



Correspondence

Comments on articles appearing in the magazine are always welcome, and should be addressed to the editor in whose section the article appears.

The sin of Sodom

Brother Andrew McFarland concluded his article "The sin of Sodom" ([Jan. 2004, p. 2](#)) by saying, "Lot was not condemned for his human compassion, and we will not be condemned for ours either". In the light of current thinking in the world, this is a dangerous statement for those who follow the teaching of Scripture. Human compassion is based on human values, whereas the compassion revealed in Scripture is always balanced with the true and righteous laws of God.

The religion which controls the thoughts and actions of millions of people today is humanism. Humanism will dismiss anything which does not advance human happiness, and this includes the laws of God. It teaches compassion and sympathy towards anything that any human desires so long as it does not harm other humans. Scripture teaches: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: these are the things which defile a man" (Mt. 15:19,20). Thus human compassion and the mercy of God are often at variance. Human compassion will always excuse human actions that Scripture defines as 'sin', whereas the mercy of God is designed to remove sin: "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil" (Prov. 16:6).

Human compassion will place human desire and human values at the centre of all thinking. This will inevitably lead to destruction: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (14:12). The follower of the Lord Jesus Christ will place God and His righteous laws in the centre of all thought and action. It is only those who do this who can hope for His mercy and compassion: "And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto Thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before Thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with Thee" (1 Kgs. 3:6).

Concerning the sin for which Sodom was destroyed, it was not pride or materialism as Brother McFarland suggests. These things are

indeed sin, and are associated with human thinking in general, but Sodom and Gomorrah were singled out for destruction amidst the rest of humanity. The account in Genesis 19 surely leaves no doubt as to the reason for their destruction.

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