

BEYOND VEXING

Roelf L. Ruffner
Columbia, Tennessee

"And delivered righteous Lot, sore distressed by the lascivious life of the wicked (for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their lawless deeds)" (**II Peter 2:7-8**, ASV).

As I read the foregoing passage I often think of our beloved country. How far does it all go before America suffers the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah? Notice what has happened in the last few years regarding the acceptance of homosexuality in our land:

- The homosexual lifestyle portrayed in the media and Hollywood as "normal." Scripts approved/censored by homosexual activists. (When will someone make a film showing the truth about this filthy, demeaning, destructive, sad, perverted, sinful choice?)
- A growing number of Americans accept this immoral lifestyle
- Same-sex "marriage" approved by a state legislatures and forced upon other states by activist judges
- Hate Crime Laws (so called) passed by state legislatures and recently by the U.S. Congress
- "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of U.S. Defense Department declared "unconstitutional" by an activist judge
- A growing number of denominations accepting unrepentant homosexuals as members and as "clergy"

And the list could go on ad nauseum.

"NOW WHILE PAUL WAITED FOR THEM AT ATHENS, HIS SPIRIT WAS STIRRED IN HIM, WHEN HE SAW THE CITY WHOLLY GIVEN TO IDOLATRY" (**Acts 17:16**). In a sense, homosexuality is a form of idolatry-worship of the human body - or an out growth of it (cf. **Romans 1:22-27**).

There is an old political axiom which states, "There is nothing quite as powerful as an idea whose time has come." I believe this is true with the issue of homosexual rights. Using money, lobbying, and "political correctness," this juggernaut has rolled aside decency and Biblical morality to reach its evil goal - the full acceptance of a perverted lifestyle by society and ostracism (persecution?) of those who oppose it.

BEYOND VEXING

Roelf L. Ruffner
Columbia, Tennessee

But we must not just roll over and play dead! As was righteous Lot, we will be delivered if we do what is right.

1. Continue to stand for the Truth and oppose perversion (cf. **Genesis 19:9; Matthew 5:14-15**).
2. Demand fervent preaching concerning this sin; as well as all other sins (cf. **2 Timothy 4:2**).
3. Teach our children and grandchildren that sexual immorality is a sin (cf. **Proverbs 22:6**).
4. Be prepared to be persecuted (cf. **Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:12**).
5. Don't fall into the trap of hating these enslaved souls. If possible, show them the Truth (cf. **Acts 22:18; Jude 22-23**).

We are not the first Christians who have faced this responsibility. It has been written that in New Testament times fornication was as common as breathing. We are fast approaching that scenario in this country. Pro-homosexual bias is becoming engrained in our society and embedded in the government and the judiciary. Our brethren back then faced their dilemma head on. They could not picket or protest. They just injected into the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ which can change human hearts; so can we! Paul wrote, "BE NOT DECEIVED: NEITHER FORNICATORS.. NOR EFFEMINATE, NOR ABUSERS OF THEMSELVES WITH MAN KIND...SHALL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. 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" (**1 Corinthians 6:9, 11**).