

## Hebrews 13:4

**Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled;**

On Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 1 PM in room 438 of the Maine statehouse, a public hearing will be heard on whether to remove the authorization of clergy members to solemnize marriages in Maine. When I first heard of this, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry! What absolute arrogance to even consider such legislation. Yet as you look back over the past forty years in this nation, why not? Atheists, agnostics and humanists have attained more ground in their attempt to remove God from this nation, than anyone could ever have dreamed possible. All because the church, and I am talking about every man, woman and child who calls themselves a follower of Jesus Christ, has taken such a lethargic and apathetic stand. We have almost held the door open for every special issues group to remove God from our nation. Truly, we can't hold anyone more accountable than ourselves. In our quest to be seen and known as tolerant, we have allowed the pendulum to swing to such extremes that our very faith, beliefs and practices are at stake. We have grown so complacent and callous in our religious traditions, that we now simply hold a resemblance to the things of Christ, rather than the power that comes through a relationship with the Living God.

In all of this, I am reminded of Hosea who was told by the Lord to take Gomer, a harlot, as a wife. Our nation is not much different today, then the nation of Israel was in the days of Hosea. We have turned our backs on serving the Living God, in pursuit of our gluttonous pleasures. Church beware, unless you and I take a stand for the freedom to worship and serve Jesus Christ as we see fit; those freedoms will one day be taken away. What has been bought and paid for through the blood and sacrifices of countless men and women over the past two hundred plus years in this nation, will one day be removed with the sweep of a pen. What will it take for you to get involved, to stop being a bystander and casual observer? Are you more concerned with what people think of you, than you are with what the Lord thinks? Beware church, many a people group and nation has fallen; once those people sold out their beliefs, for the pleasures of their flesh. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, America was enraged, and their resolve was brought to the surface and tested. Will you allow the attacks on our beliefs and our God to go any longer without you taking a stand? How much time do you spend on your knees praying for this nation; or is the only time you speak about it is when you are tearing it down with your very words? Are we so anesthetized to the plans and schemes of the enemy that we are simply going to tolerate whatever is thrust upon us? I exhort you to wake up, to take a stand, to step out, to allow your voice to be heard!! Please don't allow another day to pass where you do nothing. As we used to say in the military, "Not on my watch"!! If only for the sake of your children and grandchildren, get involved in the battle that is raging to remove God from this land. If the legislators can remove ministers from solemnizing marriages, what's next?? Are they going to take our churches, our children, and our property? The Jews never dreamed it could happen in Germany prior to Hitler; but on one very terrible day, their worst dreams were materialized. Church, I exhort you today to let your voice be heard, before it is silenced, once and for all.