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## Epilogue

I am aware that the reigning atmosphere in many conservative Christian circles today makes the perspectives described in the preceding chapter sound like absolute dreams of the future. And yet, I am increasingly certain of a change in attitude. I hope that this book will contribute to that at least a little bit.

Even

- if only *one* homosexual Christian who hardly dares to pick up the seemingly condemning Bible any more, regains confidence in God's word,
- if only *one* gay Christian is able to rediscover a glimmer of hope in the apparent hopelessness that encourages him to keep on living and maybe even to carry on loving,
- if only *one* mother or father realizes that Christ does not at all expect them to radically decide between loving their homosexual child and loving God, and that no congregation of this world may demand such a thing,
- if only one leading church co-worker takes the bold step of opening the doors for homosexual Christians,

this book has been worth it!

However, this book has fulfilled its final purpose only as soon as it can be found in antiquarian bookshops – as a curiosity so to speak – due to the fact that its content has become superfluous in the meantime.

Finally, a personal quotation from Jeremy Marks. He is referring to the organization Courage that was founded by him, and with which he primarily stepped up under the demand of “healing” homosexuals. On account of his experiences in therapy and pastoral ministry Courage has begun, however, to offer a frame for living homosexual partnerships responsibly before God: "It is my hope that “Courage“ will have performed its task and will no longer be necessary by the time I retire. God willing, the Church will by then have welcomed gay people into Christian communion without hesitation, fear or prejudice all over the world."

***Yes, you love everything that exists, and nothing that you have made disgusts you, since, if you had hated something, you would not have made it. And how could a thing subsist, had you not willed it? Or how be preserved, if not called forth by you? No, you spare all, since all is yours, Lord, lover of life! For your imperishable spirit is in everything!***

Book of Wisdom 11,24-12,1