
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

NEW YORK TIMES SAYS PAUL COMMANDED CHRISTIANS TO KILL HOMOSEXUALS

A *New York Times* article says that the apostle Paul ordered Christians to kill homosexuals. The report says, “A Republican congressman read his colleagues a Bible verse from Romans that calls for the execution of gays” (Jeremy Peters and Lizette Alvarez, “After Orlando, a Political Divide on Gay Rights Still Stands,” *New York Times*, June 15, 2016). The ignorance behind this statement is astounding. The Bible “verse” in question is not one verse, but a passage, Romans 1:18-32, and it does not call on Christians to execute homosexuals. The passage begins and ends with these words: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness. ... 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” (Romans 1:18, 32). This important passage of Scripture teaches that all

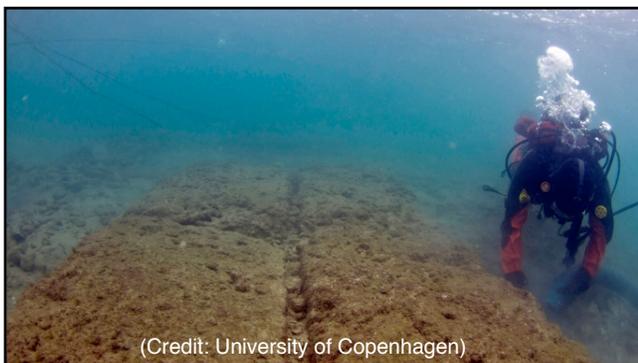
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sinner, not just homosexuals, are worthy of death before a holy God. It mentions fornicators, covetous, murderers, deceivers, backbiters, haters of God,

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ARCHAEOLOGISTS FIND ANCIENT ATHENS’ SOPHISTICATED NAVAL BASE

Recently archaeologists discovered three giant shipsheds that housed Greek triremes on the ancient ports of Piraeus, Athens’ naval base. The sheds, covering 1 million square feet (110,000 sq. meters),



(Credit: University of Copenhagen)

An archaeologist excavates one of the shipsheds at Mounichia Harbour.

housed about 400 ships, which were tended by 80,000 sailors and soldiers (“Archaeologists Uncover Massive Naval Bases of the Ancient Athenians,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, June 17, 2016). Each ship had its own shed, but they were built side-by-side. The ship was pulled up a ramp into dock (requiring the effort of 140 men) to protect it from wood rot, timber shrinkage, and marine woodworms. The sheds had stone columns that upheld tiled roofs that protected the ships from the hot sun. The ships could be slipped into the harbor and put into action quickly. They were protected by massive stone walls built on dirt moles that enclosed all but the necessary entrances to the ports. These acted as gates that could be closed off with huge chains. There were fortified towers on

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either side of the gates. Any enemy ship trying to enter the harbor would be under fire continually from the walls and towers. The sheds have been dated to between 520 and 480 BC, which means they probably housed triremes that took part in the Battle of Salamis. They were torn down around 404 BC with the defeat of Athens at the end of the Peloponnesian War. The *trireme* (three oar) (pronounced tri-reem or treem) had two large sails and three banks of oars, each oar operated by one man. It was used by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Persians, and Romans, and was the dominant type of warship from the 6th to the 3rd centuries BC. It was about 120 feet long and crewed by 200 men, including 170 oarsmen.



by **MatthiasKabel & Sting**
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proud, disobedient to parents, covenant breakers, and the unmerciful, among others. All are worthy of death, because “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). This shows the necessity of Christ’s compassionate sacrificial death in the sinner’s place. But absolutely nowhere does the New Testament call upon Christians to kill anyone, not thieves or adulterers or homosexuals or witches, not anyone. Someone with even the most basic knowledge of the New Testament Christian faith would know that such a thing is foreign to the gospel of Jesus Christ. “Christians” who have been guilty of killing people are not true Bible-believing Christians. Christ and the apostles warned that false teachers would come into the world and bring reproach upon His name (e.g., Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Peter 2:1-2; 1 John 2:18-19). The law of Moses did call for the death of adulterers, homosexuals, and practitioners of witchcraft, among others, in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Deuteronomy, but Christians are not under the law of Moses. “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster” (Galatians 3:24-25). When the disciples James and John wanted to call down fire upon some who did not receive Christ, He “turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of” (Luke 9:55). The writers and editors at the *New York Times* would do well to read the Bible instead of abusing it.

A FALSE REVIVAL

The following is excerpted from “Dress Rehearsal for a False Revival?” *Lighthouse Trails*, June 13, 2016: “According to a news release from PRWire titled ‘Pope Francis To Address Americans At National Mall Event Together 2016 With Special Video Message,’ Pope Francis will be joining (via video) evangelical leaders such as Ravi Zacharias, Luis Palau, Michael W. Smith, and Josh McDowell, emerging-church leaders such as Francis Chan, Ann Voskamp, Jennie Allen (IF), and Mark Batterson (*Circle Maker*) and charismatic leaders such as Sammy Rodriguez and Hillsong for an event motivated by a goal to bring unity to all those who ‘love Jesus.’ The event is called ‘Together 2016,’ subtitled ‘Fill the Mall.’ Nick Hall, the organizer of the event who hopes to draw one million people to the National Mall on July 16th, stated: ‘Together 2016 is about laying aside what divides us to lift up Jesus who unites us.’ Hall told one news source, ‘We are coming together in historic unity to pray for a reset for our nation.’ It’s been over fifteen years since contemplative pioneer Richard Foster shared his vision of Catholics and



Nick Hall

evangelicals coming together and over two decades since Chuck Colson helped author a document titled ‘Evangelicals/Catholics Together.’ It’s been over a decade since Rick Warren announced his hopes to bring about a second reformation that would include people of different religions. In more recent days, evangelical leaders such as Beth Moore, Franklin Graham, and Kenneth Copeland have played their parts in helping to remove the barriers between the evangelical/Protestant church and the Roman Catholic Church (something the Catholic Church calls the New Evangelization program). According to the Bible, we know a time is coming when a global one-world religion will serve alongside a global one-world government, both of which will reject Jesus Christ as the Messiah and Lord. Whether they realize it or not, the leaders and musicians participating in Together 2016 are helping to make that global religion a reality as they participate in this ongoing relay race of breaking down the walls that divide different faiths in the name of unity at all costs.”

SONG LEADER WARNS ABOUT THE JAZZING UP OF HYMNS

“Brother Cloud

I saw the following quote in your recent e-letter on the Getty’s: ‘I believe the CCM crowd is trying to bridge the gap by redoing theologically rich hymns to the new CCM rock tunes.’ That is a fact. I know, because each week as I prepare the music ministry plan for our services, I seek to expand our hymnody by at least one, and sometimes more, hymns. Before I managed the music, we basically sang the same 50 or so hymns repeatedly. ... When I plan for us to sing a hymn new to us, I always ‘youtube’ it to hear it being sung and played so I can evaluate how difficult it is going to be for us to absorb it (if a difficult one, I have the pianist play through once before we sing). ... at least a third of the time I find the lead entry on youtube for the hymn I’m looking for being performed either with an entirely different, rock-style tune, or I find it so jazzed up that it doesn’t even seem the same song. The CCM crowd is not content to leave us alone with our music; they are seeking to steal it and co-opt it to the end of slithering in among us. It is infuriating.”

HONESTY AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD ALWAYS THE BEST POLICY

The following is from *The Biblical Illustrator* on Leviticus 6: "A young man came to a gentleman one day with a case of conscience. He was corresponding clerk in a flourishing house of business. His employers had begun to direct him to write letters to customers containing statements which he and they knew to be false. He had objected, and they said: 'We are responsible for these statements; it is nothing to you whether they are true or false.' I said to him, 'Did they sign the letters, or ask you to write them in your own name?' As soon as the question left my lips I saw that if there were a difference both would be wrong, and I hastened to tell him so. He said, 'I have to sign them with my name, per Messrs. Blank.' I said, 'Your case is clear; you must decline to do it.' He said, 'Then I shall be dismissed'; and, after a pause, 'I have a wife and family.' I replied, 'My dear friend, this is a trial of faith and principle; you must do right, and trust to God to take care of you and your family.' I met him some days after. 'Well Mr. — ;' I said, 'how are you getting on?' He replied, 'I am still in my situation; I had an interview with the partners, and told them I could not write letters I knew to be untrue. They were very angry, and I expected to receive notice, but I have not received it yet.' Months passed, and he remained in his situation. After a while he called upon me, and I saw in his face that

something had happened. 'Well, Mr. — ;' I said, 'have you had your dismissal?' 'No,' he said, 'I have not,' and smiled. 'What then?' 'A very confidential post in their service, with a higher salary, has fallen vacant, and they have put me into it. On second thoughts these unprincipled men had come to the conclusion that a clerk who would not deceive a customer would not deceive them, and was too valuable to be lost.'" [CONCLUDING NOTE: This story would have turned out just as well had the honest young man been fired, because God knows our situation and has promised never to leave nor forsake His people.]



INFORMATION

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.