



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

VEXED WITH THE FILTHY CONVERSATION (BEHAVIOUR) OF THE WICKED

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 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 Gomorrhah 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;) the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished," 2 Peter 2:4-9.

I was made to think once more of the words of Peter regarding Lot. "Just (righteous) Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." That which brought these words before me were some of the headlines on the BBC News sites. They read:

- "I don't remember not wanting to wear dresses" (These were the words of a 'man'!
- "Same-sex marriage: Couple 'excited but nervous' to become first in NI"
- "Phillip Schofield announcement: How it feels when your partner comes out as gay"
- "What it's like when your parent comes out as LGBT"

Were I to search other news sites I could add to this list of reports that indicate another plague breaking forth to a far greater degree than that of the "Coronavirus" epidemic and which will be followed by consequences far more serious than can ever follow any bodily ailment.

The 'filthy conduct', to use the Bible's terminology regarding this matter, of the sodomite coterie is a source of great vexation to the true Christian.

I was speaking just yesterday to a member of the news media, who is a citizen of the Irish Republic, and remarked to him how remarkable it was that a man of the moral views and behaviour of Leo Varadkar could be accepted by the people of Southern Ireland. His response was that it did not bother him.

I replied that, as Christian, it vexed me for sodomy was the ultimate perversion and its acceptance was a shameful reflection on any country.

Christians are going to have to learn to suffer 'vexation' (the word means 'oppress') for the nations are accelerating in their embracing of this abomination. It is fashionable. There is absolutely no shame attached to such behaviour. Instead, there is an outpouring of support and a celebrating the 'courage' of these perverts!

The increase of this wickedness must surely turn the thoughts of the Christian to the return of Christ! It must surely prompt a searching of the Scriptures to see what it has to say regarding the outbreak of such a plague!

Well, it is of great significance that Lot's vexation was but a poor reflection of Heaven's reaction to the ways of the Sodomites. Genesis 18:20-21 records Heaven's response to the wickedness of Sodom. "And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know." The Lord's examination of the cities of the plain revealed the depths of their iniquity and He responded with judgment. "Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: and he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke



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of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace," verse 24-28.

I take heart that it is likely that the Lord in mercy is examining the nations of the earth as He did the cities of the plain back in the days of Lot. Since there can be no doubt as to what it is the Lord sees as He looks upon the earth, for how much more He can see of this world wicked behaviour than can we with our very limited powers of observation. He "seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart," (1 Samuel 16:7). He must see a world ripening for wrath and judgment.

That being so, it brings the Christian a wonderful sense of joy at the thought of a glorious deliverance from the cesspool this world has become and yet, it brings a sense of distress for the wicked who will be subjects of the wrath of God for their embracing of the spirit of antichristian rebellion.

I seek ever to remember the weeping of Christ over the city of Jerusalem at the approaching doom it faced for its rejection of Him and His Word of mercy, Luke 19:41-44.

There is that within the Christian which rises up in anger at the rebellious actions of men, but we must ever remember that we were once as they are but we have been saved by the mercy of God. Surely, in the midst of our 'vexation' we must remember to pray as did Abraham when he pleaded for Sodom.

I confess that it is a great challenge to act in the spirit of Abraham. Yet we must bear in mind that he did not so much pray for a sparing of the evil sodomites as he did for the 'righteous' remnant that was there that they might be spared, even though they foolishly mingled with wicked inhabitants of the city.

There is a need for us to pray that God's true people will put a distance between themselves and the wicked of today as did Lot from Sodom. We must not be cowed into a silent consenting to the ways of the pervert and be seen to join in with their celebrating of sin. Remember that scene on the morning of Sodom's destruction! "And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city," Genesis 19:15.

All too many believers linger in churches, political parties and social gatherings where sodomy is accepted and celebrated. We must distance ourselves from such at all costs.

The angels did not pack a bag for Lot that he might bring his precious possessions with him. No! All was abandoned and so it may be for many today.

It will cost to distance ourselves from the perversions honoured and esteemed today.

Better to suffer loss than to be lost! As the Saviour said: "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell," Matthew 5:29-30.

May the Lord remember His remnant people and send us help from the sanctuary that we might be enabled to do right!

Ivan Foster.

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