

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



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The Orlando Massacre

Whose Side Are You On?

—By George L. Faull, Rel. D.

Excerpts of a Sermon delivered on June 19th, 2016

In **Luke 13:1** we read, "There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices."

Now I have a sneaking suspicion that the Judeans, who were always kind of down on the Galileans, interrupted Jesus and said, "You know, there were some "fanatic Galileans" who were worshiping, and Pilate came along and mingled their blood with the blood of their sacrifices."

Jesus is kind of rebuking him. **"Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things?" I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. How about those 18 people in Jerusalem?** (Now he is talking about the Judeans.) **...upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."** What is He telling us, and can I make it relative today?

If Jesus spoke to us today, I wonder if He'd say, "Suppose ye that those 49 murdered victims and the 53 wounded people in Orlando who Omar, the Muslim, killed were sinners above all them who dwell in Orlando. **We mustn't judge that God was striking dead people because they were homosexuals. I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."** It's obvious the calamities are not the test of sinfulness. Remember Job?

A week ago today, we who love the Lord were fast asleep at 2:00 a.m. We were getting ready and preparing, trying to be rested up to come to the Lord's House on the Lord's Day to eat the Lord's Supper with the Lord's people. But at 2:00 a.m. the same morning, a thousand miles away, was a man of another faith. He

was not asleep. He was a Muslim bent on destroying Gays. Many of whom he personally knew were in what they call, a Gay bar. He was a hypocritical Muslim. I call him a hypocrite; not in the fact that he was going to murder them, for his faith practices execution for homosexuality. He was a hypocrite in that he, himself, was a homosexual, which his faith does not allow. He was a hypocrite because he had a love/hate relationship with homosexual lifestyle himself. So that poor demented soul who had been in that Gay bar many times in the last few months did what Allah approved.

He went into the bar at 2:00 a.m. while we were sleeping, to kill those who pursued that lifestyle. As I said, he wounded 53 others. How many of those 102 different people whom he shot were homosexuals and lesbians? I don't suppose we'll ever know, but laughingly, unmercifully, he killed those people as he stalked his victims from room to room as they tried to escape.

Now finally, at 5:00 a.m. not too long before we got up to come to Church, he was finally shot dead himself. The horror that those young people felt and experienced is probably beyond description. They were hiding in bathrooms, hiding in cupboards, hiding, waiting in great fear. By the time we were at Church service last Sunday, the preachers in the Western United States had heard the news, and were preaching about this massacre.

In Arizona, a preacher got up and was celebrating before God that there were 50 less pedophiles in America today. That assumes, of course, a lie, because not all homosexuals are pedophiles. He expressed that he felt that the government should have done it instead, hinting it would be good for us in America to live under the Law of Moses and execute homosexuals or be like the Muslims and execute them.

In Sacramento, California, a Pastor said the tragedy was *"that more of them didn't die"*. He claimed that Christians should not mourn the death of sodomites, adding, *"I'm kind of upset he didn't finish the job."*

Those comments were also repeated over and over by people who made like comments on the Internet. Many of such sentiments were by professed Christians. Is it any wonder they accuse us of hatred?

Here's my proposition. I find the comments of these professed Pastors and Christians are as great of a tragedy as the massacre itself. It sounds more like the followers of ISIS, or Muhammed, than Christ. It's Muslim doctrine, not Christian doctrine. I want to challenge your thinking this morning to a more Godly and Christ-like thinking. Before I do, I want to assure you that I realize the Bible teaches homosexuality is wrong. I know Leviticus says they were to be put to death, but that's the Law of Moses. I know homosexuality is condemned in the New Testament Scriptures three or four times, and it speaks very plain and, in my opinion, you have to have professional help to misunderstand what the New Testament teaches.

However, the New Testament Scriptures (**Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 1 Tim. 1:9-10**) does not teach that we are to kill them. Death is in the hands of God, not us. The text I read to you is teaching us calamity or accidents are not the way we determine what God thinks about things. God loves homosexuals, and we have an obligation to try to reach them, not kill them; not to wish they were dead.

Now as I preach, the first thing to keep in mind is I am not ignoring that the New Testament teaches it is a sin. It even says homosexuality is a sin worthy of death. This is one of my very points. In **Romans Chapter 1**, *"...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 [necessary or right]. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient."* -- **Romans 1:27**

But listen to the rest of it... *"Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable [or irreconcilable], unmerciful: 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."*

My point being, yes, God says they are worthy of death, but He happened to name a whole bunch of

other sins worthy of death. In fact, *"...the wages of sin is death."* This event should not be looked upon as God striking down all of those young people because of that particular sin. It's a very bad mistake for us to play the role of announcing what God is doing. Years ago when there was a tornado down in Georgia when it had killed several students at the school, people said, "Now where is your God?" The President of a Bible college said, *"I don't judge my God by cyclones or tornadoes or accidents. I judge God's love by what He did for me at Calvary. That's where He proved His love, and God allows accidents, and He allows calamities."* He even allows mass murder because man has free-will.

But we don't want to be guilty of going around saying what those preachers said. That was speaking for God. I think Christians ought to speak comfort to people who have lost their children or a husband, wife, or grandchildren. It's not a time to lay things like this upon God. I think that is the worst thing about this event.

The Second Thing I want you to keep in mind before I get into the very basis of my sermon... My point is when I speak this way, don't forget what God says is to be done if a *Christian* practices sins of immorality. **1st Corinthians Chapter 5** shows it. We do it with any fornicators. I'm not saying no judgment from the Church ought to come to a professing Christian. The Bible plainly says if they're unrepentant, they are to be removed from the Church. I know **1st Corinthians** talks about homosexuality and names it right out by name and then says something wonderful. I love it. *"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus..."*

I just simply want you to keep in mind people can change, but when a Christian is involved in these sins, the Bible says, *"...put away from among yourselves that wicked person."* As you listen to me criticize what these Pastors said, I am hoping you will remember I am not saying we ought to just turn our head the other way and not do anything about a *Christian* who is involved in these kind of things.

You discipline your own children, and God wants His children disciplined. He tells us they are to be disciplined, and they are to be put out of the Church. But you don't want to look at what happened in Orlando there and think like these preachers do. I want to remind you that the penalty under the Law was death. That was the Law. You had to put them to death just like the Muslims do today. That was God's Law in the Old Testament, but that's only one of the sins in the Old Testament that was punishable by death. All the Ten Commandments were punishable by death!

Someone quotes Leviticus and says, "They are supposed to be put to death." This was true but so was fornication. So was adultery. There are dozens of sins where death was God's demand for the guilty. Sins like cursing your father and mother were punishable by death. I'm worthy of death. You are worthy of death. Because we have broken the Law of Moses, but we're not under the Law. That Law was a temporary Law God gave to give a knowledge of what is sin. He made the punishment extremely harsh.

Why? He did that so people would see the exceeding sinfulness of sin. It was a tutor to teach us what sin is and how bad it is. Under grace...thank God...we do not have to kill our friends and relatives who are homosexuals, fornicators, or adulterers. Would you rejoice and speak like those men spoke if it had not been a Gay bar? What if just "straights" were out at 2:00 a.m., trolling for a one-night stand, and your son or your daughter made the mistake of going there, and some crazed person came in and killed them? Would you say what these guys said? *"They should have killed more of them."* *"The government just ought to line them up to the wall."* One of them said, *"and shoot them all."*

Our ignorance is showing if we think that was justified because the Law of Moses said homosexuals were to be killed. Then it stands that adulterers ought to be killed. Do you know any adulterers? Maybe some of you have even committed adultery or fornication. It is a sin worthy of death, but under grace we do not have to kill you.

Would you rejoice if you had awakened this morning and found out that some crazy, sick Seventh Day Adventist who believes the Sabbath is on Saturday (which it was) went in to one of the local factories and killed 49 people who were working on Saturday? Well, the old Law is if you break the Sabbath, you are to die. Would you rejoice over that? "We should have lined them all up and killed anybody who was working over there on Saturday. They're not supposed to work on Saturday. That's what the old Law says." That was true of the Ten Commandments.

Now let's try to get focused here. We are not under the old Law. When I talk about grace, I'm not talking about a sin permit. I'm not talking about a license to sin. I'm talking about we're not under the Law; we're under grace. We can be saved, even though we have committed some of these sins. If we lived under the Law (and there are some people who would love for us to live under the Law), we would have to kill all idolaters like the Muslims do. Under the Law of Moses, if your brother said, "Hey, come with me. Let's go over and sneak over into the worship of another god..." It's

not enough for you to say, "No, I'm not going." You had to turn him in and stone him to death for trying to get you to worship another god. Your own brother! Your own son! Your own daughter! Whoever it was. That was the penalty under the Law. We're not under the Law of Moses, and if you don't make a distinction between the old Law and Christ's Law, you're mistaken... You don't just open the Bible and flip it open and say, "That's what the Bible says." Yeah, that's what the Bible says in the Old Testament, but that was written to the Jewish nation. I need to explain to you the difference between the Law of Moses and the Law of Christ.

The old Law God gave to Moses was for the nation of Israel. Even the Sabbath He says, "It is a sign between Me and Israel." God never gave the Sabbath to all men. The Sabbath was only given to the nation of Israel. The Bible says in Nehemiah that God came down and "made known unto Moses the Sabbath". No one in Genesis kept the Law of the Sabbath because the Sabbath hadn't been made known yet. He said, "It's a sign between Me and Israel." That was the sign of the Old Testament covenant, and that Law was from God because Israel was a theocracy. That's where God rules. God was considered the King, and the King (God) made the rules of what was going to happen in Israel. It was never intended for the whole world, nor was it permanent.

God was going to use Israel as the sheriff nation to make his laws known, and He made the penalties extremely harsh to not only make sin known, but to make sin appear exceedingly sinful. It was a model to teach us what was wrong. Under grace, we don't have to execute adulterers (aren't you glad?) and fornicators. We disfellowship unrepentant Christians, but we don't kill them. We **"...deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh..."** In other words, if they don't repent, they are to be turned over to the Devil. But we are under grace; we don't have to kill people. We didn't have to be killed. There's no one in this room who has not sinned against God as far as the Law of Moses is concerned.

We don't want the Law of Moses to be the law of the United States of America. Our citizenship is in Heaven, and we don't try to take the virtues that are the Christian religion and make them mandatory national laws of America. It is no better to try to make Christian laws the absolute law of America than it is to take Sharia law and make it the law of America. It's tyranny when the Muslims come in, populate and finally outnumber a people, and then establish Sharia law.

We don't want to take the laws of God, even the laws in the New Testament, and force them down the throat

of fellow Americans who are not Christians. That would be wrong. That would be tyranny. That would be no better than Sharia law. If it was on the ballot box, "Do you want the Law of Moses to be the law of the United States?" I'd vote *no*. I don't want the Law of Moses to be the law of America any more than I want Sharia law to be the law of America.

What we are to do is teach Bible principles, the principles of Christ, and the virtues of Christ and be an example on how we, as Christians, live. The biggest mistake the Church ever made in America is the moral majority, when preachers like Falwell and other such men, tried to force Christian morality on America.

Did they used to hate and fight us? No. It's when Christians became an organized voting bloc that the world turned against us and began to persecute us. If we had just lived our lives and we had simply evangelized rather than politicked and tried to put it into law as Christians in our own lives, we would have not become so hated and opposed.

When we started trying to make laws and make non-Christian people (Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Baha'i, Jews) obey the laws we Christians observe, that was a mistake. That's when the persecution started. I'm just simply trying to say to you, it's very, very important to realize that Islam was spread by force. Christianity was forced to spread. That's the difference between Islam and Christianity. Islam was spread by force; Christianity was forced to spread. They are persecutors, we are their victims.

When Christians become the persecutors, others become victims. Remember the inquisition of both Catholics and the reformers as they both killed, instead of loved, those who differ from them. The sword of the Spirit is our only weapon.

When Christians pick up the sword and try to force our laws, and try to make people live like Christians, that's when we start getting in trouble. We're just supposed to be lights in a dark and perverted world. Shining as lights we set examples. What caused the fall of Rome? Christians wouldn't go to war. They wouldn't go to battle, not because they thought it was wrong for fighting, but they had to make an oath one day a year that Caesar was God and they wouldn't do that.

When Christians modeled Christ, a great majority of Romans became Christians as a result and the world became Christian to a great degree. Along came Constantine, and he made his men go be immersed in water. He forbade people to worship on Sunday and other days and made the world do what Christians had already been doing for 300 years (meeting on the first

day of the week). He sabbatized Sunday and forced Christianity to be the state religion and brought into the Church all kinds of hypocrites and people who had never been born again and never been converted. The worst thing the Church can do is to try to force people to be Christians. It was not intended that we do that. Our citizenship is in Heaven. Let's just wait till we get there to have the bliss and the peace it brings. In the meantime, let's just keep on living Godly and evangelizing, speaking the truth in love.

Thirdly, let me say this... What should we do about the homosexuals in our country? Well, we ought to fight them, not with a sword and not with guns. We ought to oppose anybody who tries to destroy God's three main institutions which He put in the world: First; the family, Secondly; the Church, and Thirdly, the nations. The Bible plainly shows God sets up nations as it pleased Him. He sets the boundaries.

If the homosexuals try to make laws that don't allow us to live or practice our religion, then we ought to vote differently. Do it at the ballot box, do it by example, and do it by protesting by writing letters. Do not use guns and swords and not by rejoicing when young people, who disobey God, are killed and wounded.

We should not join them in their sin, of course. The Bible plainly tells them, "Don't be a partaker of the works of darkness, but rather rebuke them." The Church ought to be on record as not agreeing with homosexual marriage and abortion. We need to take a stand, and they need to know where we stand. But they need to know we love them, that we are opposing what they are standing for, not them personally.

We ought to love them as individuals and friends and neighbors just like we would young people who are living together in fornication or people who are adulterers or those who left one mate and went and married another mate. The Bible calls that adultery, but we treat them right. We treat them neighborly. We treat them as we would want to be treated. That's part of the great rules Jesus laid down. Yes, we disfellowship those who are Christians in an attempt to restore them and keep a pure Church, but we do not kill them.

I don't know whether you saw on your Internet the pictures of the victims. They were handsome, young men and young ladies. It broke my heart because they're going into a Christ-less eternity. They are lost. "George, you're judging." No, I'm not judging. Jesus' apostles taught it. Paul says no drunkards, fornicators, adulterers (I'm talking about unrepentant ones), and homosexuals are not going to enter the kingdom of heaven, but he adds, "**Such were** [past tense] **some of you...**"

Anybody can be saved, but God has already passed judgment. In Revelation, He tells us who is going to hell, and fornicators are mentioned. That doesn't mean we rejoice when they're killed. That's when we ought to be sorrowful. If they have a business, patronize them unless they have an agenda to support the homosexual agenda and social revolution.

I have a friend in this town who is a homosexual. I'm always glad to see him. I shake hands with him. I love him. I've talked to him. I eat at his restaurant. We talk and he is glad to see me. I eat at his restaurant, but he doesn't take his money and turn around and try to change the act of marriage. He doesn't take his money and fight against other virtues or promote his lifestyle.

I don't support large corporations if they push the homosexual agenda that destroys God's original institution of the family or the Church, or infiltrate the Church with people who are practicing those vile sins.

Let me give you a test really quickly. Do you agree with God? Read **Ezekiel 18:23** and listen to what it says. This is God talking. These words always just amaze me, and it ought to pierce our souls. **Chapter 33**, verse 11. Listen to what this says. **"...As I live,' saith the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?'"**

God doesn't have any pleasure in the death of the wicked. God wasn't saying, "Get on with it, Omar" when those poor people were being murdered. God didn't want them to die. He doesn't have any pleasure in that. Those pastors...I don't know what book they're reading, but they're not reading the Word of God when they have those kind of attitudes in their heart.

God is **"...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."** It's important. Yes, there's Church discipline but do you remember what He saw in the Old Testament? He saw the city given over to sin, and listen to what He says. "I looked for a man among them, someone among them, to stand in the gap, fill in the hedge. I looked for somebody who would pray and make intercession. Because I couldn't find any, I had to destroy them."

God is looking for intercessors. He isn't looking for murderers. He is looking for intercessors, someone who will pray for people, people who would pray for a city or a nation that it would repent. He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He says, "Why will you die?" He is looking for someone among the sinners who will make intercession, who will stand in the hedge and pray.

Remember what Samuel said to the people? **"...God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you..."** It's a sin against God not to pray for sinners. If you don't pray for sinners, you're not pleasing God. You're sinning against God. He is looking for intercessors. He is looking for people, yes, who are sorrowing for the sins that are being committed in the land like Ezekiel talks about in another Scripture.

The Hebrew letter, *tav*, looks like a cross and in vision it was put on the foreheads of the people who were sighing and crying for what is going wrong in the country. Then He said in **Ezekiel 9:4**, "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." The Bible says the men with the swords went out at the very steps of the temple and killed the old men who were sitting there.

If you were not weeping and praying for those souls, you're in danger of judgment yourself. There certainly shouldn't have been any rejoicing after they were killed, wishing that Omar had gotten more of them. You do not have the Spirit of Christ. You're like John and his brother who said, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven on these people who are rejecting you?" He said, "You don't know what manner of spirit you have." He did not come to destroy, but save people.

Those preachers don't know what manner of spirit they have. They don't have a clue. They have no business in the pulpit because Christian people are free from having to kill homosexuals, fornicators, or adulterers. We don't have to do that. They can live. He is merciful. He is gracious. He allows them to live long enough for us to be able to teach them. You have to ask yourself, "Am I praying for the workers of abominations?"

Here's one last piercing question. Have you prayed yet for the 53 survivors? Have you prayed yet for the families of those boys and those girls? Put yourself in their place. I have three sons. I tell you, if I lost one of my boys to sin or if one of my sons had been in that Gay bar, I don't know whether you could've ever comforted me.

Have you prayed for the survivors? Have you prayed for the victims' families? That's the Christian thing to do. Do you remember how the homosexuals opposed Chick-fil-A? They were writing letters that said, "You can't even build a store in this town." They ran them out of business. But while people were lined up by the hundreds last Sunday morning to donate blood just

hours after the massacre, Chick-fil-A (which tries to be a Christian organization and normally does not open on Sundays) had a few Orlando employees volunteer to open that Sunday morning, cooked and delivered sandwiches and drinks to the people who were standing in line to donate blood to the victims of the massacre.

That's forgiveness, isn't it? I mean, that's tremendous for Chick-fil-A to open up on a Sunday and feed the people who were waiting and standing in line to give blood. The Church ought to be giving instead of saying... "I'm celebrating what happened in Orlando."

The last question is this. If sermons like this aren't preached in our pulpits and we only preach the sinfulness and the ugliness of homosexuality and we preach it with an attitude of, "I wish they were dead. I wish they would have killed more of them. I wish they died. They're worthy of death," and only say that about the homosexuals (don't say it about adulterers or any other sins that are in the Bible), it just might be possible that we could raise up an Omar in this congregation.

If you constantly preach, "They're worthy of death. They're scum. They're *this*. They're *that*" and they're never told, "God loves you, and we want you saved," and try to get them to repent, we're wrong. I'd as soon baptize a homosexual as I would anybody in the world, maybe more so. If we don't talk right at home and we don't talk right in the pulpit, I mean, **whose side are you on?** He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. ***"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."*** All sinners! All are welcome at the throne of God because of the cross. If we don't preach that, we could raise up some freakish, crazed kid who thinks he would please us if he went and killed homosexuals. What a shame that would be to Christ.

Whose side are you on? Do you have pleasure in the death of the wicked? Do you pray for them? Have you yet prayed for the victims who are alive, the survivors, and for their families? I hope this has pierced your heart.

Let's pray. Father, we know You're a God who is just. We also know You're a God of love, and You're not willing that any should perish but that everyone should come to repentance. The whole purpose of Your sending Christ into the world was to save sinners. We're not doing our job if we don't try to win those who have fallen into this sin as well as the adulterer, and the fornicator, and the thief, and the covetous, and the greedy. Lord, lay some of these that we know on our hearts that we'll purpose in our hearts to introduce them to the salvation that's only in Christ. It's in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.