

Essay from the bold pastor

#180 - Dallas Buyers Club -

“Stay away from me, asshole! Go to hell! You, faggot!” Dallas, Texas, in 1985. Ron Woodroof, a rodeo cowboy and a rowdy fellow, was unparalleled womanizer and was spending everyday drinking and having sex with hookers. One day, however, he got infected with AIDS from sleeping with a drug-addict woman and found out he had 30 days to live. AIDS was still generally considered a gay disease back then. While his friends and fellow rodeo riders deserted him, he himself would openly show his hatred against gay patients every time he went to a hospital. As a result, he completely isolated himself.

At the time, a new anti-HIV drug, AZT, was in clinical research and was unavailable in the US. Having learned that, he snuck into Mexico where he met an unlicensed doctor who got his US doctor license taken away. The doctor introduced him to unapproved drugs, DDC and Peptide D, which were said to be more effective than AZT. This led him to come up with a business idea to sell these drugs to gays while taking them himself. He bought the drugs in bulk and tried selling them on the streets of Texas. However, he could hardly sell them and was at a loss. That is when he ran into a gay young man named Rayon, whom he had harassed before. “They are not gonna buy it from you because you have no respect for gays!” shouted Rayon. This incident made him change his direction. Ron started collaborating with gays and launched “Dallas Buyers Club” to illegally sell unapproved drugs. Eventually, it grew to become a “well-established” store that attract gay customers from across the nation. He kept asking government to approve these new drugs while fighting AIDS. Watching him work very hard, gays around him started to respect him, and Ron devoted himself to help gays without seeking profit. Unfortunately, however, he burnt out and passed away in 1992.

Over 20 years have passed since, and Japan’s very first ordinance that approves gay couples to be treated the same as a married couple was passed in Shibuya-ku, Tokyo this March. With many gay couples not being considered a “family” in the case of applying for an apartment or hospital visits, the new rule requires real estate companies and hospitals to treat them equally to married couples, securing the rights of sexual minorities. But how do we Christians respond to this after having rejected gays for 2000 years since the establishment of churches. Are we going to harass and despise them as Ron once did? The Bible clarifies that.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— Romans 3:23-25

If God, Jesus Christ, sacrificed himself on the cross for all of us who sinned, and every person who believe in him is forgiven and considered righteous as a result, who are we, “the forgiven,” to say anything? Just as God condemned the offense, but not the offender, we should condemn the offense but love and respect our neighbors. We don’t moan about today’s world or ignore it. We just follow Jesus Christ. And he makes a judgement on everything in the end. Now is the time for Christians to show who we really are.

4-24-2015

