



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 7 Number 5

February 3, 2019

“Nor Did They Know How to Blush”

Jeremiah 8:10-12

by: Justin Brewer

Over the last few weeks, there have been numerous marches that have taken place in Washington, D.C. One such march was the “Women’s March,” in which the following ideologies were promulgated: homosexuality, transgenderism, and “reproductive rights & justice,” among other agenda driven goals. Some Christians chose to drive hundreds of miles in order to participate in this event and proudly wielded signs declaring not just their “tolerance” for the aforementioned ideologies, but their support of them. These Christians argued that this approach should be used in hopes that someone might eventually obey the Lord, and therefore homosexual/transgender and “reproductive” rights were “stood up for” in the name of Christ. Additionally, these Christians argued that this is exactly what Christ would want them to do and that the Bible supported this perspective. Any opposition to this view was shot down as uncaring, unloving, and uncompassionate and any use of Scripture used to correct the view was condemned as a twisting. Arguments such as these are nothing new. In fact, the Corinthians were puffed up in their so-called tolerance for a brother in sin in 1 Corinthians 5. However, did the Apostle Paul applaud their tolerance of sin or did he condemn it? The question was clearly answered in the context when Paul wrote, “And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you” (1 Corinthians 5:2). To argue that the Apostle Paul, who was directly inspired by the Lord God Himself, would have condoned this man’s sinful lifestyle would be a blatant twisting of Scripture (reference also 2 Peter 3:16).

To accompany the opening discussion, the argument is often made that Christ would not have wanted to offend those who might become Christians. It should be asked, do the Scriptures support this claim? One clear example is that of the “rich young ruler” in Matthew 19:16-22. In this passage, Jesus dealt with the specific sin in which the young man was entangled: materialism. Jesus instructed him on

exactly what he would have to do, and that was to give up that which was separating him from God. The young man “went away sorrowful” because he did not like the answer. Did Jesus change the answer? Did Jesus comfort this man’s ungodly sorrow (reference 2 Corinthians 7:8-12)? The message was the same and Jesus did the man the service of being clear and forthright about what obedience would cost him. John 6:60-66 presents another clear example of this principle. In this passage, Jesus taught very difficult concepts and the result was the offending of many of His disciples. In John 6:61, Jesus turned to the twelve and asked, “Does this offend you?” The indication is that the majority had been “offended” by His teachings, and we are told that from “that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more” (John 6:66). Those who chose to leave Him at this time were not justified in their walking away merely because He had “offended” them. Hiding the truth under the guise of “compassion” is not compassionate in the least, but rather it is to the detriment of those who need salvation.

What about treating sin as something disdainful? Often, people argue that it is more compassionate to not say anything than to address what sin really is in the eyes of God. Sin is an abomination (see Proverbs 6:12-19 and 2 Peter 2:18-22), and not an “alternative lifestyle.” The inspired Apostle Peter compared sin to “a dog returning to his own vomit” and “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.” Which of these depictions of sin leaves the impression with the reader that they are acceptable or something to be desired and advocated for? This is, in fact, how God sees sin. Further, Paul wrote that “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18). At what point in God’s wrath has He ever condoned sin? Paul also wrote that “God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful” (Romans 1:26-27). While some argue that advocating for homosexual “rights” is the moral thing to do, Paul defined these as “vile passions.” Vile means “morally despicable or abhorrent,” “physically repulsive: foul,” and “disgustingly or utterly bad” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). How can something defined by God as morally despicable, abhorrent, disgustingly and utterly bad be the “moral” thing to advocate?

Additionally, Paul wrote that “they did not retain God in their knowledge” (Romans 1:28). If we willfully choose to support sin when God has so clearly condemned it, then we have certainly not retained Him in our knowledge. Paul continued the thought and wrote that, “God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting,” after which he included a rather extensive list of sins. Paul did not call these sins “alternative lifestyles,” nor did he depict them as

something to be advocated. Rather, he stated that taking part in them was due to a “debased mind” that came from not retaining God in our knowledge.

But what about supporting those who commit such sins? Can we not advocate for their “right” to commit these sins in hopes that they will one day turn to God? Paul actually addressed this in Romans 1 as well. In Romans 1:32, Paul wrote, “who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Advocating for sin is the approval of sin and clearly fits with what Paul wrote. Earlier in Romans 1, Paul wrote, “Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen” (Romans 1:22-25). While some claim moral superiority and great wisdom because they advocate for such “rights,” Paul defined them as “fools” because they have corrupted the glory of God. They have “exchanged the truth of God for the lie” in an effort to fit in and not “offend” sinful men. In doing so, they have exchanged God for the worshipping and serving of the lustful desires of mankind. Why does such happen? As Paul wrote, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened” (Romans 1:21).

Contrary to an ever increasingly popular argument, standing opposed to sin is not a twisting of Scripture. The passages utilized here clearly condemn sin and the advocating of such lifestyles, and these are but a few among many. The twisting of Scripture is not, in this instance, found among those condemning such lifestyles, but among those who advocate for them. For the words of Paul in Romans 1 to be misunderstood, they must be twisted. Peter wrote concerning Paul that “untaught and unstable people twist” his words “to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures” and he then warned us to “beware lest” we “also fall from” our “own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked” (2 Peter 3:16-17). Finally, Paul wrote, “Abstain from every form of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV). In the KJV, this is translated as “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” Christians cannot advocate for sinful lifestyles and choices without partaking in such evils, and we are foolish to believe that such is acceptable to the Lord God above. Such sins are not “what is acceptable to the Lord,” but they are rather “the unfruitful works of darkness” and it is “shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret” (Ephesians 5:8-14).

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Brenda continues to recover from ankle surgery
- Laura Matlock received good reports back from the lab after her cancer surgery.
- Tammy Woodward, a cancer survivor, has been diagnosed with brain tumors.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tonight 6:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism
- Today is our scheduled monthly business meeting

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – Ben Palmer Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – David Porter Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
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Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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