

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
Speaker, Robert Emerson
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

*"Come now, and let us
 reason together," Says
 the LORD..." Isaiah 1:18*



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Servants during September:

Songleader: Stanley (1), Larry (8), David (15), Peter (22), Dwight (29), Stanley (10/6)

Reading: Larry; David (Oct)

Announcements: Robert; Stanley (Oct)

Table: David, Peter, Marty, Stanley; Larry, Buddy, Mike, Lakin (Oct)

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (4), Larry (11), Stanley (18), Kris (25), Larry (10/2)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

Larry (1), Kris (8), Billy (15), Marty (22), Stanley (29), Robert (10/6)

Singing: Vilander (10/27)

Area Meetings: Phil Campbell (29-10/2); Belgreen (10/2-6); Somerville Rd (10/6-9); Hwy 157 (10/6-9); Posey (10/6-9); Hillsboro Heights (10/6-11)

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible .
Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." -1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 2

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Number 24

God's Comparisons: Is Sin not Sin?

By Kris Vilander

The following is an article I read earlier this month, entitled "False Comparisons," by Michael Farris; I'll include it all for context...

It has become commonplace to argue that since all sins are sinful therefore all sins are equivalent.

Yes, pornography is sinful, but so is watching people swear in movies—it is argued. Yes, abortion is sinful but so is neglecting the poor.

You get the idea.

In most cases, the net effect (whether intended or not) is to diminish the seriousness of the more vile of the two sins used in the comparison.

I am unaware of any such equivalency-comparison in Scripture. Rather, we often see certain sins being labeled as very serious.

If a person sees a need to call out the sin of gluttony, then talk about why it is wrong and its consequences

on earth and in eternity. Don't compare gluttony to abortion or pornography.

Killing a baby is far worse than an extra helping of potato salad.

Sin is sin—the slogan says. Well yes, all sin is sinful but not all sin is equivalent.

We are being ruled by slogans and not Scripture or sound logic derived therefrom.

While Mr. Farris expresses a valid concern, his problem is not so much with “slogans,” as with God.

I have preached that “sin is sin” for years, and for good reason: whatever sin we may be considering, it all separates us from God. The nation of Judah was told, “...your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear,” Isa 59:2.

Mr. Farris wrote that some sin is greater than others, and in some ways, it is true. Some sin has immediate tragic consequences that affect many people, and for a very long time in this life (such as abortion). On the other hand, some sin may not show itself until eternity: “The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after,” 1 Tim 5:24. We often

judge the sin with immediate, visible consequences as greater. Interestingly, God expresses His anger at King Manasseh, particularly for the “innocent blood” he shed, in 2 Kings 21:16 (cf 24:3,4). “Innocent blood” would include child sacrifice (2 Kings 21:6; cf Jer 32:35)—a rough equivalent to our own sacrifice to the god “Convenience”: abortion. And scripture describes some sin as an abomination (such as homosexuality), Lev 18:22.


But doesn't God Himself equate or compare sin in passages such as 1 Cor 6:9,10, where Paul writes that homosexuals **and the covetous** (as well as those guilty of a number of other sins) are **all unrighteous**, and that **none** would inherit the kingdom of God? Doesn't He do so again in Gal 5:19-21, noting that those who practice immorality, **jealousy or anger** (as well as several other sins) will not inherit His kingdom, either? It is interesting to see that along with murderers and the abominable, **all liars** will have a part in the lake of fire (i.e., Hell), Rev 21:8. And so it goes with other lists of sin that God has chosen fit to record in scripture (such as Eph 5:3-5; Col 3:5,6; etc...).

Sin is sin, and the end for all who practice it is Hell. And Hell is Hell: a place of outer darkness and weeping, Mt 25:30; a place of unending torture, Mk 9:48. We look forward to Heaven, but punishment

in Hell is of an equal duration: Mt 25:46 “These will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life**.”

As a society, we do have to deal with different sins in different ways. Abortion is an atrocity, and the abortionist should be punished for his sin by the lawful authorities, Gen 9:5,6; Rom 13:3,4. Homosexuality is a perversion, and we cannot afford to ignore or endorse it. And there are many other sins that, because of their far-

reaching effects, we have to deal with in various ways as municipalities, states, or as a nation.

But as far as preaching and teaching is concerned, to say that there are some sins greater than others has the net effect (whether intended or not) of excusing sin (for instance, “little white lies”)—when in fact, all sin is serious. Eternally serious. Sound logic and scripture—therefore, God, and not slogans—demands we teach it that way. 

The Book of Books

*Within this ample volume lies
The mystery of mysteries.
Happiest they of human race
To whom their God has given grace
To read, to fear, to hope, to pray,
To lift the latch, to force the way;
But better had they ne'er been born
That read to doubt or read to scorn.*

—Sir Walter Scott 

Remember in Prayer

Please pray for **Abbey Vinson** and her family. We thank God, **Dot Hice** should be returning home this Monday! Don't forget our sisters **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**,

both in nursing homes; and continue to pray for **Lois Adams**, **Carolyn Dennis**, **Tim and Dot Hice**, **Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples**. 