



Berachah Church Bible Studies: Salute to R. B. Thieme, Jr.: “A Cup of Kindness”; The Problem of Judicial Tyranny: Courts Rule Homosexuality Is Normal; Scripture Disagrees, 1 Cor 6:9-11

The Problem of Judicial Tyranny

Berachah Church

**Tuesday, Thursday
27 & 29 January 2004**

For those of you who just happened to pop in and want to ask the question, “What are you doing here?” the answer is, “I have no idea, see Wes Knebel and Mark Breeding.” I am reminded of an episode of *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson* that I saw many years ago. Several members of the Rat Pack were Johnny’s first guests. As I recall they included the likes of Dean Martin, Joey Bishop, Sammy Davis, Jr., and they were on a roll that had the audience and Carson in hysterics. Finally Johnny broke for a commercial by announcing that George Gobel would be out in a couple of minutes. The sad thing was that Ole Lonesome George’s humor was very subtle, folksy, and laidback so it was going to be tough for him to follow the demonstrative madness of the Rat Packers. Afterward, when George was announced, he come on stage with that trademark grin of his—a cross between coy and sly. Everyone was waiting to see what George could do to top the first half of the show. After a long pause he looked dead into the camera and said, “Did you ever feel like the whole world is a black tuxedo and you’re a pair of brown shoes?” Tonight, Berachah is a black tuxedo, and I’m its pair of brown shoes.

Why is Berachah a black tuxedo; a place where spiritual sophisticates gather? It is because of one man who has exemplified the quintessence of the gift of pastor-teacher. Therefore, it is with a great sense of respect that I stand here in his place. Right here has been the place where the Colonel has commanded this pulpit for 44 years.

I was privileged to be a part of his congregation for eight of those years. During that time, plus the 19 years I have been pastor of Grace Doctrine Church in St. Louis, he has been a constant source of encouragement, motivation, and support. He never lost faith in me when I was going through the hard times. He was always kind toward me, gentle in his demeanor, and generous with his advice. The courtesies that he, Berachah Church, and Thieme Bible Ministries have extended to me and my congregation over the past two decades are too numerous to mention except for me to extend our thanks and appreciation for these many kindnesses. The doctrines that he has uncovered from the buried treasures of Scripture have changed all our lives and I cannot begin this evening before offering a salute to the Colonel from the helm of HMS Berachah. I herewith offer this doggerel verse I’ve entitled:

“A Cup of Kindness”

Through the stormy winds of cosmic chaos
You guided us faithfully through the night;
You showed us how with clarity to think
By exposing Scripture’s revealing light.

Your intrepidity gives us courage
Pursuing vict’ry we e’er forward trod;
Your voice, your words, your proclamations
Bringing truths to mind from the Word of God.



When time's bugle blows its call for repose
 And as you take time for a well-earned rest;
 Know you have loyally done your duty
 To your Savior, you have given your best.

Your flock rallies 'round the colors boldly
 As now a new commander they must find;
 But know ye this: you'll ne'er be forgotten,
 Aye, Colonel, you will e'er be brought to mind.

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The Colonel has established a standard of excellence that others will be hard-pressed to approach, let alone excel. The person who soon will stand in this pulpit will have the arduous task of replacing a legend. Not an impossibility since God has the right man for the job, but nonetheless intimidating.

You have three men, all qualified, coming in over the next month or so, with aspirations to stand in this place as your next pastor. My job here this week is to make them look good.

Our subject over the next two hours will discuss the ramifications of two court decisions of 2003: the United States Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which legitimized sodomy, and the decision by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in *Goodridge v. The Department of Public Health* which opened the door for the legalization of homosexual marriage.

Based on the biblical revelation regarding the fall of the pentapolis in the Valley of Siddim in Genesis 19 and Paul's analysis of divine wrath toward inordinate human sin in Romans 1, we are able to conclude that these court decisions are a direct assault by Lucifer against the divine institutions.

We have examined this problem at Grace Doctrine in more detail than some of the more genteel members of our congregation could ever have imagined but we have discovered from Scripture enough information to refute some of the more extreme claims of those who hope to introduce sodomy into the mainstream of American culture.

Briefly there are a number of devices that have been made available to them that have contributed to the success of what we might call Operation Gay Nation. We don't have time to develop them but included are: (1) The advent of progressive ideology which emerged from the Frankfort School in Germany prior to World War II and its migration to the School of Education at Columbia University in the 1930s, (2) Political correctness which emerged from this philosophy and which views all religions, cultures, nations, and moral codes to be equal to all others with none being superior to another; (3) the availability of the "equal protection" clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; (4) the Fabian erosion of establishment viewpoint in our system of jurisprudence by means of precedence and case law, and (5) the advance of these progressive ideas in government schools including the curricula of sex education.

1. As a result of these forces, progressives, in concert with the homosexual lobby, have created a barrier that makes it difficult to help those who have been propagandized into the homosexual lifestyle. Today it is a violation of progressive dogma to even suggest that sodomy is sinful.
2. For some reason those who reject biblical teachings in order to justify personal opinions become instant theologians when their views and personal behavior are classified as sinful.
3. Lucifer has enabled them to either sell or buy the lie that what they do is not sinful. Anyone who suggests such a thing is quickly denounced.



Thomas, Cal. "Four Judges Redefine Marriage." *Conservative Chronicle*, 03 Dec. 2003, 11:

What is happening in our culture is an unraveling of all we once considered normal. Anyone who now appeals to virtue, values, ethics or (heaven forbid!) religious faith is labeled an enemy of progress, an intolerant bigot, a homophobe and a "Neanderthal." There is no debate and no discussion. By definition, anyone who opposes "progress" in casting off the chains of religious restrictions on human behavior ... is a fundamentalist fool, part of a past that brought us witch trials, slavery and back-alley abortions.

4. Thomas also points out the rewriting of definitions that serve to tear down the cultural institutions and replace them with those that promote the agenda of the progressives. Here's one example from the same article:

History, logic, theology and even the dictionary have defined marriage as: "the mutual relation of husband and wife; wedlock; the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family" (Merriam-Webster [<http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary>]); or "a legally accepted relationship between a woman and a man in which they live as husband and wife," (Cambridge [<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/define.asp?key=100628&dict=CALD>]).

The online Encarta dictionary defines marriage as a "legal relationship between spouses; a legally recognized relationship, established by a civil or religious ceremony, between two people who intend to live together as sexual and domestic partners" (Encarta [http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary/_marriage.html]). That's a big difference.

5. But Christians should not allow themselves to be manipulated by the progressives' duplicitous exercise in iconoclastic verbicide.
6. An *iconoclast* is one who attacks established beliefs and institutions. *Verbicide* is the act of killing or mutilating the meaning of a word.
7. Thus the editors of the Encarta Dictionary are progressives who have committed verbicide by altering the definition of a word that relates to traditional beliefs and established institutions common to two major world religions. The orthodox definition that constitutes the foundation of Israelite and Western culture and heritage goes back to the first wedding in the Garden of Eden.
8. The homosexual lobby has also made great progress in the verbicide of the word *sin*. It accepts the fact that the Bible classifies certain behaviors as a violation of divine law but that homosexuality is not among them.
9. They are joined in this deception by credentialed clergy who, without one iota of shame and an even lesser degree of scholarship, assert that the Bible does not define sodomy as a sin. However, the Bible disagrees.
10. It is debated, wrongly, that the Old Testament prohibitions are vague and do not apply to the person who is born homosexual but only to heterosexuals who leave their "natural estate."
11. The forced conclusion is that sodomy by "natural born" homosexuals is not a sin while that practiced by "natural born" heterosexuals is.
12. Then by appealing to bogus "scientific studies" which suggest homosexuality is genetic, they feel free to engage in sodomy.

Homosexuality is not genetic but volitional, a subject addressed in a letter to the editor of WorldNetDaily by Frank G. Zavisca, M.D., Ph.D.:

Dr. Dean a disgrace to the profession



As much as I dislike "alternative practitioners" calling themselves "doctor," there is one thing I dislike even more – "real doctors" disgracing their profession.

As a physician, one thing I learned at a very early age – people expect more of you because of your profession. Likewise, people expect honesty from a journalist like you. And what I do reflects on others in the profession, not just myself. The authority to write prescriptions and be "in charge" is just awesome – but along with this authority comes awesome responsibility. One responsibility is to be scrupulously honest when it comes to discussing scientific evidence.

Howard Dean's statement about the "overwhelming" evidence that homosexuality is genetic was the single greatest assault on medical science in a long time. This just isn't true – there is NO scientific evidence that supports this hypothesis – only speculation and people repeating it over and over again and wishing it is true (kind of like the liberal Jews at Geneva wishing the PLO would make peace). And even without the religious argument, this stuff just isn't true.

One common argument is that homosexuals just don't remember why they are so. This in no way means it is genetic; they simply may be unaware of environmental influences. Also against the genetic theory is the successful "re-orientation" of some who are not married; this has been done by serious psychiatrists, not cranks.

And just think – what would be the result for a gene that discouraged reproduction? It would disappear or be greatly decreased in the population.

To declare sexual orientation as a "genetic trait" and base public policy on this belief is a broadside to science.

Frank G. Zavisca, M.D., Ph.D.

Nevertheless, homosexuals feel free to engage in sodomy. Free to do so, yes. With impunity, no. Sodomy joins quite a long list of sins that are defined in the New Testament.

13. We have time to take up one of these passages and I'll quote it from the New English Translation Bible (NET).

1 Corinthians 6:9 - Do you not know that the unrighteous [those without the imputation of divine righteousness at salvation, i.e., unbelievers] will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, passive homosexual partners, practicing homosexuals [KJV: "nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind."],

v. 10 - thieves, the greedy, drunkards, the verbally abusive, and swindlers will not inherit the kingdom of God.

v. 11 - Some of you once lived this way. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

14. Please note that those described in verses 9 and 10 are unbelievers who are in unbeliever reversionism. Their behavior reveals their deviant conscience. In verse 11, some of their ilk have placed their faith in Christ and been justified in the name of the Lord and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.



15. But they have been led astray by false teachers who have deceived them. This is brought out by the present middle imperative of the verb:

πλανᾶω, *planaō* - “to be deceived”

Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Translated by William F. Arndt and F. Wilber Gingrich. Revised by F. Wilber Gingrich and Frederick W. Danker. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1979), 665:

In the active voice, to lead astray, to cause to wander; to cause someone to wander from the right way (active: propaganda). To be mistaken in one's judgment; to deceive oneself (middle: brainwashing) (1 Corinthians 6:9).

16. The believers in Corinth are being led astray by those who are engaged in and are promoting the lifestyle of advanced reversionism. This deception is promoted through propaganda. Those who are deceived by it brainwash themselves into losing out on the eternal inheritance on deposit in their escrow account.

PRINCIPLE: Propaganda is what they do to you (active voice of *planaō*). Brainwashing is what you do to yourself (middle voice of *planaō*).

17. Among the unbelievers who are in the reversionistic spiral are some who have degraded themselves further by the practice of sodomy. Two words define those who participate in this. First is the nominative masculine plural of the noun:

μαλακός, *malakos* - “effeminate”

This word is used to define anything soft to the touch, especially of clothing that is made of soft materials. It later was applied to men who were considered *effeminate*.

The word later came to mean *homosexual*. Its use to define sodomites needs to be documented. We start with:

Walvoord, John F. and Roy B. Zuck (eds.). *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament*. (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1983), 516:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Homosexuality and male prostitution were especially characteristic of Greco-Roman society. Plato lauded homosexual love in *The Symposium* (181B). Nero, emperor at the time Paul wrote this letter, was about to marry the boy Sporus (Suetonius *Lives of the Caesars* 6.28), an incident bizarre only in its formality, since 14 of the first 15 Roman emperors were homosexual or bisexual.

18. This paragraph by Walvoord and Zuck contribute to the analysis of our passage. The Greek word *malakos* is defined accordingly by the lexicons and dictionaries. I'll quote several sources starting with Classical Greek in:

Liddell, George Henry and Robert Scott. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. Revised by Henry Stuart Jones. 9th ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968), 1076-77:

μαλακία. Softness: hence, of persons, *moral weakness*. To be softened or made effeminate.

μαλακός. Morally weak, lacking in self-control. To reason loosely.

Thayer, Joseph Henry. *The New Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1981), 387:

μαλακός. Latin, *mollis* (effeminate), metaphorically: of a catamite, a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness.



Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Translated by William F. Arndt and F. Wilber Gingrich. 488:

μαλακός. *Soft, effeminate*, especially of *catamites*, men and boys who allow themselves to be misused homosexually.

Zodhiates, Spiros (ed.). *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. Rev. ed. (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1992), 940:

μαλακός. Figuratively it means effeminate or a person who allows himself to be sexually abused contrary to nature. Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:9, joins the *malakoi*, the effeminate, with *arsenokoitai*, homosexuals, Sodomites.

New English Translation Bible. 1st Beta Ed. (Dallas: Biblical Studies Press, 2001), 2144, fn 12:

1 Corinthians 6:9: “passive homosexual partners.” This term is sometimes rendered “effeminate,” although in contemporary English usage such a translation could be taken to refer to demeanor rather than behavior.

(Johannes P.) Louw & (Eugene) Nida [Eds. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semitic Domains*. (New York: United Bible Societies, 1998)], 8.221 states, “the passive male partner in homosexual intercourse—‘homosexual.’ ...As in Greek, a number of other languages also have entirely distinct terms for the active and passive roles in homosexual intercourse.”

A number of modern translations have adopted the phrase “male prostitutes” for **μαλακοί** [*malakoi*] in 1 Corinthians 6:9 (NIV, NRSV, NLT) but this could be misunderstood by the modern reader to mean “males who sell their services to women,” while the term in question appears, at least in context, to relate to homosexual activity between males. Furthermore, it is far from certain that prostitution as commonly understood (the selling of sexual favors) is specified here, as opposed to a consensual relationship. Thus the translation “passive homosexual partners” has been used here.

19. Catamites are those who are the submissive ones in a homosexual relationship. Described as effeminate, they are the ones who take on the passive or submissive roll. The proactive or assertive role is mentioned next in the verse, the nominative masculine plural of the noun:

ἀρσενοκοίτης, arsenokoitēs - “practicing homosexuals”

20. This is a compound word made up of two Greek nouns. The first is:

ἄρσεν, arsēn - “male”

The second is:

κοίτη, koitē - Positive: “the conjugal bed; negative: the place of “illicit sexual behavior.”

21. Brought together into a single word it becomes the noun *arsenokoitēs* which means “practicing homosexuals.” This definition is developed from several sources. We begin again with a definition from the Classical Greek in:

Liddell, George Henry and Robert Scott. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. 246:
ἀρσενοκοίτης, arrenokoitēs, “a sodomite.”

Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Translated by William F. Arndt and F. Wilber Gingrich. 109:

ἀρσενοκοίτης, arsenokoitēs, “a male who practices homosexuality, a pederast, a sodomite (1 Corinthians 6:9).



Thayer, Joseph Henry. *The New Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 75:

ἄρσενοκοίτης, *arsenokoitēs*, “one who lies with a male as with a female; a sodomite.”

Zodhiates, Spiros (ed.). *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. 258:

ἄρσενοκοίτης, *arsenokoitēs*, “a man who lies in bed with another male; a homosexual (1 Corinthians 6:9).”

Earle, Ralph. *Word Meanings in the New Testament*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986), 226-27:

1 Corinthians 6:9, Effeminate. Two Greek words at the end of verse 9 seem to refer to much the same thing. The first is *malakos*, translated “effeminate.” This adjective literally means “soft” and was properly used of what is soft to touch.

But, as Arndt and Gingrich note, it was also used “especially of *catamites*, men and boys who allow themselves to be misused homosexually” (p. 488 [see above, p. 956]). This was a common thing in that day.

“Abusers of themselves with mankind” (KJV) is all one word in Greek, ἄρσενοκοίται, *arsenokoitai* [plural form]. It is a compounded of *arsēn*, “male,” and *koitē*, “bed,” and so means “one who lies with a male as with a female, a sodomite” (Thayer, p. 75 [see above, p. 957]). The same sin is described graphically in Romans 1:27.

In much of modern society in America and Europe homosexuality is no longer even frowned upon. Several church denominations have officially stated that homosexual relations between consenting adults should no longer be considered a crime. Congregations of homosexuals have sprung up in this country and have even formed themselves into an association like a denomination. Marriages of two men and two women are not uncommon.

In the face of all this permissiveness we need to realize afresh what God's word says about this practice. In both the Old Testament and the New it is categorically condemned. Certainly we need to be sympathetic with those who have a psychological problem at this point. But the Scriptures label homosexuality as a sin. Sodomy was the sin for which God destroyed ancient Sodom.

New English Translation Bible. 2144, fn 13:

1 Corinthians 6:9: “practicing homosexuals.” (Johannes P.) Louw & (Eugene) Nida [Eds. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semitic Domains*. (New York: United Bible Societies, 1998)], 8.280 states, “It is possible that ἄρσενοκοίτης [*arsenokoitēs*] in certain contexts refers to the active male partner in homosexual intercourse in contrast with *μαλακός* [*malakos*], the passive male partner.”

22. I have cited six sources to define both *malakos* and *arsenokoitēs*. They have clarified the meanings intended by the Holy Spirit to be understood by the reader. They each reveal dramatically the real meaning behind the English words used so evasively by shy and callow translators of the King James Version of the Bible: “effeminate, and abusers of themselves with mankind” (v. 9).
23. This is a case of verbicide by language scholars, some of whom were theologians. The subsequent English translations have tried to become bolder but they also present problems:
- (1) The New King James Version has “homosexuals” and “sodomites” and leaves the impression there is a difference.



- (2) The NIV offers up “male prostitutes and homosexual offenders.” Nice try but the former can be confusing since “prostitute” in modern usage suggests a free enterprise operation in which males sell their bodies to women. Thus it suggests the idea of a gigolo rather than a passive homosexual.
- (3) The New American Standard Bible hits a happy medium with its use of “effeminate” and homosexuals.” The effeminate in context are not just those with feminine qualities but who passively submit to homosexual behavior.
- (4) The New English Translation Bible gives us the best approach to the passage:

1 Corinthians 6:9 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, passive homosexual partners, practicing homosexuals,

v. 10 - thieves, the greedy, drunkards, the verbally abusive, and swindlers will not inherit the kingdom of God.

24. An expanded translation that would incorporate the details of our partial exegesis would read like this:

1 Corinthians 6:9 - Do you not know that those who do not have the imputation of divine righteousness as a result of salvation will not receive the inheritance of the eternal state and thus not possess an escrow account. Do not allow yourselves to be deceived by others to the point of engaging in the behavior of the unbeliever reversionist! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals who are submissive sodomites, homosexuals who are assertive sodomites,

v. 10 - thieves, the greedy [*πλεονέκτης*, *pleonektēs*: those who have an insatiable lust for the things in context (see Ephesians 4:19, p. 918 above)], drunkards, the verbally abusive, and swindlers will not inherit the eternal state.

v. 11 - Some of you believers once lived this way. But you were washed [*ἀπολούω*, *apoulouō*: forgiven of pre-salvation sins at salvation], you were sanctified [*ἀγιάζω*, *hagiazō*: baptized by the Holy Spirit into union with Christ and positional sanctification], you are justified [*δικαίωω*, *dikaioō*: possessors of divine righteousness since salvation] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ by the Spirit of our God.

25. This expanded translation seeks to leave no possibility of verbicide so as to avoid any misunderstanding of the impact this verse has on exposing behavior patterns typical of many advanced reversionists.
26. Yet the present Zeitgeist is awash in verbicide and among those who most energetically practice the art is the homosexual lobby.
27. Their current verbicide of the words *marriage* and *sin* are a part of the Luciferian assault on the divine institutions of marriage and family. The public acceptance of sodomy as normalcy is only a part of this effort.