


THE



# HARVESTER

*"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

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## WHAT A DAY!

No, I'm not referring to that day when Christians will be taken away from this sinful world to a place of eternal rest and happiness. The day I'm talking about was Sunday, June 24, 1990. You know, "Gay Pride Day." Yeah, the day that seemed to be full of Thanksgiving Day parades. Except those involved were giving thanks and celebrating the fact that they were gay. They had rather be with the same sex than the opposite!

I watched the CNN newscasts over and over. I couldn't believe what I was seeing and hearing. It made me sick to say the least! There were thousands of gay rights activists in who knows how many parades from Birmingham and Atlanta to

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Birmingham, AL 35215

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New York City and San Francisco. And in Los Angeles the parade was lead by none other than the lady they call Elvira who wears about as much clothing as Tarzan!

These activists have an organization called "ACT UP." It is composed of men who have sexual relations with other men (homosexuals) and women who have sexual relations with other women (lesbians). One homosexual said that this group was organized so that gays might have a more powerful movement.

Sunday, at the International AIDS Conference, when Secretary of Health and Human Services Director Louis Sullivan tried to speak, one of the gay people stood up and shouted, "I'm dying!" Others shouted and blew whistles and horns in protest to the extent that Mr. Sullivan could not be heard. Outside the conference one of the gays replied, "They just don't care."

At one of the parades a group of black gay activists chanted, "We're black, we're gay, and we're not going away..." Some of the gay men were dressed in women's clothing as they marched down the street holding each other's hand.

In one of the parades there was a homosexual man carrying a cross and he had stained his skin with red paint. This brings to my remembrance all the religious bodies who now accept homosexuals as priests and pastors.

The other night I was watching "Larry King Live" on CNN. His guest was a National League Baseball umpire who was fired and the umpire felt that it was because he is gay. He confessed that he had sexual relations with other well-known baseball players. And what

about the United States Congressman who employed a male prostitute ... and then got caught?!

Some states now recognize marriages between homosexuals. Why, they even let these people adopt babies!

Yes, June 24, 1990 was some day. Could it become a national holiday? A day set aside for the celebration of being gay! Could those who call themselves Christians begin to recognize this day as a religious holiday? Who knows?

"Times are changing," you say. Well, I disagree. You see, thousands of years ago the same type of people inhabited the earth. Now they were not as organized, but they were around.

We cannot forget the story of the city of Sodom in Genesis 19. Verses 1-5 say, *"And there came two angels...Lot seeing them rose up to meet them... and they turned unto him and entered into his house...But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house around, both old and young, all the people from every quarter. And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them."*

The words "know them" meant that these men wanted to commit acts of immorality with these ANGELS OF GOD who were in Lot's house -- not just a few activists, but *"both old and young, all the people from every quarter."* Of course, God would later destroy this city along with the gay men.

As time continued the moral level of some men did not change. Harold Songer, with reference to the days of Paul, made the following observation in one of his many books:

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Ray McManus  
 3265 Fowlers Ferry Rd  
 Gadsden, AL 35901  
 Ph. (205) 442-4181

"Some persons had very high morals in the Greek and Roman world of Paul's day. But the average man felt that his sexual desires should not be controlled, but fulfilled without restrictions. Paul took a position that ran right against the grain of popular teaching and practice in the Hellenistic world. Prostitution flourished openly, nudity was common; HOMOSEXUALITY WAS ACCEPTED AS A WAY OF LIFE IN MANY CIRCLES, and restricting sexual intercourse to marriage was considered both unnecessary and unnatural."

Joseph Thayer in his Greek Lexicon of New Testament words made the following observation when defining fornication: "...illicit sexual intercourse in general...that this meaning must be adopted in these passages will surprise no one who has learned from I Cor. 6:12ff how leniently converts from among the heathen regarded this vice and how lightly they indulged in it."

So, perhaps times and people have not changed as much as some think. Homosexuality and lesbianism have always been accepted as a way of life by some.

Now how does the Christian fit into the picture? He must fill the same spot that Paul filled in his day. Remembering the above quote from ancient history, let us see how Paul handled the situation.

In Colossians 3:1-6 we find Paul addressing a

group of people who had been raised with Christ. In verse 5 he says, "*Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; FORNICATION, UNCLEANNESS, INORDINATE AFFECTION, EVIL CONCUPISCENCE, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*"

So Paul tells them that they must "mortify" their members. They had to bring them under control because any desire, lust, or affection that goes uncontrolled will eventually lead to sin and sins against God such as "fornication" and "uncleanness" which is related to unlawful sexual relations (adultery, pre-marital sex, homosexuality, etc.).

Now his reason for giving this command is most compelling. "*For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience*" (verse 6).

So what did Paul do about all the sexual sins that were being practiced in his day? He took a stand and it was a stand that ran right against the popular trend of that day. Yet, it was a stand for what was right, good, and healthy for mankind as a whole.

We must, as an organized body of Christians, cry out in opposition to what these homosexual and lesbian activists are fighting for and that is: respect, acceptance, and a place in the church as they are now.

Though as Christians we love all men, this does not mean that we accept all men in their, what they call, "natural" state. We oppose their practice and those things for which they are lobbying. Though we may represent a minority, we must stand with the courage of Paul and tell these people to "*mortify*" their members because the "*wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.*"

During one of the Italian wars, some recruiting officers came to a small town. Men and boys of all ages were recruited and joined the parade, armed with swords, guns and sticks. An old lady was so stirred by the spectacle that she shouldered her broom and fell in line. Proudly she marched along, keeping perfect step with the others. Onlookers jeered at the old lady. They asked, "What good can you do in battle?" She replied, "Not much, but I want everybody to know whose side I am on!"

Brethren and friends, I don't know about you, but I'm going to speak out against these gay activists. I may be alone, but I'm like the old Italian lady... "I want everybody to know whose side I'm on!"

MARTY LIVINGSTON  
235 Oakland Drive  
Oxford, AL 36203

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES!

1. Which one of Jacob's sons did he foretell would have eyes red with wine and teeth white with milk?
2. The Lord said to Jeremiah that He knew him before what stage of his life?
3. In Corinthians God promises to not allow temptation to overtake us. What will he provide?
4. When two disciples were walking to Emmaus in Luke 24, what were they discussing?
5. According to Proverbs, you should listen to your father's instruction and do what to your mother's teachings?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. When the children of Israel first entered the Promised Land, how long were they to wait before eating the fruit of newly planted trees? FOUR YEARS: THE FIFTH YEAR THEY COULD EAT THE FRUIT (Lev. 19:23-25)
2. Jesus came for sinners, but for whom did He say He did not come to call? THE RIGHTEOUS (Matt. 9:13)
3. Romans 6 says that if you were baptized into Christ Jesus you were baptized into what else? HIS DEATH (Rom. 6:3)
4. What three books have this sentence in approximately the same words: "God will render to every man according to his deeds"? PSALMS (62:12), PROVERBS (24:12), ROMANS (2:6)
5. What two jobs did David have when he came into Saul's service? ARMOR BEARER AND HARP PLAYER (1 Sam. 16:21-23)

### ARE YOU ABLE?

Able to suffer without complaining,  
 To be misunderstood without explaining?  
 Able to endure without breaking,  
 To be forsaken without forsaking?  
 Able to give without receiving,  
 To ask without commanding,  
 To love despite misunderstanding?  
 Able to turn to the Lord for guarding?  
 Able to wait for His own rewarding?

--Copied.

<p>If you never stick your neck out, you'll never          get your head above the crowd.</p>
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## GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Aug. 1-5	Orange, TX	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
Aug. 2-5	Antioch Church near Piedmont, AL	Rufus Williams (Montgomery, AL)
Aug. 3-5	Second Ave. Church Opelika, AL	Bill Prince (Oxford, AL)
Aug. 5-10	Rainsville, AL 7:00pm	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Aug. 6-11	Antioch Church near Livingston, TN	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Aug. 10-12	Carrville Church near Tallassee, AL	Bruce Kessler (Forest Park, GA)
Aug. 10-12	Hokes Bluff, AL 7:00pm	Ray McManus (Gadsden, AL)
Aug. 17-19	Sylacauga, AL	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
Aug. 18-24 (Sa-F)	Brushy Creek Church Lucedale, MS 7:30 evenings	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Aug. 20-26	Bonaventure Road Savannah, GA	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)

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### WHO SHALL BE SAVED TODAY?

Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord (Rom. 10:13) and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31) and repents with a contrite spirit (Psa. 34:18) AND confesses the Lord Jesus (Rom. 10:9) AND submits to the figure of baptism (1 Pet. 3:21) AND is added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47) AND endures to the end (Matt. 10:22), then that person shall be saved!