

# A Time For Prayer And Preaching

There is never a time when prayer and preaching are not needed. We are to "pray without ceasing" and "constantly affirm" the truth (1 Thes. 5:17; Titus 3:8). However, there are times of "crisis" when special attention must be given to an acute problem.

The Corinthians needed a great deal of admonition about unity. Hence, Paul dealt with it in one way or another in the first fourteen chapters of his first letter. The Galatians had problems with Paul's apostleship and the circumcision. So, the bulk of his letter to them addressed these issues. Certain problems in our nation call for special attention right now.

It seems our nation is undergoing a moral test. It is not the first one. The "sexual revolution" of the 1960s was one. The scandals of Bill Clinton, and people's reaction, was another. The nation failed on both accounts. Sexual immorality has risen since the 1960s and polls revealed Bill Clinton was supported by the majority of America, that is, most citizens were not outraged enough to have him thrown out of office (either by vote or Senate trial).

The moral test we are now facing is on the issue of homosexuality. Are we, or are we not, going to tolerate legal sanction of homosexuality. Will we as a nation view it as just another "lifestyle"? Do John and Joe have as much right to marry and cohabit as Jim and Jane?

God declares homosexuality to be sinful. Those who practice such will lose their souls in hell (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:26-32; cf. 2 Pet. 2:6; Jude 7). All who believe in God, and believe His Word, will view homosexuality as a deviant behavior as well.

It is sad, but many people are willing to compromise on this issue. The idea is, let two consenting adults do as they please. In the past, this philosophy was applied to unmarried couples and prostitution. We wonder, to what will it be applied next? Will the age at which one becomes an adult be lowered from 18 to 16? There is a group called NAMBLA (North American Man-Boy Love Association) that wants to legalize sexual relations between men and boys. Will they get their wish in 20 or 30 years? If we look at the moral decline of the United States over the past 40 years, the answer is yes.

So, now is the time for prayer and preaching on these issues. Let us pray

for our leaders, that they may take a stand for righteousness (1 Tim. 2:1-2). Let us also "preach the word," though it may be out of season, to prick the hearts of those around us and persuade them of the truth (2 Tim. 4:2; cf. Acts 2:37).

"Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34).

Steven F. Deaton