

What SCOTUS Did Not Change

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It has been a week since the Supreme Court of the United States handed down its verdict allowing homosexuals the right to marry. It was a landmark decision that will have significant legal, cultural, and religious impact.

Regardless of what the “Men in Black” decided last weekend, some things have not been affected at all. Some things have not changed, and never will. I would suggest that five things did not change.

The Omnipotence of God. The Lord is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13.8). Human courts cannot change the nature or attributes of God. He is and always has been holy. He is and always has superintended the affairs of men. He is and always has been concerned with how we humans behave.

Just as important, he has not abdicated his throne, nor has he lost his power. The Lord is still in control! See Daniel 2.21; Psalm 75.7; Romans 13.1.

The Outlook of Scripture. Critics say we should get with the times, that we have moved beyond texts that were written so long ago. The reality is that we should get with the timeless – that which does not change. Scripture is God’s permanent communication to mankind. It does not change because it speaks to the changeless (Isaiah 40.6ff; Matthew 5.17f). So, if Scripture condemns certain things as sinful, we must take heed, because we are dealing with the eternal judgments of God.

Men tend to look at Scripture through the ever-changing lens of culture. In fact, it is the other way around: human history and culture must be interpreted through the lens of Scripture.

The Orientation of Faith. Have we forgotten that “this world is not our home?” That, “this dark world” is no “friend to grace, to help us on to God?” If our home is not here, why should our hopes here? If our values are not here, we must adjust our values upwardly (Philippians 3.7-16; Colossians 3.1ff).

We must see past the fads and trends of this present world by looking upward through the eyes of faith (2 Corinthians 5.7). Recent events have may have shaken our faith, but they cannot cripple it. The Friday that Jesus was crucified was a dark day that shook the faith of his followers. But he rose again.

The Obligation of Believers. Regardless of how the world treats us; regardless of whether or not we are persecuted; regardless of the popularity or acceptance of our beliefs, Christians must behave in specific ways. We must pray for our rulers (1 Timothy 2.1ff). We must submit to the governing authorities (Ro 13.1ff; 1 Pe 2.13-17). We must love our enemies (Matthew 5.43-47). We must grieve over sin and help those caught in its grip (Romans 1.18-32; Jude 17-23). We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5.29). These obligations are constant and unchanging.

The Outcome of History. When reading a good novel, the reader is tempted to jump ahead to the end of the book to see the outcome. When reading the Bible, I strongly encourage you to “cheat” and jump to the end. You will discover that God wins, and that God’s people win.

Nothing will alter that. The only choice is whether to participate in victory or suffer in defeat. See Revelation 19.19ff; 20.7-15.

To borrow from Psalm 20.7, “Some boast in laws, courts, and politicians, but we will boast in the name of the Lord our God” (*New Sutton Version*).

[Adapted from, “4 Things the Election did not Change,” from Kenneth Kuykendall’s blog, 11-4-2012]