

For Our Information

Thelma Echols spent some time in the hospital last week. She is back home and breathing some better, but still needs oxygen and continued care.

Ruben Keisler's brother is in the hospital in Little Rock with swelling in his brain.

Ricky Ragsdale has been sleeping a little better lately. Greg Groves is home and doing better. Gloria Hurst is doing well after her back surgery.

Chris Wright's Grandmother is back home and on oxygen.

Nettie Jackson is doing about the same. Keep your brothers & sisters in mind

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ

1512 Tanner Street
Malvern, AR 72104
(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

Visit us on the web at

tannerst.com

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

A Few Study Helps

Last week I wrote of papers from the past that could help us in our study. This week I want to remind each of us that there are still several publications available from brethren that can help us learn and apply God's Word. While there are certainly bulletins and periodicals being printed, most of these are available in electronic form. There are several publications that are only available in electronic form.

While I receive several church bulletins through email, I also get a few larger publications on a monthly basis. One such publication, Expository Files, has been published in electronic format for over 20 years. All of the articles can be found online (bible.ca/ef) and these articles cover many different topics and, as the name would indicate, many are focused on exposition of Scripture. They even have a Facebook group.

Seeking His Righteousness

Tanner St Bulletin Volume 5 Number 25

June 2016

From God or Men?

Gilbert Alexander

"The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?" Jesus asked this very important question of the religious leaders of the Jews of that time (**Matthew 21:25**). They refused to answer His question. The same question should be asked concerning all religious doctrines and practices of our day as well. For consideration in this article, we ask: "The blessing of homosexual unions by church officials, where does it come from? From heaven or from men?" If it comes from heaven, we should be able to read it in the authority of the Scriptures.

Sexual activity between same-sex



The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?

Matthew 21:25



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

couples or groups is condemned in the Scriptures as abomination (**Leviticus 18:22; 20:13**). The same condemnation given in Moses' Law is shown to be the mind of God in the New Testament as well. Homosexual conduct is clearly condemned in (**Romans 1:26-32; 1Corinthians 6:9-11**). What authority, then, do church officials have to bless that which God has pronounced as abomination? Does their blessing nullify the condemnation of God against such behavior? If they were to bless fornication, would their blessing remove God's condemnation? Would a blessing of other sexual perversions such as that named in **Leviticus 18:23** make such behavior acceptable to God? The News-Courier of 8/6/04 contained an article entitled "More Episcopal Dioceses Conducting Blessing Ceremonies for Gay Couples." The fact that this issue has caused division in the Episcopal Church makes clear that some people there see the error being practiced, as all should be able to see. What is the problem? Is it arrogance, ignorance, or unbelief?

Mankind does not have the authority to justify what God condemns. *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil..."* (**Isaiah 5:20**). Much of our society has come to ignore, then to accept adultery, fornication, unfaithfulness, dishonesty for advantage, and homosexual behavior. Religions that cater to the wishes of society instead of teaching truth to reform the lives of sinners will continue to modify their creeds and their "liturgies" to please their adherents. God's truth remains constant, providing anchorage for the souls threatened by the tempests of sin.

Store In My Heart

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

This verse certainly comes to mind in regard to teaching others, but do we understand that it applies to those who are saved as well? Certainly one cannot believe in God unless they first hear of Him, but the one who has put his trust in God must also hear the Word. Man can never develop the faith needed to continue serving God unless he continues to hear the Word.

Our faith depends on the time we spend with God's Word. The inspired Scriptures are where we learn who God is and what He wants from us. Are you spending enough time "hearing" the Word to develop your faith?

Is this message homophobic? Is God homophobic? God hates evil (**Jeremiah 44:4-5**). His people are taught to abhor what is evil and to cling to what is good (**Romans 12:9**). God loves all sinners, yet their sins are abhorrent to Him, and they must repent and obey Him in order to please Him and be accepted by Him (**Acts 10:34**). God's people are taught to love God, to love their brethren, to love even their enemies. Christians cannot accept evil, including homosexual behavior, but are obligated to reprove it and to teach and urge those who are living in sin to turn away from evil and to turn to God in obedience (**Hebrews 5:9**).

(Knowing that this article was written about a decade or so ago reminds us that our current difficulties on this topic are the result of an ongoing battle between the sensually minded servants of satan and the righteous minded servants of God. This topic has certainly become more volatile in our present social climate but must still be considered in light of the same evidence.

Even if the entire world approves of this practice, as followers of Christ we must always look to God's Word for authority. The love of God will not overlook disobedience. We are warned of God's wrath upon those who refuse to heed His commands. If we truly have concern for our fellow man we must do what we can to help them know God and submit to His will. We cannot give in to the pressure of society and we cannot submit to the world's idea of love. Urging sinners to leave their sin while keeping ourselves away from sin is what God expects of us. DLH)