

*The Lord Has
Chosen You*



The Lord Has Chosen You

In this series we have noticed David commands his son Solomon to come to “know his God” and to “serve Him faithfully.” He inspires him to do so by telling him that “God knows his thoughts.” He wants Solomon to fully understand that God understands his heart like no other; so, he must seek God, and when he has found Him he must never “forsake him.” David now shares with his son Solomon, “Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it” (1 Chron. 28:10).

I picture David as he was issuing this challenge to Solomon and imagine him thinking about some experiences in his own life. Maybe David remembers how God had been with him, or all the times he had failed God. I wonder if he thought about the occasion when he became King? Samuel comes to the house of Jesse, his father, and after each of his brothers one by one are rejected, David is summoned

from the fields where he was taking care of the sheep and is anointed in front of his family. God had once called David himself into service, and David now relays that same message to his own son. What a glorious feeling that must have given Solomon, but at the same time the responsibilities of the tasks that lie ahead of him could have been a little overwhelming.

When you and I ponder the idea of being chosen or called for something, what is one of the first thoughts that comes to mind? For me it is many years ago during my grammar school years. It’s recess and I’m standing with friends waiting for someone to call my name to play football or some other type of sport. At my school, and probably most, the sides were chosen by the most popular and most athletic students in school. They would do their choosing with popularity as the main criteria. As I stand waiting patiently for my name to be called, all kinds



Volume 37 - Number 3 - May/June 2018
BC is published every other month. Send all inquiries, address changes and subscriptions to the editor: L Scott Gage, PO Box 3425, Fayetteville, AR 72702-3425 Voice 479-521-6809 Email: Lsgage129@cs.com

www.basicchristianity.net

Guernsey puts it: “If we lose traditional marriage, religious liberty will be lost along with it.”

What’s more alarming is that a growing segment of the homosexual community accepts the molestation of children.

The *Journal of Homosexuality* (whose editor, John deCecco, also sits on the editorial board of the pedophilia advocacy journal *Paedika*) ran a double issue in 1990 that was devoted entirely to “male intergenerational intimacy.” In fact, the *San Francisco Sentinel*, a Bay Area gay-activist newspaper, published a piece arguing that pedophilia is central to male homosexual life.

Same sex marriage should be defeated in all four states, as it has been in 32 states to date.

Michael J McManus
Sept. 20, 2012

“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lust of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also

the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

Romans 1:24-32

If you or someone you know would like to receive BC, send the name and mailing address to:

Basic Christianity

PO Box 3425

Fayetteville, AR 72702-3425

Or

Lsgage129@cs.com

A Federal judge dismissed the case, ruling that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the schools had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children, and that schools have no obligation to notify parents or let them opt-out children.

“Think about that,” wrote some parents. “Because same-sex marriage is `legal,’ a federal judge has ruled that the schools now have a DUTY to portray homosexual relationships as normal despite what their parents think or believe!”

It has become commonplace in Massachusetts for teachers to prominently display photos of their same-sex “spouses.” Hundreds of high schools and even middle schools now hold “gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender appreciation days” to fight “intolerance.”

All insurance in the state must now recognize same sex married couples in coverage and businesses must give them all benefits accorded to heterosexuals. Wedding photographers, halls and caterers must do same-sex marriages or be arrested for discrimination.

Catholic Charities abandoned handling adoptions after more than a century rather than being forced to place children with gays and lesbians.

In New Mexico Vanessa Willock asked Elane Photography to photograph her same gender “commitment ceremony.” Elane replied that it photographed “traditional weddings.” Willock filed a discrimination suit with the New Mexico Human Rights Commission, charging that Elane is a “public accommodation” like a restaurant who denied her services because of her sexual orientation. The Commission ruled against Elane and ordered it to pay \$6,600 in attorney fees. Columnist George Will said the case “demonstrates how advocates of tolerance become tyrannical.”

“Because same-sex marriage is `legal,’ a federal judge has ruled that the schools now have a DUTY to portray homosexual relationships as normal despite what their parents think or believe!”

In New Jersey, a beachfront property operated by United Methodists, the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, was sued for refusing to rent for a lesbian couple’s civil union ceremony. A judge ruled against Ocean Grove because New Jersey legalized civil unions under court order.

As Anglican Bishop John

of thoughts run thru my mind: “Who will be chosen first? Will someone choose me?” I look back now and realize that was unimportant to say the least, but at that young age, you desperately want to be accepted and feel wanted. If only for one recess, you want to feel special!

Have you given serious thought to the idea of being chosen by God?

When thinking about our being “chosen” in some earthly experience, it might have been a great fun-filled time, but it could have also been very stressful. Have you given serious thought to the idea of being chosen by God? When you think of God’s great love, and sending His only begotten Son to the Cross in place of our sins, does that make you feel special? In choosing us He does so on a completely different scale than the most popular child in school. God chooses based on love! God has chosen each of us to serve Him. He has called each of us to service.

In Paul’s 2nd letter to the Church in Thessalonica he tells them, “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, Brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation thru sanctification by the Spirit and belief in truth, to which He

called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thess. 2:13-14). As God’s Children we are given the opportunity to be a part of the greatest nation ever known. Peter tells us, “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Pet. 2:9-10). At the time of Peter’s writing, he is admonishing first century Christians, who had come from every background imaginable, to realize that they had previously not really been a people at all up until becoming Children of God. To this day we still share with the early disciples the greatest name ever given, “The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch” (Acts 11:26).

As God’s Children, we are given the chance to be a very bright light in a world that sorely needs the influence of Godly individuals! In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven” (Matt. 5:16). It is our responsibility to prove to the world around us that the darkness of the world no longer has a hold on us. In Paul’s writing to the Colossians he tells them,

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Col. 1:13-14). Make no mistake, the world and all that is in it has a very powerful attraction! John admonishes us, “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 Jn. 2:16-17).

Make no mistake, the world and all that is in it has a very powerful attraction!

Forever is exactly how long God desires that we be with Him. His gospel is calling to us. God desperately looks for us, so why is it so difficult sometimes to find or reach us? It’s because of the same reasons the Apostle John mentioned so long ago; the world and the lust of it is very powerful! We, individually and as a society, are on a constant search for real and lasting happiness; but unfortunately, it is in the world that many, if not most, look and in so doing are missing the greatest gift of all! In Peter’s 2nd letter he tells us, “Grace and peace be multiplied to you

in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by the glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Pet. 1:2-4). The promises of God are real and are ours if we choose to live for God.

No doubt Solomon does have a great task in front of him and his father David tells him, “The Lord has chosen you; be strong and do it.” When God chooses you to do something, it must be done. No questions asked! The Lord’s gospel still calls today as loudly and clearly as ever, but are we listening? God has chosen each one of us for His service, and just like Solomon we must, “Know God and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you.” God’s calling must be answered by our coming to Him in faith, putting on Christ in Baptism, having our sins washed away. “Be strong and do it!”

Tom Bennett
Spearsville, Louisiana

is narrowing in Maine.

“When people hear their legislature is considering a law like this and they think, ‘What’s the harm?’, they need to realize that there is a direct threat to religious liberty – to business owners, employees, religious entities,” said Jim Campbell of the Alliance Defense Fund.

“When people hear their legislature is considering a law like this and they think, ‘What’s the harm?’, they need to realize that there is a direct threat to religious liberty.

Maggie Gallagher, President of National Organization for Marriage, is blunt: “Christian adoption agencies will be driven out of the public square, which has already happened in Massachusetts, Washington D.C. and Illinois. There will be fewer parents for troubled children.

“Schools will teach gay marriage is a civil right. Small businesses that do weddings will have to help gay couples get married or will be treated the way we treat bigots opposed to interracial marriages, even if individual clergy are not required to recognize gay marriage.”

For example, Wildflower Inn in Lyndonville, Vermont refused to allow their facilities to be rented for the wedding reception of a lesbian couple, even though the state has legalized same-sex marriage. The inn’s owners, Jim and Mary O’Reilly, said it violated their Catholic faith.

The lesbians sued and won the case, forcing the owners to pay \$30,000 in fines: \$20,000 to a charity chosen by the lesbians and \$10,000 to the Human Rights Commission. Further, the owners were told they had to rent their facilities to all couples, or none. The O’Reillys chose none. By living their faith, they were fined and deprived of future income.

Carroll Conley, Executive Director of the Christian Civic League of Maine, which is leading the battle against same-sex marriage, said, “In Massachusetts, parents of second graders in 2006 were not allowed to remove their children from a curriculum promoting marriage between two men.”

The kids were read a book, “King and King,” about two men who have a romance and marry each other, with a picture of them kissing. The parents of two second graders sued to force the schools to notify parents and allow them to opt-out their children when homosexual-related topics were taught.

Same-Sex Marriage

(This article appeared on September 20, 2012. It is by Michael J McManus in his syndicated *Ethics and Religion* column. It is alarming how far we have drifted in just these few years since this article appeared. All our institutions from the courts to the schools accept these practices as normal and moral. Many of the states that once passed legislation opposing same-sex marriage have been forced to change their stance on the issue by the United States Supreme Court. According to Wikipedia:

Same-sex marriage in the United States was initially established on a state-by-state basis, expanding from 1 state in 2004 to 36 states in 2015, when, on June 26, 2015, same-sex marriage was established in all 50 states as a result of the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States in the landmark civil rights case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*, in which it was held that the right of same-sex couples to marry on the same terms and conditions as opposite-sex couples, with all the accompanying rights and responsibilities, is guaranteed by both the Due Process

Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

It is clear that the moral issues raised by same-sex marriage have been lost in the legal rights. America has lost its way. The Judeo-Christian Ethic on which our country was founded has been abandoned in recent years. It is our duty to preach the truth about same-sex marriage since it is opposed to Biblical teaching. Whether states decide to grant legal rights to same-sex couples is a separate issue from the moral issue raised. State institutions should not be forced to teach curriculums that are opposed to Biblical doctrines. Can you imagine the Supreme Court of the United States ruling that all our schools must teach Biblical doctrines? That is anathema to current thinking. Why then must the homosexual agenda be forced on schools and other institutions? May God grant us the wisdom to return to our roots. ...lsg)

Same-Sex Marriage Will Change Culture

Same-sex marriage is on the ballot this fall in Maryland, Minnesota, Washington State and Maine. Polls show support for it now in all four states, though it

Banking for the Future

As tourists in England, we walk into the Millennium Bank hoping to withdraw a little extra spending cash. "I'd like to get some money out of my account," we state to the casually dressed clerk. "Pardon me?" they reply. "Money; I need some money," we reply with a hint of impatience in our voice. "I'm sorry, but this is not a money bank. This is a seed bank."

A seed bank? The Millennium Seed Bank is one of a growing number of depositories of seeds. Such institutions can also be

"What a novel idea!" some may respond. But it really isn't...

found in the United States, as well as in China, Brazil, Norway, South Korea or Mexico. The trend is growing (no pun intended) as more attention is given to potential threats associated with global warming. There is a determined effort to store samples of all species of seed known to man.

"What a novel idea!" some may respond. But it really isn't, according to a May 23, 2007 article on NPR.org. The practice can be traced to ancient Mesopotamia, the article states, when surpluses in harvests would be

stored in protected areas. Later, when harvests were not so abundant, there would still be seed to plant the following year.

From that ancient practice of storing seed comes our modern model of financial banking, says the article. That makes sense. As we "harvest" more income than we currently need, it's good to have a secure place in which to store our money. Later we'll need that extra, and we can remove from our account what is needed. There are a few among us who stash their money under mattresses or in their backyards, but most are comfortable with banks.

Another turn that has been taken with this concept is the banking of sperm. Couples who wish to have children may face present constraints which make this a wise choice. The husband may be facing a dire illness; treatments could lead to infertility. Banking his sperm would therefore help to ensure that the "seed" is there when it's a better time to have a child. According to Wikipedia.org, a child was conceived in the United Kingdom from sperm that had been frozen for 21 years!

Blood is routinely banked. The American Red Cross aims to have several days' worth of each type of blood on reserve at any

given time. In times of disaster or when donors are scarce, the supplies drop. Urgent calls for help will go out to past donors so the reserve can be built up again. The blood is not needed at that precise moment, but it's vital that stores are always available.

But seed banking? Seeds are so, well, humble. Most seeds are small, drably colored and wrinkled or shriveled. What's so special about seeds that justifies massive efforts to collect them and store them for the future?

A gardener would never ask such a question. Those who till the soil hold seeds in awe. It's not an ugly lump of matter you're holding in your hand - it's potential. From that seed will come life, life that will bless the gardener and many others besides. Whether it brings forth beans, corn, squash or okra, it will nourish loved ones.

From that perspective, it is indeed a tragedy to approach the season of planting with no seeds in hand. For life to continue, we must have an adequate supply of seeds.

God Himself has banks. In His questioning of Job, God said this: "Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail?" (Job 38:22) Psalm 135:7 is a similar statement: "He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the

earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries." The idea is clear: God has resources at His command. When He decides to send wind, snow or hail upon a location, He can go to the "banks" and withdraw what is needed. God is the ultimate Banker.

As Israel began conquering their Promised Land, they came upon vast amounts of spoil. Whose would these be? Sometimes the

God is the ultimate Banker.

people were given permission to take it for themselves. But there were other occasions like this one, where Joshua gave special instructions: "But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord" (Joshua 6:19). In that case, the "bank" was literal. The precious metals would later be crafted into implements used in the tabernacle and temple of God.

There is another kind of bank God maintains, and it should be of greatest interest to us. Proverbs 2:6,7 makes mention of this: "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly." No, it's not a store of material goods,

but of spiritual treasures. Those who seek wisdom that is higher than their own may make withdrawals from God's bank.

Jesus spoke of this bank, open to all who see their need. In Luke 8 He taught the parable of the sower. He spoke of a man who scattered seeds on different types of ground. Some ground

Jesus spoke of this bank, open to all who see their need.

was hard and did not receive the seeds at all. On other soil rocks or thorns challenged the growth of the seeds. Only on the good ground did the seeds realize their potential. Many were blessed because of the fruit and vegetables produced by that seed.

What was Jesus' point? He states the basis of the parable in Luke 8:11: "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." God's word, Jesus said, is very much like seed. To some, it's drab and lifeless. It's the last thing in the world they want to put into their hearts. But those who give this seed a chance will find surprising results. Their lives will be enriched in ways they had never imagined.

Before Jesus came to visit in his home, Zacchaeus was a despised man. None of his neighbors cared for him. By the time Jesus

departed, salvation had come to this tax collector. Zacchaeus was a changed man, vowing to "give half of my goods to the poor" (Luke 19:8). What brought about that change? Clearly, it was the seed Jesus planted in his heart that day.

Amazing things can come from tiny seeds. Jesus taught another parable in Luke 13:19. He stated that the kingdom of God "... is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches." The mustard seed is tiny. But great blessings come from planting it in good ground.

The Bible is God's seed bank. True, it's a very old book. But that hasn't affected the quality nor the potential of the seed. When you allow God's word to take root in your life, stand back and be amazed! You will see good things emerge that will bless you and those around you.

Get started now planting this seed in your heart, just as James urges: "... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). In doing so, you'll be banking for the future, as well as for your present needs.

Timothy D Hall

Hemlines 2/28/2008