

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Corpus Christi Play

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A theater production of Terrance McNally’s 1998 play “Corpus Christi” was scheduled on campus of Tarleton State University this weekend. What began as a simple class project of John Orte has created a fire storm in the town of Stephenville, Texas. The play depicts a character like Jesus, named Joshua, who performs a gay marriage for two of his disciples, and kisses Judas at Pontius Pilate High School’s senior Prom. At the end of the play a moniker is over the head of the “Jesus character” who is crucified which reads: “King of the Queers”.

For days now David Harris, a radio talk show host with the Hillcrest church of Christ in Stephenville, has led a protest against the play being performed. Like him, Christians should be outraged. The play is not only trying to make the sin of homosexuality look respectable, but is boldly using the perfect and sinless life of the Son of God in order to promote it. How disgraceful!

Ironically, John Orte says he wanted to “bring people together” and help gain acceptance for “gay Christians” who “feel alienated from their churches”.

Instead, much protest has bombarded the phone lines at Tarleton State.

After moving the production up eight hours, and limiting the viewing audience, the school officials have finally canceled the play on campus. Liza Benedict, spokeswoman for the school said, “We didn’t have specific threats of violence, but we had hundreds of vile, hateful emails and phone calls that got increasingly volatile as the week went on.”

This event is interesting on a number of fronts. First, it allows us the opportunity to stand up for the truth of the Gospel of Christ. The New Testament reveals the mind of God and clearly tells us that homosexual acts are sinful and will keep one from an inheritance in heaven (*I Corinthians 6:9-10*). Such a life style is “*against nature*” emboldened by “*vile passions*” (*Romans 1:26-27*).

Taking a stand against this sexual practice should not be viewed as hating homosexuals, but hating their sinful practices. Such an attitude is the proper result of understanding God’s precepts (*Psalms 119:104*). One should never feel alienated from God or

His people when he or she repents of sin (*I Jn. 1:7-9, 2 Corinthians 2:7*).

Also, we have a dilemma for school authorities governed by a constitution allowing “free speech”. Here is a student misguided in his views and certainly perverted in his concept of “art” who wants to fulfill his school project in a certain way. School authorities are having to deal with such a one in light of our society’s free speech rights.

But people also have a right to speak out against such things. This time the pressure of a community voicing its outrage over the perversion of history and the image of the Son of God has won this battle. “Vile language”, if indeed it came from protesters, is just as wrong as vile passions (*Ephesians 4:29*). The facts of God’s word being communicated out of a pure heart of love for God and his truth is powerful enough to fight error (*Ephesians 4:15, 6:10*). A battle for truth and holiness has been won, as the war with evil continues. Will you speak out against sin?