



# The Good News

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## ***How far will we go to stand for the truth?***

By Michael McCleary

This is a question that all of us should be asking ourselves more and more these days. As our society travels further and further down the path of godlessness, we will be tested more and more as our most fundamental rights are threatened. These threats go beyond repression of different religious views. We are at a legal and religious crossroads in our nation, a point where the separation between church and state is becoming blurred. There may come a time in which our nation's leaders will discuss a law that defines any statement suggesting that homosexuality is sinful as Hate Speech. The enactment and enforcement of such a law could extend to pulpits in churches across America. This possibility is frightening on so many levels, not just because of the law itself, but because of the precedent it would be setting: the censorship of what can be taught in churches. As implausible as it sounds, if such a law were to be passed what will our reaction be? Will we abide by the law of the land and remove all mention of the sinfulness of homosexuality from our services? Will we only remove it from being mentioned in the pulpit but still teach about it in our bulletins? Will we continue with a "business-as-usual" mindset? These questions must be asked and they must be asked now because there are consequences that we must be prepared to accept. How far will we go to stand for the truth?

Will we go as far as simply accepting fines for violations of the law? This seems like a simple and easy way to deal with the problem, but unfortunately, while this is where penalties may start, it is most certainly not where penalties will end. Eventually, it will lead to extremely large fines, perhaps going as far as the imprisonment of those who preach against homosexuality. Bad publicity may come to play as a liberal media reports on all the churches that tolerate "hate speech" from their pulpits. This could lead to our being persecuted when others learn that we are mem

bers of one of these congregations. Where the initial law may only censor talk of homosexuality, amendments could easily be made to stamp out other topics that society deems inappropriate, such as creationism, abortion, the proper roles of men and women in church, etc. While it may seem ludicrous to even mention these other topics being outlawed, we must understand that the precedent for this is being set now as our society continues down the path of intolerance toward anyone who does not conform. Outlawing all of these other topics is simply a logical eventuality of a single law setting the precedent for the blurring of that once-impenetrable line that separated church and state.

How far will we go to stand for the truth? As we pray to God about the situation in our society, and as we contact our leaders to encourage them to support the continued separation of church and state, we must come to terms with the fact that such a law may eventually succeed at some point in the future. We have enjoyed numerous freedoms in this country for hundreds of years, but a pruning time may be coming...separating those who only claim to be Christians from those who truly are Christians. How many of us will stay strong for the truth against a society bent on tolerating sin? How many of us will be part of those who are pruned?

*"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the Gospel according to the power of God..." (II Tim. 1:8)*