



Jeff Sweeten

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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## **WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE**

By Jeff Sweeten

Any departure from the inspired Word of God compromises dignity. One either follows the Creator's instruction on living or manufactures alternative life-styles that are inferior, injurious, and sometimes irreparable. No one knows better how to deal with the ailments of society, the church, or the individual than does God and it is unfortunate that the media seems to believe otherwise.

Take for instance the plea to "drink responsibly." Why, the very nature of beverage alcohol tends to break down all those walls of constraint and inhibition disciplined people erect in their lives in order to maintain civility. Responsibility is not something that recreational drinking encourages, but on the contrary, numbs the senses and muddles clear thinking. If one drinks recreationally, one is not responsible. However, the ultimate irony is the "designated driver" slogan. It's obvious, even to the drunkard, that one has no business operating a multi-ton killing machine while "under the influence." That's why you designate someone to stay sober; that way the non-driver can get drunk (the degree is insignificant). This tacit admission is more honestly employed when dealing with illicit drugs (marijuana, cocaine, etc.), and a more consistent slogan, "Just Say No," recognizes its negative impact on society and the individual. What puzzles many is: if we can see the damage a "doobie" does, how can we be blind to Buds and Bartles & James?

The all-time brain-twister is this "Safe Sex" nonsense. Without articulating inappropriately, we can still convey the necessity of understanding that human sexuality is a God-given expression of love between a husband and his wife. Any sexual expression outside the marriage bond is unsafe, both physically and eternally. The devastation our media brings upon this culture by encouraging promiscuity and lewdness under the guise of synthetic protection endangers our health, our society, and our soul. Propagating pornography through clothing catalogs (i.e., Abercrombie & Filth), which increasingly targets a younger demographic, and laundering lasciviousness through erotic "entertainment" merely reflects our society's growing toleration of and numbness to propriety and purity. All in the name of fashion, young girls bare their midriff and young men barely keep their baggy pants on; how young and how naked must our children get before Christian mothers and fathers say, "Enough!"

The FCC began debating their position on airwave atrocities shortly after a Super Bowl strip-tease a few years ago but I didn't expect any subsequent changes to have any significant impact. However, I would assert that relegating the responsibility for public purity to a government agency, particularly considering our current administration, is an irony beyond humor. What will change this country is a grassroots rejection of soiled social "norms" by Christians busy about the work of the Lord, sowing and serving in the Master's vineyard (John 15:1ff; 1 Corinthians 3:6; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Romans 12:1-2). Standing apart from the status quo is not beyond a Christian's grasp, and how tightly we hang on to our Bibles will make difference between Heaven and Hell