

WHAT IS THE BIBLE FOR?

Modernists with liberal agendas and no respect for the Word of God steadfastly hammer away at God's truths. Morality has been in a steep decline in our country for years. In the Monday, July 17, 2004 edition of the *Dallas Morning News* a "gay rights" advocate and the president of the *Dallas Gay Alliance* said that the Rev. Louis Arceneaux, pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Oak Lawn, "went out of his way to be welcoming" to homosexual church members in a sermon on homosexuality. Mr. Arceneaux said, "We are not called to love the behavior of all people. Simply because we don't approve of some behavior of people, that doesn't mean we should simply cut them out of our lives." Additional light is shed on his statement when the *News* reports Arceneaux as saying he "encourages homosexuals to participate in all church activities, including the priesthood and other leadership roles." One wonders if members of Holy Trinity Church ever consult the Bible. I must ask, "What is a Bible for?"

In opposition to Mr. Arceneaux's position, the Rev. Milton P. Gutierrez, pastor of the Methodist church stated that "avowed homosexuals must be banned from serving on the congregation's administrative board." But the *News* then states that Mr. Gutierrez "bases his opinion on a reading of the denomination's Discipline, which governs church structure, interpretations of the denomination's 'Social Principals' statement..." Again, I must ask, "What is the Bible for?" In the above statements, we have noted two contrasting views regarding homosexuality, and neither of these men have based their convictions on what the Bible teaches about the sodomy! This has always been the greatest problem of the religious world. When the Bible is ignored as the sole source of authority in religious matters, division will

run rampant and anything and everything will be taught as truth. In a debate with the late Walter Martin, the Rev. John Shelby Spong of the Episcopal diocese of Newark, New Jersey says, "I do not disagree that homosexuality is condemned in the Scriptures...what I question is people's understanding of homosexuality. I urge people to be sensitive to homosexuals; they are still human beings." Martin points out that even though we are to be compassionate, God does not condone vile behavior. Spong replies, "I think anyone who can be heterosexual should be heterosexual. With all the prejudices, I don't think homosexuals choose to be homosexuals, just as heterosexuals don't choose to be heterosexuals. Furthermore, I didn't say that we should embrace homosexuals; I said we should **accept them for what they are and hold up to them what it takes to be holy**" (emph. MLW).

Can one embrace people for what they are and not accept the sinful lifestyle they are living? Try this out. Let us embrace thieves for what they are. How about embracing child molesters for what they are? Can we embrace murderers for what they are? The philosophy of accepting a homosexual for what he is runs contrary to God's Word. Sin is condemned by God and will produce spiritual death (Rom. 6:23). The Bible teaches that those seeking to live godly will "*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them*" (Eph. 5:11). But to the heart of the matter! The Rev. Matthew Howard, minister of the non-denominational Metropolitan Community Church, states: "The purpose of gay organizations is so that the churches they come from will have to continue to re-evaluate the issue...It is the proverbial thorn in the side that is going to win out and transform the denominations." Now note the clincher as given by Howard: "acceptance of gays and

lesbians will depend on the churches' acceptance of a '**liberated gospel**' – a gospel that encourages the inclusion of all people" (emph. MLW).

A "**liberated gospel**" will attract people just like flypaper will attract flies. Flies who land on flypaper are hopelessly **stuck** and people who embrace a "**liberated gospel**" are hopelessly lost!

What is the Bible for? It is a "*lamp unto our feet and light unto our path*" (Psa. 119:105). It is for our "*understanding*" (Psa. 119:104) so that we might know "*truth*" (Psa. 119:160) and be freed from the bondage of sin (John 8:32). The Bible (God's Word) is what we will one day be judged by (John 12:48). There is only **one** gospel with the power to save (Rom. 1:16); all perversions of the gospel are false (Gal. 1:6-9). The Bible has always condemned homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; 20:13), and God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for practicing such an abomination (Gen. 19:1-13). The Holy Spirit declares homosexuality to be a "*vile passion*," and says those who "*practise such things are worthy of death*" (Rom. 1:26, 32). A homosexual who does not repent and give up homosexuality cannot go to Heaven (1 Cor. 6:9). Such is true of any sin that one continues to commit.

If not to obey God (John 14:15), what is a Bible for?

Marvin L. Weir from *Bonham St. Beacon*

"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" **1 Cor. 6:9**

BIRTHDAY

Barbara James, 07-02.

ILL

Sunday: None.

Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Marion Stone was admitted to Olathe Medical Center last week due to a fall and was transferred to the Hoeger House for rehabilitation for the next two weeks.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards is away on business in Chicago, IL this week. Steven and Debbie Schlieff were in Hutchinson, KS last week. Evan Pflugradt is visiting relatives in Texas. Clara Scott was out of town visiting last weekend. The Browns were out of town visiting relatives last weekend. Ted and Julia Thrasher are vacationing in Hawaii and plan to return on June 30.

GUEST SPEAKER

Brother Lance Grimsley will be our guest speaker this Sunday. Lance and his wife Renee are members at Chipman Road in Lee's Summit and are OABS students. We welcome Lance and Renee to Olathe!

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, July 5th following our AM worship. Plan to bring a dish and enjoy the good food and good company!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 39; Sunday PM, 29; Wednesday PM, 32.

Those To Serve

June 28, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... Joel Nelson
ASSIST..... Steven Schleif
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY July 1st

SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
INVITATION Jeff Nemechek

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecocf@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cocf.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp