]*
- *Now your former friends wonder why you have stopped running around with them, and they curse you for it. [paraphrase]*



CONCLUSION: verses 5-6



(Titus 3:3-5) *"For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. {4} But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, {5} not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,"*