

# *Redwater Restorer*

*"The voice of one crying in the wilderness..." (Matthew 3:3)*

Volume 1

No.17

August 2, 2003

## *Moral Living In An Immoral World*

### **Published By:**

Redwater  
Church of Christ

### **Services:**

Sunday  
Bible Class 10:00 a.m.  
AM Worship 10:45 a.m.  
PM Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday  
Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

### **Address:**

P.O.Box 229  
Redwater, Tx. 75573

### **Phone:**

(903) 671-2369  
(903) 671-2515

### **E-Mail:**

MILBY2@JUNO.COM

### **Web Address:**

WWW.ARKLATEXGUIDES.  
COM/REDWATERCHURCH

### **Edited By:**

Mark Miller

### **Works:**

Four States  
Lectures  
Sept.27-29

Camp Ida Youth  
Encampment  
June 8th - 13th  
June 15th - 20th  
June 22nd - 27th

It is imperative that every Bible believer develop a heightened awareness of the need for **moral living in an immoral world**. All around us the world openly and shamelessly practices every kind of immorality (e.g., homosexuality, fornication, abortion, gambling, alcohol and other pleasure drugs, theft, murder and lying, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 19-21; Romans 1:26-32; Revelation 21:8).

Christians are instructed by numerous passages to practice moral living. It is clearly evident that the church of the first century, which we are to pattern ourselves after, maintained morality within its ranks (1 Corinthians 5, Romans 1:18-32). The Lord's church today must maintain morality among its members by instructive and corrective discipline if we are to be pleasing to God.

Jesus Christ demands that his church not be spotted by the world (1 Peter 1:18-20; James 1:27). Jesus requires his church to be morally pure (glorious and holy — without

wrinkle, blemish or **spot**, Ephesians 5:27). Openly sinful brethren and false teachers in any congregation are described as spiritual spots (2 Peter 2:13; Jude 12).

Christians must keep themselves unspotted from the world. Special servants of God (such as preachers, elders, deacons and teachers) must practice moral purity to avoid hindering their labors, bringing reproach on the church and condemning their souls (1 Timothy 6:12-14). All Christians must purpose to remain unspotted from the world while practicing pure, undefiled religion (James 1:27).

Entrance into heavenly habitations is dependent on being "without spot" when the Lord returns (2 Peter 3:9-14). Further, Christians must exercise extreme caution when attempting to rescue fallen brethren lest the rescuers become spiritually infected with the errings' sin-spotted instruments, tools and toys (Jude 23).

For a pragmatic application, consider these samples of sin-spots:

(1) Illicit sex: (a) premarital — oth-

## *Moral Living In An Immoral World (Cont.)*

erwise styled as living together or common law marriage (Revelation 21:8; Galatians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 5:9), (b) adultery (1 Corinthians 5:9; Matthew 19:9; Galatians 5:19), (c) incest (1 Corinthians 5:1), (d) homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9; Romans 1:26-27), (2) Stealing (1 Corinthians 6:10). (3) Alcohol and pleasure drugs (1 Corinthians 6:10; Galatians 5:21). (4) Murder (Romans 1:29). (5) Atheism (Romans 1:30). (6) Disobedience to parents (Romans 1:30). (7) Abortion (Romans 1:31). (8) Pornography (Matthew 5:28; Romans 1:32). (9) Witchcraft — inclusive of crystal ball and palm reading, astrology and Ouija boards (Galatians 5:20; Revelation 21:8). (10) Hate (Galatians 5:20). (11) Revelings or dancing (Galatians 5:21). (12) Unbelievers (Revelation 21:8). (13) Lying (Revelation 21:8). (14) Idolatry — worshipping God in gross error — such as in denominationalism (1 Corinthians 6:9; Revelation 21:8).

Christians have been called by the Gospel out of a world of sin into the church. The Greek word for church is "ekklesia" — "ek" meaning "out of," and "klesia" meaning "called." Therefore, Christians are exhorted not to love the world of sin (1 John 2:15-17). Further, Christians are forbidden to

sustain friendship with the world of sin (James 4:4). Fellowship with the ungodly world is prohibited (Ephesians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18). We must keep ourselves pure (1 Timothy 5:22; 2 Corinthians 7:1). As Christians, we must imitate the holiness of God (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Many religious bodies today consider themselves to be the Lord's true church and yet turn a blind eye to such immorality. They present themselves as more loving, open-minded, basking in the grace of God. Paul says they are "puffed-up" (1 Corinthians 5:2).

Does this mean that members of the Lord's true church will be without sin. Certainly not ! It does mean that the Lord's true church will not tolerate immorality and will by instructive or corrective discipline put such away (1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14,15).

In our next article we will begin to consider some of these immoralities often tolerated by the religious world. I encourage you to study along with Bible in hand.

*Mark Miller*

If you are interested in any of the following please check the appropriate box and mail to the address below. Please include return address and phone number if possible.

Personal Bible Study

Home Correspondence Course

**Redwater Church of Christ**  
**P.O.Box 229**  
**Redwater, Tx. 75573**