

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

April 14

2019

Blaming God For One's Sin

We all know that the Bible clearly teaches that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). What all should know is that sin is against God and contrary to all that God would desire of us. However, as we observe and listen to many today, they would have us believe that God is responsible for their sinful conduct.

This point was impressed upon my mind as I was reading the comments of a political candidate who is a homosexual. In reply to those who have opposed his same sex marriage he says they have not opposed him but they have opposed his maker. He also adds that his same sex marriage has drawn him closer to God.

As Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:11, *“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”* Paul tells us that the Spirit has revealed “the things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:10; Ephesians 3:5). These have been written and we can read and know (Ephesians 3:3,4). Therefore, if we want to know what God has to say concerning any behavior we must read that which is revealed by the Spirit.

What has the Spirit revealed concerning the behavior this man says was the work of his maker and has brought him closer to God? In 1 Corinthians 6:9,10 reads, *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor*

extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.” (NKJV). In Romans 1:26, 27 we read, *“For this reason 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, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”* Why had they engaged in this sinful behavior? Paul tells us in the very next verse. He says, *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting”* (Romans 1:28).

Those who engage in homosexual behavior have refused God and Paul says God has given them over to a debased mind. A good friend of mine said that means that God “lets them stew in their own juice.” Just another way of saying they suffer the consequences of their actions.

This political candidate says his homosexual behavior is the work of his maker and has drawn him closer to God. God says it is vile passion and not natural and that those who do such will not enter the kingdom of God. Can that be changed? Yes. Paul says that those Corinthians who had been such had now been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11). What had they done that made it possible for Paul to say this about them. In Acts 18:8 we are told that when Paul came into that city preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2) *“many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”* This man can also be washed and justified if he will follow the example of the Corinthians. *✍ James Hahn*



Finding A Church

Often when talking with people about why they are members of the particular church they attend you will hear some say that that church is closer to what they believe than any of the others. Their

attitude seems to be, "I am going to decide what I want to believe and then I am going to seek a church that will agree with me in what I want to believe and do."

This attitude puts self above God and His word. This attitude has one holding fast to a belief or practice and then trying to prove that it is right. However, the Bible teaches that we must "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We need to hold fast to beliefs, not because they please us, but because we have examined the truth of God's word and have found them to be taught therein.

It isn't enough to be self-satisfied in what we believe. We should be content only with that which is truth. If we have this attitude then we will not be talking about "everyone having a right to his own belief" but will be seeking to encourage all, including self, to believe only that found in the word of God. We will not talk of "joining the church of your choice" but will seek to be a member of Christ's body, His church (Ephesians 1:22,23; Matthew 16:18), the only one you can read about in the word of God.

If you do this you will be accused of being "narrow-minded" and will be opposed by the majority, however you should find comfort in knowing that you are following Jesus (See Matt. 7:13,14). Isn't this the only thing that really matters? Isn't this the only way we can expect to go to heaven when this life is over?

Friends, don't look for a church which meets your standards; look for the church which respects and follows the teaching of Christ in all things. You may not be popular; but you'll be right.

✍ James Hahn



Hedonistic Society Consumes Itself

While psychiatrists have suggested many reasons as to why crime is increasing and violent crimes have escalated above all others, it

appears to me that common sense about man's behavior gives a sensible answer – an hedonistic society will attack and consume itself.

This kind of society frustrates its populace. On the one hand, the hedonist is frustrated because something or someone is standing in the way of his selfish pleasure. Because he conceives that drugs, possessions, promiscuity, etc., will make him happy, he cares not about how his acquisitions affect others. His attitude is, "***Give me what I want, or I will take it.***" On the other hand, caring people are frustrated by that attitude and behavior. One's personal property, self-respect and privacy are frequently violated by the hedonist. It is not surprising that a person who, ordinarily, would never commit an act of violence, will take up arms to defend himself and protect his property – it seems to him that he has no choice. Furthermore, if a judicial system is so inefficient in its punishment of crime that it does not cause the hedonist to fear the consequences of self-gratification in violation of others' rights, it will not restrict his selfish behavior.

So, what's the answer? -- a Savior who died to save others. And those who are saved model themselves after their Savior and understand that true happiness comes from being right with God (Romans 1:16; Philippians 2:5-30; et.al.). All other attempts to change society are like trying to dam up a creek with a three-strand, barbed-wire fence.

✍ Jim R. Everett

Belleville church of Christ
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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) 443-1938
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