

BROKEN CISTERNS

Jeremiah 2.13
2 Peter 2.17



CONTEXT

- Jeremiah 2.13
 - Judah had turned from God (2-13).
 - Specifically they turned away from the Law to serve Baal (8).
- 2 Peter 2.17
 - All about false teachers (2.1).
 - Wells without water, clouds without rain (2.17) — the promise without the substance (2.18-19).



REVIEW

- What we saw last week:
 - United Methodist Church struggling with issues of sexuality, particularly homosexual members.
 - Jesus is clear in His Gospel:
 - Homosexual activity is sinful (Romans 1; I Corinthians 6).
 - Sexual activity is reserved for marriage (Hebrews 13.4).
 - Marriage is for man and woman (Matthew 19.4f).
 - We must build on Jesus' foundation (Ephesians 2.20).



A BROKEN DEFENSE

- “The Bible is ‘living and active’... but for the Bible to be active, it must be living.”
 - A partial quotation of Hebrews 4.12
 - In what sense is God’s word “living”?
 - It comes from a living God - Hebrews 3.12
 - It is life-giving - John 6.63
 - It is enduring - I Peter 1.23-25
 - Not in the sense of changing - Galatians 1.6-9



A BROKEN DEFENSE

- The Straw-Man of Leviticus 18
 - Lev. 18.22 forbids homosexual activity.
 - “If you’re going to be against homosexuality, you’ve got to be in favor of death for disobedience to parents (Lev. 20.9), can’t have two crops in the same field (19.19), and no bacon (11.7).
 - Leviticus cannot, should not, and is not the basis for Christians’ position!



A BROKEN DEFENSE

- The Straw-Man of Leviticus 18
 - Lev. 18.22 forbids homosexual activity
 - “If you’re going to be aggressive in your defense of homosexuality, you’re going to be aggressive in your defense of deicide.”
 - Parents can’t have two wives (19.13), a man can’t have two wives in the same field (19.19), and no man can marry his sister (11.7).
 - Leviticus cannot, should not, and is not the basis for Christians’ position!

Law of Moses no longer in force!
Hebrews 10.9,18



A BROKEN DEFENSE

- The Narrative Shift — “Does God love me?”
 - The issue is not, and never has been, whether or not God loves a select group of people.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

(John 3:16)



A BROKEN DEFENSE

- The Narrative Shift — “Does God love me?”
 - The issue is not, and never has been, whether or not God loves a select group of people.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”

(Romans 1.16)



A BROKEN DEFENSE

- The Narrative Shift — “Does God love me?”
 - The issue is not, and never has been, whether or not God loves a select group of people.

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”

(Romans 5.6)



A BROKEN DEFENSE

- The Narrative Shift — “Does God love me?”
 - The issue is not, and never has been, whether or not God loves a select group of people.

**“But God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.”**

(Romans 5.8)



A BROKEN DEFENSE

"Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

- An increasingly popular cry amongst many in the “full-inclusion” camp is Acts 11.17.
- Does Acts 11.17 apply to this issue?



Gift of the Holy Spirit
10.44-45

vv 1,18 — Gentiles

"Therefore if God gave to **them the **same gift** as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in **God's way?**"**

(Acts 11.17)

Acts 10-11 was an unrepeated phenomenon concerning the Gospel going to the Gentiles.

- Salvation in Christ available
⇒(10.47-48)
- Salvation for whom?
⇒(10.34-35)

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(Acts 11.17)

The basis for Cornelius' acceptance was his submission to God and His word (10.34f; 11.14).

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(Acts 11.17)

For Acts 11 to be parallel with homosexuality, we would need to see God demonstrate His acceptance of homosexuality in the same manner as the Gentiles.

- Salvation in Christ available
⇒(10.47-48)
- Salvation for whom?
⇒(10.34-35)

BROKEN CISTERNS

- This issue is not simply about homosexual activity — it is about any action contrary to God's will.
- We must be willing to search out, practice, and defend what God has revealed in His word.
- We must never forget to be Christlike in our behavior with all people (Matthew 7.12).
- Our only hope is the Gospel (Romans 1.16f).

