# Walking through treacle 9. Appeal to higher things

## 2 Cor 6:14-7:16

# The yoke

## The picture of the yoke is a way into the mystery of life and God and our calling

### Genesis 27:40

#### The yoke keeps you in service or bondage to another person

### Leviticus 26:13

#### God removed the yoke of slavery to give them His own yoke

### 1 Kings 12:4

#### The yoke of a leader/king can be heavy or light

### Mt 11:28-30

#### Jesus offers us a ‘comfortable’ yoke

# God has a plan for you

## Do life in community with Him in Christ

### There was the promise in Leviticus (26:12)

#### “I will live with them and walk among them

#### I will be their God and they will be my people”

### There was the call to holiness (Isa 52:11 & Ezek 20:34,41)

#### Come out from them and be separate

#### Touch no unclean thing and I will receive you

#### There was the invitation to belong to God’s family with Him as Father

### I will be a father to you and you will be my sons and daughters (2 Sam 7:14; 7:8)

## Do life in community with others who are in Christ

### A call based on the promises of God

## Separate yourself and find yourself in community

### In Corinth this is the call that was issued through Paul when the good news was preached and received

#### That call was heard but people were taking their time to respond to it

# Help for your journey

## Don’t be yoked with unbelievers (6:14)

### It’s about who you tie yourself to to get to the goals God has for you

## Make room for us in your hearts (7:2)

### Don’t be over-cautious

#### It’s not about who you like, but where you’re going!

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Being yoked

## Many Christians see being yoked as attaching themselves to other people and God being the owner/taskmaster

### How does being yoked TO God change this illustration?

#### Seeing the work (of ploughing)

#### Doing the work?

#### Viewing the relationship between God and the person?

## Yoked in marriage

### Listen to the story of someone who is ‘unequally yoked’

#### What are the joys? What are the ‘sorrows’?

#### What are the hopes? What are the realities?

##### How can we best pray for them?

### How do we best advise young Christians about relationships which lead to marriage?

#### Do we ban them? Strongly advise them? Try to prevent them? Treat it as a sin? Warn them?

## Yoked in business

### Under what circumstances would a Christian need to withdraw from a business partnership?

# Including others

## Paul puts ‘make room for us’ next to the call to holiness/separation

### Why do you think it is important to keep these concepts close together?

### On what basis does he ask for this? (7:2ff)

## How does it help to include people who ‘have done nothing wrong’ as well as those who have done the right things?

# God the comforter

## To what extent can you echo Paul’s view that ‘God comforts the downcast’? (7:6)

### Tell your story. Who was ‘God’s agent’ at the time?