**Slouching Towards Gomorrah… and Arriving**

*by Harry Osborne*

A few years ago, Robert Bork wrote an excellent book entitled *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*. It chronicled the moral decline in America and the rapidly increasing rate of that decline. The book was written amidst the backdrop of the scandalous behavior of Bill Clinton while in the Oval office. Those defending Mr. Clinton's behavior said that it was a "private matter" regarding "sexual conduct" as opposed to "public and official actions," hence, it was nobody's business. In his book, Judge Bork warned that the decline would continue and would become further ingrained in our society if such principles were consistently applied. While reading the book during that period, I must confess that I knew from a viewpoint of principle that he was correct, but I remember thinking, "How much worse can it get?"

Sadly, while on a trip to the Philippines several years later, I found the first answer to my question. I recall watching in shock at the news of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the sodomy laws of Texas and, by implication, other states as well. I still recall my stunned disbelief and immediate recollection of Judge Bork's prediction. Yes, it could and did get worse, but it was not yet over. In the past few years, one ruling after another in our federal courts have increasingly invented rights for the practice of homosexuality and struck down laws opposing it on the basis of a supposed constitutional right never announced in our Constitution, the one written by men openly opposing the practice of homosexuality.

The final step in digression to the open acceptance of homosexual practice, however, was saved for last Friday. The Supreme Court of the United States ruled in a 5-4 decision that homosexuals are entitled to join in unions of man and man or woman and woman having the same rights, privileges and respect that are granted to God-ordained marriage of one man and one woman. Brethren, we are neither “slouching towards” or in any other posture headed towards Sodom and Gomorrah – we are there!

**God-Ordained Purpose of Government**

The legitimate function of government as designed by God is to provide for lawful order by upholding good and punishing evil. The writer of wisdom stated the principle that undergirds this fact, saying, *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people"* (Proverbs 14:34). Thus, the apostle Paul stated the charge given by God to governments in these words.

*For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil* (Romans 13:3-4).

God has always declared that evil is destructive and should be punished, while righteousness is productive and should be rewarded. That contrast is seen when the wise man said, *"By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked"* (Proverbs 11:11). It is again affirmed by the words: *"It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness"* (Proverbs 16:12). When a government leaves that basis for action, it violates the will of God and ceases to meet the purpose for which God designed it. Any government that persists in its rebellion to the divine charge faces the reality that God has brought wicked nations to destruction in the past and retains that same power in the present (see Daniel 4-5).

It has been troubling to me to see that a number of my own brethren have abandon this bedrock principle in their acceptance of the Libertarian idea that government’s fundamental responsibility is to protect our liberties. That has never been God’s purpose for government, nor will it ever be the standard by which God judges governments. Yes, I love the liberty provided by our country, but I love and respect righteousness more. When people put their liberty to do as they choose above the principles of righteousness and morality, they are traveling a path towards destruction!

**God's Ruling on Homosexuality**

The question of whether homosexuality is to be protected by law and provided the same rights and privileges provided to those in God-ordained marriage is not a matter for government to determine. The place of government is to respect the higher rule of God on the matter. Let us be clear about the Bible’s teaching of condemning homosexuality. To emphasize the point, we call attention to God's verdict concerning homosexuality that is at variance with the verdict of the Supreme Court.

**Romans 1:26-27** - *"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."*

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10** -*"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 homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."*

**Deuteronomy 23:17** - *"There shall be no prostitute of the daughters of Israel, neither shall there be a sodomite of the sons of Israel."*

**Leviticus 20:13** - *"If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them."*

**Leviticus 18:22** - *"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination."*

When we examine the 18th and 20th chapters of Leviticus, we see that homosexuality is condemned as unlawful in the same context and even with much the same wording as adultery, obscenity, prostitution, incest, pedophilia and bestiality. If the Supreme Court now is consistent with its ruling, it will continue its extension of rights and privileges to the consensual practice of adultery, obscenity, prostitution, incest, pedophilia or bestiality. This was the warning raised by Justices Scalia, Rehnquist and Thomas several years ago when the Court struck down the sodomy laws. They further noted the Court's ruling then destroyed the only rational ground prohibiting homosexual marriage in this country. Sadly, their warning has now become our reality.

Are you ready for the far-reaching consequences of this ruling? Brethren, it is past time for us to raise our voices, ballots and efforts in defense of righteousness and opposition to evil! God gave the charge to Israel which we would do well in our time to heed: ***"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and declare unto My people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sin"*** (Isaiah 58:1).