

Two Extremes

by Wayne Goff

I was watching an interview with Dr. Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, via the internet yesterday. He has been severely criticized in the media for being *anti-semitic* and *anti-gay* because he teaches that everyone must come to Jesus to be saved and that homosexuality is a sin. He has been accused of hate speech by strong leftist media. So I applaud his “conservative stance” on these two issues.

Jesus plainly taught, “*Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins*” (Jn. 8:24).

The apostle Paul taught by inspiration, “*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God*” (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

Apparently Dr. Jeffress knows and believes these Scriptures. But in the **same interview**, when he was asked about the Catholic pope resigning and the possibility of scandal among the Catholic priests, Dr. Jeffress said:

“The pope is a wonderful, dedicated Christian man, and we celebrate the ministry he’s had, and wish him the very best and we pray for our Catholic friends as they go through the process of choosing a new leader, that they’ll find a similar man of great faith.” – via WFAA, Dallas, Texas, ABC News.

I couldn’t believe my ears! How *far left* can even a Baptist go in condoning the Catholic pope! The same Bible condemns the Catholic Church as an apostate organization (2 Thess. 2:1-12) and many of their well-known doctrines *specifically* -- abstaining from marriage and forbidding certain meats (1 Tim. 4:3). It is a shocking warning to all of us to be careful about “**picking and choosing**” what we wish to believe from God’s Word. Of course, I disagree with Dr. Jeffress on his comments about Catholicism and wonder what he does believe on *just about everything else* in the Bible. Perhaps in time we will see, and I suspect he is in for a difficult time in the future as he is caught between the proverbial “rock and a hard place” *religiously*.

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