



The Voice of Truth

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Creator, Help Our Immoral Times By Jimmy Pettigrew

“My heart is sore pained within me,” and “I am full of heaviness” (**Psalm 55:4; 69:20**). “The troubles of my heart are enlarged: Oh bring thou me out of my distresses” (**Psalm 25:17**). What’s the problem Jimmy? It grieves my heart to look at this great nation which was built upon godly principles and see her wallowing in a polluted cloud of moral filth. “This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth” (**Jeremiah 7:28**). The cry of our forefathers was “**In God We Trust.**” The cry today, however, is to cast God aside, and let every man do that which is right in his own eyes (**Judges 17:6**). We have become a nation with the attitude if it feels good, do it; eat, drink and be merry (**Ecclesiastes 8:15**). “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes” (**Proverbs 12:15**). Man is incapable of directing his steps in life (**Jeremiah 10:23**). “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death” (**Proverbs 14:12**).

This nation has thrown God out of their homes, schools, and lives. America’s foundations are in serious decay this very hour due to the lack of respect for God. When God is left out, something must fill the void. We have become a nation filled with works of the flesh mentioned and condemned by God in **Galatians 5:19-21**.

We have taken the right to go to God in prayer out of our schools and replaced it with the attitude of violence; guns have replaced the Bible; illicit sex is out of control; teenagers sending pictures of themselves naked to each other with their cell phones. Is there no shame? “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush” (**Jeremiah 6:15**). The attitude of abstinence has been overshadowed by fornication. There is a cry to pass out condoms and teach that the perverted sin of homosexuality is an alternate life-style. A country that once believed in liberty and justice for all has forgotten about the rights of the unborn as they are murdered in their mothers’ womb. America is sin sick! We are living in a time when little attention is given to God and much attention is given to doing what pleases the desires of men. Many have no regard for the moral teachings of the Bible.

What can be done? “Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD” (**Lamentations 3:40**). Only the gospel of the Son of God can change the world; it can turn the world upside down (**Acts 17:6**). As a nation, let us have the courage to return to God and His ways. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (**Psalms 33:12**). We need to get back to calling Bible sins by Bible names. We have not done this in reference to Bible sins. Example: Today “fornication” is called “living together;” today “committing adultery” is called “having an affair;” today “homosexuals” are called “gays,” and “drunkenness” is called having a “good time.” Today we charm to sins of the world by using these beat around the bush words of the world. We need to get back to hating what God hates! “Hate the evil, and love the good” (**Amos 5:15**). “Ye that love the Lord, hate evil” (**Psalm 97:10**).

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We need to "Cry aloud, spare not, life up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgressions" (**Isaiah 58:1**).

There is a standard of behavior that God expects men to follow (**2 Peter 3:11**), the Bible is the answer for our country that is spiritually sick. God's word is man's hope against sin (**Psalms 119:11**). God's word is the truth where by man may be freed from sin (**John 8:32**); it sanctifies (**John 17:17**); the word cleanses (**Ephesians 5:26**); God's word has the power to produce godliness (**2 Peter 1:3**); there is power in the word (**Hebrews 4:12**) to produce a new life (**Romans 6:17-18**).

The only hope we have is for America to fall to her knees in repentance and obey the word of God; we need to get back to God. If not, then "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (**Psalms 9:17**). The Bible alone is our answer (**2 Peter 1:3**). The only hope for humanity is a sincere repentance and return to the righteous standards set forth in the word of God! **"Give Me The Bible!"**

In Defense of the "Biblical Family"

By Jeff Smith

The family in our culture has undergone much change in the last few decades. "Once upon a time" the traditional family was commonplace. The husband/father supported his family while the wife/mother stayed at home to manage the house and care for the children. This was God's idea when He designed the family. It was Adam, not Eve, who was told to work (**Gen. 2:15**). Passages in the New Testament teach the same principle (**1 Tim. 5:8; Titus 2:4-5**).

However, it isn't politically correct anymore to suggest, let alone preach, the scenario above. It is no longer regarded as the simple truth of the gospel. It is blind bigotry and a prejudiced opinion forced on a more "educated and enlightened" society. Therefore, we have a dilemma in our nation, and not a small one, either. How this is decided affects all other endeavors because the "family" is still our most basic relationship-oriented unit. What notions threaten the family?

The family is threatened by the notion that two people can live together before they get married. This is their "trial period." If it doesn't work, then they won't have to go through all the divorce process, etc. Of course, when did you ever hear of people living together and not engaging in sexual activity? The Bible calls this "fornication" and argues only in marriage is the bed "undefiled" (**Heb. 13:4**).

The homosexual movement undermines the Biblical family. States legalize "unions" between consenting adults of the same sex and call them "families." They even try to pass legislation to give them the same benefits enjoyed by those who have "heterosexual" marriages. This is gross perversion. Anyone who can remotely read can understand **Romans 1:18-32**.

The Bible notion of family is also dealt a blow by the "convenience factor" or the ease of divorce to end a marriage. A couple's "irreconcilable differences" have become the norm used by our courts. We are long past the days when people view marriage as permanent. If they want out, they will find a way. Yet, the Lord taught the only reason for divorce was if one spouse was unfaithful to the other. Divorce for any other reason and a subsequent re-marriage is adultery (**Matt. 19:9**). Is this a big deal? Read **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**.

Other threats could be mentioned, but space does not permit. We could decry the feminist movement and its perversions about womanhood. However, all roads lead back to the same intersection. What has God said about the family? Do we really care about Divine intentions re: the most basic societal unit?

Will you stand up and defend the family as it was originally designed by God?

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com

“Christ Changes Us”

By Jarrod Jacobs

In reading the gospel records of Christ’s life on earth, I can’t help but be impressed with how Christ changed people’s lives. For example, when Christ called those who were to be His apostles, He told some fishermen: *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”* (**Matt. 4:19-21**). He later would even turn the fishermen into mountain-climbers (**Matt. 17:1**)! On another occasion, Jesus met a man possessed with devils, and changed him from one who *“wore no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands”*, to *“sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind”* (**Lk. 8:27, 29, 35**). What a change! In addition to this, we could take note of the fact that when Christ went to a funeral, He ended up raising the dead (**Lk. 7:11-16; Mk. 5:41-42; Jn. 11:43-44; etc.**)! Yes, there was a definite change in those folks!

Later on in the first century, we see that people continued to be changed when they heard and obeyed the words of Christ. For example, we read that the some among the Corinthian Christians had been *“fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners”* (**I Cor. 6:9-10**). What happened to these folks? They heard the gospel message, they believed it and obeyed it (**Acts 18:1-8; I Cor. 6:11**)! Christ changed them! In the book of **Acts**, we also read about the conversion of the Ephesians (**19:1-7**). They were also changed; and what a change! They were changed from “dead” to “living” (**Eph. 2:1**)! Note the degree of the change in their lives: *“At that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ”* (**Eph. 2:12-13**). Again, what a change had taken place in their lives! This change came about as a result of Christ.

In truth, “change” is the very essence of repentance (A change of mind that results in a change of life)! Christ called for men to repent while He was on earth (**Matt. 4:17; Lk. 13:3**). Too, when the apostles took the gospel to the world, they demanded men repent (**Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30, 19:19, 26:20**). Regardless of their background, they needed to repent when they came in contact with the words of Christ.

It is no different today. When we are willing to follow the word of Christ, it will change us as well. The question is whether or not we wish to be changed! Some people do not want to be changed and come out of sin. They want to remain where they are. This is a grave error if we are satisfied to stay in our sin and never change.

Yet, if we will be Christ’s He demands that we change! We need to repent. We must repent of our sins in order to be saved from past sins (**Acts 2:38**). Yet, it does not end there, for we must continue to change, to grow, and to mold ourselves in the image of Christ. The apostle Paul writes this to the Roman Christians: *“be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed ...”* (**Rom. 12:2**).

“Change” can be difficult for those who are “set in their ways.” Yet, Christ changes us, and it is a change for the better! We will be better in many areas of life when we accept what the Lord has said and follow Him (**Col. 3:17; I Pet. 4:11**) instead of following our own ideas as to how best to run our lives. Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com

Changing the Label Makes Sin More Dangerous Selected

One of America's great needs is to recognize sin for what it is. We are too prone to explain it away, or to soften it's horrors.

Wilbur Chapman tells of a distinguished minister who preached on sin, and one of the leading members came to talk to him in his study. He said to the preacher, "We don't want you to talk so plainly about sin, because the more our boys and girls hear you talking about sin the more easily they will become sinners. Call sin a mistake if you will, but do not speak so plainly about it being just plain outright sin."

The preacher took down a small bottle from the shelf marked "POISON" and showed it to the visitor. It was a bottle of strychnine. He said, "I see what you want me to do. You want me to change the label. Now, suppose I took off this label marked 'Poison' on this bottle, and put on some mild label, such as 'Oil of Anise,' don't you see what happens? The milder you make the label, the more dangerous you make the poison!"

And so it is with sin. It is hideous and horrible and no amount of whitewashing will change the picture. It must be branded for what it really is if we are to escape its blighting devastation. *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com*

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; 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; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

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