



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Is 'sodomy' just another sin?

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," 2 Peter 2:6.

Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire," Jude 7.

It has been said by members of the Democratic Unionist Party, in an effort to defend and excuse the Party's decision to support and endorse a sodomite as one of their candidates in the Local Government elections in May 2019, that 'sodomy is just another sin and if we are to throw out all who sin in the DUP we would be left with no one!'

This sounds very plausible, especially when stated by a lawyer! However, like the 'lawyers' whom Christ encountered, this one also comes under the condemnation He issued against them. "But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God . . . ," Luke 7:30.

There is sin and SIN! This is evident from the fact that there is a gradation in the scale of the punishments of sin. So said the Lord Jesus. "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more," Luke 12:47-48. "Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee," Matthew 11:21-24.

Again, we may see that sodomy is deemed by the Lord to be a sin above all other sins in that at the time Sodom and the neighbouring cities were destroyed by fire from heaven, the land of Canaan was a heathen land given over to much wickedness throughout its borders and yet ONLY those cities given over to sodomy were judged!

The wickedness of the Canaanite nations which occupied the 'Promised Land' to which the Lord brought the Hebrew people out of Egypt, had been wicked for centuries. The Lord had told Abraham some 460 years before Joshua led the twelve tribes into Canaan and conquered it, that the Canaanite nations or the 'Amorites' were ripening for judgment.

"And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full," Genesis 15:12-16. The phrase 'the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full' simply means that the wickedness of the Canaanite tribes had not yet reached a level which would trigger God's judgment. That time would come and the instrument by which God judged the Canaanites was His people Israel.

"But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: but thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

that they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God," Deuteronomy 20:16-18.

The slaying of all the inhabitants was to cleanse the land of the wickedness of their way of life and sparing none was in order that there would be none to contaminate Israel.

Less than 20 years after the Lord telling Abraham that 400 years would pass before the Canaanites would be fully ripe for judgment, God poured out His wrath upon Sodom and Gomorrah, who were but a few of those against whom God had declared his wrath. Such was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, God would not wait the 400 years interval which was granted to the rest of the wicked in the land of Canaan!

This surely indicates that sodomy is not just 'another' sin', but rather a sin that is 'head and shoulders' above all other sins!

Paul tells us plainly that sodomy is a sin, which if persisted in, results in God 'giving up' those guilty of it. The Greek word translated 'gave up', Romans 1:24, 26 and 'gave over' in verse 28, first appears in the New Testament in Matthew 4:12 and is translated 'cast into prison'. Those 'cast into prison' are removed from society and the common benefits enjoyed by the rest of society and are either serving out a sentence or awaiting sentencing!

So it is with unrepentant sodomites. They are cast aside by God, awaiting His great judgment!

The Lord is longsuffering toward sinners. Many like Manasseh and Saul of Tarsus and the dying thief, were exceedingly wicked in defiance of God but yet they found mercy. That was not so with Sodom and its sister cities.

Perhaps it may be argued that surely the Lord has had mercy upon sodomites! Yes, that is true and but proves the kindness and mercy of God.

We find these words in 1 Corinthians 6:11: "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." Amongst those that Paul says were 'washed', 'sanctified' and 'justified' were those he had described as ". . . effeminate, . . . abusers of themselves with mankind," verse 9. Such terms denote the sins associated with and which constitute 'sodomy'.

I have often pointed out that the difference between the sodomites in Corinth and those today who flaunt their wickedness daily on every platform they can avail themselves of, is simply this! Today's sodomites are defiers and mockers of God's Word which has been repeatedly presented to them in an effort to have them repent of their wickedness and seek God's mercy.

Those in Corinth to whom Paul refers, had lived and acted in heathen darkness but, when Paul came preaching God's Word, heeded the gospel and repented and were converted and saved by the grace of God, put away their wickedness and had their sins washed away.

There is no such spirit of repentance evident today amongst the brazen promoters and apologists of this vile wickedness. Neither was there such a spirit amongst the citizens of Sodom. Lot was not the best example of a professing believer and worshipper of Jehovah, yet even he was a witness amongst them. "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 2:7-8. He pleaded with them on the night before God's destruction of the city ". . . I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly," Genesis 19:7.

Personally, I am at a loss to understand the attitude and actions of Lot yet I take heed of God's description of him. He was a 'righteous man', 'vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked' and as such he did present a witness and a rebuke to the lifestyle of the citizens. He was not heeded but rather his witness, such



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

as it was, was utterly rejected!

That is what makes the difference between today's adherents and defenders of this vile lifestyle and those in Corinth to whom Paul refers.

It is sad that defenders of the DUP's actions are prepared to twist and pervert the Word of God to try and cobble together a defence and a justification of their wicked endorsement of sodomy. In truth, what lies behind their actions is the backslidden thinking of those most anxious to avoid offending those who would have society abandon every moral restraint contained in God's Word. The DUP is intent on 'going with the flow' of public opinion in order to ingratiate themselves with a public more and more captivated by the teachings of liberal churches. What God says on the issue is set aside by the DUP and really counts for nothing.

The 'lawyer' referred to at the beginning of this article was not always of the opinion summarised in his response to one who challenged him on the DUP's position on sodomy. But he has evidently cast aside what once he believed and indeed preached, in order foolishly to seek to advance his political career.

Going against God's Word is a sure way to end any career. That we can be sure of!

Ivan Foster.

1st January 2019.