

Meeker Christian Church
Pastor Jim Pelley
A Community Of Faith
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I never dreamed any state in the United States in my life, much less our otherwise mostly undistinguished Colorado - would be the leader of directly affronting Christianity which as of May 16th was signed by the governor into Colorado Law as House Bill 25-1312 effectively criminalizing Biblical convictions and punishing Christians for living out their faith and their institutions. Posted in the foyer is a Christian commentary. The action and the attitudes that program, promote and legalize outright threatening and making Christians criminals in Colorado is called a shadow of much, much worse things carefully prophesied coming on this planet earth, including our beloved United States of America. I mentioned this earlier when it was brought to my attention that a Christian Camp was told to totally open their bathrooms, dorms and all facilities at all times to both genders. I prayed to not be forced to preach this sermon - but as you will see later when a related destruction in Meeker is honored as the business of the month by the Chamber Of Commerce I must speak up or step down and shut up. For you see I committed to the following when I was ordained into the ministry: Romans 1:16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

We start today with a thumbnail view of who we are which helps us to understand why we must object to unrighteousness in our day.

Genesis 1:26-28 tells us: *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*

All we humans are created in the image of the Godhead which is: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The spiritual and physical attributes of that creation result in a purpose for life. i.e. we are created as purposeful, proprietor, caretakers of the product of creation, as delegated by the Creator.

You are aware of the fallen angels to earth with the ensuing sin nature maneuvering to corrupt and confound God's plan and purpose right from the beginning in the garden of Eden. For thousands of years satan had taken many of mankind into his evil captivity. Then God the Father sent God the Son who had been present and active in creation to be born, live and die on earth and be resurrected from the dead to provide a renewed provision for the human progeny of creation to recover a personal and eternal inheritance of paradise as it seems earth could have been and would have been without sin's propensity.

The New Testament of the Bible is about Jesus' 33 years on earth and resulting establishment of the church after which we pattern our worship and instruction. And the divine authority of why we object to unrighteousness in whatever disguise it is presented.

Matthew 16:16-18 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Jesus established the church upon the bedrock of Peter's testimony:
Matthew 16:16 *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Verse 18 is a prophetic allusion to the reality in Colorado today: *18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.* Because as the persecution continues and intensifies against Christianity on earth, God is going to remove the church and its influence along with all vestiges of morals, ethics, and righteousness. Everyone will do whatever enters their mind, lawlessness will terrorize the land, and for 7 years we are taught that the persecution and every possible perversion of righteousness will be the framework of existence resulting in ½ or more of the remaining population will die or be killed after Christians are raptured.

But at this time - today - while we, the remnant of Christ's Church remain, the New Testament gives us guidelines for the church and our individual participation. The following are just a few examples of why it is our personal responsibility to know the Bible instruction, to obey and like the first century apostles accept the circumstances on earth resulting from that obedience...

Hebrews 10:22-25 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for He who promised is

faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. When we become a Christian we are to be a living, breathing, practicing example to encourage others in their expressions of love and good works for the kingdom purpose on earth and eternal glory of the Heavenly Father.

That is repeated by Luke in Acts as an illustration of first century Christians response to the gospel message of which their generation were witnesses:

Acts 2:46-47 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. The testimony is we each have responsibility for additions to the church and the corresponding kingdom service while awaiting the rapture.

Choosing to be a Christian by definition means we make a choice for righteousness, - which is a choice to be left without options. Choosing to be a Christian means putting into our lives what is revealed in the Holy Word because all other default options serve the devils purposes, not Gods. That is verified in Ephesians 2:19-20 *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,*

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

We are taught that not a single prophecy remains to be fulfilled before the rapture occurs. The frequency and intensity of the Lords Matthew 24 prophecy have become the daily news headlines as we have seen here in Colorado.

From Volume 2 Study Guide page 112 of *Escape The Coming Night* (which is the study of the book of Revelation that we will begin on Wednesday June 18 at 7 pm):

“The word sorceries in Revelation 9:21 is a translation of the Greek word *pharmakon* from which we get our word pharmacy. Its original meaning was related to the combination of drug-based occult practices. Astrology, witchcraft, and divination were a gateway to demon possession. Losing control of one’s mind through the use of mind-altering drugs becomes a natural spiritual way for the devil to come in and take control.” I would hasten to add the dangers of alcohol and it’s mind-altering influence.

With that insight from the scripture...

Recently I received the following from the Chamber of Commerce here in Meeker:

Our June Biz of the Month is New Earth Spiritual & Metaphysical Healing Crystal Shop!

New Earth Spiritual and Metaphysical Healing Crystal Shop is a small town Crystal shop & healing center providing a wide range of crystals & minerals, teas, candles, bath & spa care & so much more. They also provide a wide range of holistic healing services.

Some thoughts on what we can do as Christians, citizens of Colorado and in defense of our families and children here in Meeker. First is to pray for God's will to be done in this circumstance. Let me explain – God is Sovereign which means He is aware and in control of everything, everywhere, all the time, HE knows what is going on and has a plan already in place to deal with it. And in all of that we are not given explanation of His prerogatives as they develop. Not knowing all of that, we are limited to pray for HIS purpose and glory, and to pray for faith to be obedient to the purpose of our existence to exercise and serve righteousness in thought, word and deed. We may very correctly pray for inspiration and direction of personal involvement. The phrase *"not my will, but thine be done"* is found in Luke 22:42, where Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane: *"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done"*. This scripture highlights Jesus' submission to God's will, emphasizing the importance for each of us to align our desires with His divine purpose.

A Christian's second response following prayer and the thoughts, motivations and prompting of the Holy Spirit to represent God's righteousness in our opposition which means it is self defeating to use the deplorable tools of satan like vile language, vulgar body language, slander and any form of erratic anger or behavior.

All action of satanic inspiration on this earth is a violation of common sense, traditional social values, community customs, chaste, moral, modest, decency, respect, humility and more as made manifest from the Bible.

Third, Christians have the right and obligation to vote. We should be given access to the names of those who voted for such scandalous legislation and vote them out of office where it is our legal right to do so.

In contentment and joy await our removal while steadfastly living and serving righteousness.

Finally whatever our actions on earth, remember they will have an accountability time in heaven when we are asked about our good works while alive.

Jeremiah 17:11 I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind. Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings..

Romans 2:5-6 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who “will render to each one according to his deeds.