

## God's Covenant with His Children

Have we forgotten God's promises? Have we let events in our culture turn our hearts from His Word? One might think so by observing the increasing decline of society.

There's no doubt that decisions some countries have made regarding same-sex marriage is troubling to those of us who value God's Word and are concerned over the spiritual well-being of our own nation.

But our concern should not lead us to despair. As debate lingers on in Australia, and the gay lobby continues to gather steam, we have a tremendous opportunity to respond not only with the Law, but the Gospel, and we will lose these do not remember God's promises and set our Word.

One place where we can turn our present opportunities to witness of Christ is how our using the rainbow as a symbol. Sadly, many using the colours of the rainbow to show their sex marriage. Well known celebrities like (and there are lots more) have updated their reflect this (see Figure 1).



Figure 1

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Christians need to remember that the rainbow is a sign of God's mercy – after all, He created it as a way of remembering. Was the world before the Flood better or worse than the world now? Wasn't it so filled with horrible sins – even disgusting sexual sins – that the Lord regretted even creating mankind?

The waters of the Flood were filled with God's wrath... and with His grace. After it had cleansed the Earth, God set the rainbow in the sky with His promise to the few whom He had delivered through its waters that He would never again destroy the Earth with a flood because of sin – no matter how bad that sin became.

Every time a rainbow appears in the sky we are reminded of God's mercy and grace, of the covenant He made with us. The appearing of a rainbow in the sky gives us a marvellous to speak God's Word to those who are perishing in their sins.



Figure 2

Some Christian Facebook users have also taken to using the colours of the rainbow to speak of the God who created the rainbow to display His mercy and now provides a Flood to wash away the sin that destroys (see Figure 2).

Things are bad, and they are likely going to get worse. Whenever sin is condoned, sanctioned, and celebrated in a culture, ruin and destruction are certain to follow. But even more certainly, the Church endures and remains – and often prospers – in the midst of the ravages of sin when God's people remember His promises and hold fast to His Word.

Therefore, rise up, O Church. Answer the call to proclaim the One who has washed us in the flood of Baptism, set His promises over us, and has placed us in this place and time to bear witness of His love, mercy, and grace to sinners – and to speak of rainbows.