



## PORNOGRAPHY WINS!

Jim Stauffer

Andrew Harris was re-instated as a school teacher in Wisconsin as the result of a lawsuit filed by the Teacher's Union. He was suspended for watching "porn" while on the school premises. The succeeding lawsuit and adjudicated back pay has cost the taxpayers approximately \$1,000,000.

We are certainly seeing more defense of one's freedom to practice immoral activities such as pornography, homosexuality and abortion than we ever see for one to do the right thing.

For instance, if you wish to oppose any of the above in an official capacity, you will more than likely lose your job.

It seems very logical that freedom has its limits. My freedom ends where yours begins. It is not unreasonable for parents (as they have in this case) to object to their pre-teen and teenage children being taught by one who openly recommends pornography as a normal activity to be engaged in. Their freedom should be granted also.

These situations arise more frequently as time goes on. Morally reprehensible activities such as this have become accepted by a sufficient number that those who do not approve sit idly by as the silent majority. Oh, how that silent majority has hurt this nation.

The very reason the reinstatement occurred is either due to those who oppose remaining silent or because there is actually a majority who approve. Of course, either situation brings the same result.

As Christians we are commanded to "contend earnestly for the faith." (**Jude 3**) We are the watchmen of our day just as Ezekiel was in his. We cannot contend for the faith in matters such as this with silence. Sin opposes and transgresses the law that we have faith in and must be denounced.

We must declare ourselves; issue the warning.

In so doing we provide leadership for our neighbors and even our own brethren. We further prevent their blood from being on our hands.

**Ezek. 33:8** *When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die, and thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way; that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thy hand. 9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it, and he turn not from his way; he shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

The Apostle Paul faced a situation where the truth was rejected. He serves as our example. He did not decide to remain silent, he warned the people, but when they rejected the truth, he had done his job. **Acts 18:5** *But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was constrained by the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. 6 And when they opposed themselves and blasphemed, he shook out his raiment and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.*

We must not tire in such situations. We cannot assume people will not receive the truth, even in such an immoral atmosphere as we see today. **Gal. 6:9** *And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. It remains our role to be vigilant.*

I fear we are overly concerned about being tuned out by those who approve of such immorality. Remember, it is not they who will accept Christ and His example of life and teaching. But there are others who need to be "snatched from the fire". (**Jude 22,23**) Let us follow Paul's example, **Acts 20:20** *how I shrank not from declaring unto you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly, and from house to house.*

# Our Heads In The Lion's Mouth

Mark White

Back in 2003, news reports terrified us with stories of the white tiger who nearly killed Roy Horn of the famous duo, Siegfried and Roy. These Las Vegas entertainers have been thrilling audiences for decades with their exotic animal shows. Until recently, these animals “never put a scratch” on their handlers. But Roy Horn found himself in critical condition because a trusted animal, for whatever reason, almost took his life.

It seems to me we are fascinated with such dangerous, risky exploits. Another television star, Steve Irwin (now deceased), of Crocodile Hunter fame, was particularly exciting to watch. He ultimately died from the poisonous barb on the tail of a sting-ray, but audiences often watched just waiting for the moment when a crocodile, poisonous snake, or other deadly critter would bite or snap at Steve. He died in September, 2006.

All of this titillation and excitement may just reveal more about us than we realize.

The Bible features Satan, our adversary, as a “roaring lion, walking about seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8). He is dangerous and deadly, but our familiarity with him causes us to be off-guard. When you couple our over-familiarity with the Devil with his cunning ability to appear as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14) you have a disaster waiting to happen. How often do we put our own heads in this lion's mouth, falsely feeling secure and impenetrable to his bite?

I fear we do it all the time. We foolishly think we are the exception to the rule that “whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.” (Gal. 6:7). We play with fire, expecting not to be burned, when suddenly we are engulfed and consumed.

A businessman takes funds from the company by padding his expense account or “borrowing” with the intention of paying it back before anyone notices. Suddenly the great jaws of the lion clamp down on his head! An unmarried teenager looks until he or she finds a willing partner for sex and an unplanned pregnancy, venereal disease, or gnawing guilt results. A young married couple views pornography over the internet as a “marital aid” without realizing they are undermining trust, confidence and genuine intimacy. Before long, what seemed to be an arousing burst of excitement in their marriage destroys the very thing they foolishly thought they were building! The trusted lion, in whose arms they sought comfort, has ripped them asunder. An innocent little alcoholic beverage, consumed at an office holiday party, eventually leads to a

dependency on strong drink on a daily basis. The drinker never intended it to be so, but without his realizing it the great jaws of the lion had caused the razor-sharp teeth to sink deeply into its victim's jugular. “At the last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper.” (Prov. 23:32)

Yes, we put our heads into the lion's mouth, lie down with him to sleep, playfully tumble around the turf with him, and are eventually eaten and digested by him! James 1:14-15 contains a stark warning concerning the dangers of sin and temptation. “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Sin is deadly, no matter how it appears at first. It is a killer! It kills your desire for spiritual things; it kills your self-respect; it will kill your soul eternally. Sin is not a cuddly, cute little kitten, it is a vicious, man-eating lion. It can never be trusted, no matter how much experience we have with it. I wish that we could see sin for what it really is! The mirage of pleasure and satisfaction it offers us is in reality the venom of a deadly serpent.

Yet, in spite of this knowledge, we still defend sin! Roy Horn, shortly after being mauled by his tiger pleaded, “Don't harm the cat!” The tiger tasted his blood, almost decapitating him with his powerful bite, yet he defends the cat! Who knows why this wild animal did what he did? The tiger is not a domesticated house pet. In one brief moment that lesson was painfully, tragically remembered. A wild animal cannot be trusted, no matter how much familiarity his handler has with him. It's just the nature of the beast.

Our sin must scare us. It must frighten us into reality. We should all shudder at its prospects. We can ill afford to become comfortable with it, much less nurture and cuddle it. It makes little difference if one sin is more deadly than another, for they all have what it takes to kill us! We must beware when we begin to reason that this “one little thing [sin] won't hurt me.” Oh yes it will — it's the nature of the beast!

*There will be no temptations in heaven  
As the bride of Christ shall be pure  
The roaring lion will not be there  
But God will be with us for sure*

# Can The Sinner's Prayer Save?

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." Gal 6:7

A deception occurs when someone allows you to accept or believe something that is not the truth. Many in the world today have prayed what is called "the sinner's prayer". **(1 Thess 5:21)**

If you were to spend time studying the Bible, which is God's word given to us as instruction, you would find that there is no such thing as a sinner's prayer. **(Matt 22:29)**

Satan has deceived many people into thinking that they are saved, when in reality, they will be lost! **(2 Cor 11:14-15)**

How do we know this? There is only one way to find out. The Bible is God's word **(John 17:17)**. It contains everything that we need concerning salvation **(2 Pet 1:3)**. We must be careful not to add to it or to leave things out of it **(Rev 22:18-19)**. Neither should we try to change anything that God's word has taught. Because, the Bible teaches that God's word will last forever (as long as time exists) **(Isa 40:8)**.

The Bible is filled with warnings of what will happen to people who do not obey the will of God. Everyone must be very careful to do all that God has commanded, or they will not see heaven **(Matt 7:21-23)**.

As we study this subject, we need to learn what an acceptable prayer to God actually is. We need to see what kind of person can pray to God, and what kind of person God will listen to.

It does no good to pray a prayer that God will not listen to. God reads the hearts of people and knows their intentions and thoughts **(Jer 17:10)**.

We are also taught in God's word that we must pray for those things which are according to His will **(1 John 5:14)**. If we ask for things which are not according to His will; those things will not happen for us.

"We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him." **(John 9:31)** This verse teaches that only those who are obedient to God will be heard by Him.

What we must do is to make sure that we are being obedient.

How do we know what obedience is?

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."

**(2 Tim 2:15)**. One version reads "Study to show yourself approved...."

Only through a knowledge of God's instructions can a person learn what is necessary to receive

the grace that God has given **(Tit 2:11)**.

God wants you to be saved.

"This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth". "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"

**(1 Tim 2:3-5)**

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one can reach heaven or God except it be through Jesus our Lord and King **(John 14:6)**.

God sent His Son to redeem us **(John 3:16)**. Jesus died on the cross for YOUR sins, not His own **(Heb 4:15)**.

You must accept Christ on His terms. If you expect to be saved when this life is over, you must learn what God requires of you and do it.

Do you want to be saved? Or do you want to take a chance? Why not be sure about your salvation.

**By Carey Scott**

A thought that coincides with Carey's article is the prayer of a sinner in the New Testament. Cornelius was a "devout man who feared God with all his house, who gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always." **(Acts 10:2)**

Yet Cornelius needed someone to "speak unto thee words whereby thou shalt be saved, thou and all thy house." **(Acts 11:14)** He was a sinner in need.

When Peter spoke these words of salvation to Cornelius and his household, this was the message, **Acts 10:34** And Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him.

Peter did not offer him salvation through some prayer system devised by man. He spoke words of salvation, that is the gospel of Jesus Christ which has the power to save. **(Rom. 1:16)**

Obedience from the heart to those words Peter spoke is the way we become servants of righteousness. **Rom. 6:17** But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; 18 and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness.

When we commit from the heart to the teaching of the gospel, there will be no debate about faith and works because our faith will lead us to work righteousness.

**Jim Stauffer**

**Eph. 2:19** So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

**1Pet. 2:9** But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

### **HOURS OF WORSHIP**

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Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship  
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship  
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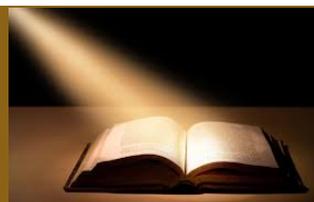
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### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

#### **SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

JAN PATRICK, MARY CZIRR, CANDISS CASON AND ALMA BAUMGARTNER. J.R. DANIEL AND LILLIE KEECH REMAIN IN THE HOSPITAL. J.R. IS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY AND LILLIE FELL AND IS UNDERGOING TESTS.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY IS CURRENTLY FINISHING ZEPHANIAH AND WILL MOVE ON TO NAHUM AS WE TAKE THE MINOR PROPHETS IN ORDER.



### **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Baptism** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10