

Continued from Page One, "And Satan Also Came Among Them"

led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil" (Matthew 4:1). Surely the devil does not pass up the opportunity of coming among those who have just been baptized. He tries to make them concerned with the cares of this life. He sets them to criticizing instead of hearing to profit. He tries to cool down their ardor, abate their love, chill their praise, freeze their prayers and kill their zeal. Satan likes a "sleeping church." It's his business to rock the cradle, hush all noise and drive away even a fly which might light upon the sleeper's face.

Satan comes when the Gospel of Christ is preached. In the parable of the sower, Satan is pictured as coming among the wayside hearers. "Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved" (Luke 8:12). Satan comes among people whenever the gospel is being preached and tries to steal the word away. He tries to get folks to question the way of God. For he knows that, "They that gladly received his word were baptized..." (Acts 2:41).

Satan came among Ananias and Sapphira. Ananias and Sapphira sold a possession. Then Satan came among them. "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" (Acts 5:3). When Christians get ready to give to the Lord's work, what better time for Satan to come among them? If he can get us to think the Lord's work is not very important and that we can get by

without giving very much, then Satan has us going his way.

Satan comes about when the truth is preached about the name we must wear. When it is pointed out that we must wear the name Christian, (Acts 11:26, 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16), Satan comes among people and tells them, "There is nothing in a name." Many believe him.

Satan comes when the truth is preached about the church. When people are taught that they must be a member of the Lord's church to be saved, (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23), Satan comes among them and says, "One church is just as good as another." Many are deceived.

Satan comes when the truth is preached about the plan of salvation. When men are taught to hear the word, have faith, repent of their sins, confess their faith, be baptized and live a faithful life, (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), Satan comes among them and says, "You don't have to be baptized to be saved." Many take his advice.

We need to constantly be on guard against Satan. "...for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness..." (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

Lest Satan come among us and deceive us, let us remember the advice given by Peter, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8). Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com

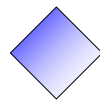
**What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

- 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

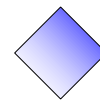
**About the Hillcrest church of Christ**

**Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew**

<b>How to Contact Us</b>			<b>Our Address</b>			<b>Schedule of Assembly</b>		
Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com  			1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313 			Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm* <small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small>		
<a href="http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com">www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com</a>								



# The Voice of Truth



February 13, 2011

**Are You Homophobic?**  
By Jimmy Pettigrew

How many times have you heard on the TV, or have read in the Newspaper that "We need to be tolerant of other people", especially when it comes to homosexuality. All one needs to do is type the word "homophobic" on "Google" of his/ her computer to see what I'm talking about. Some say that all need to have a broadminded approach, and accept this lifestyle. We should stop being so judgmental, and stop these hate crimes. On and on it goes. Many in the world convey the idea that being not tolerant of this sin is wrong, and unloving, that you are hater of same sex romantic love. Well, I have learned that those who advocate "tolerance" are not too tolerant to you, if you disagree with them. And that non-judgmental folks are quite judgmental when they judge us for judging!

"Homophobic" is now an established term for prejudiced against homosexuals. I say **YES, we ought to be homophobic** – not that we should ever treat someone in an aggressive way because of their sin. Rather, we ought to fear God's judgment concerning this sinful lifestyle. We as God's children should "hate every false way," (Psalm 119:104). Many people are shocked to find that divine hatred fills many pages in the Bible. We are taught by the God of love (1 John 4:7-8) to: abhor evil (Romans 12:9), hate evil (Psalms 97:10), hate iniquity (Hebrews 1:9). If we do not hate evil, we will some day embrace it!

The homosexual agenda is everywhere. Schools are supposed to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, but have been altered into institutions of social production. The homosexual agenda is in our schools, in the work place, in our homes through the television and has been embraced by the world. When we stand against evil and love the good (Amos 5:15), we are going to be hated, and labeled as meaning unloving. In our country, homosexuality was first despised, but then tolerated, and now it is embraced. And you're such an unloving person, if you speak against this sin. Remember, "The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil ..." (Proverbs 8:13).

In the first book of the Bible God condemns homosexuality. This was demonstrated originally in the creation of the first human beings: "Male and female created He them" (Genesis 1:27). Both Jesus and Paul repeat this same understanding (Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:2). God created male and female. The marriage was composed of a man and a woman. "Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). A husband and wife are authorized by God to engage in sex. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and all other forms of sexual perversion, are sinful. From the beginning we know what is the intention and plan of God.

Homosexuality was strongly condemned in the Law of Moses. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with woman-kind: it is abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death ..." (Leviticus 20:13). The physical acts between those of the same sex is that which God calls being "against nature" (Romans 1:26-27). We suggest that a person would need help to misunderstand these passages. Under the Law of Moses, you need to note that God of heaven, sympathetic to all sickness and affliction in man, still decreed death for those practicing homosexuality (Leviticus 20:13). **WHY? Because it was SIN!** God condemns homosexuality.

What of Sodom and Gomorrah? "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, having in like manner with these given themselves over to fornication and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire" (Jude 7). "Fornication" here "implies excessive indulgence" or "to commit much fornication." "Strange" flesh here means "out of the order of nature," "contrary to nature," "that which was unnatural," "a departure from the law of nature." One version reads, "And don't forget the cities of

Continued on Page Two

**In This Issue...**

- Pages 1 to 2 - Are You Homophobic?
- Pages 2 to 3 - "How Can We Know The Truth?"
- Pages 3 to 4 - And Satan Also Came Among Them
- Page 4 - The Empty Pew | What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Continued from Page Three, "Sinning Against Wisdom"

Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, all full of lust of every kind, including lust of men for other men ..." Men seeking after men and women after women is "strange flesh" which God has not commanded. It is sin. It is condemn by God!

I wonder how long it will be, since you cannot condemn homosexuality without being labeled as unloving or prejudiced; will it be until one is labeled as being judgmental when one condemns drunkenness, adultery, fornication, stealing or lying? Oh, I believe we're in this vicinity. Just teach what makes people feel good about themselves, saying nothing is wrong. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bit-

### "How Can We Know The Truth?" By Jarrod Jacobs

We live in a world of religious confusion. For example, there are many churches who claim to love God and Christ. Their people claim to be saved, and want others to be saved. Many seem to respect the Bible, and seem to want to do all God has said. On the surface, we see their attitude as commendable! How great it is to see people who are striving to do what God has told them.

However, upon closer examination, most of these people will be engaged in worshipping with instrumental music (**Eph. 5:19**), offering altar calls, teaching baptism as non-essential to salvation (**I Pet. 3:21**), involving the local church in activities that it has no authority to do, etc. Some of these churches may have a larger or a smaller organization than God ordained in the local church as well (**I Tim. 3; I Pet. 5:1-2**).

Now we ask, with so much religious confusion, how can we know the truth? How could we look to some and say, "you are wrong," while telling others, "you are right"? How can we know the truth?

#### We Can Know The Truth By Studying The Bible Without Preconceived Ideas.

When preconceived ideas are a part of our Bible study, we will not know the truth! The apostle Paul demands that men, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (**II Tim. 2:15**). The Ephesians knew that when they read God's word, they would, "understand my

ter!" (**Isaiah 5:20**).

Oh, Jimmy you hate homosexuals. No, I hate the sin! But I get the feeling that people hate people who feel the way God feels about homosexuality being sin! "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of Jehovah" (**Jeremiah 22:29**). God forgives sins. But for forgiveness, there must be repentance (**Luke 13:3**). Some Christians in Corinth were former homosexuals, Paul says they were forgiven, they had obeyed the gospel (**1 Corinthians 6:9 ff**).

Yes, we ought to be homophobic! Yes, we ought to be "phobic" of all sinful conduct! Should we confront sin, or just leave it alone? Should we allow people to stay in the wrong? Or help lead them in the right way? "We ought to obey God rather than men" (**Acts 5:29**). ♦

(Paul's) *knowledge in the mystery of Christ*" (**Eph. 3:4**). Is it necessary that men bring their traditions, feelings, and rationalizations "to the table" when studying God's word? No, sir! What is needed is that people put those things away and fill their minds with the pure, unadulterated Word of God. Many forget that God's word will be used as the standard of judgment on the last day (**II Pet. 3:16; Jn. 12:48**). To refuse the Bible is to refuse the truth (**Jn. 17:17**). Thus, if we want to know the truth, we must know the Bible!

Troubles come when people "wrongly" divide God's word! Our understanding will be skewed when we allow preconceived ideas to infiltrate our study of God's word.

#### We Can Know The Truth By Being Patient As We Study.

Many will fall away and refuse the truth when they find out that Bible study is a long process. Solomon said, "And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh" (**Ecc. 12:12**). God has conveyed His thoughts to us through writing that is easy to comprehend and yet incomprehensible in its scope! The Bible contains both the milk and meat of the word (**I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14**). When people become discouraged and fall away, or simply decide that they have done enough studying, they have cut off their only source of life. Don't do that, friend! Be patient as you study and grow (**II Pet. 1: 5-6, 3:18**).

Continued on Page Three

Continued from Page Two, "How Can We Know The Truth?"

#### We Can Know The Truth When We Are Not Afraid To Admit Our Mistakes.

Pride will be the downfall of many (**Prov. 16:18**). The apostle Peter tells us that God will exalt us if we will humble ourselves (**I Pet. 5:5-6**). Simply because we misunderstand one or more passages of Scripture does not mean that we have to stay ignorant. We need to continue to study and grow (**II Pet. 3:18**).

Consider Apollos. When found to be wrong concerning the baptism of John, he was taught, "the way of God more perfectly" (**Acts 18:24-26**). As a result of Aquila and Priscilla's willingness to teach, and Apollos' willingness to learn, he travelled abroad and "helped the brethren much" (**Acts 18:27-28**). What would we think of Apollos had he been one who refused men's help, or refused to be corrected by those who loved him?

If we are to know the truth, we must not be afraid to admit our mistakes and fix them as soon as possible. Apollos did this, and went on to preach the faith in many places (**I Cor. 3**; etc.).

#### We Can Know The Truth When We Realize That God's Silence Does Not Give Permission.

Many "religious" people have the mistaken idea that when God is silent, then they have freedom. Under the cloak of "silence," people have brought instrumental music, infant baptism, and a host of other things into their religions. Friends, God's silence prohibits action! It does not give permission.

Moses recognized God's silence when he told those

#### And Satan Also Came Among Them By Johnie Edwards

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also among them" (**Job 1:6**). Satan never passes up an opportunity to do his work. He came among the twelve apostles. "Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve" (**Luke 22:3**). Satan can do his work more effectively when he comes among people. I would like for us to notice some instances when Satan came among people and to notice some applications.

He came among Adam and Eve in the garden. After

who were defiled by touching a dead body to, "Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you" (**Num. 9:8**). These men wanted to partake of the Passover, but could not. When they asked Moses what to do, he did not consider God's silence to be permission. He told them to "stand still" until God spoke! God spoke in verse eleven, and that ended the controversy. Remember, it took God's word to settle the question. When God is silent, we stand still!

Looking to the New Testament, Peter says, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (**I Pet. 4:11**). The word "oracles" means the "utterances." In other words, we speak where God speaks! Thus, reasoning from the standpoint, "God didn't say not to" is worthless! When God says nothing, we are to be silent as well. The apostles reasoned in this way when trying to determine whether or not the Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to be saved (**Acts 15:7-19**). When the letter was written to those in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia, the apostles said, "Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment" (**Acts 15:24**). In other words, those Gentiles were troubled concerning things about which the apostles had been silent! Seeing that the apostles were inspired to teach God's word (**Jn. 16:8-13; Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15**); when they were silent on a matter it was because God was silent. Let us never forget that God's silence prohibits action. When God is silent, we stand still!

Yes friends, we can know the truth (**Jn. 8:31-32**)! The question is, are we willing (**Jn. 7:17**)?

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

Continued on Page Four