The British government has <u>published</u> the first draft of a bill that will make it legal for two persons of the same gender to 'marry'. Ministers in the House of Commons are expected to vote on the legislation on the 5

th of February when it will receive its second reading.

It is expected that many Conservative MPs will support the Prime Minister, and that the Labour and Liberal Democratic parties will also back the proposals. The British government is pressing ahead with the plans despite much public opposition. Over half a million people have signed the Coalition For Marriage petition opposing the government's redefinition of marriage. The Scottish government has also vowed to press ahead with similar legislation, despite two thirds voicing their opposition to any such change in an official public consultation. No party mentioned the legalization of homosexual 'marriage' in their election manifestos, and many are angry that the government is <a href="bulldozing">bulldozing</a> the legislation through despite having no mandate for such a policy.

**Quote:** ""Marriage is a hugely important institution in this country – one which has changed throughout our history, and continues to change. "The values of marriage bind families and communities together and bring stability. I believe that couples should not be excluded from marriage just because they love someone of the same sex. In opening up marriage to same-sex couples, we will further strengthen the importance of marriage in our society.

The British government has been pushing the legalization of homosexual 'marriage' as an equality issue, claiming that men and women who wish to 'marry' someone of the same gender should have the right to do so. They try to take the moral high ground by claiming to be the supporters of 'equal rights' for all and the champions of 'love'. But marriage is not an equality issue, nor is it a 'right' to be granted by the state. If marriage was only about people loving each other, then why is the government still discriminating against Muslims and Mormons by prohibiting polygamy? And why is incest still illegal? Clearly the government still believes that not everyone has a 'right' to be married. Unfortunately, following the legalization of homosexual 'marriage', we are now starting to see some of these unsavoury things creeping into society. There is a big push for polygamy and paedophilia laws to be relaxed as a result of this legislation.

The government also seemingly believes that changing the definition of marriage is simply a matter of changing a law in order to grant a small minority of the population the legal right to 'marry'. It is not. They have not thought through the massive repercussions this legislation will have in the country. Religious institutions may not be required to perform the ceremonies, but the government have admitted they cannot stop homosexual groups from bringing them to court. The government may promise that religious institutions will be protected, but that promise is only good if the European Court of Human Rights deems it so. British law is at the mercy of European judges. And as we have seen over the past few weeks, they have not been favourable to nurses who wish to express their faith visibly by the wearing of a cross around their neck. There are Christian marriage registrars who have already lost their jobs because they were not prepared to officiate at homosexual civil unions. What will it be like when homosexual 'marriage' is brought in?

But the biggest change will be to our educational system. While religious institutions have a paper-thin protection from this change in the law, the educational system will be compelled to promote homosexuality in the classroom. Teachers that object on the grounds of conscience, for whatever reason, will have a hard time keeping their jobs if the government legalizes homosexual 'marriage'. As the Coalition For Marriage reports, Section 403(1A)(a) of the Education Act 1996 requires the Secretary of State to issue guidance on marriage and the raising of children, as and when sex education is taught in the classroom. This teaching is mandatory in secondary school, and many primary schools teach it in one form or another, so schools will be required to promote homosexual relationships to children as if they were a normal lifestyle choice. Children as young as 4 and 5 are already reading material in our schools that promotes homosexuality. But unfortunately the government won't be pressing the schools to inform the children of the down side to such homosexual relationships, that they are unhealthy, harmful and detrimental to the physical and emotional well-being of children. That's not to say that some heterosexual relationships are any better. But heterosexual relationships are not by nature inherently harmful. There's something drastically wrong with a society that believes equal rights trumps the truth.

As you can see, dark days are ahead for this country, and many others, that are now pressing for homosexuality to be enshrined in law. But the Bible predicted this would happen. For the Lord Jesus Christ said in Luke 17:28-30, "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed

". I believe those days are here. Across the world there is a massive push to recognize homosexuality. Ultimately Satan is behind it. There is a spiritual battle being waged here, with the aspiration of undermining the Judeo-Christian influence in society by forcing people to accept something that is completely contrary to what they believe. But we can rejoice in all of this, because the Bible says the Most High still rules in the kingdom of men (Daniel 4:17). And the God that "

changed the king's word

" and delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego out of the hand of King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:28) is still the same God we serve today. He has promised He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Do you know Him as your personal Saviour? Jesus Christ said He did not come into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through Him (John 3:17). God loves you (John 3:16). He sent His son into the world to die for you so that your sins might be forgiven. He bore God's penalty for your sin when He died upon the cross. And all who believe on Him for salvation can know their sins forgiven and have everlasting life in heaven. Will you trust Him today? Turn away from your sins, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation today (Acts 16:31).

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