



"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

VOLUME 07 ISSUE 04

APRIL 2004

PAGE 1

The Ten Commandments—Commandment #7 (Exodus 34:28)



"Thou shalt not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14)

Introduction

Christians and non-Christians are aware that a man or woman who spends a moment of nakedness with

someone other than their spouse is committing adultery. But what of other common practices? Is it adultery to spend such time before getting married? Is it adultery to view pornography? Is it adultery to mentally undress another person that is not their spouse? Is it adultery to watch nudity in movies and television? Is it adultery to like to see skimpy dressed people? Is it adultery to dress in a skimpy manner? Is it adultery to listen to and/or participate in sexual innuendos? Many of these and other questions will be addressed.

How was this message compiled?

We used Isaiah's method of Bible study in Isaiah 28:9-10, which is to gather more than just a verse or two on the subject. We reviewed every verse using the word adultery or fornication or the form thereof. We then searched for other verses that provide a precept or concept of the subject without specifically using the word adultery or fornication. The results being so numerous do not permit an all inclusive use of the verses, but what is included is the overall position of God on the subject.

Is this command still binding in all its aspects?

"And he said unto him, Why callest thou

me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and [thy] mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Matthew 19:17-19) Jesus goes as far as to state that practicing adultery is to reject eternal life.

"But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and [from] fornication, and [from] things strangled, and [from] blood" (Acts 15:20). The early church counseled against fornication, which is adultery.

"For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if [there be] any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Romans 13:9). Paul continued to speak out against practicing adultery.

And Paul goes as far as Jesus stated, it is a matter of salvation. "For this is the will of God, [even] your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication" (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

What is the penalty for continuing in adultery?

"And the man that committeth adultery with [another] man's wife, [even he] that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death" (Leviticus 20:10).

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not

WE ARE NOT A CHURCH BUT ENCOURAGE ALL TO ATTEND CHURCH NOT AS A PEW WARMER BUT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries at PO Box 10607, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Strengthen faith in God's Word.

MISSION FOCUS:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by reaching out to the communities through our newsletter (since 1998) as well as through our evangelistic seminars (since 1994). It is to help keep those that are discouraged about things they see inside the church from leaving, to ground those that are new or have not heard of these things before, and to strengthen those that are already grounded. And to reach out to those that are searching for a meaningful relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ.

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Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

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FUTURE WWW.TSTL.NET:

- Converted all the online study guides to the new site.

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deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind" (1 Corinthians 6:9).

"[But] whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he [that] doeth it destroyeth his own soul" (Proverbs 6:32).

Can we personally determine if something is adulterous or not?

"Such [is] the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness" (Proverbs 30:20). We can convince ourselves that we have done nothing wrong, but in God's perfect wisdom, the acts of adultery are broad and wide. It even guards against the first step of the most addictive sin.

What about magazines, strippers, movies, television, etc.?

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery; But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28).

"The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguiseth [his] face" (Job 24:15). God knew that the most frequent time for the viewing of movies, pornography especially on the Internet, etc. would occur at night.

"And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, [as] they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots [they are] and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children" (2 Peter 2:13-14).

Lusting includes any form of pleasure in viewing nudity, sexually explicit material, and even skimpy clad people.

What about speaking sexually?

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matthew 15:19). So even in jest, conversation classed as adultery and fornication is considered evil. It used to be said that religion was public and sexuality was

private. Now sexuality is public and religion is private. How the world is turned upside down!

What about enjoying sexual conversation from people, television, movies, etc.?

"I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators" (1 Corinthians 5:9).

"But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (1 Corinthians 5:11).

Keeping company includes pulling up a seat and watching it.

Is a committed relationship young in life permissible of sexual activity?

"They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof [is] good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery" (Hosea 4:13).

"Marriage [is] honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

Teens in school who catch another stealing their mate in a sexual manner usually in a verbal argument will cry the words, "You whore!" So even though such arguments should not take place among teens, they are correct. God condemns premarital activity.

What about divorce and remarriage?

"But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery" (Matthew 5:32).

"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except [it be] for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:9).

"And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a

woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery” (Mark 10:11-12).

“So then if, while [her] husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man” (Romans 7:3).

Please refer to the September 2001 Newsletter (online at <http://www.tstl.net/Newsletters/Newsletters/2001-09.asp#main>) for details, but in short, divorcing over any issue other than the act of adultery is in itself adultery. Separation may be necessary for protection. Then even if it is a legitimate divorce, marrying another is adultery. Divorce is simply the removal of any obligations towards each other, especially in a sexual relationship. Remarriage however, is not permissible until death of one or the other.

Is self pleasure adultery?

“Nevertheless, [to avoid] fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband” (1 Corinthians 7:2). Anything outside of this relationship is a form of adultery. In other words, one would be cheating on the other even if no one else is involved.

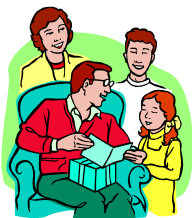
Once an adulterer, always an adulterer?

“And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with [his] finger wrote on the ground, [as though he heard them not]. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard [it], being convicted by [their own] conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, [even] unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more” (John 8:3-11). There is forgiveness, although earthly consequences can and usually do continue.

IN THE CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

- PAGE 1** — New Testament Lesson in children’s language.
- PAGE 2** — Old Testament Lesson in children’s language.
- PAGE 3** — Character Lesson — Application of character attributes from both Bible lessons.
- PAGE 4** — Nature Lesson — Learning from God’s nature.
- PAGE 5** — Health Lesson — Taking care of the body.
- PAGE 6** — Coloring Page — Alternating between either the Old or New Testament
- PAGE 7** — Puzzle and Definitions — Matching from both Bible lessons and answers to questions.
- PAGE 8** — Learning Activities — Object lessons in our work and in our play.

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT (Prov. 22:6)



Character Examples From the Bible – Quick Speaking Peter

Matthew 17:24-27 *And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute [money]*

came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend

them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Answering questions without thinking it through, like Peter did in this example, is not a good character trait. There are more consequences than advantages of being able to answer questions quickly. There are regrets, an appearance of changing answers called flip-flopping, and also it creates undue stubbornness because of the frequency of being wrong. Overall, people that answer quickly, especially without all the facts, are usually people that are not trustworthy.

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BIBLE CLASSES

All classes are conducted at 700 Clay St, Carlisle, PA 17013 and are **free**. Call 717-249-TSTL (8785) for reservation.

What Does the Bible Say About - The Last Days?

» » » May 6, 6:00 p.m.

Beyond the increase of earthquakes, the Bible is quite specific regarding signs of the last days both inside and outside of the church.

The Seed of the Woman

» » » May 14, 8:00 a.m.

God made a promise to Adam and Eve that from Eve there would be a seed that would rise up and put enmity between the children of Eve and Satan. The Bible reveals four specific prophecies regarding the seed of the woman.

What Does the Bible Say About - Our Finances?

» » » May 19, 6:00 p.m.

God has an investment plan as well as budgeting advice. What are they? Come and let us study the many verses on the subject of finances.

Can I Trust the Bible?

» » » May 24, 8:00 a.m.

With all the different versions available and some versions contradicting another version, can we really trust the Bible? We are over 3000 years from the first word being penned. Has time and copying altered? These and other questions will be addressed.

What Does the Bible Say About - Marriage?

» » » May 26, 8:00 a.m.

Is being in love all that matters? Once the marriage is recognized, what guidelines does God have? It is for those thinking of marriage, already married, and even those contemplating divorce. Couples or singles will appreciate the information provided.

BIBLE STUDY



How Is It Possible?
(Matthew 19:26)

1. What did the rich man have to do to be perfect? **Matthew 19:21**
2. In what direction did the rich man go? **Matthew 19:22**
3. What question did the apostles ask that makes this a salvation issue? **Matthew 19:25**
4. How can we be perfect? **Matthew 19:26**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Bearing Record (Revelation 1:2)

1. In addition to the Word of God, why else was John banished to Patmos? **Revelation 1:9** "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."
2. In addition to keeping the commandments of God, what else identifies the Remnant? **Revelation 12:17** "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."
3. What does the Bible define it as? **Revelation 19:10** "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See [thou do it] not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

NEWS FOR CHILDREN OF LIGHT (1 Thessalonians 5:5)



-COMMENTS ON ITEMS IN THE NEWS SURROUNDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 -

The following are "sudden destruction" news items that appeared between February 16 and March 15, 2004. [Preview future "sudden destruction" news snippets at www.tstl.net/suddendestruction.]

» » MSNBC, March 15, 2004 - Al-Qaida link seen in Spain attack

Authorities are investigating whether the terrorist bombings in Madrid last week and in Casablanca last year may be linked, focusing on a Moroccan who was arrested in Spain over the weekend, Moroccan and Spanish officials told The Associated Press on Monday.

COMMENT: Matthew 24:6 "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

» » CNN, February 19, 2004 - U.S. official: Uranium enrichment parts found in Iran

International Atomic Energy Agency officials found "P-2" centrifuge parts that are "far superior, more sophisticated than anything" that the Iranians have revealed publicly, the official said. A P-2 centrifuge can produce much more uranium appropriate for production of nuclear weapons than a P-1, which the nation confirms it has.

COMMENT: Matthew 24:6 "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

TSTL'S EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS
700 CLAY STREET, CARLISLE, PA 17013 ♦ (717) 249-8785

MAY SCHEDULE

Sunday May 2

3:00pm Internet Safety

Monday May 3

8:00am Microsoft Word Customizing
3:00pm PowerPoint Techniques
6:00pm ASP Coding With Access

Tuesday May 4

8:00am ASP Coding With SQL
3:00pm I Can See
6:00pm Microsoft Access Macros

Wednesday May 5

8:00am Microsoft Word Art
3:00pm Introduction To ASP
6:00pm Reading Food Labels

Thursday May 6

8:00am Windows Explorer
3:00pm Word Create A Newsletter
6:00pm What Does the Bible Say
About the Last Days?

Friday May 7

8:00am Microsoft Word Tables

Sunday May 9 Mother's Day

Monday May 10

8:00am Microsoft Word Introduction
3:00pm Word Bullets and Numbering
6:00pm Microsoft Excel Budget

Tuesday May 11

8:00am Excel Intro. To Databases

3:00pm ASP Coding -Page Counters
6:00pm Microsoft Access Forms

Wednesday May 12

8:00am Microsoft Word Headers &
Footers And Columns Too
3:00pm Word Indexes & Tables
6:00pm Web Development Forms

Thursday May 13

8:00am Microsoft Excel Charts
3:00pm Microsoft Access Reports
6:00pm Microsoft Access Queries

Friday May 14

8:00am The Seed of the Woman

Sunday May 16

3:00pm Word Borders and Shading

Monday May 17

8:00am Outlook Advanced Features
3:00pm Microsoft Word Web Pages
6:00pm Web Development Frames

Tuesday May 18

8:00am Excel Macros Introduction
3:00pm Microsoft Word Macros
6:00pm Microsoft Excel Introduction

Wednesday May 19

8:00am Outlook Introduction
3:00pm ASP Coding - Functions
6:00pm What Does the Bible Say
About Our Finances?

Thursday May 20

8:00am Making Smart Charitable
Decisions
3:00pm Stress Reduction
6:00pm A Healthy You

Friday May 21

8:00am Virtual Cars

Sunday May 23

3:00pm Virtual Homes

Monday May 24

8:00am Can I Trust the Bible?
3:00pm Web Dev. Block Formatting
6:00pm Lose Weight and Continue
Eating Your Favorite Foods

Tuesday May 25

8:00am Resume & Interviewing
3:00pm Home Budgeting
6:00pm Excel Cell Formating

Wednesday May 26

8:00am What Does the Bible Say
About Marriage?
3:00pm Windows - Introduction
6:00pm Microsoft Excel Math
Functions

Thursday May 26

8:00am Excel Lookup Functions
3:00pm Excel Logical And
Informational Functions
6:00pm Excel Date & Time Functions

Friday May 28

8:00am Excel Financial Functions

**Sunday May 30 Memorial
Weekend**

Monday May 31 Memorial Day

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WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED? *(Isaiah 53:1)*

- COMMENTS ON ITEMS IN THE NEWS -



The following are news items that appeared between February 16 and March 15, 2004. [Preview future news snippets at www.tstl.net/news/.]

►► **WorldNetDaily, March 11, 2004 - Planned**

Parenthood hires national chaplain

In an apparent attempt to mend relations with Christians, Planned Parenthood has hired a national chaplain to "articulate the spiritual dimensions of sexuality and reproduction." Rev. Ignacio Castuera, senior pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church in the Watts district of Los Angeles, also will seek to build better

relations with the largely pro-life Hispanic community. Castuera was head of the Latina Outreach Project of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and has worked in association with the California Abortion Rights Action League, according to Planned Parenthood. He also was honored by the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights for his commitment to abortion rights.

COMMENT: John 10:10 *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly."* Job 27:8 *"For what [is] the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?"*

(Continued in sidebar)

THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER AND BE IN HEALTH, EVEN AS THY SOUL PROSPERETH *(3 John 1:2)*



HEALTH SNIPPET:

Topic: Do What Is Right

2 Kings 5:9-14 *So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.*

And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. [Are] not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, [if] the prophet had bid thee [do some] great thing, wouldest thou not have done [it]? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

When we have an ailment, in some cases the ailment either requires something we

HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE RECIPE:

Tarter or Dip Sauce (from a reader)

- 1 C Sliced cucumbers (no skin)
- ¼ C Oil (not olive)
- ¼ C Lemon juice
- ¼ C Water
- 1 t Salt
- 1 T Onion powder
- ½ t Garlic powder
- 1 T Honey
- 3-4 T Rice or potato flour

Blend above. Stir in:

- 1 t Dill
- 1 t Parsley
- 1 t Chives

do not want to do or cease. Smoking brings on cancer but many get angry at the thought of quitting. Bowel problems are in many times caused by improper eating but many dare not be told to eat properly for they would have a fit. Cysts are created by the body encasing trichina worms but to tell someone to give up pork products can cause a rage. Naaman eventually listened to the servant. Will you listen to the servant? The servant of the Lord that is.

►► **AP, March 9, 2004 - Man Killed During Initiation at Masonic Lodge**

A man was killed during a Masonic initiation ceremony when another member fired a gun loaded with real bullets instead of the expected blanks and shot him in the face, police said Tuesday.

COMMENT: The Lord declares through the prophet Isaiah: *"Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us. For the Lord spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Say ye not, A confederacy {secret society}, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the Lord of hosts Himself; and let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread."* Isa. 8:9-13.

►► **Fox, March 3, 2004 - Gay couples in Oregon latest city gay activism**

Multnomah County is just the latest in a string of cities and towns that are acting out on their own and issuing marriage licenses to gay marriage couples.

COMMENT: Genesis 19:4-5 *"But before they lay down, the men of the city, [even] the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where [are] the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them."* Luke 17:28-30 *"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they*

(Continued on page 7)

ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH (Daniel 10:21)



QUESTION #1 – Harrisburg, PA – Should preachers use themselves in examples of doing the right thing when preaching? It comes across as uplifting themselves instead of Jesus.

ANSWER #1 – There is a fine line between boasting to uplift themselves and actually uplifting the righteousness granted to them. But to permit self-examples is Biblical.

1 Corinthians 11:1 says, *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also [am] of Christ.”*

2 Corinthians 10:8 says, *“For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed”.*

QUESTION #2 – Duncannon, PA – What did Achan do and what were the consequences?

ANSWER #2 – According to Joshua 7:1 it says, *“But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.”* Evidently, Achan took something that he should not have - specifically an accursed thing. That comes from chapter six verse seventeen where Joshua, speaking for the Lord, said, *“And the city shall be accursed, [even] it, and all that [are] therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that [are] with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.”* So everything inside Jericho was accursed and anyone taking it for his own was in disobedience. A second warning in verse eighteen was issued, *“And ye, in any wise keep [yourselves] from the accursed thing, lest ye make [yourselves] accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.”*

What happened next? Joshua 7:2-5 details an embarrassing defeat to Israel by a small and weak people of Ai.

Now in Joshua 7:6-15 is a prayer session between Joshua and God discussing the ramifications of the defeat, the reason for the defeat, and what to do with the perpetrator.

And we pick up the rest of the answer to our question in Joshua 7:16-26, *“So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarahites: and he brought the family of the Zarahites man by man; and Zabdi was taken: And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide [it] not from me. And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they [are] hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, [it was] hid in his tent, and the silver under it. And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.”*

And to think, this was just a small thing that Achan did, that is if you look at the object, but outright disobedience against God is a grave sin and evidently a costly one - just ask Adam and Eve.

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bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

►► **CNN, February 25, 2004 - Bush calls for ban on same-sex marriages**

President Bush endorsed a constitutional amendment Tuesday that would restrict marriage to two people of the opposite sex but leave open the possibility that states could allow civil unions.

COMMENT: Matthew 19:4-6 *“And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made [them] at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”* Allowing men and men and women and women into marriage is a form of putting assunder what God intended to join - man and woman.

►► **Sun-Sentinel, February 24, 2004 - Lawsuit threatened after gay couple denied marriage license in Broward**


Gay activists and attorneys in Florida were quietly and carefully monitoring how the legal campaign for same-sex marriage was going in liberal states like Massachusetts and California.


COMMENT: Romans 1:22-27 *“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and*


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creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."

▶▶ **CBS, February 23, 2004 - HIV Spread Seen In W. Europe**

The virus that causes AIDS is spreading again in Western Europe and is rampaging through Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where it infected 250,000 people last year, a United Nations health official said Monday. Eastern Europe and Central Asia are experiencing the fastest-growing HIV epidemic in the world, said Peter Piot, the executive director of the U.N. AIDS organization.

COMMENT: Matthew 24:7 *"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."*

▶▶ **AP, February 18, 2004 - S.F. Mayor Says Gay Weddings to Continue**

After two judges declined to immediately end San Francisco's same-sex wedding spree, the mayor said the city would keep issuing marriage licenses to gay couples as conservative groups vowed to take their case to higher courts.

COMMENT: Matthew 10:15 *"Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city."* Jude 1:7 *"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."*

▶▶ **WorldNetDaily.Com, February 25, 2004 - Father spans daughter**

A father shocked students in a high school biology class by calling his daughter out of her seat and spanking her after learning she had disrupted the class. The unusual intervention at

Cudahy High School in Cudahy, Wis., near Milwaukee prompted school officials to call in police. But Cudahy police and the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare said after a review they found no basis for child abuse or neglect, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

COMMENT: Proverbs 13:24 *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*

BIBLE THOUGHT

Seven Times In A Day!

Luke 17:4 *"And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."*

This is what we all should strive for. We need to be forgiving one another more often. This does not mean to let the person slide though. In context, *"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him"* (Luke 17:3). To simply forgive is unbiblical. Repentance is required. But not to forgive is equally unbiblical.