

Banner of Truth

"The truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

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No. 5

White House Responds to Banner of Truth

Under the date of July 13, 2012, one of our readers sent a copy of the May-June issue of Banner of Truth to:

The White House "ATTN: Barack Obama"

The ten page lead article was entitled:

*At The Gate Of Sodom And Gomorrah
Our President Lead Powerful Influence to Enter In*

In order that the article, to which the White House responded, is understood, we are reprinting the entire article word for word. Following the article we have included the reader's letter and the complete White House response. We encourage our readers to give close and serious attention to that response. It plainly and concisely sets forth the President's determination to encourage and uphold the God-condemned practice of homosexuality and related matters. So, now, begins the above-mentioned article including the original introduction.

BANNER OF TRUTH

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At the Gate of Sodom and Gomorrah Our President Leads Powerful Influence To Enter In

*Born in 1925, passing through the
Great Depression, and serving in
World War II, we never dreamed that*

*those trying times would lead us in
our lifetime to see our beloved free
country looking more and more like
the God-condemned cities of Sodom
and Gomorrah.*

The April 2010 issue of Banner of Truth contained a reprint of a November 2000 article, “On The Road to Sodom and Gomorrah.” Now in May 2012, we are sadly, yet without apology, again presenting another article which relates to Sodom and Gomorrah. In God’s Word, we find at least fifty references to Sodom and/or Gomorrah. The names of these cities, which God burned with fire and brimstone, are synonymous with the sin of homosexuality. Derived from the city, Sodom, “sodomites” are mentioned five times. Needless to say, the many mentions of the sin of homosexuality in connection with Sodom and Gomorrah, reflects the fact that it was a sin to which God saw fit to condemn in no uncertain terms. Those who respect God’s word acknowledge this important truth as a fact.

Although past discussions of homosexuality have called attention to the fact that this soul-condemning sin is rapidly increasing in our society, the evidence of a greater and more rapid increase during the past two years has compelled us to speak out again. Six states have passed laws to accept same-sex marriage (We are thankful that 38 states have passed laws disallowing same-sex marriage). Several other things have happened which tragically reflect our nation’s steadily accepting an evil which can only bring this country to ruin. The leader in the most recent surge of promoting same-sex marriage is none other than President Barack Obama in his recent infamous declaration in favor of such aberrant unions. His being the most powerful person in our country will lend great influence to cause

of pushing our nation into Sodom and Gomorrah. We shall have more to say with regard to our President and his evil stance.

GOD'S WORD DECLARES THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN

We have pointed out the fact before that God's Word clearly and strongly teaches that homosexuality is a sin. The most extensive teaching relates to Sodom and Gomorrah, as we mentioned earlier. Even though we have pointed out the sin of homosexuality before, we have chosen to restate that teaching. God's Word on the subject is not going to change in any way. As long as time continues, God's law will be the same. Since the beginning of the human race, it has been a common thing for mankind to change, and that change has been one of rejection and disrespect for God. We need to be reminded of this often, lest we forget.

It would be to man's great good to remember the words of Christ with regard to His word. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). For several decades, and at a frighteningly rapid pace, our society has succumbed to unbelief. Inspiration, by Paul, forewarned Timothy of times when men would not respect God's word. Those "that will live godly in Christ Jesus," He said, "shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12); but, "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (v. 13). We are seeing this first-hand now.

While God's word clearly teaches that the majority of mankind is going to be lost, it also teaches that there will be many departures from God's truth, even of those who are members of the church. At one time they believed God's word to be true. There are many warnings of falling away from the truth. The danger of even Christians compromising their convictions with regard to the error of same-sex marriage is greater now

than ever in our lifetime. Why so? The church is affected to some degree by the condition of society. When society becomes more evil, the church will follow suit, to some degree. With the present great degree of tolerance and acceptance of homosexuality, more members will undoubtedly turn away from the faith and adopt the sinful practice. In fact, some members of the church took up sexual perversion [homosexuality] several years ago, in the 1970s. This sad and repulsive information is set forth in an article entitled:

A Church for Homosexuals, 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.

While these people may have called themselves "members of the church of Christ and denominations," The Lord *adds* "to the church" (Acts 2:47) only the obedient. Faithful members of the church of Christ will continue to obey God. Such people who fly in the face of God's will by practicing homosexuality or other sins have a singular destiny, which is sad to think about, unless they come to their senses and repent of such evil.

Our emphasis on the belief of God's word is due to the fact that homosexuality and same-sex marriage relate to what the Word teaches. One cannot practice that which God clearly condemns and truly believe God's word. A case in point is the many religious people, who claim to be Christians, but practice that which violates God's word which they claim to believe.

We are going to reprint the material on homosexuality in both the Old and New Testaments, which were in the original article in 2000. That teaching is not going to change, →

and that which was Truth in 2000 is still truth today and ever will be. We should be reminded of that often. We shall consider the Old Testament teaching first, beginning with the following:

HOMOSEXUALITY ACCORDING TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

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 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 come 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 a number of places 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 Gomorrah (Isaiah 1:9). And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah (Isaiah 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 (Jeremiah 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 Deuteronomy 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" (Leviticus 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" (Leviticus 20:13). Just think, that which was once punished with 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" (II 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 do not 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 of those things is that homosexuality is still a sin just as it was before. It always will be, regardless of how many people accept that most shameful and degrading sin. The New Testament speaks plainly on this sin, and makes reference to Sodom and Gomorrah from the Old Testament account.

HOMOSEXUALITY ACCORDING TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

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 *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, men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves the recompense of their error which was meet: (Romans 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 true 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 means, a homosexual. "Abusers of themselves with mankind" is from the Greek word *arsenokoites*, which means a homosexual, a sodomite. The same term is used in I Timothy 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" (II Peter 2:6). To the homosexual today, Sodom and Gomorrah is a divine example of that what is in store for the "ungodly."

Jude Sounds a Warning. The 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 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.

RAPID INCREASE OF HOMOSEXUALITY AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

As we look back over the last few decades, we can see the increase of homosexuality in a way that has never happened in our lifetime. From the closet it has progressed to Gay Pride Parades, and other such flaunting displays. As our society has become more and more amoral, fewer people even frown upon this more popular sin. We have seen more and more religious people who once had a measure of respect for God's word, to the point of opposing this sin, withdraw their convictions and follow the multitudes to do evil. People in high places are marching with the Sodom and Gomorrah crowd.

Some, more than a few, have become so obsessed with homosexuality that they show favors to those who practice this sin. Laws have been passed to give the homosexual special protection. One can defame the name of Jesus Christ as much as he pleases, but "woe" to anyone when the homosexual is perceived to have been defamed or spoken against. In some circles those who believe God's word had better be doubly careful not to publicly proclaim it when it condemns this growing sin. That which is evil is being called good.

The depths of degradation are increasingly seen in the political world. There was the time when a politician who ran on a pro-homosexual stance would have received no more than a few votes, and they may have been secret ballots. What about now? Our society has decayed to such a degree that politicians actually have a pro-homosexual plank in their platform. How can one who claims to believe in God stoop to this level?

Although acceptance of homosexuality has increased rapidly in past several years, acceptance of so-called "same-sex marriage" had not increased as much. However, the wave of acceptance in the past few years is like the wave of a boisterous sea as it finds its victims. Now, we have the rapid increase of both sins.

Promotion Through Schools. Homosexual activists are pushing pro-homosexual teaching in schools. There are various reports of this being done in different schools. In other words, a program will be adopted which teaches children, even from kindergarten through high school, to accept this deviant behavior as normal. There are two bills now pending before congress that if passed would be a great boon to these evil forces, bills S.555 and H.R. 998. The bills are called: "Student Non-Discrimination Act of 2011." This means that school children will be targeted by pro-homosexual legislation. Teachers would not be allowed to say anything negative relative to the practice.

With regard to the activists efforts to promote homosexuality in schools, which is already being done in some instances, those officials who still think seriously with regard to the teaching of students, are encouraging parents to *home school* their children, or send them to private schools where moral standards are still taught. A number of parents are following this advice. Some schoolbooks now present a pro-homosexual stance.

Promotion Through News Media. A majority of our news media is very liberal in many areas, including moral standards. There is generally an absence of upholding moral standards as taught by the Bible. In fact, religion is often seen as a "behind the times" practice and belief with them. Rarely will you see strong condemnation of evil in the sense it is revealed in God's word. †

Abortion is not addressed as the evil it really is. The same is certainly true with regard to homosexuality.

Promotion Through Legal Activist Groups. The ACLU is an organization that has considerable influence. When it comes to upholding that which is right, it seldom do so. It has been coined as one of the greatest evils to our society. Much evil can be attributed to its influence.

PROMOTION THROUGH BUSINESSES. Quite a number of businesses are actively supporting homosexuals. This shows their complete disregard for the moral standards which have prevailed to a great degree until relatively recent times. The quest for greater profits has become so strong that it will uphold that which may hasten the destruction of our nation and way of life. Indeed, "The love of money is the root is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). Many will quickly sell the truth for material gain.

We encourage our readers to get a copy of the April 2010 Banner of Truth. That issue, with the article, "On the Road to Sodom and Gomorrah," has more information concerning the increase in the practice of homosexuality that we have not included in this issue.

We are now turning our attention to a momentous happening, which has to do with our subject of discussion. There is no doubt, in my mind at least, that this will go down in history as one of the most powerful actions in the overthrow of the home and moral standards that used to be upheld by a great majority in society. This happening was ushered in by the following statement by *Newsweek Magazine*:

**PRESIDENT OBAMA
THE "FIRST GAY PRESIDENT"**

The front cover of the May 21, 2012 Issue of *Newsweek* has a picture of Obama with a rainbow colored halo over his head. At the bottom of the photo are the following words in the up-

per case: **THE FIRST GAY PRESIDENT.** The significance of the *Newsweek* article is that it represents President Obama's for the first time coming out in full favor of what is being called "marriage" by two people of the same sex. Another thing of great significance was the President's unequivocally expressed intention to bring our society down by the same evil which brought God's wrath upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

Obama said publicly with regard to his first announced approval of same-sex marriage: "But the truth is it was the logical extension of what America's supposed to be." Brethren, just think what the implication of this outright approval of that which God has strongly condemned. The President has said that his view of same-sex marriage has been "evolving." When his prior approval and encouragement of the immoral and sinful practice of the sins of abortion and homosexuality are considered, it seems that he did not have to evolve very far to place himself in the depths of degradation.

When one takes the position of flying in the face of God relative to morality, as President Obama and his supporters have done, the very worst for our society, the demise of moral standards, can be expected. It is hard to fathom the near absence of thinking which now prevails in our society. This includes, especially, those who profess to believe in God. What is our world coming to? That question, if seriously considered, should cause great fear for the future unless great changes are made.

Having lunch in a local restaurant a few days ago, the wife and I watched with pleasure the antics of two little boys across from us. I could not help sadly remarking, "You know, if Obama has his way, these little boys will grow up as pro-homosexuals." They will see it as a natural thing, not to be opposed in any way. These two innocent boys are only such a small part →

society, but they represent multitudes that our President wants to influence. Also, think of the little girls in their state of innocence. The President Obama would also favor little girls growing up as pro-lesbians, thinking it a natural thing. In his perversely “evolved” view of things, the President would have our children grow up and attach no stigma at all to the idea of boys “marrying” boys, and girls “marrying” girls. Is this crazy thinking? Aren’t we supposed to take Obama’s word, and follow his leadership? Multitudes do. But then, multitudes have often followed that which is evil. Remember, the President of this great nation said that boys “marrying” boys, and girls “marrying” girls is “the logical extension of what America’s supposed to be.” God help us.

Obama ran on the promise of *change* in his election bid. Now we are seeing some of that change. He is all set to change God’s law with regard to marriage. Is he in the process of doing an obituary on what has been, with the intention of making America what it is supposed to be? May the Lord bless our country so that Obama’s plans never succeed. Brethren, just stop and think what Obama’s belief implies. Where did the idea come from that America is supposed to be a country of homosexuals? This idea certainly did not come from God, no more than the condition of Sodom and Gomorrah came from God. Has God changed His mind with regard to Sodom and Gomorrah? Do not count on it. Numbers of evil people, no matter how great the number, do not change God’s word.

The news media has simply been inundated with articles relative to this infamous action, which if the desired end of this is achieved will mark one of the most anti-God happenings during our lifetime, if not during the entire history of our country. The acceptance of homosexuality has been sweeping over our society as a storm of evil in the rejection of God’s moral standards. But the

so-called *marriage* of homosexuals, which is a rejection of the standards set forth by God from the beginning, marks an even stronger step of rejection. It is the usual *progression of evil*, from bad to worse. When evil is not opposed it encourages even more evil. Paul said it: “Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse.” Brethren, we are seeing that very thing.

Just think. The leader of our nation, the most powerful influence, has now gone all out to bring our society into the gates of Sodom and Gomorrah. As we suggested in the title of our discussion, he is using his power and influence to bring our society through the gate, to make of it a nation of homosexuals and lesbians. Yet, what other sin does God condemn in a greater way? Many sins are condemned, but the condemnation of this sin is somewhat unusual. It is said of Sodom and Gomorrah: “Which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath” (Deuteronomy 29:23). Senator Rand Paul said that the President’s view on gay marriage “couldn’t get any gayer.” This statement, simply showing Obama’s increased determination to make of our country a land like Sodom and Gomorrah, received severe criticism from some circles.

THE APPROVAL OF OBAMA’S EVIL STANCE

This is not the first time our president’s actions have caused us dismay, but never to this extent. The approvals of abortion and homosexuality have been causes for dismay, but these sins did not have the same degree of approval from the majority as we are now seeing of same-sex marriage. Polls are not always right, and granting that they do miss the mark some times, some are now showing a majority of people taking the evil side of same-sex marriage with Obama. This generation is more in tune with liberalism than those of the past.

Younger people have not seen the changes that some of us have seen. These changes

have been away from God's influence rather than for it. To these changes can be attributed many negatives with regard to upright living and respect for God's standards rather than men's. Like never before, we are seeing the conditions described by the prophet Isaiah. Read and see if they do not accurately describe our present condition. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight (Isaiah 5:20-21).

History is replete with leaders who have led their followers to self-destruction. That is, the people have in the absence of stopping to think, followed that which appeared good but was no more than evil clothed in deceit. Even dictators have played the people by offering something good, to gain their support. Without that support they never could have gained complete control of the people. Many still living have seen such examples: Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, and Hirohito.

It is not uncommon to hear more than a few Americans fearfully assess the state of our nation. Given the rapid change taking place, and the readiness to accept all manner of evil, some can be heard to wonder whether the reelection of this man could actually lead to a time when there will be no more elections. People are genuinely worried. If the present condition of our country does not bring forth deep concern, then, what would it take to do so?

WHAT CAN AND SHOULD WE DO?

When faced with such trying circumstances as we now face, there is always something we *can* do. If there is something we can do, then it is our responsibility to do it. One of the most effective tools of the Devil is to lead people into a slumber of indifference with a *don't care* attitude. Have you ever seen such indifference as what we now

see? Evil fears opposition but it relishes indifference. We need to take to heart Paul's advice to the Ephesian brethren. "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Ephesians 5:14). The evil we are now facing warrants the same concern as related by Paul in his letter to the Philippians, in which he encouraged them to be followers of him. Paul said, "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Philippians 3:18). Brethren, shouldn't we come to tears as we ponder the current conditions we face, and that which we may face in the future?

AWAKE FROM OUR LETHARGY. More are asleep now than I've ever seen. Unless we are awake, alert and thinking, our actions will be weak. God's word, in many instances, teaches us to think. As we note those around us, it is clearly evident that many seldom think seriously, if at all.

ASK GOD FOR STRENGTH AND COURAGE. We should fervently ask God to give us strength and courage to stand against that which is evil. Our prayers should be accompanied by our resolve and promise to do everything within our power to allow God to stand with us. God has not promised to do for us when we will not do for ourselves. In the early days of the church many stood against all manner of evil, but they were devoted, even to the point of risking their lives. So should we be that devoted.

USE OUR LIGHT OF INFLUENCE. We all have some influence; it can be used for good or evil. Our influence can be used for much good when it is positive. It can encourage others to follow the right course. Some will follow the right course if someone will lead the way. We need to be that way.

BE INFORMED. As we face the present trying circumstances, we desperately need →

to be informed as to what is going on in our country, in our society. If many members of the church knew as much about national affairs as they know about sports, we would be much stronger. What takes place in national affairs affects us. Therefore, we need to know what is going on and be able to choose the right course.

EVEN IN POLITICS, DO THE RIGHT THING. One of the powers we have to change things is the privilege of voting. While we have the right to use our vote to promote good and oppose evil, some brethren are greatly bothered by the suggestion that we do so. But we should be thankful for that privilege, which people in so many countries do not have. It is hard to understand some Christians. They seem to see the church and politics as two different worlds. In other words, they think they have a right in the political world to support things that are clearly evil and opposed by God. And, at the same time be a faithful Christian. Isn't the servant of Christ to be opposed to evil, wherever it is? Paul said, "Abhor that which is evil; and cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9). In some perverse way, some brethren have a greater allegiance to a political party than to Christ and His church. How can one support the mess we are in and still claim to be a faithful servant of Christ?

It is absurd to think a Christian can lend support politically to that which is diametrically opposed by God; yet, it is sad to say that some do that very thing. Let me say here that no politician or political party is perfect. But it is just as true to say that some stand for more things which are more in keeping with Christian principals than are others. For example, one political party may be generally opposed to abortion, homosexuality and other immoral things, while another political party may generally uphold and encourage such.

CONCLUSION

In the beginning of our discussion, in the title, we used the analogy of President Obama standing at

the gate of Sodom and Gomorrah making an effort to enter. As we consider the present state of things, and his stated intention, it is evident that he is bent on going in and taking our country with him. Judging by the great number of people who are supporting him, it appears that the gate is cracking a bit. He is nearer in than many realize.

Let us repeat; let us keep things simple. However one characterizes politics, one thing stands out in this matter of our President's promoting homosexuals' *marrying*: It is a matter of *accepting* our true God or *rejecting* Him. There is no other explanation. Anyone who goes along with our President's plan need not claim to believe in God and His Word.

If ever there was a time when we desperately needed to stand up for the cause of Christ, and His will and His way, it is now. It is not for our wellbeing alone, but our children, grandchildren and others yet unborn. The greatest blessing a person can have in this life is to live in such a way that the eternal destiny will be the eternal reward of heaven, the home of the soul. Perhaps the second greatest blessing is to live in a country, a society, where one has the freedom to worship the one true God, and to have a life of spiritual peace, and prosperity. How thankful we should be. The blessing in this life can be for our children and grandchildren, if our country chooses the right course. Otherwise, those in years to come may never see and enjoy that which we have seen and known.

Let us thank God for life itself and the opportunity we have to know Him and to serve Him. May the Lord help us to see the importance of the times we are now facing, and resolve to stand fast in the faith. May the Lord prevent the efforts to bring our country down to shame and disgrace. And may we allow the Lord to use us in preventing it. Bless those who stand for Thee and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. —*Editor*

July 13, 2012

The White House
ATTN: Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Mr. Obama,

Enclosed you will find a pamphlet that I received in the mail and I believe it would be good for you and your family to read the “Banner of Truth.” It is without doubt a truth that is based on the word of God. Our country, or any other country, cannot continue down the destructive path of ignoring God and His instructions and believe all will continue to prosper as this great nation has in the past.

I do not blame you for the mess our country is in; this has been a long time in the making. However, Mr. Obama, you are the first president to speak out for an accept homosexuality as being an accepted way of life and all the while knowing that the Word of God, the Holy Bible condemns this practice.

I seriously doubt that you think murder, stealing, lying, etc. is an accepted way of life. I believe it is time for the people of this great nation, citizens and leaders alike, to quit being “political correct” and just be “correct”.

Mr. Obama, I invite you and your family to come to the Olive Hill church of Christ and worship with us as we seek to do the will of God. Our congregation prays for the leaders of our great country every time we assemble to study God’s precious word.

In Christian love,
Brent Duncan

[President Obama responds:]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 15, 2012

Mr. Brent Duncan
Post Office Box 390
Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164

→

Dear Brent:

Thank you for writing. From generation to generation, ordinary Americans have led a proud and inexorable march toward freedom, fairness, and full equality under the law. We must stand united to protect liberty and justice for all our citizens, and I appreciate your perspective on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights.

Since I took office, my Administration has worked to broaden opportunity, advance equality, and level the playing field for LGBT people and communities. We have fought to secure justice for all under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and we

have taken action to end housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We expanded hospital visitation rights for LGBT patients and their loved ones, and under the Affordable Care Act, we ensured that insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage to someone just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Because we understand that LGBT rights are human rights, we continue to engage with the international community in promoting and protecting the rights of LGBT persons around the world. Because we repealed “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans can serve their country openly, honestly, and without fear of losing their jobs because of whom they love. And because we must treat others the way we want to be treated, I personally believe in marriage equality for same-sex couples.

More remains to be done to ensure every single American is treated equally, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Moving forward, my Administration will continue its work to advance the rights of LGBT Americans. I have consistently called for the legislative repeal of the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). I have also asked congress to pass the bipartisan Domestic Partners Benefits and Obligations Act, and a fully-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Adoption rights must be secured for LGBT families, and we need to ensure our children are free to learn in supportive environments in school. For information about my commitment to prevent bullying and harassment, along with resources for those facing bullying, please visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/ItGetsBetter and www.StopBullying.gov.

Thank you, again, for writing. To learn more about my Administration’s efforts in pursuit of a Nation where all are equal, and all have the full and unfettered opportunity to pursue happiness and live openly and freely, please visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/lgbt.

Sincerely,

[NOTE: The letter closes with an electronically reproduced signature of *Barack Obama*] _

Observations Concerning White House Response

It is with great sadness and concern that I observe the boldness with which our President affirms his evil intention to bring our great country down to a state like unto the condition of Sodom and Gomorrah. Never in my eighty-seven years have I even dreamed that I would see our country reach the present state of ungodliness and moral corruption. It is cause for despair that this condition will cease, unless God-fearing people wake up. But the President's explicit intentions set forth in the "response" is a clear conformation of where he wants to take our society.

We do appreciate the fact that the White House did respond to the letter and copy of *Banner of Truth* sent by our brother Brent Duncan. However, we *did not* and *do not* appreciate the fact that the response was almost a complete evasion of a fair response to the questions and statements set forth. Rather, there was a bold affirmation that our President would even increase his promotion and enforcement of the God-condemned practice under consideration.

Before considering some of the specific things in the response, let me reference a thing or two in general. One of the first things which stood out in the was this: Brother Duncan's letter and the *Banner of Truth* material emphasized God's will as a respected and approved manner of life. However, in the President's response there is an obvious and complete avoidance of spiritual matters as set forth in God's word, and a reaffirmation of his intent to abet that which is evil in God's sight. Neither God's name nor His word is so much as mentioned. But much is said that shows Mr. Obama's complete rejection of both. We shall now consider some specific points in the biased RESPONSE.

Same sex couples. "...I personally believe in marriage equality for same-sex couples." God has never approved the marriage of same-sex couples. Believers in God know this is the truth. Non-believers give no credence to what God says. A great portion of society has forgot what God says.

Adoption rights. "Adoption rights must be secured for LGBT families, and we need to ensure our children are free to learn in supportive environments in school." This includes two God-condemned things. The "adoption rights" fly in the face of God. Abhor the thoughts of putting innocent children, made in the image of God, into the hands of sexual perverts to be raised to ignore God's will.

The evil, which our President says we "need to insure," can be nothing short of the "wiles" of the devil. By "supportive environments in school," it is clear that he means to use our schools to teach our children to accept the evil of homosexuality. Our schools provide an ideal environment in which to teach our children to ignore God's teaching and live after the desires of men, though they are evil.

Human rights. "...we understand that LGBT rights are human rights...." LGBT means: lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender as used in the response. A people are in the throes of spiritual death and dissolution when they choose to live in accordance with so-called human rights rather than God-given rights. Surely, humans have the right to choose, but choices bring responsibility to account for the choices. God's word teaches repeatedly that God-approved

choices are acceptable but disapproved choices will pay the penalty. To bring this down to a few words, our choices will determine where we will ultimately exist in eternity — **Heaven or Hell.** →

The tragedy of the unbeliever is not that they believe in neither, but are accountable nevertheless.

“What America’s supposed to be.” This statement [not made in the response] was made publicly by our President with regard to his first announced approval of same-sex marriage. Brethren! Just think of the evil implication of this statement. That statement alone is all the evidence needed to show that our President wants America to be like Sodom and Gomorrah with regard to homosexuality. This is stark evidence of disbelief of God’s will as a guide for humans to live by. It also stands as evidence of disbelief in God when His word is denied.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

When our President’s message is seriously considered, we must conclude that we stand at one of the greatest decisions of our lives. Will those of us who sincerely believe in God stand fast in our action in ironclad opposition to the evil that is being foisted upon our society? It is one thing to state a matter but quite another to put the same into action.

Well over half of our people claim to believe in God. Not that many give true evidence of the same. Time is running out for people to opt for a country that is what ours was a few decades ago. If the moral condition of our country continues to worsen as it has the past few years, there may well be no turning back. We desperately need to consider the question of who is responsible for the present debacle? It is a matter of fact that the present powers that be, including our President and his supporters are accountable, but the blame is to be found at our feet because we as a people have not stood up for God’s will as a way of life. We have not heeded the various warnings in God’s word that such as we are now seeing would happen. If ever there were greater need for prayer and action on the part of our present generation, when was it? Abhor the fact that our nation has turned away from God!

— Editor

DANGER!

BEWARE!

The Spread of Islam in Both Country and Community

UNHEEDED WARNINGS LEAD TO CATASTROPHE

Walter W. Pigg

NEW SUPPLY. Due to requests for the pamphlet, we have ordered a new supply and some have gone out already. We urge our brethren to seriously consider the information contained therein. We have found that when people understand more about Islam, their concern increases. There is continued evidence of Islam and the danger it presents. The recent case in the Boston Bombing stands as a case in point.

Order booklets from: Walter W. Pigg, 164 Coles Campground Rd., Murray, KY 42071.

There is a slight increase in price, due to increase in postage.
Price postpaid: Single copy \$1.40; Ten copies \$11.00; twenty-five copies \$22.00; Fifty copies \$46.00; one hundred copies \$80.00

A Racist Position?

Recently a reader informed me that someone has raised a question of *racism* with regard to the following paragraph in the February – March, 2013 issue of Banner of Truth:

THE FAMILY NOW. Families are much smaller in number. In fact, our population, with the exception of minorities, is decreasing. Within a few years we will be a minority. Last year more children were born to minorities than the rest of us. The family will no longer be the family that those of us who are older knew. Families of today are often scattered to the four corners of our country. This tends to weaken the family relationship.

Under consideration in the above paragraph, with regard to *minority*, is those various groups who were comparably smaller in number than the majority population, say, five decades ago. I have lived through that period, and as a part of the majority rather than the minority.

It is a matter of fact that within the above period some minorities have increased when compared with the majority. With some of the increase has come some undesirable things; forget the race. My concern is what the people are, not what race. For example, those of a minority carried out the recent bombing in Boston. The Muslim minority, though, is rapidly increasing in our country. That concerns me because it represents danger. In recent times we have had an increase in minorities coming to our country to live off the earnings of those of us who are taxpayers, rather than their own earnings. Another

matter is the fact that there is more crime among some of the minorities, though there is some crime among all. This interferes with safe communities.

Minorities, depending on where one lives, are made up of red, yellow, black and white. I just happen to be white, with an intermixing of Cherokee blood from both of my parents. It is a demographic fact that given present factors and force, those of the Caucasian race will one day be a minority in this country. That will no more make them inferior to the majority, than their present majority status makes them superior. The President has said that our nation is cowardly when it comes to the discussion of race; maybe that's because it is difficult to mention the topic without someone raising the cry, "Racist." It seems anymore that all that is needed to silence one's critics is to tag him as a *racist*.

Interestingly, Peter characterizes Christians—not red, yellow, black or white—as an "elect race."

But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: who in time past were no people, but now are the people of God: who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9,10).

God's "holy nation" is composed of people of all nations, tongues and ethnic groups. "God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:34). Thank God for that.

— Editor

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Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Do You See?

This provoking question has many applications. Speaking of John the Baptist, Jesus essentially asks, "When you look at him, what do you see? — A soft person? A compromiser? James says the "the word" is like a "mirror." What do you see when you look at yourself in that mirror?

Jeremiah (C. 1) was given a daunting preaching job — "unto the nations." He was not flattered; he panicked,. God, however, said, "be not afraid...I have put my words in thy mouth." In another preparatory session, God asked, "What seest thou?" Jeremiah responded, "a rod of an almond-tree" and "a boiling cauldron [with the] face...from the north."

The almond tree blossoms in January when other trees are still dormant. When people saw it they new Spring was soon to come. Just as the almond tree watches over the beginning of the season, so the Lord is watching to bring judgment on Israel's sins. The overall message of the Book of Jeremiah is simple: The warning of judgment by all those former preachers: It is about to happen. Judgment was imminent. The rod of the almond tree said, God keeps his word: whether by blessing or by warning.

The boiling cauldron up north, was tipped precariously and its contents were about to be poured down on the south. Babylon (up north) was going to pour out wrath on Judah (down south).

The almond-tree branch and the boiling pot reminded Jeremiah that God does not make idle threats. His judgment is sure. Many Christians skip assemblies; don't study their Bibles; engage in works of the flesh; put their own interests first; don't participate in the church's good works. They need to look at the rod of the almond-tree and the boiling cauldron.

— aa

FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

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