

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

Volume VIII

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"Pushing the Envelope"

Ken Weliever

I heard on the news last night that the Fall TV season will have more adult oriented content. The report said that producers of network TV were scared that cable was eating into their market with more risqué' shows. So something had to be done to keep viewers. The reporter said that television producers were "pushing the envelope."

Well, isn't that just what we need in our homes?! While TV certainly isn't my life, I do enjoy watching a good movie, or some news programs, and of course ball games! But even at that you can't help but hear and see some of the previews for shows you don't want to see! Even the news relays information that is designed to sensationalize. Just this morning I was watching Fox News before coming to the office, and I learned that a certain celebrity who had been in a lesbian relationship had now married a man. Do I really need to know this?

But I keep thinking about this idea of "pushing the envelope." What does it really mean?

(1) "Pushing the envelope" means TV will do more to glorify fornication and adultery. Television programs do not accurately reflect our relationships. About 95% of sexual encounters on the tube are outside of marriage. Yet the Bible teaches, "Marriage is honorable

among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4).

As immoral as society may be, it is not as bad as TV pictures it. Yet, when our young people are constantly bombarded with immoral messages, it is easy to think that "everyone is doing it." Not so! Yet, it makes no difference. Christians must reject Hollywood's morals and follow God's.

(2) "Pushing the envelope" means to promote the homosexual agenda. It is obvious that each year more and more programs are designed to make us comfortable with the homosexual lifestyle. TV sends a message that such is simply an alternative lifestyle. This is normal. That there is nothing wrong with it. And those who are against homosexuality have some kind of phobia of which they should be ashamed. This so-called homophobia is placed in the same class as racism (Frankly, if I were a black person, I would find that very offensive).

Again, the "envelope pushing" of Hollywood is at odds with the Bible. Read Paul's description of homosexuality in Romans 1:18-32. In that text he describes homosexuals as "dishonoring their bodies." He says it is "uncleanness," "vile," "against nature," "shameful," "error," "de-based," and "not fitting."

There is absolutely no justification for this lifestyle. If every TV show on every network has a homosexual character, that still will not make it right in the eyes of God. It was and still is today a sin.

(3) “Pushing the envelope” will no doubt increase the practice of ridiculing religion. The overwhelming majority of shows on television belittle Christianity, mock moral values, and blaspheme the name of God. In fact, the report I saw guaranteed we would hear more cursing this year and increased instances of profaning God’s name.

In Ephesians 4:29 Paul said, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Language on the TV is far removed from that admonition.

Typically religious characters on television are portrayed as dim witted, bigoted, and hypocritical. Often they are pictured as uncaring and insensitive. Usually they are shown to be “out of it,” but often by the end of the thirty minutes they have “wised up” to the “enlightened” way of thinking.

Certainly such a depiction is unfair and unwarranted. If TV insulted homosexuals, women, or blacks in the same way it does Christians, the outcry would be deafening!

Hollywood can “push the envelope” all they want, but it is up to Christians to tear it up and throw it into the trash! I hope you can find something good to watch on TV this Fall, but if not you might want to turn it off and read your Bible. Or talk to your family. Or go and see someone and talk about Jesus. But that’s a subject for another time!

~via *Southport Sounder*, Greenwood, Indiana.

Satisfied With God’s Goodness

David McClister

“And My people will be satisfied with My goodness,” declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 31:14)

In Jeremiah’s day, Israel was dissatisfied with God. It was the other gods, they thought, that were the keys to their happiness. The problem was that Israel had become so materialistic that she thought of her well being solely in material terms. Good times were measured by physical abundance, prosperity, and possessions, and these things were believed to be the gifts of gods such as Baal and Asherah. Yahweh had become associated with destitution and need. There was an element of truth to this. God had withheld physical prosperity from Israel in the effort to get her attention, so she would see her need for God and her need to be in a right relationship with Him. Instead, however, Israel began to think that if God would not bless them, Baal would. So, they turned from almighty God to an impotent idol.

Israel had failed to see that rightness with God is the only truly important thing in life. As Jesus tells us “Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” (Matthew 6:25). He also said “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). The apostle Paul encouraged the same attitude when He said “But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content” (1 Timothy 6:6-8). Our physical circumstances and comforts are not our biggest problems. Yet, we spend so much of our lives as if they were.

What is truly important, far beyond anything else, is being right with God. God has made that possible by the gift of His Son who

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

gave his life for us on the cross. In Jeremiah 31:10-14 God was speaking of the day when he would fill Israel with His goodness again, but it was not mere physical blessing God had in mind. It was a blessing that would be spiritual in nature, one that would be proclaimed to the Gentiles (v 10). The announcement of God's gathering his Israel unto himself would be such wonderful news that God's people would be happy simply knowing that fellowship with God had been restored. After all, what could be more important? What greater goodness from God could there possibly be?

How about us? Are we satisfied knowing that we have been blessed by God with the greatest gift ever – salvation from the terrible consequences of sin? Is our attitude that if we have that, we really need nothing else? Or are we like the ancient Israelites, who were so shortsighted that physical things were all they saw and valued?

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 1 No. 42



Fall Quarter Begins Wednesday

Our fall quarter in our Bible classes will begin on Wednesday night. We are looking forward to this quarter and the teachers for this quarter are as follows:

Nursery:

LouAnn Phillips/
Angie McCrary (Sunday morning)
Charlotte Dickey/
Tisha Thomas (Wednesday night)

Pre-school:

Betty White/
Lisa Word (Sunday morning)
Tika White/
Lisa Word (Wednesday night)

Primary:

Kerry Cox (Sunday morning)
Marcia Cooper (Wednesday night)

Intermediate:

Brian Word (Sunday morning)
Jerry Dickey (Wednesday night)

Jr. High School:

Scottie Goode (Sunday morning)
Ronnie Phillips (Wednesday night)

High School/College:

Ray Tucker (Sunday morning)
Larry White (Wednesday night)

Young Adult:

Mark McIntyre (Sunday morning)
Mark McIntyre (Wednesday night)

Adult:

David Cox (Sunday morning)
David Cox (Wednesday night)

I want to express my appreciation to all of those who taught during the winter quarter for their work and dedication. We had a very good quarter. I am eagerly looking forward to this quarter and hope that all who can will be present and prepared for our periods of Bible study. There are classes for all ages. Won't you join us in a study together of God's word?

(D.A.C.)

News & Notes

THE SICK: *James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, is in the ECM hospital room 562 ... *Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital room 662...*Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital room 367...*Angie McCrary's sister, Peggy McGee*, is in the hospital in Birmingham due to her blood count ...*Millinea Word* was sick with a virus this last week and was unable to be at services...*Corey Word* has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday

night...*Kerry Cox's grandfather, Coy Lowman*, is home from the hospital and is doing better...*Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton*, continues at home with his battle with cancer ...Remember *Millinea Word* as she continues her treatments/medication ... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home and not able to be out ...*Aldeen Noles* is in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ..*Shelia Moore's mother-in-law, Laurene Whitehead*, now back in the Athens Convelesant Center after spending several days in the Ahtens hospital last week..*Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, who is at home ... *Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty, Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Best:* Jerry and Mary are on vacation...*The Hammonds:* Hoyt and Faye are in the mountains this weekend...*The Hammonds:* Brad and Tanya will be spending a few days in the mountains this week...*The Rogers:* Mike, Tisha, Zackary and Jacob are in Birmingham this weekend...*The Roses:* Rocky and Donna are in Hawaii on vacation.

GOSPEL MEETING: There is a gospel meeting this week through Wednesday at the **College Place church** in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. *Bob Buchanon* will be the speaker. They will have services Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 p.m....The **Jackson Drive church** is beginning a meeting today through Wednesday with services Sunday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. *Gary Kerr* will be the speaker in this meeting.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Communication group three will meet tonight after the evening service. If you are in group three remember to meet with your group this evening.

Tonight will be the time for our regular scheduled song service. Jerry Dickey will be directing the service. Make your plans to be present as we sing songs of glory and praise to God.

Gospel POWER

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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