



Who Is the Boogie-Man to You? Do You Have a Correct View of God? By McKrae Game

(Seth and Caroline Game, 2009)

As we approach Halloween and just on the heels of Friday the 13th, seeing images of scary figures, I was thinking about the boogie-man.

It's been twenty-six years since I walked away from homosexuality, following Christ as Lord. Before that time, I had never trusted Christ as my Savior and had never heard a message from my Southern Baptist church pulpit on homosexuality. The culture was not obsessed with the subject; and, the church was yet to be on guard. It had been many years since I had been in church, stopping after my parents no longer dropped me off at the door. The subject never came up during my time in church. However, I did hear about God and homosexuality, but it was from someone in the gay community. I told a friend that I had agreed to go to church the next day with some friends. He said, "You know the Bible says that homosexuality is sin."

That is a true statement. The Bible does clearly say that. It says many things are a sin, specifically anything outside of God's will for our lives is considered "sin."

Recently a young man came to the office, like many, at the urging of his parents. And like many, his parents had said to him, "I don't want you to go to Hell." This young man is a professing believer in Christ and is struggling with homosexuality, like the majority of men and women we work with. Occasionally we do get some like I was, that had heard the gospel, but have yet to receive Christ as Lord. Those are exciting times, to lead someone to invite Him into their heart for the first time!

Many we work with, if not most, are professing believers in Christ and are confused and seemingly beat up by the belief that they can lose their salvation. They do not know what to believe about God and whether He will send them to Hell if they don't get their act together.

This is honestly a hard line to draw for me and us as a non-denominational organization. Many that are a part of HFW come from

varied backgrounds. Many read the Scriptures and have been taught from their church that you can walk away from your faith and lose your salvation. I too struggled with this belief system. What does 1st Corinthians 6:9-11 mean when it says,

"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

More specifically what does "the kingdom of God" mean? Is the kingdom of God here on Earth, experiencing God's blessings and the fruit of the Spirit of joy and peace, etc., or is it a Heaven or Hell statement? While I believe it's referring to here and now, it could very well be referring to Heaven and Hell. I think a much more profitable question is what makes it possible for me to enter into the presence of God?

I get comments from many that argue with me on Hope for Wholeness and our purpose for being. Many believe we are preaching hate, while believing God is love. God IS love. Their next statement being, "If God is love, He would not send anyone to Hell."

In the above passage, we need to focus on two things. One, homosexuality was listed with a list of sins that everyone struggles with. If you say otherwise, then you truly are deceived.

The reality is that God sends no man to Hell. John 3:16 clearly tells us that this is NOT His desire or intention.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

God is holy. That statement should be no surprise to anyone who knows Him. In the same way the realization that we are NOT holy should surprise no one who is willing to be transparent in the presence of God. Our ungodliness CANNOT commune with God's holiness. Heaven is not some hodge-podge of messes where anyone gets in for being a good person of good deeds by giving money or being kind to the poor. Pure and simple, God is holy and Heaven is holy. This is a conflict that God saw and made provision for through His Son, Jesus. In verse 11 it says, "But such were some of you..." Does that mean that we were instantly transformed from being slanderers and greedy and gossips into a state of sinless perfection? In Christ we are all in process, and the reality is that we continue to struggle with many of the things that beset us before asking Him into our lives. Jesus paid for ALL of our sins—past, present, and future, allowing us to enter Heaven.

The problem that I see is that many believe God is the boogie-man. They believe He's going to send people to Hell for not getting their act together; and, I have seen evidence when individuals actually believe this, it draws them away from Him. It causes them to have a total loss of hope. They fail to see that the journey of a believer is a lifetime process.

In the movie Heart of Man, the main character was a man that was constantly being drawn away by the image of a beautiful woman. His father, who was seemingly

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God in the movie, could never seem to get his son or friend's attention. He was always looking away at an island that seemed to be calling to him. Finally, at one point in the movie the son literally walked off a cliff into the ocean toward the island. He swims to the island searching for the woman that is drawing him closer like a moth to a flame. He sees her swimming in a lake, jumps in, goes to her and kisses her only to discover she was a leper covered in maggots. His fantasy had been realized as WAY less than lacking. On his way out of the lake, he was captured by the enemy and tortured. His father came to the island and rescued him from the enemy. His father lifted his eyes to show him that he was not alone, that the cave was full of people who had also been led astray.

So God is not the boogie-man. He's not a worse parent than you or me. He's not going to throw us into Hell for being in process, continuing to struggle with whatever it is that we struggle with.

Our reasons for leaving homosexuality must be more than out of fear of being thrown into Hell or losing our salvation. That's not a good enough reason to last the long haul. We must truly believe that God is the perfect Parent, the perfect Provider, and He loves us perfectly. To last for the marathon of our lives, we must truly believe He has a supremely better plan for our lives than anything we could ever come up with. It is eternally good. It is the very best that I could ever have on Earth. When God brought me out of homosexuality, brought me Julie, Seth, and Caroline, and my ministry of transparency, this was God's best plan for my life.

I'm tired of seeing friends giving up and making God either a permissive God that doesn't care, or believing God is unjust, or the Bible was misinterpreted. I believe the Bible says what it does and it is the goal and the better way of life; and, it is our choice of whether we are going to surrender our whole lives to Him or not. However, I do not believe that this is a Heaven or Hell issue. Does that mean we get off without a cost? Absolutely NOT! The cost is consequences. There are consequences for [sexual] sin, sexually transmitted diseases are only one reality, but a very real consequence. Equally, if not far more drastic, is not realizing the amazing goodness God has in store for us if we will be faithful to the path of following Him with our whole lives.

There is a cost to believing that God is the boogie-man and that a man, woman, or thing is the answer to our problems. It's only in realizing that I'm living life backwards in my pursuits that I can change my mind and actions, and ask God to change my heart so I can allow Him to give me the wisdom and strength to get my life in order.

I strongly urge you on this Halloween to see the boogie-man as anyone or anything that steers you away from God and His plan and purpose for your life.



In past months, I've mentioned struggles with pornography. Statistics with pornography in men AND women are staggering. I believe a HUGE issue with pornography today is the ease of access to free pornography. I would URGE you to use a filter on ALL your devices to help you with this very besetting issue that is so very common with so many.

I am going to first urge you to get monitoring software. We recommend Covenant Eyes (CE), who we have a partnership with. It works with an accountability partner. You can also pay \$2 more a month for a filter to block any adult website or content (\$12 a month total). You can block and allow specific sites. There may be certain safe sites you use that the filters and restrictions believe to be unsafe. You may have discovered porn on particular social media sites that the filter and restrictions won't naturally block.

Its important with filters, blocks, and restriction settings, that you have accountability partners that you are 100% honest with. Have your accountability partner enter codes and passwords and you NOT know them. Use their email if a password reset is necessary.

Computers are easy. Whether PC or Apple, just load Covenant Eyes and it monitors everything, wherever you go, and a filter will block adult content. **Use promocode Hopeforwholeness for your first 30 days free.** Make sure to use the code, as we get credit. CE is the best resource available. www.covenanteyes.com

Cellphones and tablets are more complicated.

Android and Google related devices work the best with Covenant Eyes, working much like the computer version. Load CE from the Google App Store (its free), have your friend enter the username and password and go. It monitors everything across the device.

iPhone and iPad devices are more challenging but work very well. First download Covenant Eyes from the App Store. Then go to Restrictions > have your friend enter a restrictions code. Go to Websites in Restrictions. Check Limit Adult Content. Then customize by blocking and allowing specific sites. Then remove Safari AND the App Store. This will be annoying and something you'll fight, but it WILL help you and it's the only way to secure the device from porn.

Windows, Kindle, and Amazon devices do not work with Covenant Eyes and are more complicated. You must set up a separate user and restrict internet use entirely. Parental restrictions are not available on these devices. Search YouTube for instructions.

Contact Covenant Eyes support for more help securing your devices. Consider the Covenant Eyes 40 Day Challenge found on our website under Find Help > Pornography Addiction.



Do you know someone who may need our help? Give them this newsletter or tell them about our ministry.
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