

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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Inside

Embracing the (im)Morals of Ancient Rome

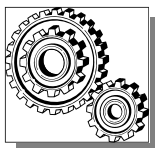
By
Kay Trudell



Happy Thanksgiving



Merry Christmas



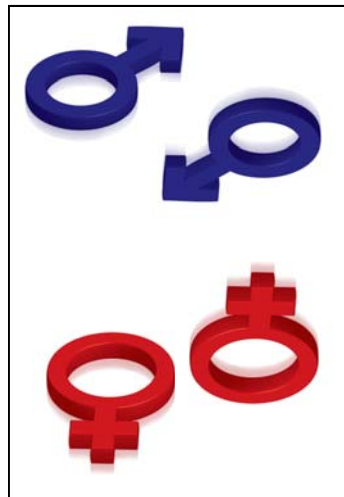
In the Works

Spring speaker

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

On Wednesday, August 17, Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin (D) became the first governor in the United States ever to officiate at a same-sex “marriage”. In a media display of liberal political correctness, the *Burlington Free Press* celebrated this event which redefined marriage. In the rush to recognize a new “milestone” that our state’s chief executive seemed to be establishing, they forgot one very important fact: they were, in actuality, celebrating the morals of ancient Rome and other ancient civilizations. This was not “new morality”, but “old immorality”. These comments assume that our elected officials know ancient history --- which many do not. Both Christian and Jewish Scriptures in the Holy Bible teach plainly against the homosexual lifestyle, calling it “sin” and an “abomination”. Homosexuality is also not supported in Islam. The classical teachings of the three major monotheistic religions of the world

are opposed to homosexuality. That being the case, upon what moral basis do Vermont’s media and politicians choose to celebrate this event --- a lesbian wedding presided over by a sitting governor? The answer is (even if they do not know it): on the morals of an-



cient Rome, Greece and Egypt --- all idol-worshipping, pre-Christian societies which persecuted both Christians and/or Jews, worshipped false gods and goddesses, openly mocked traditional values in their latter

stages, and eventually rotted from within and fell. Are these the morals Governor Shumlin hopes Vermont will emulate? The fact that he probably does not consciously intend this, or perhaps is completely unaware of the eventual implications, does not make it any less true insofar as historical trends and spiritual consequences --- which have repeated themselves over and over again throughout the centuries.

To the argument that “it’s the law”, it should be noted that all law is based on someone’s moral perspective. We are not debating the fact of the existence of such a law here, but its morality. If, as Justinian and countless others after him have said: “The law is a great moral teacher,” should we not be certain that all U.S. laws are based on Judeo-Christian morality and principles? No? If we reject that basis, what is left? Or is the base ever malleable, ever shifting? Is our foundation built on solid rock,



“...Virtue, morality and religion. This is the armor, my friend, and this alone that renders us invincible. These are the tactics we should study. If we lose these, we are conquered, fallen indeed...so long as our manners and principles remain sound, there is no danger.”

Patrick Henry (1736—1799) U.S. Founding Father

or on the quicksand of moral relativism? If we reject Judeo-Christian morality, we will follow ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome down the sinkhole of history. *Psalm 1:1-2* states: “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.” That verse is not limited. It does not say “Blessed is the king/prince/president/judge/lawyer etc. who meditates on it day and night”, but clearly implies that **blessed is the ordinary man or woman who does so**. That means all of us --- leaders and citizenry. Upon what law do you meditate? What law do you honor? What law do you celebrate? What law do you willingly follow? Moral law? Amoral law? Immoral law? Where do you place the public media celebration and political embrace of the homosexual lifestyle? The redefinition of marriage? Are there moral absolutes? Does anyone still believe in them? Have we as a state and nation been completely seduced by moral relativism?

It is said that when something is made legal, many people

will think that it is moral as well and accept it, since the law tends to be a moral teacher. Abortion is one example of this. Same-sex marriage may be another. Many people who don't agree at first will succumb to cultural pressure and change their position later. We have certainly seen that in the Vermont legislature, where seven Republicans joined the Democrats and Progressives in voting to overturn former Governor Jim Douglas's (R) veto of the same-sex marriage bill.

It was shocking to open the *Free Press* and read this article. Have the media and political elites (and the people?) of Vermont become totally desensitized to the increasing homosexualization of our state? As has been mentioned several times in past CAM newsletters, Vermont has been found to be the least religious and the most abortion-friendly state in the nation by various polling research organizations, so perhaps we should not be surprised. Many Vermonters go about their daily lives assuming that these positions are perfectly normal and mainstream. This is not true! Vermont's political and moral culture are not the norm in the United States. We are positioned so far to the left as a state that it cannot help but

affect the general beliefs of the state's population --- and even the beliefs of the people in the churches. Witness the fact that we elect and re-elect an openly-declared socialist to Congress --- despite Article 4, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution. Our churches (and synagogues) are indeed being affected. To cite but one example, according to nationwide polling data, 30 percent of the youth in evangelical, Bible-believing churches now support same-sex marriage. Instead of preaching the truth in love that will set homosexuals free from what all three major world religions say is a sinful lifestyle, and preserve two thousand years of Western culture's definition of marriage, many people either openly affirm those lifestyles, or remain silent. Secular law is indeed acting as a “great moral teacher”, and even church people are influenced by what that law says. Pastors, priests and rabbis have a grave responsibility to their faiths and to western civilization to stand against the morals of ancient Rome, and faithfully teach God's Word in Scripture. We are to love our neighbor, but that does not mean that we must then approve of and embrace all contemporary trends --- even those that are morally unacceptable to Scripture --- in the name of “diversity”.

Beginning on August 10, 2011, a group of homosexual activists started a petition on the internet to urge the producers of the *Sesame Street* children's TV series have puppet characters Bert and Ernie recognized as homosexuals and have them marry in a televised gay wedding. They are also pushing for the addition of a transgendered character to the show. Truly, the people who are sponsoring this deviant campaign have been given over to the reprobate minds Scripture warns about as “the days of Noah” reappear. In addition, the majority of the first fifteen Roman emperors were either practicing homosexuals, or bisexuals who slept with both men and women. Is this the type of political leadership we are supposed to celebrate? It seems that so-called “gay rights” are not based on the doctrines of any of the three major world religions. Instead, they are based on the false teachings and idolatry of ancient pre-Christian civilizations like Rome, fancied up with contemporary labels such as progressivism, socialism, secular humanism, and liberalism.

Couple this with the fact that Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) has stated that he may join with Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) to introduce federal



“. . . How many winds of doctrine have we known in recent decades, how many ideological currents, how many ways of thinking? The small boat of the thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves --- flung from one extreme to another: from Marxism to liberalism, even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism and so forth . . . what St. Paul says about human deception and the trickery that strives to entice people into error (Ephesians 4:14) comes true . . . we are building a dictatorship of [moral] relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and that has as its measure only the self and its desires . . .”

Excerpt from a pre-conclave sermon preached by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger prior to his election as Pope Benedict XVI in 2005

legislation in Congress to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which is currently law in the U.S. His basis for this proposed legislation is that a mere six out of 50 states have legalized gay marriage. Mr. Leahy can't even wait until over 50 percent of the states have done so before jamming this ungodly legislation down the throats of the other 44 states against their will. Additionally, President Obama (D) has called for the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy, thus allowing gays to serve openly in the U.S. military. This allows the homosexual lifestyle and the open practice of sodomy to gain further acceptance. Does our president not remember what happened to ancient Greece, which openly celebrated homosexuality, homosexuality in the military, and glorified man-boy sexual relationships? Ancient Greece was conquered and fell, did it not? George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, George Patton, and Dwight David Eisenhower --- great American generals all --- would turn over in their graves at this prospect.

Vermont Law School recently celebrated Obama's change in the DADT policy by opening their campus to military recruiters --- formerly barred from their campus until homosexuals were allowed to serve openly in the military. Wake

up, fellow Vermonters. Overt persecution of churches or individuals who preach against this from their pulpits or elsewhere is the next inevitable step. As we have all seen, the persecution of individuals who oppose homosexuality has already begun. Just ask the Catholic owners of the Wildflower Inn in Lyndonville who were sued because they declined to host a gay wedding at their location. Do the rights of Vermonters who wish to openly live out their homosexuality now trump the rights of Vermonters who wish to openly live out their religious faith? The homosexual agenda and religious convictions solidly based on Scripture cannot exist together, platitudes to the contrary. Gay activists will not allow it. One will attempt to displace the other. Amid the calls for "civility" and "tolerance", in actuality we have seen that "tolerance" is not a two-way street in most cases where homosexuality and the Bible collide.

Einstein once said that insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting a different result. This article is not an attack on homosexuals and lesbians as individuals and persons. I have worked with people who are gay. I have gay acquaintances. This is a commentary on the cultural and moral sea change connected to humanity's rebellion

against God's law --- replacing it with man's law --- and the profound consequences that attach to such trends as the "in-your-face" public advocacy of immorality. Heterosexual or homosexual --- we are all God's creations and we are all sinners. But societies which follow certain patterns eventually fall, and the U.S. is traveling down that road. A study of past history and the fall of other nations and empires makes this clear. Bear in mind what happened to ancient Greece and Rome as you look around our nation. Crushing national debt. Corruption in government at all levels. An honored and professional military scattered throughout the world and tasked with simultaneous multiple conflicts. Loss of control of national borders. Financial chaos in once-solid financial and corporate institutions. Oppressive taxation. Moral decay and rejection of once-honored traditional moral values for experimentation with alternative sexual practices. Pornography. Violence in sports and entertainment. Bread and circuses (the masses entertained by sport and spectacle while their nation crumbled). High divorce rates. Abortion on demand. Cage fighting and gladiatorial-like competitions. Sexual perversity. Drive-by shootings. Generational poverty and dependence on government for finan-

cial support. Pedophilia. Polygamy. Fluctuating US policy toward Israel. Scripture says it will be *Just as it was in the days of Noah*. Can we reverse these trends? It will take prayer *and* serious involvement by people who can serve as salt and light, as the Bible commands. John Adams, the second U.S. President, once said: "The U.S. Constitution was made only for a religious and moral people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." We are the generation that will either restore the U.S. Constitution or allow it to be lost.

Without prayer and repentance, and the willingness of Christians (and Jews!) to hold fast to the teachings of Scripture and raise the banner of righteousness over our nation, America will go the way of ancient Rome. We will continue our long, slow march into decay. What type of country will emerge on the other side is unknown, but if present trends are left unchecked, history has shown that it will be some form of tyranny --- and our Constitution will have been destroyed in the process. We must pray and repent, humble ourselves, and seek God's face, or America is lost.

Kay Trudell is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Community Bible Church in So. Burlington



Be blunt on your family's behalf . . . [there are] various ways social policy issues affect your family, and specifically your children --- such as through the Internet and in their schools. Agenda-driven material is increasingly prevalent in our culture, and parents are facing unprecedented challenges to keeping their children safe. It is clear that advocates of same-sex marriage have targeted our country's educational system in an attempt to impact our children's belief system. It's also clear that pornographers have no regard for . . . the innocence of children. Parents and other concerned citizens [must] engage the culture in order to protect their families and biblical values . . .

Tom Minnery, Senior Vice President - Government and Public Policy, Focus on the Family

What can I do?



*Faith without works is dead
James 2:17*

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As we enter into the Holiday Season, take time to reflect on the many blessings God has provided us with, His graciousness and love for us, and the greatest gift of all, His Son, Jesus.

Enjoy this time and be certain to acknowledge where the source of all good is. Take time to enjoy family and friends; and remember to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on you, your family, and this country.

Merry Christmas!



And to our Jewish friends, Happy Hanukah!

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Next Meetings

*January 10, 7:00 pm
No. Ave. Alliance Church
Burlington, Vt.
February 21, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.*

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



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