



# The Voice Of Truth

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### “The Vanity Of Earthly Riches”

Jimmy Pettigrew

Earthly riches itself is not wrong! But if we become like the church in Laodicea that we become so wealthy that we need nothing even at the point of not needing the Lord, we're wrong and put too much trust in earthly riches (Rev. 3:14-22). , “Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is needful for me: Lest I be full, and deny (thee), and say, Who is Jehovah? Or lest I be poor, and steal, And use profanely the name of my God.” Proverbs 30:8-9. Paul speaks of the “uncertainty of riches” in contrast to the confident hope one may have in God; godliness is real wealth (1 Timothy 6:6, 17).

We need to be like the church is Smyrna, rich in Christ! Why put your trust in things we must loose (Lk. 12:15-21)! This parable found in Luke 12, is a classic example of the “deceitfulness of riches” (Matt. 13:22). Material wealth promises much, but delivers little. Earthly treasures are extremely temporal as the rich fool sadly learned that “no man can serve two masters” (Matt. 6:24). Those who are preoccupied with material wealth are frequently led astray from the faith into much sorrow (1 Timothy 6:9-10).

Remember the parable of the sower found in Luke 8, the seed that fell on thorny soil was “choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection” (verse 14). Two great temptations to unfaithfulness are cares [worry concerning life's necessities] and riches [i.e., a passion for wealth]. People who place priority on material and earthly wealth while at the same time trying to serve Christ, the end is spiritual suicide, a lust for wealth is destructive (1 Tim. 6:9). The word of God is crowded out! People rob God (Mal. 3:8).

We should set our “mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth” (Col. 3:2). “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 Jno. 2:15). We need always to trust in Him who “shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil.

4:19). Why? “For in one hour so great riches is come to nought” (Rev. 18:17). Remember “all is vanity” (Eccl. 1:2).

As Christ was never wealthy on earth: “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the heaven (have) nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Matthew 8:20). “For your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). His riches must have been heavenly – glory with God – prior to coming to earth (John 17:5, 24; Philippians 2:6) Where are your riches (Matthew 6:19-21)?

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## **Truth or Ignorance?**

By Al Diestelkamp

One of the tactics being employed by some who say homosexuality should be considered an acceptable “lifestyle,” lament the “ignorance” of those who disagree. I recently heard a popular talk show host, while trying to console a liberal activist, explain that Bible believers are acting on ignorance. Her point was that given enough time and patience we would “come around” to their way of thinking.

Obviously, none of us want to be viewed as ignorant, but perhaps we ought to get used to it. No amount of education will make proper what the Bible says is “shameful” (Romans 1:27).

For some time those who hold to what the Bible says on this subject have been accused of being “homophobic.” A phobia is the irrational fear of something. I deny having an irrational fear of homosexuality. However, attempts are being made to change the definition to include “hatred of homosexuals.” I deny hating anyone, even though I may hate what they do.

We must not allow ourselves to be intimidated by those who call us ignorant or accuse us of hating them. God’s word must be our teacher.

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## **It’s Still Sin**

Many may call it an “alternate lifestyle.” Ones may falsely suggest they were born that way while others may call such ones “gay,” “homosexual,” or “strange.” Some may defend their right to make their own decisions.

But friend, God said centuries ago, such action is SIN, and it is STILL SIN! Man may accept, embrace, support, and legalize it, but it is STILL SIN! Making sin legal does not make it right!

Television programs have glorified this sinful action. Let us stand up, be strong and oppose that which God said was SIN! Let us speak up, letting our voice be heard – to television stations, advertisers, magazines, etc. May we stand for righteousness and oppose ungodliness.

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## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17