



**Good News: YOU Can Choose and YOU Can Refuse!  
A New Year's Resolve..WITH Action!**

***“By faith Moses, when he grew up into a great man, REFUSED to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, CHOOSING rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, accounting the shame, abuse and reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.  
(From Hebrews 11, called “The Faith Chapter,” verses 24-27)***

Those that know me—including practising homosexuals—know that I do not isolate and attack the lifestyle of being a practising homosexual as if no other sins exist. By God's help, I try to be completely fair, and these same friends and acquaintances have expressed appreciation for the obvious attempt at fairness. As I've said to all, *no one* has the right to quibble over their sins when they come to God for forgiveness and acceptance. ALL sin must go, and the entire package is left at the foot of the Cross of Jesus. The one who holds on to their sinning—*whatever kind it is*—or wishes to argue or excuse it, does not know the real meaning of salvation *from* sin, nor the meaning nor the experience of true repentance *for* sin. Such a person likewise knows little or nothing of the holiness of God or God's demand of repentance, faith, obedience and holiness in us.

Today's world is being forced into accepting the word “gay” as a synonym of homosexual. God, the infinitely perfect and just Supreme Governor of the universe, rejects such attempt at “political correctness.” This abuse of vocabulary is offensive to God, to His character and to His specified definitions of the moral being with whom such words are related. In contrast, the word “homophobic” has been coined and is now used any time a person speaks against this sin. To be sure, I do not condone abusive language or physical violence against homosexuals or anyone else, yet to ignore or approve the sin is the opposite extreme.

Furthermore, the distortion of same-sex “marriage” is made worse by such comments as “I know that person married the right man (or woman),” and “if it makes them happy, carry on.” The fundamental problem with these opinions, as kind and broad-thinking and charitable as they may appear, is that God, “*THE* Judge of all the earth” (Gen. 18:25) says No! Marriage is the first institution which God Himself began between one man and one woman, and therefore to make same-sex “marriages” appear to the world as “normal,” is abominable. Same-sex “couples” are searching to adopt children, which is simply spreading the same plague. I read years ago of two homosexuals who claimed they had “A God-Given Right To Have Children!” This is ridiculous and rebellious reasoning.

In fact, sin is increasing and being approved so rapidly that it will not be surprising if a new word is coined: “beastaphobic.” This new word will refer to people who protest against the legalised practise of marrying your pet and having “normal relations” with it. This is not sarcasm! People have already secured passports and other “human” privileges for their pets; *some* things for “legitimate” reasons. This *further* hypothetical step is a realistic example of what has already taken place in the “civilised world,” via the process: *scandal*, then “*normal*,” then *legal*.

God had a similar analysis of a much earlier “civilised world,” when back at the Tower of Babel the Bible records “*And the LORD said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them”*” (Genesis 11:6). Other versions read, “*and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do*” —another— “*and this is only the start of what they may do: and now it will not be possible to keep them from any purpose of theirs*” —another— “*And now will they be hindered in nothing that they meditate doing*” —another— “*and this is only the beginning of what they will do...*” These various readings make the point clear: sin spreads like a cancer or a deadly virus, in the person and in the community and environment. Thankfully, God can cure this cancer and drive out the virus of sin, and at the same time commence the growing influences of His own holy nature within the person who yields to Him. In this increasingly “one-world” system today, we need to get back to the Bible, rather than back to Babel.

Living a homosexual or lesbian lifestyle, as well as the further step of “marriage” between such individuals, is a matter clearly and outstandingly condemned by God since ancient times. This we may read in the Bible. However, there are other things which God has made clear in the Bible in a manner which seems to drive home to our understanding the point that God demands a distinction between the sexes. Wearing the clothing of the opposite sex is called by God an “abomination” (Deut. 22:5). The distinction between men and women as relating to hair is likewise written of in terms clearly attributing “*shame*” to the offender (1 Cor. 11: 14,15). These are matters relating to all members of the human family.

Much of the world has obliterated any such distinctions as God indicates in the Bible. However, to be honest, the world would likely not have gone so far, had the church maintained the Biblical standard on marriage and numerous other vital matters relating to the individual and to society, in general. Much of the church of today is as married to the world as Adam and Eve became linked to the fruit and the seducer behind the fruit. The church has compromised little by little — “*the desolation of many generations*” (Isaiah 61:4), and Satan and the world gladly seized the surrendered territory. *Whoever* is to “blame” for the horrific moral and spiritual declension, *NO ONE* has an excuse or reason to remain in the compromise, for there *IS* a way out!

As I write, we are very near Christmas, and I am reminded that Gabriel announced concerning the Baby, “*And you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins*” (Matt. 1:21; Lk.1:31,32). Bible-salvation is salvation is FROM sin, not IN sin. God even leads people into “personal convictions” by dealing with and demanding separation from specific things, even “legitimate” things which the Bible does not mention. However, certainly whatever God *HAS* identified and condemned in His Word (the Bible) as sin *MUST* be repented of and forsaken, for “*He who covers his sins shall not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes it shall have mercy*” (Proverbs 28:13). That is easy for *anyone* to understand.

### **Marriage Mockers**

I remember the front cover of Newsweek or Time magazine some years ago that had a picture of what appeared to be a young bride wearing a white wedding dress, which was traditional in the West. I believe the white is symbolic of the moral purity of the young lady who enters into a marriage relationship with her husband, which means that in reality, sex before marriage disqualifies a white wedding dress. Instead of offending or shaming such unmarried females, this kind of truly beautiful goal is a magnificent standard and objective *to which* prospective brides may set their will and *on which* they may set their eyes. Ones who have already sacrificed their virginity may be deeply pleased to encourage other females to detour from the path of the morally and sexually compromised. I have personally seen words printed on the front of shirts which ridicule virginity as if it were itself stupid, and a self-inflicted punishment which is out-of-date. Retaining virginity until marriage may be out-of-fashion, but it is not out-of-date.

The Time or Newsweek magazine cover article title had words that referred to the phenomena of many European couples choosing to simply live together rather than get married. The magazine then said that the outstanding thing was that the Church was seemingly saying nothing in protest against it. It was more an indictment against the Church than against the couples. Perhaps the church is also indicted in this context by putting forward statistics which give the impression that divorce is down, when in fact, it may well be that their statistics only reveal that *marriages* are down, giving the impression that divorces are down!

The world is full of the deriding, destruction and distortion of marriage, and I believe there is a primary reason for this. God Himself instituted marriage, and along with it, the Home. They are symbols of love and commitment, but these symbols are founded upon man's love and commitment to God first! The person or persons who mock, mutilate or misrepresent marriage have boldly selected to invade and violate the position and relationship of God with man at its very commencement. These persons are guilty of the rape of God's bride, for the union of Adam and Eve was subordinate to their union with God, until Satan wreaked havoc and introduced the competitive "partner"—sin.

### **Bad Adverts/Bad Leaders**

Not long ago I stood on the Tube platform awaiting a train, and there on the wall was an advert from the Advertising Standards Authority (A.S.A) itself! Among the few other statements, the poster suggested that the A.S.A. is against any advertising that is "misleading, harmful or offensive." I have no problem with that, except that those descriptions could be seen as being extremely relative. The thing I found amazing was that immediately next to that poster was fixed another poster picturing two young, well-dressed males in somewhat of an embrace, with a look of mutual intoxication with the other. I cannot recall any text except that it was connected to what was called "Gay Times."

The very criteria specified by the A.S.A was violated right next to its own advert! For myself and for the city of London, as well as the entire world in which I live, I find the second advert "misleading, harmful, and offensive." My view and reaction simply concurs with that of God, who is the highest Authority of all. I know very well that people often "use" God or the Bible to overwhelm the opposition with such influential support! I also know that people can "*twist the meaning of the Bible to their own destruction*," which is what St. Peter says they do (see 2 Pet. 3:16). I have personally read comments of homosexuals and lesbians who are doing this very thing in the effort to support their chosen lifestyle and still profess to be Christian. I realise that this very issue has been the source of great strain in the Church of England. A large UK newspaper article told of a female "priest" connected to some group who, as I recall, left her husband and family to marry another woman...and remain a priest! This, too, is "misleading, harmful and offensive." St. Paul described his ministry many times for our benefit, on one occasion saying, "*But [we] have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God*" (2 Corinthians 4:2, emphasis mine). Many in the church need to discover what it really means to be "born again"—a term which *IS* in the Bible.

### **Bible Benders**

"*Handling God's word deceitfully*" is akin to "*twisting the Scripture*," and both are "*to one's own destruction*." This matter of "twisting judgement" was of paramount importance to God, as Exodus 23:2, 6 and Deuteronomy 16:19 illustrate. St. Peter, who warns against "twisting Scripture" also tells us of those in the days of Noah and the Flood who were "wilfully ignorant" of the things God warned them about through Noah, the "*preacher of righteousness*" (2 Pet. 2:5). **There is nothing so effective as poking your own eyes out**, and this can be good or bad to do. Fatal is the move to do this as a means of silencing the voice of God and conscience. However, Jesus used reference to *plucking out the eye* or *cutting off the hand* when either of these radical measures would be the means of keeping yourself from losing your soul and going to Hell (see Matthew 5:29,30; 18:8,9; Isaiah 66:24; Revelation 14:10,11) Though Jesus did not mean this literally, it underlines the radical manner in which Jesus says we must deal with ourselves if we are genuine and serious about following Him and finally making it to heaven; hopefully helping others to make it there, too.

Returning to the matter of "twisting Scripture" and "twisting judgment," Exodus 23:2 says "*You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice*." The emphasis I wish to make here is on following the crowd. Whether it is concerning so-called "Gay Marriage," or in relation to the many other things which God's word condemns and the world approves, popularizes, and encourages, we are not to "follow the crowd." The rapid increase of open homosexual activity is easily observable. We know that recently one nation after another has put their seal of approval upon same-sex "marriage." This is simply the concrete hardening around their feet, and this time they cannot blame the Mafia if they are thrown into the deep (not water!). In the Daily Telegraph article of 25 Nov. 2005, about the plan of Elton John and David Furnish to marry, the heading reads: "Liberal Jews pioneer gay marriage services." The first sentence reads as follows: "Rabbis from Britain's Jewish community have become the first mainstream religious grouping to authorise a gay marriage service." In our own November 2005 paper, I wrote in the red-print portion at

the bottom: “With the drinking problem in Britain so often in the daily press, a vicar recently boasts being licensed to serve alcohol in his church...A fearful end awaits the preachers and church leaders who lead the people astray.” I say the same thing about these Jewish leaders in the context of pioneering so-called “gay marriages.”

### **To Judge or Not to Judge!**

One of the many defences people offer to justify their wrong is “Don’t judge!” They, of course, will even mention Jesus and His reference to not judging others and the serious eternal danger if you *do* judge others. One person, whose website I recently viewed, spoke against a Christian man and said that he himself (the web-site owner) “should not be so arrogant as to attempt to remove a speck of saw dust from my brother’s eye.” I have been a Christian for 32 years and have yet to hear anyone, including Christians, quote what else Jesus said about judging. For example, in the very context of Jesus’ words (Matthew 7:1ff) **contrasting the “mote”** (speck/splinter/grain) **with the “beam”** (plank/log), Jesus says that the best way to help a person with their faults or sins is to deal with your own first, otherwise, you are a hypocrite. St. Paul takes up Jesus’ stated method as we see in Galatians 6:1, saying to the Christians: “*Brothers, if anyone [any man] be overtaken [caught/detected] in a fault [wrong-doing/sin/trespass], you which are spiritual [spiritually-minded] restore such a one in the spirit of meekness [gentleness], keeping watch [considering] yourself lest you also be tempted.*” Jesus had also said “*Do not judge by appearance [superficially], but judge righteously*” (John 7:24). Many years ago, a priest (whom I had known for several years) and I were talking, when amid the conversation he kindly cautioned me about judging. My comments had not been about him, and I replied, “Father \_\_\_\_\_, I have found that usually people say that to me when I am getting too close to where they’re living.” After a brief pause he said, “You’re right.”

### **Judging and “Gays”**

Another Bible passage which I have yet to hear people quote regarding judging is from 1 Corinthians 6. In this chapter we find the apostle Paul actually reasoning with these Christians in words they had cause to find humiliating. One of the wrongs they were committing was going to court against each other, and worse yet—in front of non-Christian judges, etc. Paul said this was a shame to them and a shame to God, asking, “*Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another.*” (1 Corinthians 6:1-7) This demonstrates that God has instituted discipline in the church, which makes room for dealing with matters that arise. Hopefully when they *do* deal with such matters arising, they will “judge righteously” as Jesus said.

This matter of judging is absolutely relevant to the subject of so-called “Gay Marriages,” **for only two verses away, in that very same chapter** St. Paul makes clear reference and judgment about sexual matters as it relates to those who truly desire to “*flee the wrath to come*” (Matthew 3:7 and Luke 3:7!) and thereby become true followers of the Lord. St. Paul continued, “*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.* (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). For “*homosexuals...sodomites,*” other translations use “*effeminate... sexual perverts...catamites.*”

In the Bible verses in the previous paragraph, the clear reference is to what is today popularly called “gays.” I have always been fair to point out that sin of any sort must be confessed and forsaken if a person expects to really know and walk with God. In this very text, therefore, we note that other types of sins are listed, as well. Yet, to keep to the subject, we **MUST** notice that St. Paul says, “*And such were some of you,*” etc. I emphasise “**WERE.**” Then Paul adds, “*But you were washed,*” etc. There was a change, and it is *this* that points out true Christianity. One homosexual said to me that a priest had told him that God accepts homosexuals. I told him that I had no problem with that, then I said that God

accepts everybody, but He doesn't leave them in the condition He finds them! This kind of meeting of God and man is one in which the Bible is most clear that the person coming to such a meeting has no intention of remaining the same, and that God would not accept the person who desires to remain the same, but that God has the power to make the change in the person who *comes* acceptably! Because of this, St. Paul declares, "*Therefore if any person be in Christ, that person is a new creation: old things [the old life] are passed away; behold, all things are become new*" 2 Corinthians 5:17. It is obvious, and not said to be sarcastic, that St. Paul (when referring to "*old things passing away*") is not referring to such things as what brand of toothpaste a person used. It is because of the supreme importance of experiencing this "*new creation*" that the outward life alone is not the most revealing criteria. So St. Paul says to the Galatians "*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation*" Galatians 6:15. However, it is useful (if not crucial) and not inconsistent to *also* note the dove-tailing and complimentary "flip-side" aspect, that the *outward life* reflects the *inward experience* and *inward reality*. This is one reason Jesus said "*and by their fruits you shall know them*" (Matthew 7:20).

### **"Christian" Leaders Astray**

It is practically impossible to overemphasize the importance of Jesus' words in the context last mentioned, and therefore suggest you read the section until the end of Matthew chapter 7. It is not a lengthy section. There we see people who claim spectacular connection to Jesus, but never really knew Him, and others who built their life on a foundation of unstable sand by living life without obedience to the word and will of God. The shocking end of those people Jesus mentions at the end of Matthew 7 who said they had "*done many wonderful works in Jesus' name,*" will be like the end of those church members and leaders, including so-called ministers/priests/vicars who plan soon to be married, though they are openly homosexual. The openness and the finalising of same-sex "marriage," though bad enough, is not the key issue. The chief offence is that they not only claim to be practicing Christians, but furthermore leaders of God's flock!

Israel's first king was given God-directed tasks to perform and carried them out in "corner-cutting" fashion. Yet, when God's prophet, Samuel, arrived on the scene, having been informed by God of the king's disobedience, King Saul said to Samuel that he had obeyed the command of the Lord. When the king's disobedience was uncovered, the king then made excuses to justify himself. Before his tragic suicide and the defeat of Israel, the king lamented, "*I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly!*" (1 Samuel 26:21). Jesus said that obedience to God is inseparable from Christian life and service. The king learned the superlative importance of obedience too late. Will these homosexual "Christian ministers" make the same error as King Saul, lead their people into defeat, and finally, "as the blind leading the blind, both fall into the [eternal] ditch?"

### **Some Relevant Bible Background on Sodomy**

As mentioned, I am writing this during the Christmas season, and a connection to Bethlehem (where Jesus was born) has come to my attention in keeping with the subject of this article. In the approach to Christmas this year, we have witnessed the opening of the gate to same-sex "marriages." Newspapers have reported nearly 700 such "marriages" to be done before Christmas, and are projecting 22,000 within the next five years. Time will tell. Let's now look at the Bible background.

After the five books of Moses, called the Pentateuch or the Torah or the Law, comes the book of Joshua (Moses' successor), which is then followed by the book of Judges. Judges is a history of various leaders among the people of Israel whom God lead into victory over various local enemy-peoples. As many who study their Bibles know, the times of the Judges is characterised by the outstanding Bible description: "*Every man did that which was right in his own eyes*" (17:6; 21:25). This same description can very easily and very fairly be applied to the modern "civilised world" as seen in Britain, America, Europe and elsewhere in both "richer" and "poorer" countries.

Honestly, though the book of Judges has accounts of some glorious victories among God's people, yet the book is blighted by the humiliating moral and spiritual record of repeated individual, family and national disaster. This is the case in the closing stories of the book of Judges. Chapter 19 opens with the story of the man, and his servant-wife from Bethlehem, coming to a town called Gibeah, which they mistakenly thought was safe because it was among their own people. An old man hosts them, but they are interrupted by the coming of townsmen who, knowing of the stranger's arrival, demand to sexually abuse the male visitor. There are puzzling aspects to the story, but apparently God Himself lifted to view and riveted the ghastly narrative onto the walls of the nation's memory in damning fashion about

three centuries later through the prophet, Hosea, saying of His people, “*They are deeply corrupted, as in the days of Gibeah*” *He will remember their iniquity; He will punish their sins.*” (9:9), and “*O Israel, you have sinned from the days of Gibeah*” (10:9).

Somewhat contemporary with Hosea (mentioned just above) was the prophet Isaiah, who begins his prophesy by addressing God’s people using the names of Sodom and Gomorrah (1:10)! Really, this is nothing new, for God had spoken of the Israelites similarly many centuries before by Moses saying, “*For their vine is of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes are grapes of gall, Their clusters are bitter*” (Deut. 32:32). Note that both “*grapes*” and “*clusters*” are mentioned, thereby likely indicating the *individual* and the *united body of people*, and that they were *evil in heart* and *evil in action*. Perhaps so that we do not forget the feelings and judgment of God regarding Sodom, God has nearly closed the Bible with reference to it, saying in Jude 7, “*as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire*” (like 2 Pet.2:6). No one who knows this already or is now reading this will be able to rightly plead ignorance or innocence. God condemns the sin of sodomy, which is associated with same-sex “marriages,” and which is its popularised, legalised and boldly-matured version. Yet, to be fair, I must warn others, including hetero-sexual professing Christians, that God’s judgment will fall upon all who wilfully neglect or refuse to allow God to deal with any known sin in their heart and life.

### **Judges: An Exception to the Rule**

This section may seem somewhat “parenthetical,” yet it bears significant and positive relevance to the subject. During the same awful period of the Judges, and even in Bethlehem-Judah (where Christ was to be born), there is recorded a tremendous, true love story. Naomi’s husband and two married sons all died, leaving her with her two Moabite daughter’s-in-law, and in Moab where they had moved to find food. Several very valuable lessons are tucked away in this brief story of four short chapters. Let it be sufficient to note the following points: 1) This happened during the period of the Judges, which was characterised by gross subjectivism, where everybody did their own thing, YET Ruth prevailed against this horrid tide of immorality. She could have said, “Well, this is today’s world. Who am I to do different than everybody else?” The choice is also ours today. 2) Ruth was an outsider; not an Israelite. The Bible has an abundance to say about the fact that, through Christ, *everybody* can be brought into God’s redeemed family; even outsiders! The “three wise men” who followed the star to Bethlehem were also outsiders who God led in to worship Jesus. Ruth simply got a head start, but was equally wise! 3) Ruth’s wise choice to leave her family, friends, homeland, culture and religion, and link up to those of her mother-in-law was a decision that resulted in her being actually brought into the blood line of King David and of Jesus Christ, as well as having her name for ever inscribed in the records of God Himself. Her name written down was the result of the choice she made and the choice she followed in. The same can be said of every one of us, if we make the right choice. Our name may be found in the Lamb’s book of life when the books are opened, and again, the choice is ours. (see “book” in Rev. 3:5; 5:1-9; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27).

### **From Judges to Judgment**

In the period of the Judges, Israel was just entering the “Promised Land,” but in Hosea’s time, Israel was about to be evicted by God from the very land He gave them. Why? Disregard for the Sabbath\* was one great reason for the Babylonian Captivity of Israel, which lasted **70** years (\*7th day [Jer.17:27] and 7th year [compare Lev.26:34, 35 with 2 Chron.36:21]). From Israel’s first king (Saul) to the Babylonian Captivity was 490 years, and **70** multiplied by 7 (for each 7th year Sabbath for the land) equals 490!

However another reason for the captivity (also called “exile”) was Israel’s never-ending attraction to the idolatry of their neighbours. During the time of King Rehoboam, the son of King Solomon, the Bible says, “*And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel* (1 Kings 14:24). Here we see a connection of sodomy (homosexual practise) and God’s response in dispossessing the people and casting them out. Most people know that the word “sodomy” comes from the name of the city, Sodom, which is well-known for its homosexual lifestyle and its destruction by God Himself for that very reason.

### **Dark, Dead, Deceptive**

Sexual sins, like other sins, multiply and strengthen the grip on the person who provides the home. These sins also continue their corrupting effect until they drag the person to Hell, and other people, as well. If you have not been made a “*new creation in Christ*” (2 Cor. 5:17) and continue “*walking in the light*” (1 John 1:7), then you are “*dead in trespasses and sins*” (Ephesians 2:1). So, is a liar less “dead” than a murderer? No. Sin is sin, and “dead in sin” is the same for all. Lost is lost. We sometimes make divisions and categories regarding sins (and some of those differences and distinctions are understandable and appropriate), yet in a real sense it is ultimately not the *kind* of sin that matters, but the *fact* of sin. This article is mainly dealing with one particular sin, that of being a practicing homosexual, and those persons need to repent of and forsake this sin if they expect to find God, know God and please God.

The other side of this being “dead,” is that though a person sinning is “dead,” yet Satan still finds pleasure in sinking that person, and their friends, and the society in which they live into deeper and deeper depravity. Interestingly, one person “dead in sin” often condemns the conduct and lifestyle of another person “dead” in a different type of sin—and all without a true Christian assisting in the judging. Be sure, “hypocrites” are everywhere, not just in churches as many suppose, so to say “I don’t go to church because it is full of hypocrites” is a superficial and utterly useless excuse.

The fact is irrelevant that such “dead” persons may have many grand character traits, a fantastic personality, and do “*many wonderful works*” like giving to charities (which has been a favourite of various offending businesses and people in the limelight), etc. The fact that the notorious gangster, Al Capone, fed countless people during The Great Depression of the 1920s while he had numerous people murdered does not make him a saint or accepted by God. The same holds true of so-called “gays,” though they may not be involved in other high-profile sins.

### **Encouraging Signs of Sin!**

Believe it or not, there is an encouraging sign in the recent rapid take-over and seeming international acceptance and approval of homosexuals and their being legally permitted to marry. The same can be said of the increase of violent crime. Open homosexual activity and violent crime are the only characteristics I can recall which describe the moral climate of Sodom and Gomorrah before God destroyed those cities.

The Bible singularly specifies violence as a prevalent social characteristic prior to the Flood which destroyed earth’s inhabitants. It is therefore interesting, though shocking, that murder is very possibly being downgraded to a lesser crime! If criminals and their slick lawyers can say that they only intended to burgle, rob or injure and not to kill, then the criminal may get off with manslaughter. No wonder Jesus pronounced severe condemnation upon “*lawyers*” (Luke 11:46, 52 KJV), and His condemnation rests upon all those dealing corruptly with the laws of the land, whether Biblical “law” or laws governing the nation. Nations may legalise and popularise various sins and crimes (and they have!), but the High Court of Heaven will overturn the multi-national decision.

It has been said of foolish people, “Give them enough rope, and they will hang themselves,” which means that if people are let go to do what they want, many will end up getting themselves in big trouble or big problems. Now, God in His Sovereignty is giving rope to the nations. Look what is happening! God is honouring the freedom of people and nations, but with freedom comes tremendous responsibility, and it looks like most nations now cannot handle it. Get the rope off your neck!

As we approach Christmas and celebrate the birth of Christ [His FIRST coming], we remember that Jesus said, “*as it was in the days of Noah...[and] as it was in the days of Lot [Abraham’s nephew who was living in Sodom], so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man [Christ’s SECOND coming]*” (Matthew 24:37; Luke 17:26). An amazing thing is that when Jesus refers to those times, He only mentions that they were “*eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until...*” and “*they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day...*” The description of the things those people were doing seem so tame, so harmless, so normal...and **THAT is alarming!** What that says is that the inhabitants of those cities so perversely described in the Genesis account are people who outwardly lived normal lives! This means that whether or not people do many “normal” things, and go about life just as others do, if those people are not walking with God on God’s terms, then they are ear-marked for judgment. We need to look no further than the Garden of Eden. I mean, what’s wrong with eating a piece of fruit??!! Of the people of Noah’s and Lot’s times, Jesus said “*they did eat,*” and I have no doubt but what “*they did eat*” just like Adam and Eve who clearly disobeyed God and came under the judgment of God.

The increase of earthquakes in recent times has been almost unbelievable, yet Jesus also lists this as another sign of the approach of His second coming. Taking all these things together— this catastrophic physical and moral situation— Jesus added the extremely comforting note: “*When you see these things taking place, look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption is coming near!*” **THAT is encouraging!** Even in the face of such global upheaval with both the planet and the people, there is hope. The reason there is hope is because “*The earth is the Lord’s and all the fullness of it; the world, and those that live in it, for He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods*” (Psalm 24:1,2). There is hope because there is such a Creator as our God, notwithstanding the relentless opposition and attack by evolutionists especially in recent times. Yet, “*those who live in it*” must take serious consideration of the very next verse of the above Psalm which asks the questions: “*Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?*” People may offer a variety of answers to those questions, but God supplies His own answer, “*He who has clean hands and a pure heart.*” Holiness of heart and life are God’s requirements for every member of the human family, and God sets the requirements and describes those demands all through His word, the Bible, from beginning to end. The Divine requirement is holiness or hell, and the requirement is on God’s terms, not our opinions or preferences. And it is no good claiming to be a Christian or “born again,” while living in outright, habitual, wilful sin. St. James (1:22) says that if we are hearers of the Word and not doers, we deceive ourselves! St. John (1 Jn.1:6) says that if we say we have fellowship with God, yet walk in darkness, we are liars!

In view of the things discussed in this article, there is reason for everyone to be encouraged to obey God, and trust Him to help them go against the tide of worldly opinions, concepts and pressure. Regardless of the type of sin—including sexual sins of any sort—there is hope of change. *That* is certain. It is also certain that the stage is being set for the closing of the curtains on this world as we know it, and the coming of the scenes we may read about in the last book of the Bible, the Revelation. Now is the time to make the choice to obey God and live Life *His Way*.

### **Moving On the Motorway**

It is impossible to go north and south on the M1 at the same time. The same is true about our relationship *to* God and *with* God. St. Paul, Peter, James and John all say that if we say we walk with God yet live in what God calls sin, then God’s verdict is: we are liars. The Bible makes it clear that ALL liars go to the lake of fire (Rev.21:8), along with other types of evil people. The Bible says that we are to “*abhor (hate) that which is evil, and cleave (cling) to that which is good*” (Rom. 12:9). The same principle God puts into the heart of an individual He has changed into a “new creation” will do both at the same time. Notice, however, that the attraction is not in both directions at the same time. In contrast, at the same time the person hates the evil, while he clings tightly to what God identifies as the good.

This movement away from evil often commences even before a person becomes “a new creation,” because when God’s Spirit begins to speak to the person about sin, they obey and move away from it. The “old-timers” would call this “prevenient grace,” meaning the grace of God which begins to work on a person even before they move toward God and “come to faith.”

John Wesley, the 18th century founder of Methodism here, apparently also saw this phenomenon of “movement.” He wrote, “*When I was at Oxford, I never was afraid of any but the ‘almost Christians.’ If you give way to them and their prudence an hair’s breadth, you will be removed from the hope of the gospel. If you are walking as the generality of men walk, you are walking to the bottomless pit! Are many wise, many rich, many mighty, many noble,\* travelling with you in the same way? By this token, without going any farther, you know it does not lead to life. Here is a chart, a plain, an infallible rule...If you move but one step toward God, you are not as other men are.*” (\*1 Cor. 1:17-2:5). (Wesley excerpt from The Gospel Trumpet, Sept-Oct 2005, p.10).

Wesley, like Jesus, never tried to force anyone to join his group; except by the force of love. However, again like Jesus, Wesley left people in no doubt about the “cost of joining.” God never accepts “half-way, half-hearted people.” Wesley would describe, for example, “The Character of a Methodist,” and then let them know that they are under no compulsion to join, but that if they desire to join, *THIS* is what it requires! In view of this, Wesley would never have received a homosexual as a member of his church, much less as one of his travelling preachers! But to be fair again, Wesley would not have received into membership a liar, or thief, or anyone else who had no intention of parting from their sins. I would agree with this approach, as well.



## **God's Call to Full Salvation From Sin Demands Separation From The World**

*(2 Corinthians 6:11 to 7:3)*

*11 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. 12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. 13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open. 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one. 3 I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together."*

### **Departing From Sin**

*By mercy and truth, sin is atoned for, and taken away; and by the fear of the Lord, a man avoids and departs from evil"*  
*(Proverbs 16:6)*

*"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands unchanging and unmoved, having this sign, seal and inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.' "*  
*(2 Timothy 2:19)*

*Jesus said: "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of wickedness' "*  
*(Matthew 7:23).*

### **The Lesson:**

***Either we depart from our sins, or Jesus will make us depart from Him for eternity.***