

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 4

2018

DISRESPECT FOR GOD'S WORD

To anyone who has any respect whatsoever for the word of God it is utterly disgusting to observe the attitude that prevails in the minds of so many today. I believe I am safe in saying that the majority of the people in our society have little or no respect for the teachings found in the Bible. This is also true of many who set themselves forth as teachers of the Bible.

In recent years we have heard and read a great deal about how the various religious groups were going to view the question of homosexuality. This does not present a problem for those who are willing to abide by the teachings of God's word and respect the authority of that word. However, most religious groups have long passed the time when they were willing to go to the word of God as their source of authority, therefore they are now taking positions on this evil practice which are in direct conflict with the word of God. This sin is plainly condemned in the word of God and the end of those who practice such is clearly stated (See Romans 1:24-32).

A few years ago a well known public figure received all kinds of opposition and criticism because she had the courage to publicly denounce this sin. Even some religious teachers are either upholding the sin by condoning those who are guilty of such, or they refuse to speak out against such. One such teacher made the statement that of all the passages in the Bible condemning homosexuality, none were directly attributed to Jesus. What is the purpose of such a statement?

Does the man mean to imply that Jesus does not condemn the sin? Is he suggesting that Paul, as he was guided by the Holy Spirit, taught something different from what Jesus taught? This is not so. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth (John 16:13) and that he would bring to their remembrance the things Jesus had said (John 14:26). Paul said that he (and the other apostles) were ambassadors on behalf of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

When we read that which was revealed to the apostles by the Holy Spirit it should be received with the same respect as if it were directly spoken to us by the Lord. To reject the apostles teaching is to reject Christ. See Acts 2:42 and 2 John 9. When we respect the authority of Christ we will abide in the apostles teaching and will not find ourselves upholding anything condemned therein. Yes, let us learn to respect and reverence the word of God.

✠ James Hahn



WHY NOT NOW?

Some time ago I heard a representative of the Catholic Church being interviewed on a local radio station. The questions were concerning the Catholic Church's position toward the role of women in the church. He made reference to the fact that women in the early church were active servants. The host then asked him to note some areas in which women did serve. He said that one area in which women served in the early church was in assisting other women who desired to be baptized "since baptism at that time was by immersion." This man, along with many other religious teachers (see Albert Barnes' comments on Romans 6:4 in his commentary on Romans) recognize that in New Testament times baptism was immersion. Friends, the Bible has not changed. Yet these men are members of religious groups which advocate sprinkling as a mode of baptism. If you wish to follow the Bible and please God why not accept what even these men admit was the practice in New Testament times. Baptism was immersion then. Why not now? IT IS. Don't be deceived by the perversions of men.

✠ James Hahn

Editor's Note: I commend the following article to you. I recently encountered the position Dennis deals with in this article. So many are willing to accept what they think Jesus "implied" in His statement instead of what Jesus "said". (JH)



JUST A THOUGHT ON MARRYING ONE WHO IS "PUT AWAY"

"...and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:9). I have heard some say that "whoever" CAN marry "her which is put away" and NOT commit adultery in so doing, if the "one put away" changes his state (that is, they change from a put away one to the one who puts away). How is this accomplished? Follow me carefully. The one who initially did the "putting away" later remarries, thus, committing fornication. Thus, the first "put away" one now becomes the party who can "put away" the one who has already put them away. We are told that if this is not the case then the "innocent party" (the put away one) has no recourse or is punished unjustly (by being unable to remarry).

But just suppose the one who did the initial putting away did not remarry, would the "put away" one have any recourse? Would they be punished unjustly (by being unable to remarry)?

Read Matthew 19:9. Do you see TWO "putting aways" in the verse? Do you see a civil putting away for causes other than fornication and also a mental putting away (in the mind before God alone)? Do you honestly see that in Matthew 19:9?

If this is correct exegesis and reasoning, will the same reasoning apply with regard to marriage itself? Can a couple "mentally" marry (in the mind before God alone)?

Brethren, please be careful. The Scriptures say that whoever marries a put away one commits adultery, but some tell us that whoever marries a put away one does NOT commit adultery! You must decide. *✍ Dennis C. Abernathy*

HE PREACHED RIGHT AT ME

I have heard this statement made many times by individuals who have just heard a sermon presented which exposed some wrong in their lives. Did you ever wonder why anyone would feel that the preacher had "preached right at" him? Suppose the preacher has just preached against lying. Who in the audience will feel that he has preached right at him? It could only be one who is guilty of lying. The same would hold true on any other subject. What we need to do is examine the things taught in the light of God's word. If we find them to be true we should accept them. If they expose some wrong in our life we need to change and thank God that there is someone concerned enough about our soul to teach us what we need to hear.

All of us need to examine our lives in light of what the word of God teaches. If my life is not right with God I should thank the person who points this out and encourages me to change. A failure to change means eternal condemnation. The one who teaches the truth and encourages me to change must be viewed as a friend rather than an enemy. Peter preached "right at" those Jews on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:23, 36), but I am convinced that 3,000 (Acts 2:41) of them were glad that he did.

✍ James Hahn

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 745-1507