



The Eternal Gospel Herald

VOL. 8 NO. 8 – “Contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Jude 3

Pope Urges Christians to Unite

Pope speaks of his longing for Christian unity

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service
Feb. 20, 2014



The pope says all Christians share blame for their divisions and speaks of his "longing" for their unity and insists that God will bring the miracle of Christian unity to completion.

"Pray to the Lord that he will unite us all," the pope tells a group of Pentecostals meeting in the United States. "Let's move forward, we are brothers; let us give each other that spiritual embraces and allow the Lord to complete the work he has begun. Because this is a miracle; the miracle of unity has begun."

The joy, the pope said, comes from knowing that "the Lord is working all over the whole world." But he said he is full of longing because Christians are still separated, "separated because of sin, our sins."

"Who is at fault?" he asked. "All of us are, we are all sinners. There is only one who is just and that is the Lord." Pope Francis said he longs for the day when "this separation would end and there would be communion."

"Let's allow our longing to increase so that it propels us to find each other, embrace each other and to praise Jesus Christ as the only Lord of history," the pope said.

—continued on page 3

God's View on Gay Marriage

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Gen. 1:27.

God created the human race, and because He created one male and one female, this made it possible for the first humans to join together as a pair and became husband and wife.

"Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matt. 19:4-6.

When God created Adam first, He recognized that it was not good for him to be alone. Therefore God Himself provided Adam with a suitable companion in Eve, a woman, and thereby binding them together in a marital relationship (Gen. 2:19-24).

This is what God has brought together, male and female. It was this male/female relationship which Christ declared that should not be "put asunder." After bringing them together He blessed them and said, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." Gen. 1:28.

This was the order that God established at the beginning of the world: (1) God created one male and one female (2) He brought a woman to Adam (3) He joined them together in marriage (4) He blessed this union (5) He commanded them to multiply, procreate, and increase the family circle.

These stated principles God declared to be "very good" (Gen. 1:31).

In light of this biblical, foundational account of the origin and nature of the first couple, homosexual or "same" (homo) sex marriage or gay marriage contradicts God's intention for the expression of human sexuality in holy matrimony.

Same-sex marriage is based upon homosexuality, and in Genesis chapters 1 and 2, God's creative design of male and female is the foundational argument against same-sex relationships such as gay and lesbian marriage. There is a "new" liberal call that is being championed as the "new" civil rights battle—that of supporting the legalization of same-sex marriage. In addition, many states have adopted

—continued on page 3

"We are not to cringe and beg pardon of the world for telling them the truth: we should scorn concealment. Unfurl your colors to meet the cause of men and angels. Let it be understood that Seventh-day Adventists can make no compromise. The world has a right to know what to expect of us." Evangelism, p. 179

"There has been too much beating about the bush in the proclamation of the third angel's message. The message has not been given as clearly and distinctly as it should have been." Evangelism, p. 230.



France Threatens Fines of 150,000 Euros for Sunday Openings

Why The French are Fighting Over Work Hours
The New Yorker, October 3, 2013, By Alexander Stille

In September, a French tribunal of commerce said that two big home-improvement stores, Castorama and Leroy Merlin, would face daily fines of a hundred and twenty thousand euros per store (about a hundred and fifty thousand dollars) if they continue to operate on Sunday. The retailers have said they will open despite the fines, the result of a lawsuit.

Stores in Germany—which has the strongest economy in Europe—are closed on Sunday. "The Sunday day of rest enjoys consensus in Germany, among unions, employees, consumers, and business owners," Werner Zettelmeier, the research director of Paris's Center for Information and Research in Contemporary Germany, wrote in yesterday's La Croix. "Any politician who proposed opening stores on Sunday would risk his or her career."

—continued on page 2

U.S. To Expand Same-sex Rights

US Justice Department to Expand Rights of Same-sex Couples

Reuters News
By David Ingram
February 8, 2014

Attorney General Eric Holder plans widespread changes within the U.S. Justice Department to benefit same-sex married couples, such as recognizing a legal right for them not to testify against each other in civil and criminal cases.



The changes, being unveiled by Holder in a speech on Saturday in New York, are designed to keep pushing for gay rights in the United States after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year, said the federal government cannot refuse to recognize same-sex marriages carried out in states that allow them.

Gay marriage is permitted in only 17 of the 50 U.S. states, as well in Washington, D. C.

"This landmark announcement will change the lives of countless committed gay and lesbian couples for the better," Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement.

"While the immediate effect of these policy decisions is that all married gay couples will be treated equally under the law, the long-term effects are more profound. Today, our nation moves closer toward its ideals of equality and fairness for all," Griffin added. In states where same-sex marriage is not legal, spousal privilege for same-sex couples is not guaranteed.

Believe, Obey and Prosper

—By Pastor Raphael Perez

“Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God’s.” 2 Chron. 20:15.

Whatever struggle we have, it is only conquered by faith in God and not merely by our human effort.

In this battle found in 2 Chronicles 20, Judah was facing a real threat—a great multitude of Moabites and Ammonites. But notice what else God has declared to His people.

“Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.” 2 Chronicles 20:17.

King Jehoshaphat instructed the people to believe in their God and to believe in His prophets and that they would prosper. Later he commanded his army while they were approaching the enemy to sing praises to the Lord for His beauty and holiness. What a wonderful way to go into battle.

As the enemy advanced the choir began to sing: “Praise the Lord, for His mercy endureth for ever” (2 Chronicles 20:21). They were praising as though the victory was already won. And it was! Then the armies opposing Judah began to fight against each other until they had utterly destroyed themselves. God’s people were spared.

Notice, they won the battle by singing and by obeying the prophet. We should, with cheerfulness, move forward with the work God has given us today—also obeying the end-time prophet.

They enjoyed complete victory without the shot of an arrow, and then they spent three days collecting all the spoil of gold and precious stones. Three days because there was so much.

On the fourth day they gathered together and worshipped God and gave thanks to Him. The fear of God was felt among His people and on the rest of the nations as well. This victory ensured peace and tranquility for God’s people for many years.

In times of uncertainty, we must follow this simple yet powerful example of faith. We must believe in God and in His prophets and follow their instructions by faith.

We would appeal to each of you, during this time of great uncertainty, to support the work which God has entrusted us to do. Yes, we need to place more billboards around the country in order to “proclaim the Sabbath more fully” (Early Writings, p. 33).

Yes, we need to place more full-page newspaper ads into the “secular papers for this will be a means of awakening souls to see the truth” (Evangelism, p. 129.)

Again, we need to proclaim the true, pure, unfiltered, unedited three angels’ message from the word of God.

We want to continue with our radio programs because it is through these means that thousands of people in Cuba and in other countries

have been coming to a knowledge of our precious message for this time.

There is much to be done. We would invite you to remember those who are perishing for the need of the final warning message. *Therefore, we are soliciting your prayers and financial support, and we look forward to keep hearing from you.*

“There is a great work to be done. It may seem to move slowly and hard at first; but God will work mightily through you if you will only make an entire surrender to Him.” Evangelism, pp. 412, 413.

God bless all of you and may He help us to remain faithful unto the end.

Letters

Thank you for blessing me with those great newsletters. They are so good. May God give you strength to be fervent and faithful until the end and to know for sure that this promise is for you all always found in; II Timothy 4:8. May God be with you! **Daniel for Arizona.**

Dear Eternal Gospel Church, A friend from church shared a copy of The Eternal Gospel Herald with me today, and I would like to be added to your mailing list. My wife and I are new to the SDA Church and are very excited to be learning new truths about God’s word. God bless you! **Dan from Minnesota.**

To Whom This May Concern, I hope this finds you at your best; mentally, physically and spiritually. I came across your address in a magazine called “The Antichrist Identified.” The ad states to write for a free book, therefore I respectfully request that you can send it to me as well as any other information you have to offer. Your time and assistance is greatly appreciated! Take care and God Bless! Sincerely in God, **James from Georgia.**

Dear Pastor Perez, Thank you for the newsletters that you’re sending to me. It keeps my faith alive. God bless you more abundantly and your ministry. Please keep me in your prayers! In Christ, **Eva from California.**

—continued from page 1 “Sunday Law France”

While there are clear economic advantages to staying open on Sunday, each society has a legitimate choice to make between money and leisure, the French economists Patrick Artus, Pierre Cahuc, and André Zylberberg argue.

“The well-being of each of us is not independent of what others do,” Artus, Cahuc, and Zylberberg wrote. “The value of our free time depends on the possibility of spending it with one’s family and friends and the ability to share that time with others.” In other words, the value of almost no one working on Sunday is that it forces families—or friends—to do things together.

This isn’t as trivial as it may seem, on first glance; social scientists are increasingly finding links between family time and well-being. A number of studies in the U.S. show that children who have dinner regularly with their families do better in school and are less likely to get into trouble. Families that rarely eat together see higher average rates of obesity, drinking, and drug use among teenagers, and more teen pregnancy. The entrenchment of 24/7 capitalism in the U.S.—which has forced many parents to work late hours, or hold down multiple jobs—has gone hand in hand with various negative social trends: rising divorce rates, child obesity, drug use, teen pregnancy.

Editor’s Note: “A more decided effort will be made to exalt the false Sabbath and to cast contempt upon God Himself by supplanting the day He has blessed and sanctified. This false *Sabbath is to be enforced by an oppressive law.*” 7BC 985.

150,000 euro fine per store! This is part of the “oppressive” enforcement that we will be seeing more and more as we enter the final crisis. What we also see here is that the work of promoting Sunday is closely linked to saving society! This is another fulfillment of prophecy. For the Spirit of Prophecy declared over a hundred years ago that men would conspire to do this very thing! “Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called ‘Christian Sabbath,’ and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society.” (GC 587).

In the efforts to save society, men will actually be bringing in the final end-time destruction. For inspiration also tell us: “National apostasy will be followed by national ruin.” 7BC 977.

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Subscription: **FREE**

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Online Edition: www.eternalgospel.com

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—continued from page 1 “Same-sex Marriage”

new rights for gays and lesbians to marry. Now even the United States Federal Government has fallen into the same-sex marriage camp. In other words, *America apparently assumes that God has no problem with homosexuality.*

However, the Bible gives us a very direct and solemn answer as to what God thinks about this controversial issue. In addressing this sensitive issue, we want to assure all of our readers that God loves the sinner. He became the substitute to all those who believe in Him and repent. He took our place on the cross, suffering the justice of God in our behalf to pay for our sins with His own blood.

“Christ came to this world to show that God is love, that like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him...*He abhors sin, but with a love that passes knowledge he loves the sinner.*” Review and Herald, Jan. 19, 1911.

When we truly seek God through true repentance, He will give us His grace and righteousness to overcome our sinful ways: “Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 15:57.

“Through the righteousness of Christ, we shall stand before God pardoned, and as though we had never sinned.” 5BC 1142.

A number of biblical prohibitions emphasize the dangers of straying away from God’s path and plan for humanity. The Bible says: *“But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.”* Gen. 13:13.

What was their high crimes that would merit such a harsh pronouncement? Notice, what the Bible says: “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.*” Gen. 19:5.

The men of Sodom are said to be “exceedingly wicked” and sinful because of their homosexual lifestyle. According to these passages, the men of the city – old and young – intended to “know” the two male guests of Lot. It is quite obvious, according to Gen. 19:5 and Gen. 19:8, that these men of Sodom intended to have intimate relations with the two male visitors. From this incident we get the meaning of the word sodomy, meaning sexual same-sex acts. Because of these wicked acts, the men of Sodom brought divine judgment upon the entire community. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah shows the appalling wickedness of the two cities and the surrounding cities as well.

The Apostle Jude identifies the chief sin of Sodom and Gomorrah as “strange flesh.” Jude 1:7, a reference to the same-sex relationships of the city. And Jude goes on to say that these two cities became a symbol of the eternal punishment to come.

The book of Leviticus is quite clear when it says: “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.” Lev. 18:22.

Same-sex marriage is completely at odds with the Old Testament teaching on sexuality. However, this cardinal principle on same-sex marriage is supported by the New Testament as well. The apostle Paul speaks clearly in his letter to the Romans:

Rom. 1:18 says, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”

Well, what are some of those acts that will bring upon the judgments of God? “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.” Rom. 1:26, 27.

God’s displeasure is not just against those who do such things, *but also against those who support and defend that behavior:* “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” Rom. 1:32.

These verses clearly speak against homosexuality as an immoral practice and provide a strong scriptural basis for the rejection and condemnation of same-sex marriage.

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor *effeminate* [same-sex relationships], nor abusers of themselves with mankind.” 1 Cor. 6:9.

“For whoremongers, for them that *defile themselves with mankind* [gay relationships], for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine.” 1 Tim. 1:10.

The sexual revolution of the 1960s has taken its toll on our society in general. Homosexual relationships and same-sex marriage are celebrated in the universities, in the daily newspapers, on television, the internet, by Hollywood, Disney, and in society in general. It has become the normal lifestyle. More and more of our local city, state, and federal government institutions have become gay friendly, and more Americans are being allured to accept homosexuality.

The gay lobby is powerful in America and is determined that their “alternative” lifestyle” be given the same classification of being normal because, according to them, gay people were born genetically different. Radical, liberal scientists are obsessed in finding a “gay gene” to prove that people are born gay. However, no evidence has yet been found that one’s sexuality is determined by genetics.

As same-sex marriage has been gaining support from everyone, this issue has become divisive in a number of churches and denominations. The fact is this: the homosexual agenda has come into the church and is taking over! Today we see the ordination of homosexuals, pastors who are gay and lesbian, and members who are open homosexuals. Just like society, the church is folding to the gay lobby. The gay agenda in the United States and around the world, and has waged a relentless war against the church, and the church is buckling under pressure.

1. The gay lobby wants the churches to be required to employ gays and lesbians
2. The gay lobby wants to shut down radio and television broadcasters who openly call homosexuality sin
3. The gay lobby would like to penalize or imprison ministers and preachers who characterize gays and lesbians as immoral and sinful.

The current attitude of Seventh-day Adventists and most churches is to soft-peddle the argument that “marriage is between a man and a woman” yet not to condemn openly the acts of homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Is this because we don’t want to lose federal grants for our different programs? Is this because we don’t want to *lose our status as an active United Nations NGO member?* Or is this because we don’t want to be too controversial?

However, the true Remnant church must be faithful and reaffirm its commitment to the Word of God and (1) defend the marriage institution given to us by God as a holy and sacred union between one man and one woman—regardless of what the voice of the majority may say or do; and (2) *declare that gay marriage is out of step with the Word of God. Gay marriage devalues and undermines the Biblical institution of marriage and cannot be a good moral choice for the human race. Remember this was the sin that brought the ancient civilizations to ruin.*

“[The Church] must say about sin what God says about it. She must deal with it as God directs, and her action is ratified in heaven.” Desire of Ages, pp. 805, 806.

God help us to reach even the souls who are captivated into the depths of sin. They can only be reached with the pure and straight testimony found in the word of God. No soft-peddling has ever converted any souls to the truth. So let us keep sounding the alarm of warning and hope “to every nation, kindred, tongue and people” (Rev. 14:6).

—The Editors

—continued from page 1 “Pope Calls for Unity”

The Catholic Church has celebrated the agreement on justification and other ecumenical agreements, while insisting that further progress must be made to resolve other differences before there is full unity and sacramental sharing. Those differences include how different Christians view the sacraments and how they see the role of the papacy.

Editor’s Note: The end-time religious union between Roman Catholicism and the Sunday-keeping churches is being brought into view here in this news article. Prophecy has declared this to be so: *“Protestantism will give the hand of fellowship to the Roman power.* Then there will be a law against the Sabbath of God’s creation, and then it is that God will do His ‘strange work’ in the earth.” 7BC 910.

This is Rome calling the Protestant churches to come into fellowship with her. And it appears that the majority of the Sunday churches, through their delegated leaders, have established this union with Rome. Time is running out and so many of our people are not ready for what is about to happen. We know that this so-called unity will only end in utter destruction, ruin, and persecution for those who keep all the commandments of God (Rev. 12:17). In view of all this, we need to prepare ourselves and help prepare others before time runs out.

The Final Events of the End Time

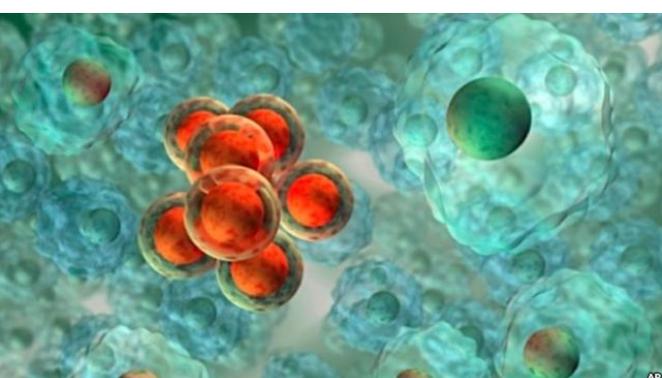
“So likewise, ye, when ye shall see all these, know that it is near, even at the doors.” Matthew 24:33



AFP News, Feb. 2, 2014—The death toll in Syria's civil war has topped 136,000, after January saw one of the conflict's bloodiest months as violence claimed yet more civilian lives. The prospects of a peaceful outcome looked dim after 10 days of talks in Geneva yielded no tangible results and the regime said it was unsure whether it would return to the negotiating table.



CNN News, Feb. 5, 2014—Jakarta, Indonesia. Search and recovery teams have again halted their perilous task of looking for victims from the recent volcanic eruptions of Indonesia's Mount Sinabung, disaster officials said. The death toll currently stands at 16 after plumes of ash spewed more than a mile into the sky Saturday and descended in superheated clouds. Scalding ash up to 700 degrees in temperature raced down the slope in just two to three minutes, engulfing Sukameriah, a village close to the volcano's crater.



CBS News, Feb. 4, 2014—By 2030, the number of people worldwide who are diagnosed with cancer is expected to skyrocket to 21.6 million -- a stark 53 percent increase from the latest stats reported in 2012, the World Health Organization reported. In 2012 alone, about 14 million people were diagnosed with cancer, and 8.2 million people lost their fight to the disease. The current numbers mean that one in five men and one in six women will eventually get cancer by the time they reach 75.



Pope Francis (R) talks with Samoa's head of state of Samoa, Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi, during a meeting at the Vatican February 3, 2014. REUTERS/Osservatore Romano.



AP News, Jan. 15, 2014—A mosquito-borne virus appears to be spreading quickly in the Caribbean during the winter tourism season just weeks after epidemiologists first found local transmission occurring in the French dependency of St. Martin. Scientists said Tuesday that St. Martin now has as many as 200 cases of chikungunya, a virus found mainly in Africa and Asia that can cause a debilitating but rarely fatal sickness with fever, rash, fatigue and intense muscle and joint pain. Roughly 9 million U.S. residents visit the Caribbean each year. Infected travelers could then cause local transmission of the virus in the United States if mosquitoes bite infected people and then bite other people.



San Jose Mercyru News, Jan. 31, 2014—For the first time in its 54-year history, the State Water Project, a backbone of California's water system, will provide no water to urban residents or farmers this year because of the severe drought, state officials said Friday. The news highlighted how California is in uncharted territory this year. Last year was the driest in the state's recorded history going back to 1850.



NBC News, Feb. 10, 2014—Flood-battered Britain is on course for its wettest winter in 250 years, officials said Tuesday as hundreds more homes were submerged in a crisis that could cost \$1.85 billion. Thousands of residents were evacuated from houses overnight after the River Thames burst its banks west of London, bringing the disaster closer to the door of Prime Minister David Cameron who has faced criticism over the government's response.



Fox News, Feb. 11, 2014—An Algerian military transport slammed into a mountain Tuesday in the country's rugged eastern region. A civil defense official said 102 people on board were killed but one managed to survive. The U.S.-built C-130 Hercules transport crashed about noon near the town of Ain Kercha, 30 miles southeast of Constantine, the main city in eastern Algeria.



Bloomberg, Feb. 6, 2014—Almost every piglet born on Craig Rowles' hog farms near Carroll, Iowa, died from the virus that swept through his herds. Porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, called PED, has spread to 23 U.S. states. “This virus is one of the most infectious diseases I’ve ever seen,” said Rowles, 56, who started raising livestock as a teenager and earned a degree in veterinary medicine at Iowa State University in Ames. There is no vaccine for the virus, which was common in Europe and Asia but wasn’t seen in U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers are forced to allow the sickness to run its course and to clean out pens to prevent further spread.