

Today's Sermons


Morning: TBA

Evening: TBA

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	31
Sunday AM Worship	412
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	28
Offering	\$1629

Capital Punishment in the Old Testament

MURDER Genesis 9:16 Exodus 21:12 Deuteronomy 19:11-13	KIDNAPPING Exodus 21:16 Deuteronomy 24:7	DEATH BY NEGLIGENCE Exodus 21:28-29	SMITTING OR CURSING A PARENT Exodus 21:15-17
IDOLATRY Deuteronomy 20:1-5	SORCERY Exodus 22:18	FALSE PROPHECY Deuteronomy 18:10, 11, 20	BLASPHEMY Leviticus 24:15-16
PROFANING THE SABBATH DAY Exodus 31:14	ADULTERY Leviticus 21:10 Deuteronomy 22:22	RAPE Deuteronomy 22:23-27	ANTE-CONNUBIAL IMMORALITY Deuteronomy 22:13-21
SODOMY Leviticus 20:13	SEX WITH ANIMALS Leviticus 20:15-16	INCESTUOUS MARRIAGE Leviticus 20:11-14	<p>Sometimes capital punishment was not always carried out.</p> <p>Sometimes other punishments were substituted.</p> <p>Two key words in the Old Testament: 1. "Vengeance" 2. "Justice"</p> <p>Two key words in the New Testament: 1. "Mercy" 2. "Forgiveness"</p> <p>God has always determined the standard of right and wrong.</p> <p>"Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin." Deuteronomy 24:16</p> 



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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKK
93.5 FM

We Extend A Warm & Cordial Welcome To All Our Visitors!

An Open Letter from the Elders of the Branson Church of Christ Concerning Homosexuality

To our friends and neighbors in Branson,

We love homosexuals. You read it correctly. The church of Christ in downtown Branson loves not only homosexuals, but also fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, sodomites, thieves, the covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners. We love all unrighteous people. Why? Because we have also been guilty of unrighteousness (Rom. 3:23). But because God first loved the world (Jo. 3:16; 1 Jo. 4:19), He, by His grace, has taught us how to become righteous (Ti. 2:11-14). For this we should be eternally grateful and desire to share this soul saving information with others (Ro.1:16).

The issue of homosexuality and same sex marriage is a moral issue. God's laws concerning morals are everlasting. Moral laws never change. It has always been wrong to kill, steal, commit adultery, practice homosexuality, etc. From the beginning of time marriage has always been one man and one woman for life (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 1:27-28; Rom. 7:2-3).

Homosexuality is not a civil issue. Comparing it to the treatment of different races is like comparing apples to oranges. It is not the same thing. People have no decision over their race, but they do have the ability to abstain, or, commit sexual acts. Individuals can cease practicing homosexuality. Because God condemns homosexual acts, it is a sin and those who practice, or condone those who practice, such things will not go to heaven (Ro. 1:24-31; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Lev. 20:13). God does not condemn what man cannot control.

Continued Inside

The practice of homosexuality is not genetic. It is a learned behavior. No reputable scientific study has drawn any other conclusion. We know that this message is not popular in today's changing culture. But God has not changed (Mal. 3:6). Therefore we have no choice but to speak what God has spoken, regardless of what man may deem right or lawful (Acts 5:29).

It is not unloving, mean spirited, prejudice, hateful or unrighteous judgment to oppose sin. To speak where God has spoken is not passing wrongful human judgment (Mat. 7:1). To speak where God has spoken is to use righteous judgment (Jo. 7:24). We are only repeating what THE JUDGE (Ja. 4:12) has already proclaimed.

We do not expect people who respect man's wisdom over God's wisdom to agree with our stance (Isa. 55:8; 1 Cor. 1:25; 3:9). We do expect to be judged and, if possible, punished/persecuted by those who disagree with our sharing of God's judgment (Jo. 15:20). Nevertheless, we refuse to be silent concerning issues that will affect a person's soul.

Those who practice homosexuality have souls. Those who condone the practice of homosexuality have souls. God is not willing that any should perish (2 Pet. 3:9). Therefore, because we strive to have the mind of Christ and be imitators of Him, (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 2:5), we also do not want those who practice homosexuality or those who condone its practice to be lost.

We, the church of Christ in downtown Branson, refuse to be numbered with the silent majority. God is not silent. Therefore, neither will we be! Because God desires the repentance of those who practice unrighteousness, we are willing to be accused of hate speech by those who hate God's speech (John 17:17).

Are you living the life of the unrighteous? We love you, but our love for you is not capable of making you righteous. Only your obedience to God's teaching can save you (Mat. 7:21). And it is because of God's love for all people that no matter what transgressions any of us may have committed, the blood of Jesus can wash those sins away, if only we obey the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:1; Gal. 3:27; Rev. 2:10).

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? ... And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Come to Jesus. He will save you!

Elders for the Branson church of Christ,
Blaine Orr and Tim Kidwell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- July 12 – Preach & Eat
- July 25 – Cookout here at building – begin about 3:00 pm
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

He Went to Church

By Bolton Davidheiser

Science and the Bible

Pg. 12-13

The great astronomer John Kepler had predicted mathematically that on December 6, 1631, the planet Venus would pass in front of the sun. Kepler himself did not live to see this day, but a Frenchman named Pierre Gassendi, prepared to observe the phenomenon. He watched in vain, for Venus made its transit across the face of the sun after the sun had set in Europe.

According to Kepler, a transit would not occur again for over a hundred years. But an English boy in his teens, Jeremiah Horrocks, did some figuring of his own and found that Venus should repeat its performance in just a few years. Going over his calculations, he found that indeed it was so and that Venus again should pass in front of the sun on December 4, 1639. He was too timid to mention this to anyone except his best friend, William Crabtree.

Modern astronomers can tell at what time of day such a phenomenon will be visible at any place on earth where it can be seen, but the calculations of Jeremiah Horrocks told him only the day, and it was to be a Sunday. If he saw this transit he would be the first to do so, for no one ever before had observed Venus move across the disk of the sun. After this day no one on earth would have an opportunity to see it for a hundred twenty-one years. Besides the rarity of the event it had important theoretical implications in the science of astronomy.

But the transit was due to occur on a Sunday and “the inward voice seemed to tell him that the Creator Himself is more worthy of worship than the phenomena He has instituted for admiration.” He watched the sun without interruption from sunrise until it was time to go to church. He went to church. When he returned he hastened to his telescope. The transit had just begun! Where his friend Crabtree was watching, the sky was cloudy but it cleared long enough for him to see it also and to confirm the observation of Horrocks.

It is interesting to note, in contrast to this, the experience of a Frenchman named Legentil who went to India to observe the next transit of Venus a hundred twenty-one years later. Because a war was in progress his ship was delayed and he did not reach land until after the transit was over. As the following transit was to occur only eight years later, he decided to wait in India and wait. When the day of the transit arrived the sky was cloudy and he saw nothing of it. After being shipwrecked twice on his way home, he arrived in France to find his heirs preparing to divide his possessions.

Between that time and the present, Venus has crossed the face of the sun twice. The next transit will occur June 8, 2004.

It is indeed remarkable that a boy in his teens could make a calculation of greater exactitude than the great Kepler. It also is remarkable that he would risk missing such an event instead of missing church one Sunday.