

**A COMMENTARY
BY
DR. GARY G. DULL, PASTOR
THE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALTOONA, PA
NOVEMBER 11, 2011**

“PENN STATE, JOE PATERNO AND NO MORAL INTEGRITY”

How sad it is to consider the situation at the Penn State University these days. As a native Pennsylvanian I have always been supportive of Penn State even though I grew up closer to Pittsburgh and the Pitt Panthers. I have always been proud of Penn State and in the face of my friends from other parts of the country, I have been known to defend the University and root for the Nittany Lions on every possible occasion. For three years I lived in Florida and the thing that really made me homesick was being away from Happy Valley, particularly on game day. So, it can be said that without a doubt I am a dedicated Penn State fan.

But now, I am very disappointed. Even though we all knew about the alleged evil acts of Jerry Sandusky for several years, to hear details of his wicked attacks on children has made me sick. In my opinion, he should have been fired and prosecuted back in the late 90's when this whole devilish journey began.

Then there is Mike McQueary. He is the one who told Joe Paterno what he saw Sandusky doing with a 10 year old boy in 2002. I wonder why he did not confront the man of sin instead of going to Joe. In fact, I cannot figure out why Joe was fired and Mike remains as a part of the coaching staff. Is it a possibility that McQueary was paid off back then by the University in order to keep the matter under the carpet? Is it also possible that the decision to keep him on the coaching staff for tomorrow's game is a part of that ongoing payment as well? I hope not, but who knows at this point in time?

As I am writing this commentary, it has come across the news that McQueary will not be on the sidelines of the game tomorrow in order to protect him as many threats have been railed his way. But, as far as I know, he is still a part of the coaching staff.

What about Joe? How sad! Many of us have looked up to Coach Paterno for years on end with the greatest respect. I am 59 years of age and thus for all of my life Joe Paterno has been coaching at Penn State. Joe did more for the football program at the University than anyone else in the history of the Institution. But, did he cover up the matter with Coach Sandusky? I understand that under Pennsylvania law, he did what was legally correct by going to his superiors, but did he neglect the moral integrity and responsibility he had toward those little boys by not going to the police or making certain his superiors followed through by dealing with Sandusky appropriately? I suppose those questions may not be answered in the near future.

What about the Board of Trustees? Can you tell me that some of them were not aware of this fiasco down through the years? It appears that President Graham Spanier and a few other University administrators knew about the situation, and so I would imagine that someone close to him on the Board may have known about it also. Don't you? Perhaps there needs to be a thorough investigation and purging of that entire body. In fact, I would call for a complete criminal investigation of the entire University very soon. Until that is accomplished it will be extremely difficult to restore community trust to what was one of the greatest institutes of higher learning in the world.

It is interesting to me that I have tickets for tomorrow's game. Can you imagine? This is the only game I will have attended all year, but I purchased the tickets from a friend in order to take my father to the game for his birthday. I wonder what kind of a day that will be. What a birthday present!

I could name a lot of people who are involved in this saga and give my opinions like any one else. But the whole issue comes down to the lack of moral integrity. Where does the lack of moral integrity originate? It originates with a weak moral standard and the toleration of that which is wrong just to avoid offending others.

In today's politically correct society it appears that people can do that which is right in their own eyes and their actions are tolerated. That is what happened with the Jerry Sandusky case. He was a hoodlum who preyed on innocent children. And what is just as bad is the fact that his abominable acts were tolerated by some powerful people in the University, and perhaps by some of the law enforcement officers in the area. What motivated that toleration? Who knows? Was it money? Was it fear? Was it friendship? What was it? We may never know, but for sure someone was offended. Who? All of those precious innocent little boys!

By the way, they say that there were ten little fellows molested by Sandusky. I have been told that the chances are 10 to 1 that there were many more kids involved. That would make it 80 little boys emotionally ruined.

The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 17:9 that "*the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.*" In that text the "heart" speaks of the inner person of an individual. That is, what a person really is deep down inside. The inner heart of a person that is not subject to a strong moral standard is capable of doing the greatest of all wickedness.

In these days when moral integrity is running amuck in so many levels of society, I am of the belief that we need to turn back to the real moral code, which is the Bible, the Word of God. From the time that prayer and Bible reading were taken out of the public schools there has been a continued downward trend in the moral conditions of society. Now, we are facing that terrible time when so many people are doing that which is right in their own eyes without respecting others. And yet, they are very much offending others with their evil actions.

The Bible teaches in Matthew 18:6 that anyone who offends a little child is not in good standing with God. In fact the verse says, *“It were better for him (the one who offends) that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”* So, should the authorities go out and drown Jerry Sandusky and anyone else who knew about that terrible crime of ruining innocent children without dealing with it properly? No, because spiritually we are living in the dispensation of grace before God and nationally America is a land of laws. But, without a doubt, all involved should be tried and prosecuted to the greatest extent of the law. And unless Coach Sandusky gets right with the Lord, he will spend eternity in a hell filled with fire for his wicked ways.

So, let's make an effort to get back to a society of moral integrity. When moral integrity rules, little children will be protected from ravenous wolves. Let's get back to the Bible because only the Bible has the divine content needed to change lives and improve society.

On November 16th and 17th the members of the Faith Baptist Church of Altoona, where I serve as pastor, will be distributing the TEN COMMANDMENTS to the students of the Altoona Area School District. Our church did this over a decade ago and at that time it was reported to me that some judge said, “The problem with posting the Ten Commandments is that someone may read them and obey them.” Well, if Jerry Sandusky would have read and obeyed the principles taught in the TEN COMMANDMENTS we would not be taking about this issue today.

Dr. Gary G. Dull can be reached at 814/207-0102 or at garygdull@aol.com