

## MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

### **CLEAVER OF TRUTH MINISTRY**

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“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword” ... Hebrews 4:12

Dear Friends and Family,

We are getting settled in Florida. We made one trip back to Georgia to get a load of things that we needed. We have to go back again to get the rest of our things and get the house listed for sale.

I loved it in Georgia and really hated to give up our home but the upkeep of the property was getting too much for us at our ages. Of course there are other reasons we wanted to make this move.

We all need a place to call home and a few possessions but life should not consist of just material things. It is much more than that. Our relationship with God our Father is more important than all the things of this world.

I've seen people in the end-stage of their lives and their concern is not for their material things, But rather their spiritual condition. *We have nothing when we come into this world and we certainly can take nothing with us when we leave this world, except our characters.* (May God help us to develop the type of characters that will be acceptable to Him! We can only do this with the help of Jesus Christ, who died so we can have eternal life.)

I shall sadly miss all our friends and relatives in Georgia. Hopefully we will stay in touch with one another. Rodney and I love each and every one of you and one day we hope to see us ALL in God's

kingdom where we will never have to say “good-bye” again!

Message this month: IMMORALITY

#### TALES OF A TENNESSEE CHAIN GANG

Bill Burchard jerked his head up and peered quizzically from among the cornstalks. What was that noise? He pushed a crumpled blue bandana slowly across his brow and then stood scanning the underbrush forty yards away.

Seeing nothing he moved to the next stalk and ripped the blades off. His family of seven had long since consumed the last of the corn, and now, early in September, 1894, he was salvaging the blades to feed his scrawny cow.

Burchard worked five days a week in the Dayton Coal and Iron Mine. He ascended from the brutal bowels of the earth to go to church on Saturdays, and this schedule left Sunday as his only day to catch up on work around his home. He straightened up again. He had heard something. A screeching jay betrayed two men about to disappear over a low ridge. Burchard thought nothing more about the incident until one evening a week or two later when he came home to find Sheriff Darwin sitting on his front stoop. The sheriff rose slowly as Burchard approached.

"Help y'all, Sheriff?" Burchard asked.

Darwin looked down, slipping the four fingers of each hand into his front pockets.

"I'm sorry, Bill," he mumbled, "but I got to take ya in."

"Take me in!" Burchard's face paled in shock, "but what in the world for?"

"Here," said the sheriff, slipping a long folded piece of paper out from under his vest, "listen to this:

*'State of Tennessee, To the Sheriff of Rhea County, Greeting: You are hereby commanded to take the body of William S. Burchard, if found in your county, and him safely keep, so that you have him before the judge of our Circuit Court . . . at the Courthouse in the town of Dayton, on the first Monday in March next, then and there to answer the state for violating Sabbath. Herein fail not. . . C.G. Gillespie, Clerk.'*

By the time Burchard returned home late that night he understood what his two secretive visitors had been doing that Sunday.

Burchard lived four and a half miles from Graysville, Tennessee, in a little valley called the Cove. In Graysville, a town of 600, about 20 percent of the town of 600 kept the seventh-day Sabbath. The reli-

gious community had built up around Graysville Academy, a school begun two years earlier by a Sabbath keeping minister named G. W. Colcord. (The school was later moved and grew into what is now a college near Chattanooga.)

Not only Burchard had been arrested but also Colcord and two of the Academy teachers, along with several other Sabbathkeepers, were under indictment for violating Tennessee's Sunday law.

Burchard was charged on two counts--stripping fodder and helping to dig a well on Sunday. Others were charged with such crimes as putting chicken wire around a garden or carrying a few boards.

The trials made obvious that the chief instigator of the trouble was an angry coal miner named Wright Rains, who had been refused credit by the Sabbath-keeping proprietor of a local grocery store. Two of his friends had slipped out of the services in their church just over the ridge from Burchards cabin to spy on him.

For more than 15 years Sabbathkeepers had been subjected to sporadic persecution for Sunday-law violations in various states. They believed at the time that to rest on Sunday was an admission of Sundays sacredness. They believed that that would be giving in to a false system of worship.

By the time of the Graysville cases, fifty-three Sabbathkeepers had been convicted of Sunday violations and thirty had gone to prison. Prior to the Supreme Courts "Christian Nation" decision in 1892, Sabbathkeepers had spent thousands on lawyers fees to escape conviction, usually without success. After 1892 they considered the cause hopeless, and spoke the best they could in their own defense.

But though the beleaguered Graysville Sabbathkeepers had little hope in the court, they had plenty of help outside. The American Sentinel, an eight year old journal of religious liberty, sent reporters to cover the trials.

Three newspapers in Dayton, Tennessee, were outspoken in defense of the Sabbathkeepers, and before the Graysville cases finally were resolved, more than 250 newspapers across the country would side with the Sabbathkeepers.

Anyone arriving in Dayton by rail on Sunday, March 4, the day before the trial began, could have gathered ample evidence that what Sabbath-keepers faced was religious discrimination rather than simple prosecution under the law. The fact that one could get to Dayton on a Sunday train would have been the first proof. Then walking down the street toward the courthouse, doubtlessly one would see three small boys sucking

hard candy in front of the drugstore and hear the cash-register bell jangle periodically inside.

From the courthouse one could see the belching smokestack of the Dayton Coal and Iron Company. Like a black flag, the smoke signaled that 400 or more workmen were keeping the furnaces hot on Sunday. The switch engine as it coughed and whistled away with its load of slag could also be heard. But only the Sabbathkeepers were charged with working on Sunday.

A little investigation by Dayton's local papers revealed that members of the grand jury that indicted the Sabbathkeepers were hiring extra help to pick their strawberries on Sundays just as on other days. (Colcord was arrested, not for working himself, but for letting his students wash clothes and saw wood on Sunday.)

Bill Burchard pleaded not guilty to the charges, saying he had not violated the Sabbath, because the Bible says Saturday is the Sabbath.

Colcord--stoop-shouldered, aging, and wearing a giant patriarchal beard--appealed to the Declaration of Rights in the Tennessee Constitution, which said that "no human authority can, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience." The declaration also forbade any preference to any religious establishment or mode of worship.

Judge J. G. Parks was sympathetic, but he said his was a secular not a religious court. The only question for the jury, he said, was what the law said and whether it had been violated. He pointed out that he had a sworn duty to enforce the law and ensure its respect.

Judge Parks then argued weakly that the Sunday law was not one that protects a particular belief but one that "protects the unanimous belief of nearly all Christian denominations." Then he presented his dilemma: "But here we have a very respectable element of Christian believers who are honest, inoffensive, law-abiding people in all matters not conflicting with their sense of duty, who believe they are under divine command to observe the seventh day as the Sabbath. . . . If there were only one of them, he would be entitled not only to his honest belief but to the exercise of that belief so long as in so doing he did not interfere with some natural right of his neighbors. . . . Do the defendants in keeping the seventh day and working on the first thereby interfere with any natural right of their neighbors? Or is it an artificial right created by human law?"

Judge Parks left his question unanswered, but it was clear where he stood. He said in closing, "I have serious doubts as to the justice of the law, but the remedy is not to be found in disobeying it, but in having it repealed."

He fined the defendants \$2.50 each, suspended the sentences, but asked them to pay the court costs. The Sabbathkeepers refused to pay the costs, choosing rather to go to jail. They explained their reasons by saying that the State had taken them from their homes and work for no just cause, and they simply submitted to the powers that be, but they refused to become parties in any degree to the iniquitous proceeding by the payment of a fine.

They were given prison sentences of twenty to seventy-six days.

Bill Burchard left behind a note in his daughters autograph album:

"Dear Hattie, This is the 6th day of March in the year 1895 A.D., in the Cove in Rhea County, Tennessee, in the so-called free America. I go to Dayton today expecting to go to jail for the crime (?) of believing the Bible. I was found guilty by the court. . . . Yet these things and worse happened in all ages to Gods people--why not to us? Second Timothy 3:12 says 'all who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution'. I want you to be a good girl and live for God and His truth. That is the only thing we can live for in this world that is worth living for. Read and meditate on Hebrews 11:32-40 (a brief history of persecutions suffered by Old Testament heroes) and you can see what awaits us only a little way in the future."

Jailhouse life was not severe, but there were hardships involved in the incarceration. Several of the men were nearly penniless, and their families were left without support. Then, too, with three key staff members gone, Graysville Academy had to send its one hundred students home two months early, some of them without the diplomas they had expected.

Sheriff Darwin was kind enough to put the men up in the two-story house attached to the jail rather than in the cells. The quarters, the Sabbathkeepers reported, were not "offensively dirty." They were allowed to have visitors and were given access to the well in the front yard, thus escaping the mucky water from the jail-yard pump.

The residents of Dayton petitioned the court to release the prisoners, but in spite of the uproar in the nations press, the court denied the petition by a narrow margin.

Judge Parks recommended to Governor Peter Turney that the prisoners be pardoned, and finally the last two still serving sentences were granted clemency even though they gave no evidence of repentance.

Scarcely had they returned home than twenty more indictments went out for Graysville Sabbathkeepers. Burchard and Colcord were arrested again.

While they waited for the next session of the court in July, the Sabbathkeepers listened for developments in the Tennessee legislature. A bill providing exemption from the Sunday law for those who observed a different day had been introduced. It cleared the committee but lost on the floor by more than two to one. Bill Burchard and his friends knew their chance of acquittal this time was slim.

The court convened in July. Some of the cases were continued, a few dismissed, but eight Sabbathkeepers--including Burchard and Colcord again were convicted.

This time, however, their enemies had succeeded in reinstating the county chain gang--a practice that had not been followed for years.

Shortly before nine o'clock in the morning on July 16, 1895, two heavy wagons lumbered out of Dayton loaded with picks, shovels, eighteen prisoners, and an equal number of balls and chains.

Bill Burchard must have thought of his own family as he eyed a fellow convict who had tried to slit his wife's throat. Guarding Sabbathkeepers and assassin alike, Deputy Sheriff Jim Howard cradled a double barreled shotgun in his arms as he rocked back and forth on the high seat.

The wagons lurched for eighteen miles over the dusty road that ran north from Dayton and stopped at an empty house near Spring City, Tennessee. The afternoon was spent filling straw ticks, making crude tables and attaching old wagon wheels to the upstairs windows, "to keep the white prisoners in", as Burchard put it.

A black convict assigned to kitchen duty delivered cabbage, onion bread, and sugar for supper, and Bill Burchard settled down for fifty days "on the hard rock ground." After cold biscuits and molasses for breakfast ("and not enough of that") the Rhea County chain gang set to work breaking up rock for the approaches to a nearby bridge.

The first full day of work was a Friday, so when the Sabbathkeepers went to bed that night they doubtless had special prayer about the events of the next day. They probably were waiting nervously when Deputy Howard clomped into their room the next morning.

"S'pose this is the day y'all won't do no work," he said.

"That's right, sir," Pastor Colcord replied--as politely as he knew how.

"Well, don't make no difference--I just won't count your Saturdays against your sentence, and it wouldn't do to have ya work tomorrow either."

The deputy's arbitrary decision was obviously illegal, but it was better to keep quiet than create a confrontation over working on Saturday.

Their short evenings, often enlivened by fights among the other convicts, became almost too exciting when one prisoner grabbed a sleepy guard's gun, aimed it at another prisoner, and pulled the trigger. Luckily, the gun failed to discharge.

Perhaps emboldened by the incident, two of the other prisoners slipped past the guard one night and escaped.

Meanwhile, the Sentinel kept up weekly reports on every phase of the prisoner's plight, and newspapers round the country kept up their barrage against the bigotry of Tennessee.

Once the Spring City job was done, the chain gang was moved to a two-story log house about a mile and a half from Graysville.

Burchard noted that this was really his first time behind bars since all the windows were equipped with them. The weather was hot, though, so the guard left the front door open at night and stood on the porch.

When the last of the cases came to trial, the Sab-bathkeepers enjoyed the free legal assistance of a former Congressman from Tennessee and the attorney for the Cincinnati Southern Railroad of Chattanooga. The combination of their skill and the jury's weariness over the whole affair won acquittals in the remaining cases.

In Bill Burchard's last report he said: "We are all well, healthy, and happy. The sun has been extremely hot today. One big fellow got so hot this afternoon he had to stop, but none of us has done that yet."

"They furnish us plenty to eat now, and as Brother Morgan is cook, it is well prepared. My time should be out in a week from today. I must close as it is dark, and the workhouse is out of lamp oil."

**What a privilege it is to be a citizen of these United States today. How thankful we can be for the freedom we each have to worship God according to our individual beliefs. It is actually a rare privilege seen in the history of this earth.**

**How carefully we need to guard that freedom. It has been said that, "That freedom can be retained only by**

**the eternal vigilance which has always been its price." There have been times when that liberty of conscience in this basically Christian nation has been denied to individuals as you saw in the preceding story.**

**According to the book of Revelation, the time will come when much more serious religious persecution will happen again as the whole earth wonders after the beast.**

**May God bless you as you search the Scriptures for hidden truths. May you be one of those that are blessed because they love God and keep His commandments no matter what.**

#### DECODING THE BOOK OF DANIEL AND REVELATION CONTINUED.....

Continuing our study in Daniel 7 regarding the FOURTH BEAST that Daniel saw in his vision:

"I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. Daniel 7:11

**NOTE: This is a solemn scene. In Daniel's vision he sees the history of the entire world from the time of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon all the way down to the time the little horn power is destroyed in the end.**

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

"And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7: 13, 14

The angel in Daniel's vision made known to him about the FOURTH BEAST:

"Thus he said, THE FOURTH BEAST shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after

them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. **(This is the Little Horn spoken of in Daniel 7:7,8)**

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand **until A TIME AND TIMES AND THE DIVIDING OF TIME. (1260 years)**

But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." Daniel 7:23-27

**NOTE: A TIME in Jewish reckoning is a YEAR, so TIMES would be TWO YEARS and a HALF TIME would be ½ OF A YEAR (A Jewish month is thirty days) so 1 YEARS is 12 months (12x30=360 days) 2 years would be 24 months (24x30=720 days) ½ years would be 6 months (6x30=180 days)**

<b>Total</b>	<b>1260 days</b>
	<b>(or years)</b>

This is a very important time prophecy. We will be learning more about these 1260 days or years. We will continue our study into Daniel chapter 8 next time.

#### LIBERTY NOTES ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS (CON'T) THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

***"No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising on the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself nor shall any person be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."***

While grand juries once exercised both the accusatory function indictments as well as the protective function of shielding the innocent from erroneous charges, current legal procedures limit the ability of grand juries to perform the protective function today.

Although grand jury proceedings are stacked in favor of the prosecutor, jurors can still exercise their prerogative to return an indictment or not. Keep in mind that the role of the grand jury is not to decide guilt or innocence, but to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to indict. In practice, grand juries, whose members are drawn from the rolls of registered voters, usually do issue an indictment when requested to do so by a prosecutor, but they don't have to.

A role of grand juries that has grown in recent years is their ability to conduct investigations. While fact finding may seem to be a departure from the purpose of grand juries, it is not difficult to see why the investigative role developed. To determine whether an indictment should be issued, it may be necessary for a grand jury to gather information.

Key rights secured by the Fifth amendment include the right to no DOUBLE JEOPARDY, and the right NOT TO TESTIFY AGAINST ONESELF. Both are very important to protect the rights of someone accused of a crime and to ensure that justice is served.

There is an exception to not being tried again for the same crime. Someone acquitted of a state offense may be charged with a similar offense under federal law, or vice versa. This is not considered double jeopardy.

The Founding Fathers drafted the Fifth Amendment to forestall the use of torture and other means of coercion to secure confessions. They believed that coerced confessions violate the rights of the individual being interrogated and render the confession untrustworthy.

The SELF-INCRIMINATION CLAUSE of the Fifth Amendment says that no one will be forced to serve as a witness against himself or herself in a criminal prosecution. The Miranda warning is: "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney, if you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you." If a person in custody is to be subjected to interrogation, he must first be informed in clear and unequivocal terms that he has the right to REMAIN SILENT.

The guarantee of DUE PROCESS OF LAW distinguishes our justice system from those of other nations that do not respect the rights of citizens. Two meanings of due process have developed: *PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE*. Procedural due process requires the government to follow established rules and principles in a fair and regular manner, such as in a court of law; Substantive due process is the requirement that laws

and regulations must be related to a legitimate government interest (as crime prevention) and may not contain provisions that result in the unfair or arbitrary treatment of an individual.

#### HEALTH NUGGET

### What the medical industrial complex doesn't want anyone to know Natural News

The *real* reason many children and babies have weaker immune systems than adults is because they receive over 50 toxic vaccines before age 7, as recommended by the CDC and the state department – and enforced at gunpoint in certain states, like California.

Chicken pox is a common childhood disease caused by a virus that lasts two to four days, and then most children are immune to it for life. Measles is like a cold that can include a cough, fever and a blotchy rash that fades after a few days and peels. Mumps is an acute viral infection usually accompanied by a mild fever lasting a couple of days, with a sore throat and swollen glands. What the medical industrial complex doesn't want anyone to know is that the normal human body that's not beaten down and infected by vaccine toxins and food toxins beats these infections easily. Same goes for the Zika virus, which does *not* cause deformations in babies; that's all a huge lie and scare tactic. The swine flu was a hoax, as was the vaccine, and those vaccine manufacturers have [paid out millions in damages](#) due directly to that toxic jab. Then there's the MMR vaccine that causes autism, as confessed by the *head* CDC scientist, Dr. William Thompson.

The anthrax vaccine is highly experimental and dangerous, and the polio vaccine, given by injection or through oral or nasal application, actually spreads the disease, with those children themselves becoming carriers, infecting other children and family members. It's criminal and the vaccine industry knows it, but the profits from selling the vaccine to all the parents and brainwashed, uneducated folks through fear-mongering far outweigh the damages paid out in settlements for health detriment. It's a simple

formula for evil capitalistic success: sell millions of toxic [vaccines](#) and create a slush fund from about 1 percent of those profits to shut parents up who try to sue the industry when their kids and babies become crippled and maimed.

The only thing parents should be scared of is the vaccine industry. Take measures to build immunity with organic food and natural remedies and don't fall for all the propaganda and fear-mongering spread by the CDC in America.

#### FROM KATIE'S COOKBOOKS

I use **chicken-like seasoning mix** in a lot of my recipes. It makes a good broth for soups, casseroles and lots of other things:

#### MOCK CHICKEN SEASONING

(Tasty Vegan Delights)

**Mix well in a small bowl:**

**1 cup nutritional yeast flakes**

**2 tsp onion powder**

**1 tsp onion salt**

**½ tsp sage**

**½ tsp thyme**

**½ tsp marjoram**

**3tbsp parsley flakes (rubbed to powder between palms of hands.**

**1 ½ tsp garlic salt**

**1 ½ tsp celery salt**

**¼ tsp savory**

**If you have a blender you may want to mix them up in it and store in airtight jar on the shelf. Use as chicken flavor for soups, patties, gravy, etc.**

**Until next month...**

**Remember God loves you and so do we!**

**Katie and Rodney Armstrong**

## IMMORALITY

In the past I have been guilty of some of the things I am writing about in this article; however, we do not need to remain guilty because, "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Today almost everything we hear and see is immoral; much of the language we hear on television would have been censored a few years back and the way some people dress would not have been allowed.

Some female music stars are having 'wardrobe malfunctions' which are made to look accidental. Some young men have the practice of letting their pants sag so that their buttocks are visible( I understand this practice was started in prisons to show their availability for homosexual activity.)

This generation seems to be obsessed with tattoos and body piercing with rings in their noses, tongues, ears, and bellybuttons. They are probably unaware that this type of practice has pagan origins which are satanic. We are not to deface our bodies. They were designed to be God's temple.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." 1Peter 3:3, 4

Do I need to mention the increased use of illegal drugs and alcohol?

Immorality is connected to filthiness of mind and surroundings, while the opposite is true of those who practice righteousness.

While especially in the slums immorality and filthiness prevails, it is not always poor people who are immoral. Some of the most immoral people I have known were not by any means poor.

I understand not a few in high offices in our government are on illegal drugs and are homosexual. It is no wonder that government is favoring the gay lifestyle.

In the book 'Operation Gladio' we are informed that it is the CIA which is responsible for bringing illegal drugs into our country to finance war. They make money on both ends of their operation. The initial sale of the drugs and the fines people pay when they get caught for selling and buying them.

In our churches apostasy begins with the leadership and revival begins with individuals; so it is with our nation and the government. (As it is with the leadership so it is with the nation.) This is true because the immorality and the lack of godliness in government and the lack of devotion in our churches is no accident, it has been promoted by the same secret societies and has been planned for hundreds of years.

In the book 'Morals and Dogma', (the Masonic handbook written by Albert Pike, who lived during the Civil War), their plans are outlined for the control of this country.

Not only the Masons but the Shriners, Knights of Columbus, CFR, the Bilderbergers, as well as other secret societies are working in unison for the demise of morality; through Hollywood, music, TV, and other seemingly innocent organizations... even Disney. Did you know Walt Disney was a spiritualist?

Which do you think children prefer, Bible stories or the stories, cartoons and movies Disney produces? Mickey Mouse is portrayed as a wizard and the Road Runner doesn't die when he is killed. Our children when fed this corruption grow up in a fantasy world and the desire for Christianity is diminished.

We lie to our children about Santa Clause and the Easter bunny; is it any wonder they learn to lie and cheat at an early age.

In many households there is a double standard, one for adults and another for the children. The same standards and rules should apply for parents and children if they want the respect of their children. Some parents drink alcohol and smoke marijuana with their children.

A few years back people would be arrested for living together out of wedlock today it seems to be the norm. When children are born to those out of wedlock they usually have the same moral standards.

What is going to happen as the result of all of the immorality? "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:26-30

The reason the earth in Noah's day and the cities of the plains (including Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's day), were destroyed was the same type of immorality that prevails today. Sodomy a homosexual practice named after the city of Sodom was the norm in the days of Lot.

"But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, 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. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn,

and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut the door. *And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.* Genesis 19:4-11

The wicked inhabitants of Sodom did not realize the very ones they wanted to sodomize were the angels that came to destroy them for their wickedness.

"Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth. When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it" Eze. 33:10-13

Immoral people are easier to control and are much easier to deceive. When we have given our lives to the Creator of the universe He becomes our advisor and protector. His Holy Spirit is our teacher and our guide. As long as we are connected with God immorality and deceit will not influence us.

It really is like it was in Noah's day and Sodom and Gomorrah. Are you ready?

Rodney Armstrong

