

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Episcopalians In The News Again

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The Episcopalians are in the news again. In a Newsweek interview dated June 26, 2006, the first openly gay bishop to be consecrated in the Episcopal Church expressed his views in a Q&A session. Among the questions and answers, there is a statement that I take issue with and which needs to be addressed. Of course, this isn't the only questionable statement, but the one I consider to be the most outrageous.

To set the stage, the interview coincides with the US Episcopal Church authorizing and ordaining its first female bishop, which led to this exchange:

When the Bishop was asked; *how do you reconcile what the Bible says about homosexuality with your lifestyle?* He answered, and I quote “*The people who are taking the Bible literally are absolutely outside of the Anglican tradition.*”

My first thought would be, how else could the Bible be taken, if not literally. As New Testament Christians, we only have to turn to *Acts 1:16* to establish that the Bible is inspired or “God breathed”

through the Holy Spirit. According to the Apologetics Press's publications, there are over 2700 claims in the Old and New Testament that the writings we call the Bible were inspired by God. In respect for God, we must take each written word He has breathed as literal as He intended.

Remember, our Lord didn't make the Bible hard to understand. He wrote it with us, the common man, in mind. All of His words on a subject are to be reflected upon (Acts 20:7), as we keep in mind the axiomatic law that truth does not contradict itself (Matt. 4:5-7). This helps us to correctly interpret what is written. Jesus asks us as individuals, “*how do you read*” His law with no need of a Jewish, Catholic or Protestant hierarchy intervening (Lk. 10:26-28). It is imperative to believe and accept biblical teachings as written. We must then obey the precepts that have been given to us by the word of God.

Secondly, with truly no offense intended, what in the world is the Anglican tradition? Please understand my intentions are not to ridicule or make fun of any religious organization, and I am sure there are many devout

followers in this group of people. At the present time, there are over 2 million Episcopalians in the United States, and they have their religious roots going back to the Church of England established in 1534, during the reign of King Henry VIII. But if by the arbitrary reasoning and declarations of men they reject the literal words of God, then they are all but lost.

God tells us in His word when He wants us to interpret words as figurative signs, such as he does in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:1). And when the literal interpretation leads to an illogical absurdity as Herod is “that fox”, we interpret the words in their figurative, non-literal sense as Jesus intended (Lk. 13:32). In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 the inspired word of God tells us “*do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.*” Where is the absurdity in interpreting thieves, drunkards, or covetous in their literal sense? God wants us to interpret “homosexuals” in the same sense!