

IT IS SETTLED!

"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13b)

By Howell Lasseter

Departures: Homosexuality

"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:11-16). This scripture was written by the apostle Paul. Who was this man, whose name was changed from Saul to Paul? Let us notice 2 Corinthians 11:2-6, as he writes to the church at Corinth: "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles. But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things." (emphasis, hl)"

Replying to a "Letter to the Editor," a citizen of our community had this to say about Paul: "All Paul would have known of homosexuality was the debauched pagan expression of it. He cannot be condemned for his ignorance, but neither should his ignorance be an excuse for our own." From whence did Paul learn the facts he taught concerning homosexuality? Was it from Gamaliel, at whose feet Paul studied (Acts 22:3)? Was it from Paul's life before he became a Christian and while he was persecuting the Lord's church (Acts 26:9,10)? Paul tells us! It was the spirit of Christ, received after Paul's obedience to God's commands (Acts 26:14-18). Paul says he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision (Acts 26:19).

Concerning homosexuality, God has forbidden the practice since Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-26). Romans 1:26,27 is not the earliest prohibition against homosexuality. Read Leviticus 20:13, contained in the Old Testament law given to the Jews. Under discussion in Leviticus was not pagan practices, but God's law to His people.