

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

Acts 16:30

Learn The Gospel

John 6:45; Romans 10:17; James 1:22-25

Believe On GOD In CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; James 2:14-26

Confess CHRIST

Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33; 7:21

Repent Of Sin

Acts 3:19; Matthew 3:8

Be Baptized

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6; 1st Peter 3:21

Be Steadfast

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

“Let The Word Of Christ Dwell In You”

Colossians 3:16

Reminding us of the need for proper thinking and appropriate language, the new memory assignment is:

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

To best commit the passage to memory: see it, say it, hear it, and write it.

“Sound Doctrine”

Titus 2:1

“HE BROUGHT HER TO THE MAN”

by Bryan Matthew Dockens

“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:21-22). When God made woman and brought her to the man, He taught us a number of important lessons.

The fact that “He brought her to the man” precludes homosexuality. God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve! *“In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them”* (Genesis 1:27). That God created woman for man, not man for man or woman for woman, proves that homosexuality is outside God’s purpose for His creation. Homosexuality is unnatural (Romans 1:26-27), unlawful (1st Timothy 1:8-10), and will result in eternal damnation (1st Corinthians 6:9-10).

The fact that “He brought her to the man” rules out autoeroticism. After initially creating man, God observed, *“It is not good that man should be alone”* and thus determined, *“I will make him a helper comparable to him”* (Genesis 2:18). It was not God’s purpose that man should satisfy himself; instead, He created woman to provide for his conjugal needs. Marriage is the divine alternative to masturbation. Since self-stimulation is ordinarily prompted by visual and mental cues, then carried out with fantasy thinking, it is all the more displeasing to the Lord. He taught

-- Continued on page 2 --

“The Assembling Of Ourselves Together”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Sunday

10:15 am.....Worship

Las Vegas Library

833 Las Vegas Boulevard North

Monday

7:00 pm.....Acts Study

Cogburn residence

Tuesday

7:00 pm.....Ladies’ Study

Stark residence

Wednesday

7:00 pm.....Various Studies

Jerry & Beverly Dockens residence

“Give Attention To Reading”

1st Timothy 4:13

Your reading assignments for this week are as follows:

Sunday.....1st Corinthians 4-6

Monday.....1st Corinthians 7-9

Tuesday...1st Corinthians 10-12

Wed’day...1st Corinthians 13-14

Thursday...1st Corinthians 15-16

Friday.....2nd Corinthians 1-3

Saturday....2nd Corinthians 4-6

-- Continued from page 1 --

“that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:28).

The fact that “He brought her to the man” excludes bestiality. When the Lord God determined to make a suitable companion for man, He introduced him to every living creature, at which time Adam named each one, *“but for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him”* (Genesis 2:20). Humankind was uniquely created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27), but animals were not; therefore, no animal could adequately fulfill the needs of man. Within the Law of Moses, God, having condemned homosexuality, went on to say, *“Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion”* (Leviticus 18:23). Under the Old Law, the penalty for zoophilia was death (Leviticus 20:15-16).

The fact that “He brought her to the man” precludes polygamy. *“The rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman”* (Genesis 2:22), not two women, not three, not an entire harem, a woman, just one. *“And He brought her to the man”* (Genesis 2:22), not them, just **her**. Commenting on this, Jesus said, *“the two shall become one flesh”* (Matthew 19:5). In marriage, it is two – no more than that – who become one. It is adultery to marry another while a spouse lives (Romans 7:3).

The fact that “He brought her to the man” prohibits divorce. She was simply presented to him. She was his and he was hers and there was no alternative. When asked by the Pharisees *“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”* (Matthew 19:3), Jesus replied by reminding them of God’s original work in instituting marriage: *“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate”* (Matthew 19:4-6). Surely, there is no more fundamentally flawed behavior than to seek to dismantle the work of God. He made marriage and intends it to be permanent. Paul was very straightforward on this subject: *“Now to the married I*

-- Continued on page 3 --

-- Continued from page 3 --

command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife” (1st Corinthians 7:10-11).

Marriage is a blessing God intends for us to enjoy, but those who pervert or circumvent this holy union stand condemned (Proverbs 5:18-20; Hebrews 13:4).

“Bee ANGRY, AND DO NOT SIN”

by Bryan Matthew Dockens

I recently enjoyed the privilege of taking my three-year old daughter to her first theater movie. We bought enough cereal from the grocery store to receive two free passes to Bee Movie. Mentioned more than once during the show was a fact I remember learning about bees as a child: they can use their stingers only once, and then they die. By using their stingers, they eviscerate themselves, leaving a portion of their intestines behind with the stinger. One of the morals of the story was that bees must learn to control their tempers as it is literally a matter of life and death.

So it is for humans. When we lash out in anger toward others, we harm ourselves most of all. We may suffer the loss of dear friends, our ability to be trusted in future relationships is impaired, and most importantly, we condemn ourselves to eternal separation from God (Galatians 5:19-21). Self-control is essential to righteous living (Galatians 5:23; 2nd Peter 1:6), and we should not be characterized by anger (Ephesians 4:31). To the extent that anger is justified, it should never lead us to sin (Ephesians 4:26).

Vegas Valley Church Of Christ

Romans 16:16

(702) 374-9799

VegasValleyChurchOfChrist@gmail.com

P.O. Box 750152, Las Vegas, Nevada 89136-0152