

STEVE CHALKE:
Yet another who is
“waxing worse and worse”
2nd Timothy 3:13

Last week I posted an article about how **Rick Warren** has been equivocating about his position in the run-up to the 2008 **‘Proposition 8’** Referendum that took place in California on the question of whether or not the word **‘marriage’** should be redefined to include same-sex relationships. I stated that in the light of his recent comments he is like those mentioned in **2nd Timothy 3:13** - **“waxing worse and worse”**.

Well, not to be outdone, **Steve Chalke** has now **‘thrown his cap into the ring’** on this issue and needless to say it does not make for good reading. By his rejection of **‘penal substitution’** I had previously identified Mr Chalke as an **“enemy of the cross”** (**Philippians 3:18**) and you can read about that in my article on

http://www.takeheed.net/Take_Heed_2010/Current_Concerns/Jan_2010/Enemies_of_The_Cross.htm

There are a number of articles in which you can read what Mr Chalke has now said on the prospect of ‘same-sex marriage’ and herewith are links to two of them –

<http://pjsaunders.blogspot.co.uk/2013/01/steve-chalke-publicly-confirms-his.html>

and

www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/01/15/evangelical-minister-steve-chalke-gay-suffer_n_2476734.html

In the Huffington Post article we read this **‘He (Steve Chalke) writes: “Rather than condemn and exclude, can we dare to create an environment for homosexual people where issues of self-esteem and well-being can be talked about; where the virtues of loyalty, respect, interdependence and faithfulness can be nurtured, and where exclusive and permanent same-sex relationships can be supported?”**

I ask simply – how can there be **“self-esteem and well-being”** in the sight of the Holy God of heaven for those who are living openly in a relationship situation that is

clearly condemned by that same Holy God in His Holy Word? God's Word is designed to alert people to the sin in their lives and to humble them before Him and to cause them to cry out for His forgiveness. Those truly converted to Christ realise that God's Word was the **"schoolmaster (God used) to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith"** (Galatians 3:24).

Rather than 'cocooning' those living openly in sinful situations, if Steve Chalke were truly a Christian, he would be 'confronting' such by directing them to passages such as **Romans 1:18-32** and **1st Corinthians 6:9-11** and then praying for the Holy Spirit to do His work of conviction of sin and conversion to Christ.

In **John 16:8** the Lord revealed what the Holy Spirit would do when He was sent into the world – **"And when He is come He will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment"**. Commenting on this verse Bishop J C Ryle wrote **"He (the Holy Spirit) would reprove in every part of the earth the current ideas of men about sin, righteousness, judgment and convince people of some far higher ideas on these points than they had before acknowledged. He would make men see more clearly the nature of sin, the need of righteousness, the certainty of judgment. In a word, He would insensibly be an Advocate and convincing pleader for God throughout the whole world and raise up a standard of morality, purity and knowledge, of which formerly men had no conception"**.

It seems crystal clear to me that not only does this need to happen in the lives of those sections of society that Steve Chalke is pleading for in his latest comments but also in the life of Steve Chalke himself.

In closing, Steve Chalke and the 'gay' community that he is referring to need to recognise their total lack of **'righteousness'** in the sight of the Holy God of heaven (as do all unsaved people irrespective of their 'sexual orientation') and experience what Robert Murray McCheyne set out so wonderfully in these verses from his hymn **'Jehovah Tsidkenu – The Lord our Righteousness'** – in particular in the second verse quoted we read of that 'convicting' work of the Holy Spirit and by it the destruction of any hope in 'self-esteem'. Then in the third verse quoted we read of the joy experienced when true conversion to Christ takes place -

**I once was a stranger to grace and to God
I knew not my danger and felt not my load
Though friends spoke in rapture of Christ on the tree
Jehovah Tsidkenu was nothing to me**

**When free grace awoke me by light from on high
Then legal fears shook me I trembled to die
No refuge, no safety in self could I see
Jehovah Tsidkenu my Saviour must be**

My terrors all vanished before the sweet name
My guilty fears banished with boldness I came
To drink at the fountain life-giving and free
Jehovah Tsidkenu is all things to me.

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 15th January 2013

APPENDIX

The March 2013 edition of ‘**Evangelical Times**’ included a short article that highlights just how far Steve Chalke has distanced himself from the clear teachings of God’s Holy Word. The article was headed ‘**EA criticises Steve Chalke** and read as follows –

‘The founder of the Oasis Trust and Faithworks, Rev Steve Chalke, has been criticised by the Evangelical Alliance (EA) after Mr Chalke carried out a gay blessing in his church.

Quoted in *Christianity* magazine, Mr Chalke – whose controversial and heretical stand on penal substitution a decade ago – defended his evangelical credentials after stating his support for committed same-sex relationships.

In the magazine, Mr Chalke said, ‘the church should “consider nurturing positive models for permanent and monogamous homosexual relationships”.’

He also said he had ‘conducted a dedication and blessing service following the civil partnership of two wonderful gay Christians’, at Oasis Church, Waterloo, in London, where he is minister.

However, Steve Clifford, director of EA, said Mr Chalke had ‘distanced himself from the vast majority of the evangelical community here in the UK, from the Church across the world and 2000 years of biblical interpretation’.

These words from **Romans chapter 1** seem very applicable to this situation – **“as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient (proper, seemly, fitting) ... who knowing the judgment of God that they who commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but have pleasure in them that do them” (v 28 & 32).**

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries - 5 March 2013