

## **Who is Going...?**

### ***Part 4: "To Contend for the Faith Once Delivered?"***

**Delman Coates:** "I decided to go public for marriage equality after meeting with a same gender couple who informed me of the hardship they faced providing health care coverage... (*reason enough?*) "I felt a huge injustice and a need to shift the narrative... (*who's?*) Core values, "do unto others as we want it done to us..." (*std.?*) "The values that should inform the conversation should be the values we share in common as American citizens..." (*believers?*) "The Biblical texts used to condemn are not condemnations of homosexuality but of sexual violence, rape and exploitation, which is decidedly different from two consenting adults in a relationship..." (*used to save*)(?)

**"Pastor Coates, you can preach my Easter sermon any time..."**

**2Timothy 4.3,4** "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts they will heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears and they will turn away their ears from the truth and will be turned to fables!"

"For the time will come when society will not hold themselves to nor put up with healthy doctrine but after their own lusts they will seek teachers saying the things they want to hear about the things they want to justify and they will turn their ears from the truth and will be turned to tales of fiction!"

**2Timothy 4.5 (lit)** "*BUT YOU* stay sober (nephos v. gregoreo; abstain from wine) to be alert at all times, experience the hardships and sufferings of the times but continue to do the work of the evangelist, fully carry out your service!"

**Hillary Clinton, 3/19** "I support marriage for lesbian and gay couples. I support it personally and as a matter of policy and law embedded in a broader effort to advance equality and opportunity for LGBT Americans and for all Americans..." And she has the right to believe it and say so... as an American! "*Like so many others, my views have been shaped over time by people I have known and loved, by my experience representing our nation on the world stage, my devotion to law and human rights, and the guiding principles of my faith.*"

**Views can be reshaped by time and people, and experience... The guiding principles of God cannot...**

**Rob Portman, 3/15** "...has announced his support for same-sex marriage, saying he reversed his position on the divisive social issue after his son came out as gay. I have come to believe that if two people are prepared to make a lifetime commitment to love and care for each other in good times and bad the government shouldn't deny them the opportunity to get married. This isn't how I've always felt. As a congressman, and more recently as a senator, I opposed marriage for same-sex couples. Then something happened that led me to think thru my position in a much deeper way." His son discussed his sexual orientation with him and his wife and said that his sexuality was "not a choice, it was who he is and that he had been that way since he could remember." It allowed me to think of this from a new perspective, and that's of a dad who loves his son a lot and wants him to have the same opportunities that his brother and sister would have – to have a relationship like Jane and I have had for over 26 years." "The process of citizens persuading fellow citizens is how consensus is built and enduring change is forged. Portman said that he believes the issue of same-sex marriage is "more generational than it is partisan." He said that former Vice President Dick Cheney, whose daughter is a lesbian, told him to do the right thing, follow your heart." Portman said he also considered his Christian faith which led him to decide that "in a way this strengthens the institution of marriage." "The overriding message of love and compassion that I take from the Bible, and certainly from the Golden Rule, and that fact that I believe we are all created equal by our maker, that has all influenced me in terms of my change on this issue."

***This isn't about same-sex equality... that's merely a high profile minority distraction from the bigger issue...***

**The issue is the Word of God being diluted and rewritten for a compromised and compromising culture!**

**The Question is: "Who is going to stand firm, hold fast, to the Word of God?"**

**How it gets changed!** “I” is the beginning of all compromise of *HIS* word/ways! “I feel,” the use of our senses to discern the ways of God! “I know,” in part! “I decided,” only works in areas where we have authority! “I have family/friends...” but they are not the final authority either! “The consensus,” doesn’t change God’s mind/truth! “Then something happened,” the sons of God are led by the Spirit! “Shaped over time,” God’s values are shaped by His character! “Following my heart,” which can easily deceive you!

**“When they knew God, they didn’t glorify Him as God... but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...” Romans 1.21, 22**

**Hold Fast...** Hold fast the form of sound words, which you heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. And that good thing which was committed to you – keep by the Holy Ghost who dwells in us. **2Tim 1.13,14** Heaven and earth will pass away but My words will not! **Matt 24.35** God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? **Num 23.19** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. **Heb 4.14-16**

**Don’t give up and “go back” because it’s too hard to follow!** **J6** “I just wanted the bless me version! This is more than I *bargained for!*” If you are not already, you will become part of the problem! The way is not too hard, Jesus paved the way... And millions more have walked it out – to the end! Do more than the minimum, be a 2%’er, follow true “leaders!”

**Don’t forget your calling to “go!”** **Isaiah 6** Out to the world w/God’s word! The salvation that’s in Christ! To experience the Spirit, His gifts and provision... *or die “in the house!”*

**Keep bending the “I” in you to release the “Christ in you!”** **G2.20** *Pleasing to God, knowing purpose, winning souls!*

“Don’t be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind to prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God – and don’t think more highly than you should think; but think soundly according as God has given to every man the measure of faith! **Rom 12.2,3**

“Don’t fall into disbelief, not mixing the Word with faith... For the word of God is alive, effective and sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing to separate between the soul (mind: “I think,” will: “I will,” and emotions: “I feel”) and spirit (that wants what God wants), and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (which need to be discerned!). **Heb 4.2,12**

***The time has come when people will not endure sound teaching... when they will willingly be seduced by vain talkers... and the surge of apostasy is travelling...***

***Men and women of God need to tie off to the immovable Word of God to be able to reach out and save... If you cut your tie, even loosen the tether, you are in danger of both being swept away...***

***“The Bible is your very best friend for the time and the coming days!”***