

doom ourselves to the suffering that inevitably comes from living on the basis of illusion and error. A life built on unreality is not a good one. Truth is what it is, with or without our right response to it. But our response makes all the difference for us.

Jesus Christ said, "he who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him - the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (Jn 12:48 NKJ) It will hardly do to brag, "Well I don't see what's so great about the words of Jesus Christ." In the event Jesus was who He claimed to be, our reaction to Him says all anyone needs to know about who we are!

# The Carriage Drive Messenger



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NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

This section removed to preserve member's privacy

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## TIMES OF SERVICES

**Sunday:** Bible Study 10:00am  
Morning Worship 10:50am  
Evening Worship 6:00pm  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study 7:30pm

## WILL THE END COME IN 2012?

by Bob Pulliam

There are people who are genuinely concerned that the world may end in 2012. Some are changing their lives to prepare for the event. Some are looking to Bible prophecy to confirm the impending doom of our planet. Am I surprised?... No!... This has happened so many times I am numb.

There is one thing, however, that I find pretty amazing. The total lack of conviction on the part of some premillennialists who play into this. They expend great amounts of effort to warn us of the rapture, and how we must be ready for it so we can avoid the great tribulation. Then they turn around and tell us that 2012 is going to be the end! What happened to the



rapture?!... It was supposed to come seven years before "the end"! There was no rapture in 2005. There will not be a rapture this year, nor will there be a rapture in 2012!

Tonight's sermon will be "The Rapture Won't Come This Year". Make plans to be present, and try to bring a friend.

## IS HOMOSEXUALITY A GENETIC DEFECT?

by Bob Pulliam

I've touched on this subject in the past, but want to do so again because of an article released this past week by the American Psychological Association.

It's not likely that you are on the mailing list of the American Psychological Association. About as likely as me being on that list, right? Well let me reproduce the opening lines of an article published on May 14 by OneNewsNow, which quotes from that APA publication. The article is by Charlie Butts, and is entitled "APA Revises 'Gay Gene' Theory":

*The attempt to prove that homosexuality is determined biologically has been dealt a knock-out punch. An American Psychological Association publication includes an admission that there's no homosexual "gene" -- meaning it's not likely that homosexuals are born that way.*

*For decades, the APA has not considered homosexuality a psychological disorder, while other professionals in the field consider it to be a "gender-identity" problem. But the new statement, which appears in a brochure called "Answers to Your Questions for a Better Understanding of Sexual Orientation & Homosexuality," states the following:*

*"There is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay or lesbian orientation. Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social, and cultural influences on sexual orientation, no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined*



*by any particular factor or factors. Many think that nature and nurture both play complex roles...."*

*That contrasts with the APA's statement in 1998: "There is considerable recent evidence to suggest that biology, including genetic or inborn hormonal factors, play a significant role in a person's sexuality."*

Imagine that! They were wrong! That may be putting it too nicely, but we'll leave it at that.

So if it's not genetic... if it's not passed down through the genes... if it isn't an inevitable "orientation" that could not be avoided... then what is it?! It is a choice! And isn't that what **all sin** is?

## TRUTH, THE TOUCHSTONE

by Gary Henry

One of my favorite anecdotes is the one about the tourist who stepped out onto the sidewalk after touring one of Europe's greatest art galleries. Loudly he boasted to the doorman, "Well, I don't see what's so great about all those pictures." "Don't you wish you could, sir?" was the politely pointed reply. Sometimes the offhanded opinions we are so eager to offer say far more about us than they do about the things we sit in judgment upon. In giving out ill considered evaluations, we frequently find ourselves to have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. We presume we are doing the judging only to find out we have been judged.

In the past, the quality of gold or silver samples was determined by the use of a "touchstone," a hard, black stone such as jasper or basalt. The sample was rubbed against this touchstone and the resultant streak was compared to that made by a standard alloy. The "encounter" of the sample with the touchstone said nothing about the touchstone -- it was what it was -- but it said everything about the sample. So it is with some of the most significant things in life: they assay us by our reaction to them. We are shown to be what we truly are by our contact with these things.

Truth is such a touchstone. You can tell a lot about a fellow by the way he reacts when confronted with reality. What a person does when he stands face to face with truth says volumes about his character, the kind of human being he has chosen to be. If we will not accept truth and adapt ourselves to it, we not only demonstrate our character to be inferior, we