

# "Choice" and "Avoidance"

Post by "Don" of March 6, 2020 at 9:37 PM

It doesn't take much urging for me to go down the research route 😊 And so...

VS 46 τὰς φαύλας συνηθείας ὥσπερ ἄνδρας πονηροὺς πολὺν χρόνον μέγα βλάψαντες τελείως ἐκδιώκομεν.

I would agree that VS 46 encourages us to take our choices seriously. The key words are **τελείως ἐκδιώκομεν**. I've seen them translated various ways:

- We utterly eliminate
- ...let us utterly drive from us.
- We cast off...
- Let us completely banish...

These do get at the general connotation of the words, but we must remember to never be satisfied with one translation for each brings a shade of meaning and dig into dictionaries to see how the original classical Greek was used:

**τελείως** means "absolutely, completely"

**ἐκδιώκομεν** means "We chase away, we banish"

So we are encouraged not simply to "get rid of" or "eliminate" something (*what* we'll get to in one moment) but to banish it completely so it will never return; chase it away absolutely, so far away it won't ever come back.

What are we chasing away? **τὰς φαύλας συνηθείας** St-Andre translates this as "common customs." I prefer "trivial, worthless habits" to make it more personal. I interpret these to be those habits that you don't even think of but that are harming your ability to pursue pleasure and are of no positive value. VS 46 describes these habits as being akin to "worthless, no-good people" that have been harming you for a long time. Too long! Drive them away from you completely, so far they'll never return!

This gets at the same immediacy and energy with which we should make our choices and rejections.