

A STUDY IN CONTRAST

By Roelf L. Ruffner

“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” (1 Cor. 6:9,10 – NKJ).

Last Sunday evening, February 22, the Bellview church of Christ in Pensacola, Florida, had their marquee sign vandalized with paint, and then in a separate attack, most of the letters were removed (All was caught on a surveillance camera.). What offended these vandals so much that they did this deed? The sign read: “Will Not Inherit The Kingdom of God: Homosexuals.” Apparently God’s word offended them and caused them to decide to persecute our brethren.

I know the brethren at Bellview. I have spoken there many times and have supporters there. The eldership, brethren Paul Brantley and Michael Hatcher, are not tepid folk. Brother Hatcher’s interview with a television reporter was revealing:

“Hatcher says the church won't stop putting messages on the board, whether they're deemed controversial by the public or not. ‘No, because God's word isn't going to change. People might try to change the sign and what it says. They can try and destroy it. But they can't destroy Gods word.’ Now the church says the sign was scheduled to come down on Monday or Tuesday anyway. But as we've shown you, they've replaced it with the same message, and plan on letting it stay for another two weeks.”

I know these brethren and they do not compromise God’s word, whether it is the issue of elder re-evaluation/reaffirmation or the issue of homosexuality. Our dying world needs to hear and obey the word of God! “O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD” (Jer. 22:29).

We all know how the homosexual agenda is being forced upon our country; gay or unnatural marriage in particular. Bible believing people are being bullied and persecuted for simply obeying the word of God. But so was Jesus! He never compromised His message or “toned it down.” He eventually was tortured and died a horrifying death for the word of God.

The other day I received notification from Lipscomb University's College of Bible and Ministry of their upcoming "Youth Ministry Conference" on March 3, 2015.

"Join us for an important discussion regarding sexual identity, sexual abuse, shame and youth ministry. You will learn to address these vital topics pastorally, biblically, and practically. With Dr. Mark Yarhouse and Dr. Beth Robinson as featured keynotes, this conference will bless your ministry with young adults."

Knowing LU's reputation for disregarding the word of God for the opinions of men I read further. My suspicions were confirmed. The conference dealt with the issue of homosexuality but not the way Bellview did. Notice the contrast:

"Sexual Identity and the Youth Minister: Walking with LGBT Youth"

"This session will provide the youth minister with important background information on sexual identity. We will review what we know and do not know about sexual identity, its development and synthesis as well as some of the challenges facing youth ministers who wish to speak into a young person's life today."

"The Bible and Gay/Lesbian Issues Parts 1 & 2"

"This class will provide a broad overview of the biblical texts that mention homosexuality and discuss how those texts are interpreted by Christians and scholars. You will learn different nuances of the text that are contained in the original language, cultural backgrounds, historical setting and more."

Do you whiff "the speech of Ashdod" (Neh. 13:24) in this putrid excuse for "teaching" inherent in this conference? Nashville, TN, home of Lipscomb University, is a hotbed of sodomite/lesbian activity. I imagine LU would also face vandalism if they taught God's truth on this issue. Yet this is a seminar for spiritual pacifists. They will dilute the clear teaching of the Holy Bible for the opinions of men. They don't want to get in trouble with their community. "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15,16).

Dear reader, religious liberalism/progressivism such as LU exhibits will never save a field mouse. It has taken over men's hearts and even congregations of our Lord. Now it has captured most of our "Christian" colleges. I dare say it is the "spirit of anti-christ – the spirit of error" (1 John 4:1-6). Note the contrast between the Godly actions of the Bellview congregation and the feeble attempt at relevancy by LU. LU has left its first love – the Truth. Bellview is defending that Truth in love. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Rev. 2:4,5). Do LU and the brethren who still support it have any candlestick left?

<http://www.weartv.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/controversal-church-sign-vandalized-55622.shtml#.VPG9vsJdVIy> as of February 28, 2015

<http://www.lipscomb.edu/bible/ym-schedule> as of February 28, 2015