



On The Road To Sodom And Gomorrah!

The road is being traveled by increasing multitudes, as our President marches in the forefront, surrounded by a coterie of fellow travelers, including the Vice President. Warning signs (God's word) along the way are being ignored with reckless abandon, as though Sodom and Gomorrah were not an example for us.

Since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, sin has been in the world. Sin takes many forms, but in every case it is a transgression of God's law (I Jno. 3:4). Sin separates from God (Isa. 59-1-2), and the ultimate penalty is "everlasting punishment" (Matt. 25:46).

Before the coming of the New Covenant, under which we now live, sin was often punished in a physical way here on earth, notwithstanding the fact that additional punishment was yet to come after death. When "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5), He destroyed the human race, with the exception of eight souls, with a world-wide flood. Another case of direct punishment is that of Sodom and Gomorrah, as recorded in Genesis 19. We shall consider this example in detail later.

The Israelites were punished in many instances by heathen nations due to their sin against God. In some cases God even destroyed Israelites in a direct way due to their disobedience, or transgression of His will.

Though all sin is sin, it is a matter of fact that in God's sight some sins are worse and more far-reaching than others. In the various categories of sin, sexual sins hold a prominent place in that which God opposes. Especially is this true with respect to the sin of homosexuality and other forms of sexual perversion. As we shall note, these sins stand out as examples which incur the severe wrath of God.

HOMOSEXUALITY UNDER THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW

Sodom and **Gomorrah** stand out as powerful examples of God's disapproval and condemnation of the sin of sexual perversion. Not only was God highly displeased with this basest of sin, sexual perversion, He took vengeance on the cities by obliterating them from the earth.

The first mention of Sodom and Gomorrah in an unfavorable way is in Genesis 13:10, where their destruction is noted. In verse 13 it is said, "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly." Then in Genesis 18:20, the record reads: "And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous:"

From Genesis 19:1-3, we learn of the two angels who came to Lot's house, intending to spend the night. "But before they lay down, the men of the city...compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter," wanted to "know" the angels in the sense of having sexual relations with them. This was homosexuality, sexual perversion outright. This sordid example of the sin is referred to in a number of other places in the Old Testament, and also in some in the New Testament. This should tell us something as to how this sin ranks in importance with God. Note some of the other Old Testament references:

"Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom and we should have been like unto Gomorrah" (Isa. 1:9). "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms,...shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah" (Isa 13:19). "I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers...they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah" (Jer. 23:14). "I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah...yet ye have not returned unto me, saith the Lord" (Amos 4:11).

The disdain or contempt for the sin of Sodom by God is shown in a powerful way. Back to Genesis 19, the angels declare their intention to destroy the place (v. 13). The destruction, which takes place after Lot and family get out of the city, is then described, "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven: And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground" (vv. 24-25). Also relating to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is the statement in Deut. 29:23, "...which the Lord overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath."

God speaks against the sin of homosexuality when he said, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" (Lev. 18:22). It is said further of this "abomination," "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them" (Lev. 20:13). Just think, that which was once punished by death is now being paraded in defiance of God's will! Where has shame gone?

Josiah, in his noted reform, drove out the sodomites. "And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the Lord, where the women wove hangings for the grove" (2 Kings 23:7). Think of the opposition Josiah would have in reforming our society if he were alive today! Those who do not see the strong disapproval of sodomy in the Old Testament just don't want to see!

Over time God has had different laws for man. The Patriarchal and Mosaic laws are no longer in force, but some things have not changed with God. One thing that has not changed is that homosexuality is still a sin. It will always be, regardless of how many people accept that most shameful and degrading sin. The New Testament speaks plainly on this sin, and even makes reference to Sodom and Gomorrah from the Old Testament account.

HOMOSEXUALITY UNDER GOD'S NEW TESTAMENT LAW

God's disapproval of homosexuality under the New Testament could not be made clearer. It is simply a matter of whether or not one has respect for what God's word teaches. As evidenced by our present society, an increasing number of people have little or no respect for God and His word, and what it teaches makes little or no difference. The result of such a state is well expressed by *R. C. Lenski*, in his comments on Romans 1:26-27: "The moment God is taken out of control in men's life the stench of sex aberration is bound to arise. It is so the world over to this day. Without God sex runs wild." This is what we are now seeing!

The Apostle Paul speaks. In no uncertain terms Paul shows clearly that homosexuality is condemned by God. Note what he says relative to the Gentiles and their practice of homosexuality:

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature... For this cause God gave them up to vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; man with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet" (Rom. 1:24-27).

Note the words used to describe these people: vile affections, against nature, lust, unseemly, error. The cause of this was "the lust of their own hearts." They are further described as "Being filled with all unrighteousness" (v. 29). Their sin was that which they chose to do, and they were accountable. The remedy for their sin was genuine repentance!

To the Corinthians, in a city where all manner of ungodliness, including homosexuality, prevailed, Paul wrote, expressing the consequence of sodomy:

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind (I Cor. 6:9).

The word "effeminate" is defined by *Thayer* as "a catamite." (p. 387). This term means a homosexual. "Abusers of themselves with mankind" is from the Greek word *arsenokoites*, which means a homosexual, a sodomite. This same term is used in I Tim. 1:10, where Paul refers to, "whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind..."

Peter Speaks. Sodom and Gomorrah are used as an example. Peter said: "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly" (2 Pet. 2:6). To the homosexual today, Sodom and Gomorrah is a divine example of what is in store for the "ungodly."

Jude Sounds a Warning. This writer says:

Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

If the abundant clear and forceful evidence as set forth in the New Testament is not sufficient to show that homosexuality is a sin which incurs the wrath of God, then there is no sin which would do so. To me it is a strange thing that some claim to believe the Bible to be God's word and at the same time contend that sexual perversion is not a sin. The only explanation seems to be that hypocrisy is involved.

HOMOSEXUALITY IN YEARS PAST

That homosexuality has been around a long time is evident from the evidence in the Old Testament, but it has never had or will it ever have God's approval. Going back a little more than fifty years ago, this filthy abomination was generally kept in the dark. A few places in our country were known for their homosexuals, but nothing to compare with what we are now seeing. During World War II, references were made to "the fruits" in California, and other places were known to have homosexuals. Since that time, as moral standards began to erode, more was heard about the sexual perverts, and the attitude toward their deviant behavior began to change slowly.

By the early 1970s much more was being heard about the homosexuals. The hippy culture, which began in the 1960s, was having an impact upon the moral values in our society. The sexual revolution was creating a climate which was more conducive to the acceptance of sexual perversion. This served to encourage the homosexuals to be more bold in their deviant behavior.

Beginning in the early 1970s, the sin of Sodom picked up speed in acceptance. The speed at which this occurred has accelerated since that time. This was due in a large part to the weakening of moral values in general, and the increasing of superficiality in those who called themselves Christians. The past decade has seen the swiftest change, by far, in the acceptance of the sin of sodomy.

It has only been within the past sever or eight years that our country, once called "A Christian nation," has begun its journey **On The Road To Sodom And Gomorrah** in a powerful and determined way. Never before in our country's history has our President and Vice President taken it upon themselves to lead our nation on such an ungodly and degrading course, as that of taking the road to **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**, cities known for their immoral and ungodly ways, serving as divine examples.

In the following discussion we are going to note the progress of the acceptance of homosexuality. An increasing number of forces are hard at work in behalf of this evil, using a wide variety of tactics to accomplish their goal. If the present trend continues, with its phenomenal successes, one day our country of used to be moral uprightness will have arrived at its destination of the ungodly cities of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**, awaiting its destruction! The present state of moral indifference assures victory for the ruler of the world of darkness, Satan.

EVIDENCES IN THE 1970's

The following examples will be brief, due to the lack of space. Many other examples could be given.

A Lesbian Is Episcopal Priest. In the *Firm Foundation*, March 8, 1977, bro. Roy H. Lanier, Sr. writes under the above title of a lesbian being ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church in Manhattan, N.Y. This was very unusual at that time but has become much more common since.

A Church For Homosexuals was the title of an article by Ken Joines, in the *Bible Voice*. It relates the story of the Metropolitan Community Church of Memphis, as carried in the *Commercial Appeal*, July 3, 1976. Most members and both of its worship coordinators are homosexuals. It's made up of members of the church of Christ and denominations.

The Christian Church and Homosexuality. The Murray, KY *Ledger & Times*, Apr. 24, 1978, carried an article concerning the Christian Church and homosexuality. A resolution approved by a vote of 268 to 98 opposed the ordination of anyone to the ministry who practices

homosexuality. The interesting thing about this resolution is that 98 were in favor of accepting homosexuality. These people claim to believe the Bible, but many obviously don't.

Carl Rowan Defends Homosexuals. In Rowan's syndicated column, June 15, 1977, Anita Bryant, who received wide recognition for her opposition to homosexual teachers in the schools system in Dade County, Florida, is severely criticized. The following paragraph was from that article:

"I watch and hear this woman, and I know that the greater threat to this society, which struggles for justice for all, is not the ordinary homosexual; it is the Anita Bryants who catch up so many gullible and unsophisticated Americans in the messianic madness."

This example of deep bias in opposing moral principles by the new media is much more common today than it was in 1977. Those who stand for the moral principles which contributed so much to the greatness of our country can expect severe criticism from the news media in general. Their support of sexual perversion is a case in point. (The above paragraph, from *Bible Voice*, Dean Buchanan, Ed.)

HOMOSEXUALS CELEBRATE

By the end of the 70's the homosexuals were really coming alive! The word "Gay," rather than: queer, faggot, homos and fairies was being accepted more readily, removing some of the stigma from the filthy and ungodly practice. "Life-style" was heard more often, implying that it was just a matter of choice rather than a deviant behavior. The National Organization for Women, a very pro-homosexual movement was gaining ground. Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force was appointed by President Carter to serve on the National Comm. for the Observance of International Women's Year. The following paragraph by Tom Marshal describes the attitude toward homosexuality in Boston:

"Beginning Sunday, June 19, Boston celebrated Gay Pride Week. Activities were launched as 2,500 gay activists and sympathizers marched through the city to Boston Common. A police officer was quoted as saying the march was one of Boston's biggest. Traffic was halted on city streets and demonstrators carried pictures of Anita Bryant next to pictures of Adolph Hitler and Joe McCarthy."

President Carter's involvement as noted above, was sort of a beginning of support of homosexuals by his politically party, which support is now stronger.

HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE 1980's

The 1980's saw an increase in activities by those of sexual perversion. Following is a prime example.

The Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gays. This unseemly activity took place Aug. 1-3, 1980, at the Rivermont Holiday Inn, in Memphis.

Homosexual Movies. With the coming of the 80's, the movie industry weighed in on the side of sexual perversion. *Making Love* is a movie picturing a ten-year marriage that ended when the male spouse realized he was homosexual. The wife remarried and the husband takes a homosexual "lover." *Partners* was a comedy about two policeman who go undercover as homosexuals. When people joke about things, even though serious in nature, the reality of the matter may be overlooked. In the minds of many, sexual matters are no longer important. "Do your own thing" is often acceptable.

At this same time many things on TV showed the sin of homosexuality in a favorable light, thereby conditioning minds to accept deviant behavior.

"A Cappella Chorus." Hugo McCord, in the March 17, 1983, issue of *Gospel Advocate*, discusses a brochure published by "gay and lesbian members of the churches of Christ." The

organization has named itself "A Cappella Chorus." The brochure attempts to overturn the New Testament passages which show homosexuality to be a sin.

A Gay School Tryout. In *The Nation's Newspaper*, June 7, 1985, a school composed of 20 homosexual teen-agers (14 boys and six girls) is described. New York Mayor Edward Koch is quoted as saying the school is "educationally correct," and an unnamed Harvard psychiatrist called it a "very good experiment." Mentioned in connection with the school were Joyce Hunter, program director at the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth, and Ron Najman, a National Gay force Spokesman. Looks like government trained sexual perverts. The government is now playing a more powerful role in the advance of homosexuality.

THE BOOMING HOMOSEXUAL 1990's

In the early 90's the influence of homosexuals continued to expand. Various forces were working to force the sordid sexual perversion upon society by all means. It was not, however until the election of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore that there was a real coalescing of the forces which were deployed, awaiting a banner carrier for their journey **On The Road To Sodom And Gomorrah**. With the President and Vice President, surrounded by more than two dozen homos and lesbians, a battle was commenced, the likes of which we've never seen before in the promotion of a filthy, dirty and ungodly practice, as is sexual perversion.

With the banners of the homosexual marchers waving, the band of immoral fellow-travelers are being joined by forces of like mind. This includes a host of politicians whose platforms contain planks of immorality. It also includes a great many judges courts and other civil powers which are bent on marching all the way to Sodom and joining the unseemly society which prevails there. (Page 6)

Lesbians Coming Out Strong. These words were on the front page of the June 21, 1993, issue of *Newsweek*, along with the large picture of two lesbians. The articles, in the promotion of lesbians, were about seven pages. To a morally healthy person the message is no less than sickening. From the first paragraph of the feature article, note the following:

"...the women chanted, many thousands strong, on the eve of the recent gay-and lesbian-march in Washington. There were, in fact, lots of grandmotherly types proceeding down Connecticut Avenue that spring evening, along with bare-breasted teenagers in overalls, As onlookers pondered the stereotype-defying scene, the demonstrators reveled in their sheer numbers. It was, for once, an unabashed display of lesbian clout."

With regard to the coming out of the lesbians the question is asked, "Why now?" It is said further, "As conservatives are quick to note, the election of Bill Clinton contributed to this open atmosphere. Though many homosexuals feel let down by his waffling on the military ban...they give him credit for being the first president to acknowledge gays and lesbians, let alone promote them."

Disney and Homosexuality. *Walt Disney* was at one time known for producing things fit for children to see, but now the *Walt Disney Company* is a powerful supporter of the base sin of homosexuality. John M. Smith has pointed out a few things in this area which are worthy of note:

1. In March 1994, Disney bought an ad in homosexual publication.
2. In June 1994, Disney's *Magic Kingdom* in Orlando sponsored its fourth annual "gay and lesbian day."
3. Aug. 1994, Disney-owned company Miramax, participates in the "Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival."
4. Sept. 1994, Disney is reported to be one of the top ten sponsors of pro-

homosexual TV programs, from Jan. 1 through June 30. 5. Apr. 1995, Disney announces it has hired Lauren Boyd, a lesbian film producer.

The support of sexual perversion by Disney has grown stronger over the years. It is reported that attendance at Walt Disney World has grown considerably since 1991, attracting "more than 100,000 gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, family and friends in 1998, 1999 and 2000." It would probably not be amiss to say that it is now a Mecca for homosexuals.

Homosexual Flags Over Orlando. In connection with the observance of Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, in June 1998, homosexuals proposed to mount homosexual flags on the light posts in Orlando, FL. It was reported that the *Orlando Sentinel* ran an on-line poll asking, "Should Orlando allow gay-pride flags on its light poles?" Out of 17,000 responses over 91% answered "yes." If Sodom and Gomorrah had had light poles, most likely the sexual perverts, the sodomites, would have had flags flying on every pole!

"Hate Crimes" Legislation. A couple of years ago there was an outcry made for "hate crimes" legislation. As one can imagine, President Clinton was out front in proposing such. The primary purpose of the legislation was to offer special protection to sexual perverts. Just imagine the following scenario: A man abuses, rapes and murders a young girl. The second man murders a homosexual. The second man would receive more severe punishment than the rapist and murderer. It's all about showing special favors to sexual perverts.

My good friend, John Q. Mitchell, said it well in a letter published by *Time*, Nov. 16, 1998. He said:

"POLITICS OR NOT, HATE CRIMES OR NOT, the practice of homosexuality anywhere outrages right-thinking people everywhere. The sooner homosexuals come to terms with the unchangeable fact that God unequivocally disapproves of their sexual conduct and those who applaud such behavior, the sooner they will turn away from their vile degeneracy."

Clinton Proclaims June "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month." This was reported in the *Dallas Morning News*, June 15, 1999. A release from the White House Secretary, dated June 2, 2000, said:

"Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue vested in me...do proclaim June 2000 as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month..."

In the above press release Clinton boasts of his support of the homosexual movement. As the leader On The Road To Sodom And Gomorrah, why not?

Pro-Homosexual Legislators. When I hear the statement, "You can't legislate morality," it is some times hard for me to figure out what the individual means. But there is one thing I do know, and that is, our legislators are in many instances making that which was "illegal," legal. It seems that immorality may be legislated. A case in point was the overturning of the law against "sodomy" in Kentucky.

In Feb. 1998, Greg Stumbo, House Majority Leader in the Kentucky Legislature, shows his support for homosexuals as he sounds forth in words which evidence a serious lack of reason. This is so often the case on the part of those who uphold immorality in various areas. Mr. Stumbo says of God's creation of man: "...the Lord created all of his children and if you believe He made them, then you have to believe He made them the way they are." From the quips made by Mr. Stumbo relative to God's race, sex, and sexual preference, it would be hard to believe that he believes in God at all. If, as Mr. Stumbo says, God made people homosexuals, it would be somewhat of a problem trying to figure out why God rained "fire and brimstone" upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for just practicing what God made them to be. A serious charge!

In the recent election a great many legislators appealed to voters on the basis of their support of the homosexuals and their deviant behavior. Many of us can well remember when a plank in a platform supporting homosexuality would have been no less than political suicide. There has been no change in the true basis of morality; the change has been in a lack of respect for moral standards by so many.

President Clinton Backs Homosexuals. In the Jan. 1998, issue of *American Family Association Journal*, is found detailed information with respect to our president's support of gays and lesbians. In November of 98, Clinton spoke to 1,500 homosexuals attending the Human Rights Campaign's national dinner. The 200,000-member HRC, a gay lobby group, gave a civil rights award to lesbian actress Ellen DeGeneres, who was in attendance.

During Clinton's 23-minute speech, gays interrupted 25 times by applause, by seven standing ovations. Clinton is quoted as saying, "We have to broaden the imagination of America" to accept homosexuals as equals. Nothing could be more opposed to God's will, but that is the direction in which our present society is traveling.

Vice President, Al Gore, is also a pro-homo-sexual official, as is Attorney General, Janet Reno. Reno advocates training programs in schools to condition students to accept homosexuality.

Homosexual Ambassador. In June of 99, our pro-homosexual President appointed a homosexual ambassador to Luxembourg. Sexual perverts in the highest places in our land is obviously the goal of our President, and those who have a like affinity for those things which are offensive in God's sight.

Gay Pride Parade. The national news on the 28th day of June 99, reported a turn out of 600,000 for the parade of homosexuals in San Francisco. Our President must have rejoiced in this display of love for that which is ungodly and shameful.

Tinky Winky Is Gay. Tyler Young points out an effort to win the minds of the young to accept the unnatural deviant behavior of sexual perversion. He says, "Tinky Winky is out and proud. It's a great message to kids...that it's okay to be gay," quoting from homosexual columnist Michael Musto. Tinky Winky is a star of the children's program *Teletubbies*, imported from Britain, federally subsidized by the Public Broadcasting System. A case of taxpayers supporting that which they may oppose.

Pro-Homosexuality Churches. The growing support of homosexuality by those who claim to believe in God and His word is one of the most powerful examples of outright hypocrisy. God's word clearly and forcefully condemns sexual perversion, yet the number of "churches" supporting that which God condemns is growing rapidly! This shows that a growing number of people who claim to believe in God are hypocritical in their claim.

Episcopal Church and Homosexuals. In July the Episcopal Church was to have its convention. A question to be discussed was the policy of allowing each diocese to decide the roles of homosexuals. Church spokesman Jim Solheim said, "I think we've made it very clear that we believe gay rights, they're welcome in our congregation." That the question of accepting homosexuality is even discussed shows disregard for God's word. (*Page 8*)

Pro-Homosexual Methodist. "In Colorado, 15 United Methodist bishops issue a statement urging the ordination of practicing homosexuals. Some of them even said the church should perform marriage ceremonies for homosexuals." (*Don Wildmon, 98'*)

Maxie B. Boren reports that in January of 1999, a group of Methodist clergymen in California participated in the "marriage ceremony" of two lesbians. Just think! What a disregard for God's word.

Presbyterians and Homosexuality. In an article by Associated Press, it was said, "The chief policy-making body of the denomination voted by a narrow margin Friday to recommend barring its ministers from officiating at blessings for gay couples even if the ceremonies stop short of marriage." The proposed ban passed by a vote of 268-251. The point here is that almost half of the representatives of the 2.6 million group were in favor of approving the blessing of homosexual couples. This would be no less than a flagrant violation of God's will.

Due to lack of space we've given only a few of the many examples of those who claim to believe in God, yet openly violate His will relative to homosexuality. This is advancing the cause of ungodliness through so-called Christianity.

THE ADVANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

During this year of 2000 the advance of the God-opposed practice of homosexuality has dwarfed that which has occurred previously. There has been simply a flood of activities designed to further this ungodly cause, even to the point of forcing it upon those in society who still have some respect for God's will for man. This reflects the Clinton-Gore agenda, to bring our society to its lowest depths yet. This sordid condition could not have come to pass without a great many supporters of this evil.

In the following we shall set forth several examples to prove our point. Many other examples could be given, but these should suffice to cause some alarm in those who really care about God.

Attempt to Force Boy Scouts to Accept Homosexuality. In New Jersey a suit was brought against the Boy Scouts, with the help of the ACLU, in an effort to compel them to accept a homosexual scoutmaster, an avowed gay rights activist. While the New Jersey Supreme Court had ruled against the Boy Scouts, contending that they had no right to expel from their midst an avowed homosexual, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Scouts. While this ruling of the highest court, in favor of allowing moral standards to be held, should be appreciated, the decision falls short of upholding the rights of people to associate with whom they desire. Our freedom of association is being taken away little by little. The Supreme Court's decision does not mean the enemies of the Scouts have given up. Forces of evil don't give up easily. They will not be content until they can homosexualize the Boy Scouts and the rest of society.

The Boy Scouts have been criticized severely, being accused of discrimination, hate, etc. It is being reported that the Scouts are being denied the use of some school facilities. Some United Fund Drives are no longer including the Scouts in the receiving of funds. This is an example, of which there are many, of when it is wrong to be right, as viewed by a great portion of our unseemly society. This is an example of what Isaiah was talking about when he refers to those who "call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness" (Isa. 5:20). It's time for those who care to awaken to reality and let themselves be heard.

What About Gay Marriage? An article by (AP) in the June 1st *Murray Ledger & Times* says: "Just over half of Americans say gay couples should not be allowed to marry, according to an Associated Press poll. But just as many say gay partners should have some legal rights of a married couple..." "More women feel gay marriage is OK. So do more Democrats than

Republicans, more young people than old...." Brethren, just stop and think! Almost half the people believe homosexuals should be allowed to "marry." Do we really understand just how far our society has gone **On The Road To Sodom And Gomorrah?** It's much latter than many think!

Vermont And Same-Sex Unions. The Vermont Supreme Court ruled that gay and lesbian couples were being denied the rights and benefits of marriage. Therefore, they created "civil unions parallel to marriage." This is the first state to enact such a law, but we can be sure that others will follow. This new advance for Sodomites has received wide attention, even from foreign countries. It appears that our so-called "Christian nation" is gaining attention from the standpoint of being out front in this evil.

GM, Ford, and Chrysler Promotes Homos. The "Big three" auto makers are now offering benefits to same-sex partners. David Murphy of Ford Motor Co. said, "...Look, we are a diverse company and we do recognize not only race and gender but sexual orientation.'" Race and Gender are matters over which the individual has no control, but the same is not true with regard to sexual orientation. People are homosexuals by choice, and God severely condemns that choice (Rom. 1).

Homosexuals Want Access to Children. In an (AP) article in the *Murray Ledger & Times*, Nov. 8, 2000, it is pointed out that the Big Brothers-Big Sisters board voted 10-9 to prohibit gays and lesbians from mentoring children. The Kentucky Fairness Alliance has mounted a letter-writing campaign to overturn this ruling. Since homosexuals do not reproduce, they must depend upon recruiting. It is a sad day when the homosexuals want access to troubled children, whereby they may recruit.

Dodgers apologize for throwing out lesbians. This was the title of an article by (AP), in the Aug. 24 edition of *Murray Ledger & Times*. The Los Angeles Dodgers threw out of the ball park a couple of lesbians who were kissing during the game. This brought on the apology, with the statement to the lesbians, "We will continue to do the right thing."

Dr. Laura Apologizes to Gays and Lesbians. Dr. Laura Schlessinger, a well known talk show host, is usually forthright with regard to moral issues. In response to criticism from homosexuals she put forth the following statement: "While I express my opinions from the perspective of an Orthodox Jew and a staunch defender of the traditional family, in talking about gays and lesbians some of my words were poorly chosen." Homosexuals aren't satisfied with Schlessinger's apology and a number of top advertisers have dropped her show. The above is from and (AP) Los Angeles article as carried by *Murray Ledger & Times*, Oct. 11, 2000. It is another example of trying to force homosexuality.

SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

In the foregoing we have cited only a small amount of the abundant evidence which clearly shows that our present society is **On The Road To Sodom And Gomorrah**. That is, the filthy and degrading practice of homosexuality is being accepted at a rate many of us would never have dreamed possible. The success of this evil can be attributed in a considerable part to the President, who has surrounded himself with dozens of homosexuals. He is the first President to attempt to normalize sexual perversion and go all out to encourage it. He has for almost eight years served as the chief banner-carrier on that infamous march to Sodom and Gomorrah.

The influence of the Sodomites is being seen in various areas of society: the business world, the entertainment industry, churches, and various governmental areas. The promotion of this evil by governmental powers is perhaps the most frightening. If the present trend continues,

much of society will be forced to accept homosexuality regardless of how opposed to the evil they may be.

The thing which bothers me most about this matter is that God's influence is being fought against by powerful forces of evil, with the objective of replacing God's influence with the most vile and degrading amoral concepts. My offspring and that of others will face the most ungodly world that we have ever imagined in this country.

One of the most disappointing things about this matter is that some of my own brethren have helped to bring about this ungodly condition by supporting the political party which is behind this evil. They can't have much respect for God's will for man.

If ever there was a time for true Christians to take a stand for that which is right in God's sight, it is NOW. Evil has a free course when God's people remain silent. If sexual perversion is not condemned by God's word, then nothing is condemned. It all comes down to the matter of whether or not God's will is obeyed. Christians remained faithful in the ungodly world of the first Century. If they did, so can we. Let's pray that God's will be done, and work with all our might to help it to be so.

- - - Walter W. Pigg

The Role of Bible Class Teachers

Roger D. Campbell

When we think of Christians that play an important role in the church, we often think of shepherds, deacons, and preachers. Another extremely important group of people in the kingdom are **Bible Class Teachers**. Those brothers and sisters that serve as faithful Bible class teachers deserve our thanks, support, and encouragement for their efforts.

A special tribute is also due to those faithful Christians that in days gone by taught and trained our present teachers. Their efforts of years and decades past are now bearing fruit through the Bible class teachers of 2000.

The Greek word *didaskolos* (teacher) is used of Jesus Himself. Nicodemus recognized that Jesus was "a teacher come from God" (Jno. 3:2). Any Bible class teacher of any age ought to seriously study the teaching message, methods, and attitude of Jesus. As He is in every other respect of life, Jesus is certainly the pattern to follow in teaching.

God wants all of His children to be teachers in the sense that all Christians should strive to teach others the gospel ("ye ought to be teachers," Heb. 5:12). On the other hand, Ephesians 4:11 shows that in the first century church there was a special group of saints known as "teachers." "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

The context of the above passage from Ephesians 4, as well as other New Testament references (cf. Acts 13:1-3; I Cor. 12:28-30), indicates that in the early church at least some of the teachers possessed miraculous gifts or powers. While the Holy Spirit in our day no longer gives such miraculous powers, there is still a need for teachers of the word. When we gather in public classes to study the Bible, someone needs to be responsible for teaching and guiding the class. This is where teachers play such a significant role.

I want to use this means to exhort, remind, and charge all Bible class teachers to be the best, most effective teachers that they can possibly be. Being better teachers produces better

Bible classes, which in turn produce better servants of Christ, resulting ultimately in stronger congregations and more people on the road to heaven. That is what it is all about!

Teachers need to remember what they are supposed to do in the classroom – teach! That is the function of a "teacher" – to teach. I know that sounds really simple, but sadly in some instances very little teaching actually takes place in classes.

Bible class teachers must also never forget the subject that they are to teach – the Bible! Bible class teachers have been entrusted with an awesome responsibility. They are expected to lead a group of people, whether young or old, in a study of what God says to us in His word. In many cases workbooks, charts, and other teaching aids are used. These are fine as long as their message is in harmony with God's word, but the textbook of our studies must always be the Bible. Because of this, those who serve as teachers need to be those who faithfully follow the instructions of Titus 2:1, "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

Teachers need to be a godly example, serving as a model for their students to imitate. All Christians are to be "blameless" and let their light "shine" (Phil. 2:15; Matt. 5:16). This is especially so of those who serve as teachers of Bible classes. Many teachers have lost their influence over those whom they are teaching because, like some people of Jesus' day, "they say, and do not" (Matt. 23:3). The Holy Spirit's question deserves solemn consideration by every Bible class teacher: "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?" (Rom. 2:21). Simply put, teachers need to support the right spoken message with the right lifestyle, living soberly, righteously, and godly (Titus 2:12).

It surely goes without saying that all teachers ought to be present for all services of the church, including those Bible classes when they themselves are not teaching. A teacher that willfully misses other classes or service is not sending the right message to those whom he/she teaches. What are they to think when they observe his/her conduct?

I once heard of a sister that regularly taught a children's Sunday morning Bible class. The congregation where she was a member had a gospel meeting that lasted several days. She did not attend one night of the meeting (she willfully forsook the assemblies). The Sunday morning following the close of the meeting she was met at the door of her classroom by an elder who told her that the shepherds had decided that she would not be teaching the class anymore. She protested that that was her class and she had to teach it. His response was that she had taught those kids something all week by being absent from the gospel meeting, and such teaching was not the kind needed. How right he was! Yes, her action said a lot.

Please consider some suggestions for all that serve as Bible class teachers:

Ä Be enthusiastic in you classes. This helps create an atmosphere where there is a sincere desire to learn on the part of the students. If a teacher seems like he is just going through the motions, is bored, or keeps yawning from a lack of sleep the night before, he should not expect those whom he is teaching to be too excited about listening to him.

Ä Encourage questions. When they are asked, handle them with courtesy and patience. Always turn to the Bible for the answer: "Search the Scriptures" (John 5:39). When you don't know the answer, admit it, then tell the class that you will try to find the answer before your next class.

Ä Challenge your students. In many cases they can do much more than we give them credit for. Give them assignments. It won't kill them. They may respond by saying that they are very busy with school or work, and perhaps they are. But school and work are secondary to a study of God's word.

Ä Pray for those whom you teach. Pray for their understanding and spiritual growth through your help. Let them know that you pray for them and really care about them.

Ä Be on time for class. In fact, if you and your students go directly to the classroom without first meeting in the auditorium or elsewhere with others, then be several minutes early and be there waiting on the precious souls you are to teach. Greet each student with a warm greeting. There may be emergencies that arise from time to time that cause a teacher to be late for class. This is unavoidable. But teachers who are habitually late for their classes are sending a very strong message (a mighty undesirable one!) to those whom they are teaching.

Ä Be well prepared for every class. Do not let anything interfere with your study and preparation. Even small children can "pick up" on a teacher being unprepared. If the class is worth teaching, then it is worth giving it our best effort, and that means being prepared before we go to class.

Ä Always keep in mind the goal of your work as a teacher. Teaching is not without its problems. It can be frustrating, even downright discouraging at times. When we feel that we are seeing very little progress on the part of our students, we need to remember that Rome was not built in one night, neither does a child learn the will of God and how to walk by faith in a short period of time.

Just what is the ultimate goal of our Bible classes? Is it simply to impart knowledge? Students increasing in knowledge is necessary, but this is not the final goal. What about showing forth a good example, is that a teacher's number one goal? In this article we have stressed the importance of teachers being a good example, but being such an example is not the final goal. In our classes are we trying to help those whom we teach to do better? Yes, but still, doing better is not the desired end.

Every teacher must never forget that the ultimate goal of teaching Bible classes is to help people learn the will of God so that through this they can know and do His will, be saved, and go to heaven. That's right – in our Bible classes we are striving to help people prepare to go to heaven.

To all Bible class teachers who put forth so much time and effort, and who truly demonstrate in their lives that Christ is living in them (Gal. 2:20), we offer our sincere thanks for a job well done. You may some times feel unappreciated, but "God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love" (Heb. 6:10).

4865 Bates Pike S.E.
Cleveland, TN 37323

Glazed-Over Eyes

Alan Adams, Assistant Editor

There is a universal phenomenon: **Glazed-Over Eyes**. This is the kind of look people get when they hear and process your words, but do not understand what you're talking about. This is the kind of look that people get when they are looking in your direction, yet looking through or past you. I've seen that look on the face of many preachers as I tried to discuss with them concepts that have been part of preaching parlance for years; in fact, concepts that are as old as the Bible itself. One such concept is: *authority*.

The differences between the Lord's church and man-made churches (denominations) are of course too numerous to list at one sitting. Yet, the most glaring and obvious differences has to do with how we view the Bible. All of the denominations with which I am familiar follow the philosophy of: "If it is not expressly forbidden in the Bible, we have the right (or, authority) to do it." Simply put, this says: "If the Bible nowhere specifically says '**do not do this thing**,' we then have the right to do it. In other words they view the *silence* of the Scriptures as being equivalent to *Divine permission*. This is exactly why many people have difficulty in understanding why churches of Christ (as they say:) "Don't believe in pianos." Whereas we look in the New Testament, see mention only of a cappella music, and conclude, "There's no authority for mechanical instruments"; they look at the Bible and say: "Well, it doesn't say not to."

Since the New Testament is the last will and testament of Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:15; 12:24), and since "all authority" is His, then it is clear that His authority, His say so, is expressed in that "testament." It's not enough to say, "Well, the Bible doesn't say 'No,' therefore I may." Rather, we must have some positive grounds on which to say the Lord has either commanded us to do a certain thing, or has given us permission to do the same. *Silence*, as far as the Scriptures are concerned, is *golden*, only in the sense that we know we may not delve into beliefs and practices on which God's word is silent. Remember the case of Nadab and Abihu; they "offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not," and were themselves destroyed by fire from Heaven (Lev. 10:1-2). Whatever "strange fire" means, I know that they did something God had *not* authorized them to do. It was something God had been silent on, and they died because of the presumption.

Not so long ago, I was discussing with several preachers the practice known as Children's Worship, Children's Bible Hour, and so on. I'm not talking about Bible classes for children, but I am talking about a situation wherein while the church is "assembled together in one place," a place wherein they are supposed to be "eating the Lord's Supper" (I Cor. 11:20) and engaging in the other four acts of worship; but in the meantime, the children have been taken out of the assembly. Even more importantly, Christians, members of the church, who ought to be in that assembly, are also absent from the assembly so that they can take care of the children. I simply asked the question, "Where is the authority for doing that?" There either is or there is not Bible authority for this practice. After much discussion, the only answer I got was, "Well, the Bible is silent on this matter; shouldn't we be." This is precisely the point: The Bible is *silent* as to such a practice, therefore there is no authority for it. Language and expression that ought to be part and parcel of the preacher's vocabulary and thought processes, is virtually foreign to many preachers among us. It is at points such as that that you begin to see the **glazed-over**, distant look in the eye.

Brethren, I guess I'm just dumb enough to keep on asking: Where's your authority for forming special music groups to entertain people with "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs"? Where's the authority for making merchandise of the Gospel by selling tickets so that people can come hear you sing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs"? Where is the authority for "Easter Services" [and "Christmas Services"]? Where is the authority for the church to build a fellowship hall-*cum*-basketball court-*cum*-shower and tea facility? In fact, where is the authority for the church to get into the business of entertaining, which is strictly the purview of that other Divinely established institution: the home? Where is your authority for Youth Ministers, Married/Single Ministers, Body Life Ministers....? Where's the authority for dividing The

Assembly? I'm not suggesting that one must produce a statement or command that explicitly mentions these things. The Bible also authorizes by accounts of action and implication. But, however it's done, there must be a positive procedure through which we derive the sound conclusion: Therefore, God authorizes me to do this or that. Many brethren today, deem such questions as raised above to be irrelevant, even impertinent. They often just smile, some even laugh; but, they do not respond. Neither did Nadab and Abihu.

Editor's Note: Relative to the matter of **authority** for what we do in serving God, I have noted a considerable increase in the number of responses on this subject received from readers of *Banner of Truth*. More and more of our brethren or questioning the need for Divine authority for what we do in the realm of spiritual things. This helps to account for the increase in the number of unscriptural things now taking place in the Lord's church.

Will You Help Bro. Spurlin?

Our brother, Bob Spurlin, has preached the gospel for more than 30 years. For more than five years he has been suffering from MS. He has been bedfast for a number of years. In spite of his physical problem he has been active in writing. He has written a book: *Tackling Life's Troubles*. The book is well worth reading.

Through the sale of the book he is getting help to take care of his medical expenses. The book sells for \$10, plus postage. The book may be ordered by mail: Bob Spurlin, 122 Brooks Ln, Somerville, AL 35670. His e-mail address is: < PrechTeach@Aol.Com > Not only does the book deal with adversity and grief, it contains a number of "doctrinal themes which face us today." To order the book is a good way to help a brother in need, and at the same time profit from the material in the book.

BANNER OF TRUTH LECTURES

May 7-10, 2001

Place: Murray, KY

Note: The place we had reserved for the lectures has been destroyed by fire. We are now looking for another facility and will give an update on our plans in the Dec. issue of *Banner of Truth*. Ed.

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

* * * * *

**We sincerely wish for
our readers and our
supporters**

**A VERY SAFE
AND HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON**

* * * *

**May the New Year
of 2001 be a very
prosperous one
in every good thing!**

* * * *

**We are most thankful for
the "gifts" from our
"fellowhelpers" which have
enabled us to carry on the
work in which we are
now engaged in behalf
of the cause of Christ.**

*Walter and Naomi and
the church at Hickory Grove*

FELLOWHELPERS

September and October 2000

Anonymous	50.00
Wanda C. Thompson	25.00
Lou Nell Elkins	50.00
Green Plain church of Christ	100.00
Clifford Dixon	20.00
Bill Willard	25.00
Lyndon Broach	15.00
Anonymous	100.00
James M. Shirley	10.00
Elizabeth Sublett	20.00
Alhambra church of Christ	50.00
Anonymous	5.00
Lydia Tubbs	25.00
Elmer Scott	20.00
Anonymous	5.00
Lewis Blain	20.00
Name forgotten	20.00
Pine Ridge church of Christ	100.00
M/M John H. Brown	50.00
Maple Hill church of Christ	200.00
Clarence Cagle	40.00

Bobby Lusk	100.00
Berea church of Christ	100.00
M/M Donald Shiflett	200.00
Jackie Patchell	50.00
Dorothy Medling	10.00
Chestnut Grove church of Christ	50.00
A. J. and Randa Zenthoefer	25.00
Kenneth Kemp	25.00
Anonymous	75.00
Roxie M. Akers	<u>3.00</u>
Sept. and Oct. contribution	1,788.00

*"That we might be fellowhelpers
to the truth" (3rd John 8)*

We are ever mindful and thankful for our brethren who support our effort in the cause of Christ. We are sincerely thankful to have you as our *fellowhelpers*. We look forward to our work together in the New Year of 2001. - - *Editor*

***Banner of Truth* Financial Report**

Sept. and Oct. 2000

Balance on hand Sept. 1, 2000	12,832.89
Sept. and Oct. contribution	<u>1,788.00</u>
Total funds available	14,620.89
Sept. and Oct. expenses:	
Mailing BOT	1,110.58
Labels	49.05
Plates for printing	223.00
Stamps	34.23
Misc.	2.09
Travel expense	43.60
Phone calls	<u>21.68</u>
Total expenses	1,484.23
Total funds available	14,620.89
Less Sept. & Oct. expenses	<u>1,484.23</u>
Total balance on hand Oct. 31	13,136.66

READERS' RESPONSE

"We really enjoy Banner of Truth. Good health to you and your family at Hickory Grove church - **Kenneth Kemp.**" - TN. (*Thanks for your well wishes & help. Ed.*) "Please add me to your Banner of Truth mailing list. I recently received a copy of a previous issue and I wanted to thank you for the good sound material and your stand for the truth. This is excellent material for teaching those 'within' the church. Also, may I receive a copy of a previous issue on women

translators because I need to be more informed on this subject - **Mike Shirley.**" - TN. *(The issue of women translators is important. The position of some who uphold their use is quite odd. They claim it is scriptural to use them, and that they are necessary in order to teach, yet they are now saying 'We don't use them.' If it is scriptural to use them, and if they are needed in order to teach — why not use them????? If something is right and necessary, by what means are we justified in withholding it or not using it? -Editor).*

"Will you please send me the paper you mail to people. I read one and enjoyed it. Thanks - **Etta Treadaway.**" - AR. *(We're happy to send you Banner of Truth. If you find the paper worthwhile, tell others about it. We will add their names to our mailing list. - Ed.)* Contd. P

"Dear Mr. Pigg, I have just been exposed to my first copy of your publication. I must say, maybe I've led a very sheltered life. At the very least I was shocked. I take that back, I'm still shocked at what I read. I was just thinking that maybe your task wouldn't be quite as hard if instead of naming all of the people who are evil, you could just list all of those whom you think are ok. I can't imagine the list would be very long. Of course that list would undoubtedly be reduced at each publication, and I can't imagine that anyone would ever be added to the list. I would also like to ask you a question. Is there any school that you approve other than Memphis School of Preaching. Are they the only ones to have the whole truth and nothing but the truth? I know this may be a really radical suggestion, but have you ever considered spending your time and energies on preaching the plain and simple gospel of Christ instead of listing everyone that you don't agree with as evil men? I have never been so negatively affected by anything. Your self-righteous attitude is like a venom. Please stop trying to police the world? (sic.) Whatever happened to autonomy anyway? Signed, Sincerely, Bill Russell.

Bill, the tone of your remarks says something as to the type of person my must be. Your caustic criticisms are made in the absence of even a shred of evidence. I've found it to be characteristic of certain types of people, that when there is no basis for their caustic criticism, they say mean, unkind, and derogatory things about those who sincerely stand for God's truth. People who "receive not the love of the truth," are likely to be "negatively affected" by the truth. Something you read must have hit a sensitive nerve with you. But please remember, that all the mean things you may say about those who stand for God's truth will never change God's word in any way. Judging by what you have said, you must find some of God's word quite offensive. Bill, let me ask you a question: "Have you ever thought what the Lord's church would be if all its members demonstrated an attitude like yours?" It will likely not please you to know that my "task" is not hard, and that the list of those who must think I'm ok continues to grow. They commend BOT and help our circulation to grow. For whatever it may be worth to you, you have the distinction of being one of a very, very few like yourself with whom I have had contact in response to BOT. - Editor).

"The October issue of B.O.T. deals with a problem that is so evident among some of our brethren, that is, understanding what the Bible teaches about 'fellowship.' Thank you for the excellent article. It is tragic that some can read about such matters happening and because of the men involved, they do not see any problem. As you know, because of a preacher's personality, his popularity, etc., some become blind and deaf to the possibility of any false doctrine being proclaimed and practiced by "their" preacher. We had better remember and practice Eph. 5:11 & 2 John 9-11 - **Jerry Joseph.**" - TN. *(I couldn't agree with you more! The cult principle is*

involved. When men start following men, the following usually continues, no matter which direction the "followed" takes. Not all will go as far as the followers of Jim Jones, but some will go a long way before turning back - Editor).

"Thanks for Banner of Truth." I enjoy getting and reading it. I don't like to hear of error, but it is good to know about it. Donation enclosed... - **Geneva Lancaster.**" - **FL.** (*It would be wonderful if error didn't exist, but since it does, we need to be aware of it so that we can be on guard against it - Editor).*

"Just was privileged to read April 2000 issue of 'Banner of Truth.' I knew bro. Rubel when he was faithful years ago. Appreciate bro. Pigg's article and would like to be added to your mailing list - **Maurice E. Woods.**" - **AR.** (*I was in school with Rubel. Until the 1980s he spoke the truth. He is an example of apostasy, as he now supports man-made churches -Editor).* P

"I want to thank you for the package of back issues of Banner of Truth, and please keep my name on your mailing list. If my address changes you will be the first to know it... **Nannie Philpot.**" (*We appreciate those who send us their change of address. It saves \$\$\$.* - Editor).

"My name is Warren Petty. My sister give me two of your bulletins. I would like the issues on apostasy. I would be very happy to pay for a subscription if you will give me the amount...Thank you very much - **Warren Petty.**" - **IL.** (*BOT is sent free to those who want it. Any contribution to help with its cost is appreciated. That is the means by which the paper is published - Editor).*

"I mailed a request for my name to be added to your mailing list early in August. Some time in late Sept. I received July, August and Sept. copies. Thank you. As of this date I've not received Oct. or Nov. copies. I enjoy B.O.T. and appreciate your good works. Keep it up! Enclosed is a check....- **Royce E. Adams.**" - **CA.** (*Somehow your address got out of order. I think it is correct now. From time to time addresses get mixed up. We appreciate it when people let us know if they are not receiving BOT. Mistakes can be made, even when we try hard. Your check is greatly appreciated. I'm adding the names you sent. I'm working on the Nov. issue now - Editor).*

My Wife's Health Report: For some time now Naomi has been having problems with high blood pressure. She had stints put in her renal arteries in July, but since then her blood pressured has been too high. On Dec.5th she had the balloon procedure done on her renal arteries, as the circulation has subsided somewhat. She spent the night in the hospital and came home next day. She feels quite well and we trust her blood pressure will come down to a more reasonable level. - Editor.

Editor's e-mail: <wpiggbot@apex.net>

View BOT on bro. David Lemmons' web at:

<http://www.hcis.net/users/dlemmons/BOTlist.htm>

Readers may get on David's **LemmonsAid e-mail** by sending an e-mail to the address below:

< LemmonsAid-Subscribe@ListBot.com >

Editor's Note: If mail is being sent directly to me, it will reach me sooner if it is sent to my address at:

164 Coles Campground Rd.

Murray, KY 42071

