

READ TO COME OUT OF THE CLOSET? OR READY TO COME IN FROM THE COLD?

Richard Burton was the star in THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD. This is a film about the grim life of a spy during the era of the Cold War. Richard Burton's bitter and burnt-out portrayal is a role we can identify with. We do indeed find ourselves disillusioned and depleted in a Post 9/11 world of cold-blooded murder and terror. We certainly are ready to come in from the cold. Cold? What are we talking about?

In ancient times, hospitality was not merely a matter of travel courtesy to strangers passing through the dark cold of the desert nights; it was also expected that such guests would be afforded protection. In Judges 19:22 there is a story about a decadent age when "everyone did as he saw fit" and in the story homosexual rapists terrorize a home, banging on the door, demanding that the male guest inside be denied protective hospitality and be turned over to them for what appears to be homosexual

rape and murder. The wicked men--the morally depraved mob banging at the door--this is a prophetic picture of the world in which we are living, not to say that homosexuality is the worst or the unforgivable sin. But such is the horror of the terrible era predicted in the Bible and called the End-Times. Such wicked souls do not understand the protective sanctity of the House of G-d where the Bible is believed and faithfully taught. They are aroused to do evil, their feet do not stay still to sit and be taught. They are restless

to rise up against Scripture's Holy Words. They refuse to learn how to leave off quarreling and lift up holy hands in prayer. They are part of the unregenerate world. They think they see but they are blind. They hold up a false door to salvation because they are not of G-d.

It says in Scripture that in the last days there will be terrible times: men will be in love with self, bestial, senseless, faithless, heartless, treacherous. The milk of human kindness will turn sour.

Here is what we must do.

1. Instead of coming out of the closet and eroticizing the parent figure we need to come out of the cold and love our Heavenly Father. Thank G-d that there is a place in the Scriptures where the Bible makes an astonishing claim about itself: that it makes you "wise unto salvation." The Bible claims to be the stranger's Road Map to Heaven (II Timothy 3:15). G-d forgives us and through His Son's sacrifice calls us home. He not only

reconciles us to Himself;  
He also can change us.

The stubborn mule is  
gone. Behold the docile  
carriage horse of the L-rd  
is here.

2. Secondly, we must  
confess that if G-d can  
“save a sinner like me, He  
can save anyone.” We  
must ask G-d to take  
away contempt and  
hatred for any human  
being made in His image,  
because we must let G-d  
forgive others through us  
if we ourselves hope to be  
forgiven through His Son.

3. Thirdly, we must confess that G-d calls even the vilest sinner out of the mob to join the pilgrims thronging to the Heavenly City.
4. Finally, we must receive Him. Pray this prayer:  
Heavenly Father, take away my bitter heart of idolatry and pride.  
Forgive all my sins, even those hidden from me.  
Open my Bible and show me wondrous things out of Your word. Help me forgive my father and all who have wronged me, just as You, my Heavenly

Father, have forgiven me.  
Take this wasted life, this  
stubborn mule and make  
me into the docile  
carriage horse of the Most  
High, teachable and quick  
to obey, faithful among  
Your people. Amen.