Eleutheros Newsletter

August 2023

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

<u>The Ramifications of Our Salvation</u> explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

<u>Bible Translations: A Closer Look</u> explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

<u>Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14</u> deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

<u>A Portrait of Jesus</u> looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

<u>The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ</u> presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

<u>19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity</u> gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com.

Eleutheros Books is now offering online courses.

Would you or anyone you know be interested in learning more Bible? How about learning more about salvation? Or a course that deals with many issues the Church still faces today? Currently offering: Soteriology 101, 102, and I Corinthians. Study at your own pace! https://eleutherosseminars.thinkific.com/

The Ramifications of Our Salvation is now available in a Spanish translation (both in paperback and eBook formats)! To make a purchase, go to www.amazon.com and enter Las Ramificaciones de Neustra Salvacion in the search bar.

God willing, Spanish translations of *A Portrait of Jesus* and 19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity will be available soon. Work is underway! Updates will be made available in future newsletters.

Thoughts on Romans

1:27 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 the recompense of their error which was meet.

Having discussed the *vile affections* that some women use to do *that which is against nature* (1:26), the Apostle now focuses on the lust of some men to *burn in their lust one toward another.*

The Scriptures have quite a bit to say about sodomy (homosexuality): it is described as wickedness (<u>Genesis 19:4-14</u>); it will be judged according to opportunity (<u>Matthew 11:24</u>); <u>Luke 10:12</u>); it is a term of reproach to those who practice it (<u>Deuteronomy 23:17</u>; <u>I Kings 14:24</u>; <u>15:12</u>; <u>22:46</u>; <u>II Kings 23:7</u>; <u>Job 36:14</u>); and it is likened to those who are *lawless and disobedient; ungodly and profane, murderers of fathers and mothers, manslayers, whoremongers, men stealers, liars, perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine (<u>I Timothy 1:9-10</u>).*

Further, Paul declares, Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

Paul goes on to explain that God's amazing grace can and does forgive any of these sins when one is truly saved: And such WERE some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (I Corinthians 6:11; see also Romans 5:20).

The outcome is totally different for those who fail to repent and believe in our Savior: they will receive in themselves the recompense of their error which was meet (proper).

It is obvious that today's world is having to deal with blatant homosexuality that insists on being considered a *right* or an *alternative lifestyle*. Persistence in this attitude will bring about eternal consequences (Romans 6:23 and many other verses).

Sodomy is also being linked with other abominations in our modern world.

It is difficult for this author to keep up with all the "pronouns" that are used to excuse transgenderism (if such a word actually exists), but our schools, a few churches, some in the medical world, and a number of governmental officials feel that it is not only acceptable to overlook the sin of sodomy, but to actually promote "gender affirming care" (i.e., gender mutilations and chemical changes that cannot be successfully overcome later).

We would do well to understand what God inspired Moses to write about 3,400 years ago: So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.... And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good (Genesis 1:27-28a, 31a).

Anything that attempts to deny the fact that God made men and women, that they are different physically (but both created in the image of God), or that sexual perversion is unacceptable needs to be confronted with clearly revealed Biblical truth!

Of course, such confrontation must be done in Biblical love (see I Corinthians 13:1-3)!

Unfortunately, it appears that the Satanic attacks from the world of homosexuality are overwhelming the rather weak efforts of Christians today, and the result is a hardening of hearts and a perversion of morality throughout society.

May God grant us the knowledge, the heart, and the will to expose this sin in a God-honoring way!

We will continue these thoughts on Romans in next month's newsletter.