

RYS CONVENTION (July 17-21, 2023)

RECOVERING THE RAINBOW

Introduction

To recover means to get back something or to bring back to a normal condition. E.g., if you injure your shoulder or leg, you receive medical help and begin the recovery process (bring back to a normal condition); or, if you lose something precious, you go on a mission to recover it. What do we mean by “recovering the rainbow?” What was taken that Christians must get back or bring back to a normal condition? In one word, it is truth! Spiritual forces are at work in the world to destroy the truth of God and the Christian faith. The truth of God has been exchanged for a lie (Romans 1).

Before God called me to faith in Christ, I was in the hairstyling industry. I worked in a high-scale salon where my boss and many co-workers were gay or bi-sexual. They were seeking their identity through their sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, etc.) and sexual pleasures. They were looking for affirmation (to assert as valid or confirmed) of their lifestyle. They wanted to be “happy”. I thought, “Well, it’s against nature but whatever makes them happy. However, when I became a believer in Jesus, the Bible made it clear that it’s against God’s truth and His Law, who is the Lord and God of all nature. I began to deeply grieve for them. I grieved because they were lost sinners (like myself) who needed to hear and believe the good news of Jesus.

It has been 25 years and a lot has changed in the pride movement. There is a militant and dark spirit that has always existed in the shadows but has come out in full force. Christians must hold fast to the truth and engage culture and the world with the truth. As we explore the theme, “Recovering the Rainbow”, I would like to address this workshop by working through three questions: (1) *Where did the rainbow in nature come from?* (2) *How did the rainbow flag come to symbolize the LGBTQI+ movement?* (3) *How should Christians engage their neighbor with the truth?*

First, where did the rainbow in nature come from?

In a Peanuts comic strip, Linus is standing by the window in the family room, and he’s holding his blanket. Lucy stands beside him. They are looking out the window and watching the heavy rainfall. It was raining so hard [like last night] that they couldn’t see the trees in the backyard.

Lucy sighs and says, ‘My, look at all that rain. If this keeps up it’s going to flood the whole earth.’ Linus quickly replies, ‘That will never happen! It says in Genesis 9:7-17 that God will never again flood the earth. *And He’s put a rainbow in the sky to prove that His promise is true.*’ Lucy looks at him and says, ‘You’ve taken a big load off my mind.’ Linus responds immediately, ‘*Sound theology has a way of doing that.*’ The theology of Linus was sound because it was biblical; but sound theology isn’t merely for the mind, it is for our comfort.

Sound theology and biblical truth comforted Lucy and also assured her of God's truth and promise.

In the book of Genesis, what preceded the sign of the rainbow? A flood. And, what preceded the flood? Violence filled the earth! The flood was the consequence of great moral evil (external and internal) in the days of Noah.

At Genesis 6, the Bible says, "*The LORD saw that **the wickedness of man was great in the earth** (external), and that **every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually** (internal). ⁶ And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, **for I am sorry that I have made them.**" ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD...⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² **And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.** ¹³ **And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth."***

After the creation of all things, our first parents fell into sin (Genesis 3). Consequently, human nature became corrupt and depraved, and violence spread throughout the earth (scope of the sin). God, in His wrath and justice, promised to destroy all living creatures "with the earth." However, not every living creature was destroyed. Verse 8 says, "*But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD...Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.*"

The faithfulness of God. To be sure, God, according to His mercy and grace, saved Noah and his family because Noah believed God and walked with God. That said, it's important to note the faithfulness of God to His promises previously made after the fall of our first parents into sin. This is very important point. Mankind will know and experience spiritual and physical death because of the consequences of sin. At Genesis 3:15, God graciously promises a Redeemer and Savior. The Bible says:

*I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."*

This is the first message of good news after Adam and Eve's fall into sin. The offspring or seed of the woman will bruise the head of the serpent, i.e., the Devil. Genesis 3 records the origin of human sin and depravity; and yet, it's also the beginning of God's plan of redemption in Jesus Christ. It's the beginning of hope for hopeless and rebellious sinners who trust in the seed of the woman, who is Christ Jesus our Lord.

When God saved Noah and his family, he *preserved* the seed of the woman who will be the hope and Redeemer of sinners. Through Noah, Shem, Terah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah and so on, the offspring of the woman comes into the world to destroy the works of the devil and to ransom His people from their sin and misery. So, God saved Noah and his family from the worldwide flood that destroyed all the living and cleansed the world of ungodliness and wickedness.

There is much that we can't dive into because we don't have time. For example, the worldwide flood was a restart of the creation, and there are many similarities between the creation account and the post-flood, restart of creation (e.g., "*man created in the image of God*" and "*be fruitful and multiply*").

The sign of the rainbow. Rainbows are magnificent. Colorful lines of light appear when light shines through water droplets in the air. God chose the rainbow to be a sign and seal of His promise to every living thing. When He sees the rainbow in the sky, He remembers His promise that He made with all living creatures. He will never destroy every living creature with the earth *by way of a flood* (read Gen. 8:20-22; 9:8-17). Although the intentions of our hearts are evil from youth, God promises to never destroy every living creature *by a flood* again. This is the true meaning of the rainbow in the sky.

So then, when we see the rainbow in nature, we remember what preceded the rainbow – the flood. And, we remember what preceded the flood – evil, violence and sin. The rainbow reminds us of God's mercy to sinners and His faithfulness to send to the Savior of the world. He saved Noah and His family; thus, He preserved the line to the Christ – the seed of the woman.

See Rev. 4:3; 10:1. The presence of the rainbow in heaven. Perhaps this symbolizes the presence of the Lord.

How did the "rainbow flag" come to symbolize the LGBTQI+ movement?

If a person drives past a church and sees a flag with the colors of a rainbow, what do they associate the flag with? Immediately, a person associates a church or any organization with the LGTBQI+ movement. The person, then, knows that the church or organization or individual *affirms* and *approves* the movement.

At this time, I would like to do a short exercise with you. Here's a picture of the American flag. [Show picture of American flag]. What do you see? I'm not look for physical characteristics of the flag. What do you see?! Do you see freedom, liberation, unity, sacrifice and pride? Now, here's another question. What preceded the American flag? [Allow audience to answer question]. A revolution occurred. There was a revolutionary war to secure our freedom from a tyrannical government.

Now, let's look at the creator of the rainbow or pride flag. Note the similarities. In 1978, gay activist, Gilbert Baker, created the rainbow flag. Baker understood flags to be a very powerful sign of any movement or nation (e.g., American Flag and French Flag symbolize

freedom). He believed that flags were “transcendent, transformational and that people become emotionally attached to them” (the singing of the national anthem and pledging allegiance to the flag unites the country and draws our attention to the sacrifice of many men and women who gave their lives for our freedom and constitution). Therefore, he believed that tribes and nations rally around signs and symbols, which he called “iconic propaganda”. He believed that the gay, lesbian and queer movement needed a flag to symbolize their rights and cause – a sign of liberation and hope.

Before then, the pink triangle was the symbol. The pink triangle was used by the Nazis to identify gay men. It became the first symbol of the gay community and was intended to be a badge of shame. In time, it became a positive symbol of self-identity. It became a badge of honor. Baker’s friends strongly urged him to create a flag for the gay movement.

How did Baker choose the pride flag? He and other gay and lesbian people assembled together at a ballroom. Baker wrote: “We rode the mirrored ball on glittering LSD and love power. Dance fused us, magical and cleansing. We were all in a swirl of color and light. It was like a rainbow. A rainbow. That’s the moment when I knew exactly what kind of flag I would make. A “rainbow flag” was a conscious choice, natural and necessary. The rainbow,” Baker writes, “came from the earliest recorded history as *a symbol of hope*. In the book of Genesis, it appeared as proof of a covenant between God and all living creatures.”

He references the Bible and calls God’s sign to all living creatures (the rainbow) a “symbol of hope”. Like other Christian signs and language, the pride community hijacks the signs and symbols of the Christian faith and the language of Scripture. Now, what’s the irony of Baker’s use of the rainbow? [Allow audience to answer]. Did he forget to read what preceded the rainbow and what preceded the flood? God destroyed the earth and all living things because he condemned the sexual immorality and violence in Noah’s day.

The pride movement now has a flag that symbolizes hope, liberation, acceptance and equal rights. However, there are dark and deceitful undertones of the flag and the movement because the pride movement is about revolution! At this point, much can be said about Marxism. For now, I’ll only say that there’s a cultural Marxism that exists in our day, and it is the foundation of the woke movement, which includes the LGBTQI+ community. While Marx’s philosophy focused on economic equality, his method of achieving liberation and freedom from the “oppressors” (bourgeoisie) was through revolution (and violence). Marx’s method is applied today among the woke mob and pride community. They are the oppressed, and there must be a revolution against the oppressor. This is why there’s an all-out attack against the Christian church and faith. There is a (sexual) revolution permeating our land and earth. To be set free and liberated, it will require a revolution. The flag will be the sign of hope and liberation. Consequently, their attack against the truth of God and His Word has influenced the most basic institutions (family, school, work).

In his manifesto, Marx wrote: ““Undoubtedly, it will be said, religious, moral, philosophical, and judicial ideas have been modified in the course of historical development, but religion, morality, philosophy, political science and law constantly survive this change. *There are*

besides eternal truths such as freedom, justice, etc. that are common to all states of society, but communism abolishes eternal truths. It abolishes all religion and all morality instead of constituting them on a new basis..." (emphasis mine)." What happens if there are no eternal truths? There's chaos and great evil. "Everyone doing what is right in their own eyes."

The pride movement denies the plain teaching of the truth and Biblical values concerning human sexuality. The body is merely an instrument for pleasure and liberation because, as they argue, "My body; My choice. This doesn't apply only to abortion.

The "pride" movement inserts itself and seeks to indoctrinate the masses, *especially children and young people*. E.g., why "drag queen story hour" in the libraries? Why pride parades that are "family friendly"? Why Diversity Equality Inclusion in the workplace? There's nothing new under the sun because this has been happening for some time.

Objectives:

Propagate lifestyle slowly, beginning at a young age. In the early 1900's, a liberal pastor said that churches have children for a few hours on Sundays, but we have them five days a week for 8 hours a day". Satan is deceptive and cunning. He wants the destruction of all peoples, and if he can get to children, then the next generation will oppose God and His Christ. He comes after you like a roaming lion, seeking to destroy! Stand firm in Christ and His truth.

Normalize behavior and lifestyle. Years ago, tv programs didn't have gay or lesbian themes. These themes eventually made their way into tv shows, but ever so mildly. Year after year, more gay themes and alternative lifestyles were portrayed on the tv programs and movies. This approach eases a person into a tolerant posture toward the gay themes. It becomes a normal way of life.

How should Christians engage their "pride" neighbor with the truth?

How do true Christians "recover the rainbow"? Do we wear rainbow shirts with a Scripture verse from Genesis 9? Do we protest with signs at pride events or at other venues? Do we boycott big retail stores like Target? You have the constitutional "right" to protest with your pocket book or clothes. That's up to you and your conscience.

Points of application

- First and foremost, love, know and believe the truth of God's Word. This is a battle for the truth and a battle against spiritual forces of evil. We have to examine our own hearts and believe the truth ourselves. We have to be convinced that His Word is truth and that it's sweeter than honey. Jesus has the words of eternal life! Let us sit at Jesus' feet and learn from the Master and love Him with our whole heart.

Are you ready and equipped? Are you ready to share truth and love of Jesus Christ

from His Word of truth? Also, are you also ready to teach the truth concerning God's judgment against all sin when Jesus comes again? To recover the rainbow means to speak the truth of Christ to sinners of all kinds, including the LGBTQI+ community. We don't know how the Lord may use us, but we need to always be ready to share the truth to our "pride" neighbors. There is a lot of hurt and pain in hearts. May God open doors to share Christ with them.

There will be a day of great judgment and wrath upon all unbelief and sin. At His return, the earth will be purged with fire (not a flood) (see 2 Peter 3:10). He will bring judgment upon wickedness and unbelief. Jesus will judge with a sword—His Word!

I pray that you will be a bold generation. Be a passionate generation who loves the truth of Jesus and lives by the truth as it is found in Jesus!

- Love them; listen to them; pray for them. Because we love them, we listen to their story and ask questions. When I am listening, I want to meet them where they are at and engage them with the Gospel *where they are at*. This means that I must listen carefully and hear their story. Let us remember that they are people created in God's image, and they are not projects or a charity case. At the end of the day, when they talk about identity or gender identity, they just want to be "happy" and find joy in life.

E.g., If someone talks about their identity, I ask them for permission to share with them about my identity. If they say "yes", then I have an open door to share my true *identity* (in Christ) (Gal. 2:20), true *individuality* (image-bearer of God), and true *community* in the body of Christ. Share true freedom in Christ and how Jesus frees us and forgives us.

- Define terms. For Christians, it's very difficult to engage in discussion with someone who embraces the pride worldview (and woke ideology) because they redefine words with the intent to confuse people. For example, just ask: "What do you mean by love?" "What do you mean by justice?" "What do you mean by...?"
- Count the cost. In our day, it is increasingly hard to be a Christian and to live out the Christian faith. It's very intimidating to talk with someone who holds this worldview. It may become hostile. They use tactics like fear, shame, guilt, name-calling (bigot, transphobe, intolerant, hater, etc.). These tactics make it impossible to have a reasonable conversation. *Avoid* mobs, erratic persons who don't want to have a conversation. I would encourage you to seek out individuals and have one-on-one conversations because this will avoid outside pressures. And, it'll provide an environment for the person to speak more freely and openly.

Illustrate: A young woman approached a very close friend who affirmed and embraced the pride movement. The friend opposed the young woman's biblical position on the creation of man and woman and marriage. The friend proceeded to call the young woman a transphobe because the young woman believed that homosexuality, transgender ideology, etc. were against God's Word. The friend believed that God approved and affirmed these lifestyles and that the Bible doesn't teach that homosexuality is a sin. The young woman sent several Bible passages that demonstrate the sin of homosexuality and God's condemnation of these sins (along with other sins like adultery, etc.). Then, she asked, "How do you interpret these passages?" There's no other way to interpret them than to say that God does not condone homosexuality.

The young woman graciously shared the gospel with the friend, explaining that Jesus died to save sinners. If a person repents of his sin (including homosexuality) and believes in Christ, he is forgiven and free by grace through faith in Christ. Her friend wasn't convinced. And so, the young woman said, "God is the judge, and He will judge righteously according to His truth and Word." This young woman concluded the conversation with truth – Scripture. God will judge! We "recover the rainbow" by bringing the light of God's truth in the darkness of lies and deceit.

- Salvation is of the Lord. One person sow, and another person waters, but God causes the growth. God changes and transforms hearts and minds (not us). Leave the results to God. He decides. This is a relief! We do not need to fear man, and we cannot fail if we are faithful to the Lord and His truth. God calls us to be faithful witnesses of His truth. Silence isn't an option. In fact, opponents of Christians are working hard to silence Christians.

Illustrate: I had the opportunity to share the truth with someone very close to me. I led him through the Romans Road (3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-13). The Romans Road lays out the good news of Jesus beautifully – all are sinners; the consequences of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord; believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved from your sins. After reading these passages, he asked me, "So, what you're telling me is that I'm going to hell?" I said, "Did I tell you that?" He said, "No, I guess not. The Bible does." Use the truth of the Word. Take people to the Word, and God will speak for Himself.

Closing Remarks

The Bible teaches that every sinner, including you and me, cannot pay for their own sins or another man's sins. God's law exposes who we really are. It's like a CAT scan or an MRI that sees the darkness of our hearts. It's more like exploratory surgery that goes even deeper into our hearts. God sent forth His Son, Jesus, who is the seed of the woman and the offspring of Abraham. He crushed the head of the serpent; He grants forgiveness of sins; and He save His people from the wrath of God to come.

Just as those in the ark were saved by the waters of judgment, so too, Christians, who are saved by Jesus and believe in Him, are saved from the wrath of God. Jesus is the ark. In Him, there's true meaning, purpose, identity and hope. There's true freedom!

But God, according to His great mercy, saves sinners and transforms lives. He makes new creations of wayward sinners and gives them a new heart that seeks after him. Yes, the gospel of Jesus has the power, by the Spirit, to spiritually heal and transform broken people who have been deceived by Pride movement just as He heals and transforms all believers, including myself.

"You Are My All in All" was written by Dennis Jernigan (2004).

Verse 1

You are my Strength when I am weak.
You are the Treasure that I seek.
You are my All in all.
Seeking You as a precious Jewel,
Lord to give up I'd be a fool.
You are my All in all!

Chorus

Jesus, Lamb of God,
worthy is Your Name.
Jesus, Lamb of God,
worthy is Your Name.

Verse 2

Taking my cross my sin my shame,
Rising again I praise Your Name.
You are my All in all.
When I fall down You lift me up.
When I am dry You fill my cup.
You are my All in all.

Verse 3

When the dark powers had done their worst
Jesus brought victory o'er the curse.
You are my All in all.
Death could not hold the King of kings.
Now to His heirs new life He brings.
You are my All in all.

He was a practicing homosexual most of his adult life until the Lord saved him and called him to faith in Christ. He is married with many children, living on a farm! God saves sinners! Who are we to view people in the pride movement as "unsavable" or

“unredeemable”? Indeed, homosexuality is a sin, but God’s arm of salvation is not too short to save!