

Articles by Eddy Gilpin

I Stand Amazed

This past week (mid-December 2000) the latest issue of *"House to House, Heart to Heart"* was delivered to all Salem addresses. The article on the back of that issue ("God Had Already Voted") dealt with the subject of homosexuality. The day the issue was delivered we received several phone calls about it, and about the homosexuality article in particular. The majority of those calls were condemnatory in nature. Following are some examples of the things which were said in regards to this matter. In each case in which the person called to ask to be removed from our mailing list, the same question was asked: "Is there any reason in particular why you would like to be removed?" With the exception of two callers, each one was because of the issue of homosexuality. When they would reply they were then told, "I wish you would consider the Scriptures that are given in the article." Notice some of the replies from these callers:

"My sister is gay, and I am offended by the article on homosexuality." Did not our Lord say, *"He that loveth father or mother more than me not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me"* (Matthew 10:37)? Truth is truth, regardless of who violates it. If one's close relative is involved in that which is an abomination to the Lord, he does not make it a non-issue nor keep it from being applicable to that loved one if he turns a deaf ear to God's Word. In fact, he becomes a partaker of his evil doings, if he accepts the loved one and rejects the Lord.

"I would normally [read the Scriptures that are given in the article - eg], but you know what, you are so prejudiced I'm not even going to." The Lord said, *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day"* (John 12:48). To refuse to consider the Scriptures on a subject just because someone else has reached a conclusion from them with which you do not agree is to rob yourself of the truth. Further, I ask you, who was the prejudiced on in this instance, the one who had done a search of God's Word and reached a conclusion, or the one who rejected the Scriptures and the arguments from them because the conclusion did not agree with his own?

"I am a Christian and a registered Democrat and I don't appreciate the intolerance toward homosexuals." Since this response, I have read the article again. I can find no mention of any political party in it. Does this caller believe that God, on the day of judgment, is going to accept her stand for homosexuality based upon her political party affiliation without any regard to His Word? Further, if being a "registered Democrat" or a registered anything else means that I stand arm-in-arm with the homosexual movement, then I need either cease being a "registered Democrat" or cease calling myself a Christian. The two are not compatible.

After hearing some of these comments I stand amazed at how the media and society have corrupted the moral fiber of our nation. I am amazed at how "political correctness" has replaced "Bible correctness" in our world to such a great extent. Friend, the Bible is right. It has always been right, and it shall be forever so. No amount of "political

correctness" is going to change it. Homosexuality is abominable to God. It should be abominable to His people as well; and it is to those who truly are His people.

Eddy

See the House to House Heart to Heart article below:

God Had Already Voted

On March 7 of this year a vote was taken in the state of California. It was a vote concerning what was labeled "Proposition 22." Proposition 22 was an initiative that simply stated: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

Who would have thought that our beloved country would have come to such? Who could have dreamed just a few short years ago that this nation would have been voting on whether or not to allow "marriages" between homosexuals? I wonder if they voted on such an initiative in Sodom, Gomorrah, Ammah, or Zeboim (Deut. 29:23)? The fact that there even was such a vote is a sad reflection on our society.

However, the good news is that the proposition passed! By an overwhelming majority (61.4% to 38.6%) the state upheld this definition of marriage. At least this part of the process does provide some cause for celebration.

The saddest commentary of this entire affair is the fact that the One whose "vote" should have settled the matter to start with was not even consulted. To be certain, there were those who voted for this proposition because of their strong beliefs in Biblical principles. However, for all of those who opposed it and, likely, for many who voted for it, it was not a matter of what God had said on the issue at all. You see, He forever settled the matter a long time ago when He established the home and defined marriage.

Long before Proposition 22, God had already "voted." He created "an help meet" [suitable] for man (Gen. 2:18, 21-23). To emphasize the need man had for woman God caused all the animals to pass before Adam so that he could name them. Adam saw each of these and yet found none suitable for a companion (Gen. 2:19,20). Doubtless, he saw those animals as they would later be described, "the male and his female" (Gen. 7:2). However, there was no "female" for Adam. God formed woman from the rib of Adam and brought her unto him (Gen. 2:21,22).

Based upon this union, marriage was established and defined. The Bible states: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). Commenting on this, Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Mt. 19:4, 5). Clearly, God made them "male and female." Long before any "initiative" by man, the only "vote" that really counts was already cast.

Homosexuality is sinful! Romans 1:26-28

"Sin Is a Reproach to Any People"

"I stood at the doctor's side and watched him perform a partial-birth abortion on a woman who was six months pregnant. The baby's heartbeat was clearly visible on the ultrasound screen. The doctor delivered the baby's body and arms, everything but his little head. The baby's body was moving. His little fingers were clasping together. He was kicking his feet. The doctor took a pair of scissors and inserted them into the back of the baby's head, and the baby's arms jerked out in a flinch, a startle reaction, like a baby does when he thinks he might fall. Then the doctor opened the scissors up. Then he stuck a high-powered suction tube into the hole and sucked the baby's brains out. Now the baby was completely limp." ¹

These are the words of Brenda Pratt Shafer, a registered nurse assigned to an abortion clinic by her nursing agency. As she stated, since she considered herself to be "pro-choice", she did not think the assignment would be a problem. She was wrong. After witnessing the partial birth abortion procedure described above, she never went back to the clinic. ""But," she said, " I am still haunted by the face of that little boy. It was the most perfect, angelic face I have ever seen."

As Solomon stated, "*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people*" (Proverbs 14:34). Each of us has a responsibility to ourselves, our children, our country and our God to do what we can to see that such practices as these are stopped in our society. Each of us has an opportunity to take a step in that direction this week. One of the freedoms we enjoy is the right to select our own government officials. Take advantage of that privilege -- VOTE! If you are unsure about the moral issues (the ones that should be of utmost importance to Christians, see the information on the bulletin board concerning these vital matters. Make an informed choice; make a wise choice; make a Godly choice. These yet-to-be-born children are counting on you. Will you do your part to see that our nation is exalted by righteousness and not reproached by these horrific sins?

Eddy

¹ "What the Nurse Saw", Lifelines Extra, Fall 2000 (a publication of Nashville Right to Life)

Bob Knight and the Bible

Indiana University's long-time, legendary and often controversial head basketball coach, Bob Knight, has been fired. After several complaints of verbal and even physical abuse against his players and others were lodged against him, the university placed him under close scrutiny with a "zero tolerance" policy. Last week Knight reportedly grabbed a freshman student who called him simply by his last name, to, as Knight put it, "teach him some manners." Because of this incident, Knight was given the opportunity to resign as basketball coach; an opportunity he refused. He was then promptly fired by Indiana University.

Numerous accounts of Knight's coaching career and segments of interviews conducted with him over the years have been seen in the days following his dismissal. Following the Sunday announcement of his being fired, one of the sports channels aired segments of several such interviews on Monday. One of the segments, ironically, showed the hot-tempered and often foul-mouthed Knight quoting Scripture from the Bible. The interview was conducted shortly after Knight's being levied with the "zero tolerance policy" by the university. Concerning the school's actions Knight said, "I can in no manner be seen as a Bible scholar; but the Bible says somewhere, 'Judge not that you be not judged'." Then, in the answer to the next question asked of him, Knight took God's name in vain in his reply.

Here is an example of one who uses the Bible only in instances when it seemingly benefits his cause and helps his case. Otherwise, God's name is only something to be invoked as an expletive when a dramatic point needs to be made.

Perhaps no other passage is abused as much in our go-along-to-get-along society as Matthew 7:1, the passage quoted by Bob Knight. The prohibition in this passage (as seen in its context) is not against the forming opinions or even against judging. The prohibition is against making judgments without proper evidence or from the wrong motives. Elsewhere our Lord *commanded* us to make judgments (Jn. 7:24). These judgments, commanded by our Lord, are to be made in a righteous fashion. Concerning such the Lord said, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Mt. 7:20). Actions form attitudes, which determine lifestyles. Far too many want the freedom to judge others without having the discerning eye of others upon them. Ironically, it is some of these same people who want the freedom to appeal to God's word only when it is convenient for them. -Eddy