

SPECIAL SERMON

Originally preached February 23rd 2014

by Pastor R. Marrs

Sexagesima Sunday

Text: Romans 1:21-27

Theme: Enough is Enough.

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you all from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. Dear Christians: In preparing for a church service the pastor follows a pericope which lays for him the readings and sermon texts for each Sunday of the church year. Normally pastors follow these pericopes very closely, for they give a very detailed exposition on all the doctrines of Scripture, giving the pastor the ability to teach the on most doctrines throughout each church year. However, this past week I heard a story which caused me to deviate from the normal pericope for this Sunday, to speak on something which has engulfed our entire country in utter darkness. Confusion on this topic reigns supreme with seemingly no one saying anything to shed light on it. The story which I heard made me cringe and shake my head, it made me burn with righteous anger toward the men involved, and saddened me to think what the future may hold for us and our children. This past Wednesday two very prominent Christian pastors publicly declared that Scripture takes no stand on homosexuality. They say that the passages which are used to show it as sinful are either misinterpreted or are part of the ceremonial law which was done away with by Christ. I tell you my friends I have never seen such cowardice in all my life as was displayed by these two men.

Thus out of fear that some in this congregation may be deceived by those who say these sorts of things, I determined that today I would deviate from the pericope and preach on this subject, and with the help of God, to shed some light where darkness is brooding. Enough is enough; the truth must be told and harped upon time and again to combat the harping of the great majority of people today. It is a constant barrage on the radio, television, and internet of this same propaganda which endeavors to soften our position on homosexuality. If these two pastors are any indication their propaganda is working. It has convinced a vast majority of people that this lifestyle is just fine, and those who are not convinced remain silent out of fear that their speaking out will cause a great deal of suffering. We have seen very recently how this is the case. Some in our own fellowship have taking their stand and have paid mightily for it.

Imprisonment is threatened, civil suits are brought against them, and fines are levied against them. All this caused me to wonder: how did we get to this point? What sequence of events transpired that led to part of the visible church of God to declare homosexuality in line with the teaching of Scripture, when not very

long ago it was a crime, even in the eyes of the state, to practice sodomy? Where is all of this headed? Our text for today will answer these questions and give us a Biblical stance to take when confronted with this issue. Our text for today is found in the first chapter of Paul's epistle to the Romans beginning at verse twenty one.

Let us pray, dearest Lord God, the Creator and Preserver of marriage, give unto us, Thy servants, courageous hearts to proclaim Thy Word in all its parts, even when to do so may bring us pain and misery here in this life. Teach us today the truth of Thy Word, that we not become confused by all those who pervert Thy Word. Instill in us a strong and fervent faith in Thee that the things which we must suffer may not terrify us, but cause us joy that are counted worthy to suffer for Thy sake. Lord we ask that Thou wouldst heal this nation, and bring it out of darkness into the marvelous light of Thy Gospel. Stop the mouths of all pastors who wish to please men with their teaching, and thereby teach falsely and wickedly. Do not allow them to deceive the hearts of Christians into believing a lie and undermining the Christian faith. Keep us in the true faith unto our end that we being found faithful may receive the crown of life which Thou wilt grant unto all true Christians. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

According to our text let us see that the first step to what we see today is: **I. Constant rejection of God.** We read verses twenty one through twenty three of our text: **Read verses here.** Let us make no mistake homosexuality is a damnable sin in the sight of God. Here in the first chapter of Romans Paul lays out very neatly for us the chain of events which lead to this sort of vile, disgusting behavior and the acceptance of it. Paul first says that men, though having a natural knowledge of God in their heart, reject Him as being God and become darkened. They are blind and live in a world which has no light shining on them. They have rejected the only place where light proceeds from and that is the grace and mercy of God. There is story after story of this rejection of God shown to us in the pages of Scripture. The most prominent is that of Pharaoh. He rejected the Word of God time and again, hardening his heart to the grace of God, thereby bringing himself into condemnation. You see men are by nature children of wrath; we through sin have separated ourselves from God. Yet God in His great mercy sent His Son to be the propitiation of our sin; to reconcile us to God and buy us back from sin and death. This gracious work of God is offered to all men in the Gospel. Yet through the repeated rejection of God and His grace men harden themselves against Him and are lost; they have chosen to remain in the darkness of their sinful flesh, desiring the lust of the flesh and eternal death rather than eternal life.

Thus because of their rejection of God they become fools, though professing themselves to be wise. This is manifested in the worship of themselves as gods. All the idols of silver and gold; the worship of money and possessions is the result of rejecting God. We can very easily pinpoint this in our own nation and culture today. The rejection of God by many in this country led to them replacing the true God with an idol set up out of their imagination. They have placed as god: mankind. The teaching of evolution was the rejection and replacement of God. The vast majority of people believe that men are the pinnacle of all things; that we are at this point in history the highest beings to ever live. Thus they worship themselves as the god of this world. They have changed the image of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man. They profess themselves to be wise; they say that more knowledge of the universe and its origins is known today than ever before. They exalt themselves as the wisest, most advanced creatures to ever live and bow down to this image which they have constructed. It is as if Paul had looked into the future and saw our own nation when writing this epistle to the Romans. He describes in nearly every detail the rejection of God by this country and the setting up of idols in His place. Yet they should heed the warning of Scripture: *"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."* (1 Cor. 1:19) God will show the world the lies which are being told unto it and will unmask those who claim to be wise and will destroy them in their wisdom. Some will now say: what does evolution and idol worship have to do with homosexuality? Well let us see Paul's line of reasoning. He says that because of the hardening of their heart and their constant rejection of His grace, that will:

II. Cause rejection by God. We read verses twenty four and twenty five of our text: **Read verses here.** When the grace and mercy of God have been continually rejected time and again He removes from that place or that person His grace. In other words He gives them up to do as they wish to do. We hear: *"my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels."* (Psalm 81:11-12) This rejection by God is not done lightly, but God suffers patiently with these people and He keeps offering His grace and mercy to them, but when they flatly refuse to listen and continually reject Him, He finally gives them up to their vile affections and removes His Gospel from their midst. Paul, when the Jews refused to listen to the Gospel, turned to the Gentiles and gave up the Jews to their own uncleanness. He would not waste time casting pearls before swine, but gave the Gospel to those who gladly heard it.

This is what is taking place in our day, in our country. At one time the United States was the land where the truth of God's Word was published freely and clearly in all its truth and purity, but now it is being silenced and rejected by the

majority in this country and is removing the Gospel from certain cities and people. The list grows larger daily and it is feared that there will not be found many who hold to the truth of Scripture anywhere in this nation. God is giving them up to their own lusts and affections; removing from them the grace which He has long offered and is given it to those who gladly hear it. Men today say that there is a much greater knowledge than that found in Scripture, holding up evolution as the highest knowledge and scientific research as the end all. They have changed the truth of God into a lie and they worship themselves rather than the true Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore because of their rejection of God, they have been rejected by God and given up unto their uncleanness and:

III. Abominable works. We read verses twenty six and twenty seven of our text:

Here we are at the central point of our discussion today. Paul has drawn a very neat description of the hearts of men who are taken in this sin and of those who accept it as being in line with Scripture. The apostle here refutes three points which are often made by advocates of the homosexual movement. First Paul shows that it is not part of the ceremonial law done away with in Christ. There are three kinds of law given to Moses in the Old Testament, the Civil Law, Ceremonial Law, and Moral Law. The civil laws were those made for the governing of the people of Israel which were laid down to keep peace among its inhabitants, much like the laws of our own land. The ceremonial laws were those laws given for the sacrifices which were to be made in the Temple which pointed to the one great sacrifice made by Christ on the cross.

These were done away when He made the perfect sacrifice for sin, so that we no longer observe them. The Moral Law is the Law which is in effect for all time and shows unto a person their sin, and unto the Christian the way in which he should conduct himself. These were not done away with by Christ, but were in fact taught by Him as still in effect. The homosexual movement, and the two pastors, say that when God said: "*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination,*" (Lev. 18:22) it was only for those of the old covenant and no longer applies to people today. Yet Paul by reaffirming that command here in the New Testament refutes that notion entirely. Paul could not be clearer when he says that these are vile affections; they are abominations in the sight of God.

Secondly Paul refutes the opinion that people are just born this way and they cannot help it. He says that it is against nature. It is against that which God created in man from the beginning and is actually the result of their own sinful lust and desire; their own sinful heart which causes these abominations to be manifested. When God created Eve, Adam said: "*this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman, because she was taken*

out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (Gen. 2:23-24) God created us to be attracted to the opposite sex, and it is against this nature which was created in us when they lie with mankind as with womankind. Yet we can again see how the teaching of evolution and the rejection of God and His Word often leads to this abomination. For if God did not create man and woman, but we evolved, then there is nothing against nature and the lie feeds the sin. Yet Paul makes clear to us that this is against nature.

Thirdly, Paul shows definitively that it is a sin when he says that they receive in themselves the recompense of their error. It is an error, a sin which, like all other sins is damnable unless repented of, and that includes the cessation of that sin. Their recompense is the judgment of God upon all that practice this sin and has already begun here on earth and will be fully felt at judgment day.

Thus we can see clearly, in spite of the propaganda that fills the world today, that Scripture does take a most decisive stand on homosexuality. There is no room for those who try and soften God's Word to make it more palatable to this generation. Those pastors need to understand the dangerous ground they are treading. By allowing this unrepented sin in their midst they are making those who practice it secure in their sin and condemning them, whereas if they would preach the Law out of love and concern for them they would perhaps deliver them. Let us here today determine that we will take our stand on Scripture and teach only what God teaches on this subject, and, when called upon, to stand firm in this conviction no matter the result. Enough is enough; the truth must be told and held to even in the face of all devils and wicked men. We can do nothing else but hold fast to the truth which God proclaims and let Him guide us through the mess which may result. Seeing those pastors take the cowardly position which they did convinced me that we must be the ones to take this stand, for there may be no one else who does. Enough is enough; it is time to let the Word of God shine through the darkness. Amen.