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When being vexed is not enough

"And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; and delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)" 2 Peter 2:5-8.

Recent events in Ulster, when the hierarchy of the Democratic Unionists Party took it upon themselves to sanction a sodomite standing as a candidate for that party in the local government elections, has been a grief and a vexation to many Christians, including some within the the DUP.

Sadly, it would appear that we cannot say 'all' Christians within the DUP for some seem very capable of hiding that grief and giving no outward appearance of sorrow at the actions of their party leaders.

However, there comes a time when being 'vexed' is not enough! Vexation must be manifested.

With Lot, his vexation was well hidden. The account of his stay in Sodom (Genesis 13:7-13, 19:1-38) would not cause us to think that he was 'vexed'!

Rather, he seemed very content with his neighbours or at least able to bear with their activities without any outward show of annoyance!

He is found sitting at the gate of Sodomy, (Genesis 19:1) the very socialising centre of the city, when the angels of God come with the message of judgment.

When his home is assaulted by the perverted citizenry, he speaks as one who has learned the language of the wicked inhabitants. He most wickedly proffers his daughters to the evil men bent on gratifying their corrupt appetites, verse 8.

Such an evil act as this would cause every decent person to conclude that Lot was a thoroughly perverted man without the least knowledge of God's grace.

His lack of any outward testimony to God's grace is seen in the reaction of his sons-in-law to his passing on the warning of the angels. "And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law," verse 14. Quite literally they thought that he was only joking. That was because he had never before in their presence spoken in this way of the Lord, sin, or judgment!

However, despite what our eyes see in the record of Lot's behaviour, God saw what men could not.

To the Lord he was 'just Lot, . . . that righteous man,' who 'vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds', 2 Peter 2:5-8.

Lot was a 'just' man. The word 'just' and 'righteous' are translations of the same Greek word, dikaios, and appears three times in verses 7-and 8 of 2 Peter 2.

The Lord leaves us with no doubts about his spiritual standing in God's eyes. However, the Lord is not content with that. Inward vexation and annoyance with the Sodomites is not enough. God wants an OUTWARD MANIFESTATION of that annoyance!

Lot must speak out against the sins of the citizens and forsake the city and its inhabitants and thereby endorse his words of warning that God's wrath is going to fall upon them for their lifestyle!

It was not enough to say: "Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city," Genesis 19:14.



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He must set the example and get out, separate himself from all that God abhors and flee. His actions must authenticate his words of warning.

It is not enough for any Christian to say they are against sodomy in all its forms and then 'socialise' with them as if there really is nothing offensive in their lifestyle.

Irrespective of the consequences of speaking and acting toward sodomy as it is depicted by God in His Word, whether it be loss of employment, something very likely given today's endorsement of this abomination by governments, or prosecution, again very likely for the same reason, the Christian MUST reflect God's attitude to this sin.

It is not an option for Christians in the DUP simply to ignore this latest development, as they did their party's entering into a coalition with IRA murderers, reprehensibly evil and all as that was.

No! sodomy is a creeping immorality which is corrupting and defiling all it touches. It is the final defilement within this world which will bring down God's wrath upon it.

As it was with the cities of the plain, so it will be with this world at the end of this age.

"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed," Luke 17:26-30.

These are the words of the Lord Jesus telling us clearly of the moral atmosphere that will prevail in this world prior to His return. He is also saying that what happened to the old world in the days of Noah and to Sodom in the days of Lot, is a picture of what lies ahead for this world.

We must not miss the significance of the words 'as it was' as employed here by the Saviour!

Do we not see the atmosphere, the latitude manifested in the old world and in Sodom being created before our eyes? As Genesis 6:11-12 says: "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth", and also as is stated in our text, we see "the filthy conversation of the wicked": are these not the dominant features of society today?

Is not the world returning to that state of rebellion and defiance which preceded those two great manifestations of God's judgment?

It is and it behoves us to so act as to please God by disassociating ourselves from these evil trends!

More has been made of the murder of Lyra McKee, the journalist who belonged to and promoted the cause of the sodomite community, than has been made of any other single murder, of which there have been thousands in recent years in Northern Ireland.

We wish to state clearly that it was wrong that she was killed. Murder is ALWAYS wrong!

But the sympathy within society for sodomy and the desire to 'stand shoulder to shoulder' with her community is clearly seen in the public reaction. I have no doubt that there is an element of fear of not 'being seen' to manifest 'outrage' will have caused many to mingle amongst the ranks of the mournful.

Politicians, who would not have acted as they have, were the victim just a 'common' member of the public. Policemen, soldiers, prison officers and civilians, including woman and children have been gunned down and blown up by terrorists without the reaction of the 'good and the great', the provision of a 'cathedral funeral



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service', the appearance of 'foreign dignitaries', that this death has brought forth.

The reaction has everything to do with the 'embracing' or at least being 'tolerant' of sodomy than any other factor.

I say again: being vexed is not enough. There comes a time to act and to declare one's allegiance with God and His truth.

As Joseph of Arimathaea, finally overcame his fear of the unbelieving Jewish enemies of Christ and openly declared himself, so it must be with all of God's people today.

"And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus," John 19:38.

Who knows Christian, if you did openly declare yourself, you may encourage someone else to do the same, as was the case with Joseph.

"And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand," John 19:39-42.

There was an old saying from which we can learn today.

"If everyone won one,

And every won one, won one,

then what a host would be won if every won one, won one..."

I think the principle is clear!!!

Ivan Foster.

26th April 2019.