

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

“And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch”

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

March 2012

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CHRISTIAN WATCH

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Another month of solemn developments have taken place since our previous Newsletter, and we are increasingly confronted with situations, both nationally and internationally, which are surely indicative that the prophecy of Scripture concerning the last days, prior to the return to earth of the Lord Jesus Christ, are being fulfilled. What we are witnessing gives us much cause for concern, particularly for the future of our offspring. In a considerable number of countries religious persecution is increasing at an alarming rate and, whilst it is still relatively mild in many countries, including the United Kingdom, it is in those areas of the world where Muslims are in the majority that many Christians suffer extensively - even unto death - when they stand firm for their religious beliefs. We were recently informed by Release International of a situation in India where a young woman of 22 years, from West Bengal, was badly beaten by her Muslim parents and other local Islamists, after she dared to speak of the healing power of Jesus, which she had personally experienced. She is now living in an undisclosed location, having said she would leave her parents, but would not leave the Lord Jesus, who had blessed her in soul and body.

An article published recently in the Daily Mail, which we include under the title, **Christians 'will be in the minority in UK by 2030'** gives a very serious warning concerning the future for Christians in the United Kingdom. I, personally, attended a recent conference at The House of Lords, organised by the Christian Broadcasting Council on the subject of 'Islamist Resurgence: Shari'a and freedom', the warnings given with regard to the future for professing Christians were most solemn. The Rt. Revd. Bishop Nazir Ali said that when a nation forsakes the Christian faith, as the UK has very largely done, it leaves a vacuum which Islamist followers are zealous to fill.

We include a copy of an article which we received from Dr. Alan Clifford, entitled, **Destroy all churches - Obama silent while Saudi grand mufti targets Christianity**. It had recently been published by THE WASHINGTON TIMES and Dr. Clifford concludes the article with a solemn warning to the western nations, if they continue to forsake Christian-based values.

Because of the importance for us to be aware of Biblical prophesy concerning the period of time prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this world, we include two complementary articles dealing with the subject. They are **THAT GREAT CITY** by Shaun Willcock of Bible Based Ministries, South Africa and **Vatican Fulfils Prophecy** by Pastor Anton Bosch of Sun Valley Community Church, California, USA. We read in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 24, considerable detail concerning the events which will occur when the time of Christ's return draws near. A very significant description is given of that which will occur in verses 21 and 22 and this should be considered in the light of the above articles. We are living in very serious times and many of us are particularly concerned for our families and offspring because of so many events that are taking place in the world and, more particularly, in our own country. It is very clear by so many decisions and statements made by those in authority that the United Kingdom, which in its history has been greatly blessed and favoured by the Lord, has now rejected the ways of righteousness and consequently is, and will increasingly, reap the consequences. In Psalm 9:17 we are told, "The wicked shall be turned into

Hell, and all the nations that forget God". In order to 'forget God' a previous knowledge of Him is essential. We are presently experiencing a most solemn drought causing rivers to dry up in an increasing number of areas and, consequently, many farmers are concerned for the future of their crops. We heard recently that some farmers in the eastern counties of England have not sown their normal cereals at present because of the lack of moisture in the soil. Let us ever remember that it is our God in the Heavens who controls the weather.

The majority of our Members will be familiar with that renowned Church of England Minister of the Gospel, John Newton, who the Lord so wonderfully transformed from being a Godless slave trader to a very able preacher of the Word of God and also an author of many hymns. One of these is a wonderful acknowledgement of the Lord's goodness and mercy to him. The first verse identifies his feelings:

'Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

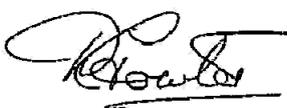
We were very pleased to make contact with a dear lady, Marylynn Rouse, who continues to devote her time and resources to **The John Newton Project**, details of which we include in an article prepared by herself. This Project involves participation in various exhibitions and displays, plus the publication of books and leaflets, all of which are designed to show the wonderful ways in which the Lord granted John Newton much grace which enabled him to be, not only a preacher of righteousness, but also a beneficial influence upon many people around the world. It will be noted that this Project is short of funds to finance future commitments and engagements. Details are given to enable financial contributions to be made in support of this important Project.

You are no doubt aware that H.M. Government is attempting to alter the definition of marriage to include that which is completely contrary to the Word of God. Marriage is a creation ordinance ordained by the Lord himself as a life-long union between one man and one woman. There is a Biblically based petition which we urge those who are able to support. It may be signed on www.realmarriage.org.uk. The difference with this petition compared with C4M is that it is not based on traditions or human reasoning, but on the Bible alone and aims to give glory to God who ordained marriage in His wisdom and sovereign authority.

Finally, we include an article entitled, "**The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin**" by Miles McKee, a Gospel Minister from New Ross, County Wexford, Southern Ireland. We sincerely desire that the sacred truths in this discourse will be of real spiritual benefit to all our Members.

We wish you the Lord's Blessing.

Yours in His service,



David Crowter

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Mr D Boyd; Mr M Brockes (Hon Treasurer/Co Secretary); Mr D Crowter (Chairman); Mr P Baker;
Mr I Henderson; Mr M Hobbs; Mr D Lawson; Mr M de Semlyen; Mrs J Cummins (Secretary).

Christians 'will be in the minority in UK by 2030'

By Daniel Martin, Daily Mail, March 3, 2012

The march of secularism means Britain may no longer be a Christian country in just 20 years, a report said yesterday.

If trends continue, the number of non-believers is set to overtake the number of Christians by 2030. Christianity is losing more than half a million believers every year, while the count of atheists and agnostics is going up by almost 750,000 annually.

Research by the House of Commons Library found that while Christianity has declined, other religions have seen sharp increases. In the last six years, the number of Muslims has surged by 37 per cent to 2.6 millions; Hindus by 43 per cent and Buddhists by 74 per cent. But the number of Sikhs and Jewish believers fell slightly.

The researchers said the number of Christians had only held up to the extent it has because of high levels of immigration over the last decade.

The findings help explain the increasingly shrill warnings from people of faith about the state of religion in Britain. Last week, a group of MPs and peers – Christians in Parliament – claimed public policy was promoting 'unacceptable' discrimination against Christians.

Chairman, former Tory Justice Minister, Gary Streeter, yesterday warned that believers were having their faith 'steamrollered' by a 'secular and hostile state'. He said many were facing restrictions on their ability to practise their religion in public.

Cabinet Minister, Baroness Warsi, also recently attacked 'militant secularism' and said the Church should continue to have influence over Government policy.

Earlier this week, campaigners said Christianity was being side-lined after it emerged that a Council-run crematorium in Bath was to remove a glass window containing a four-foot cross to make it more suitable for other religions.

Secularists argue that Christians should no longer have privileged access in Parliament when the number who believe in God is declining so sharply. Researchers came to their conclusion after studying the Labour Force Survey, which is carried out every year by the Office for National Statistics. It is the most authoritative survey because of its regularity and its large sample size of 50,000.

It found that in 2010 there were around 41.1 million Christians in Britain – down 7.6 per cent over the past six years. There were around 13.4 million non-believers - up 49 per cent over the same period. The study, Religion in Great Britain, concludes: 'Between the fourth quarter of 2004 and the fourth quarter of 2010, the Christian population fell from 78.0 per cent, of the population to 69.4 per cent, while the group of people with no religion grew from 15.7 per cent to 22.4 per cent.

'If these populations continue to shrink and grow by the same number of people each year, the number of people with no religion will overtake the number of Christians in Great Britain in 20 years, on this measure of religious affiliation.'

The Labour Force Survey asks people what religion they belong to, 'even if you are not currently practising' – a form of question which tends to actually under-estimate the number who say they are non-believers.

The survey also shows people are more likely to define themselves as Christians the older they are. Almost 90 percent over 70 say they are Christians, compared with just over 50 per cent for those aged 30 – 34.

The researchers say this could be because 'as children grow into young adults and form a religious identity independent of their parents, an increasing proportion are coming to regard themselves as having no religion'.

And they also point out that the decline of Christianity would have been far deeper had there not been such high levels of migration. While the number of Christians born in the UK declined by 4.1 million, the number born abroad increased by around 730,000.

The study also looked at the British Social Attitudes survey, which routinely finds greater numbers of non-believers. In 2011, it found that 50 per cent of respondents did not regard themselves as being of any religion, compared with just 44 per cent who said they belonged to some form of Christianity. However, the Library said this was a much smaller sample size – making it less reliable as a guide.

Despite the rising numbers following Islam, there are still 16 times as many Christians as Muslims.

Destroy all churches

Obama silent while Saudi grand mufti targets Christianity

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES - Friday, March 16, 2012

If the Pope called for the destruction of all the mosques in Europe, the uproar would be cataclysmic. Pundits would lambast the church, the White House would rush out a statement of deep concern, and rioters in the Middle East would kill each other in their grief. But when the most influential leader in the Muslim world issues a fatwa to destroy Christian churches, the silence is deafening.

On March 12, Sheik Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah, the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, declared that it is "necessary to destroy all the churches of the region."

The ruling came in response to a query from a Kuwaiti delegation over proposed legislation to prevent construction of churches in the emirate. The mufti based his decision on a story that, on his deathbed, Muhammad declared, "There are not to be two religions in the [Arabian] Peninsula."

This passage has long been used to justify intolerance in the kingdom. Churches have always been banned in Saudi Arabia, and until recently Jews were not even allowed in the country. Those wishing to worship in the manner of their choosing must do so hidden away in private, and even then the morality police have been known to show up unexpectedly and halt proceedings.

This is not a small-time radical Imam trying to stir up his followers with a fiery hate speech. This was a considered, deliberate and specific ruling from one of the most important leaders in the Muslim world. It does not just create a religious obligation for those over whom the mufti has direct authority; it is also a signal to others in the Muslim world that destroying churches is not only permitted, but mandatory.

The Obama administration ignores these types of provocations at its peril. The White House has placed international outreach to Muslims at the centre of its foreign policy in an effort to promote the image of the United States as an Islam-friendly nation. This cannot come at the expense of standing up for the human rights and religious liberties of minority groups in the Middle East. The region is a crucial crossroads.

Islamist radicals are leading the rising political tide against the authoritarian, secularist old order. They are testing the waters in their relationship with the outside world; looking for signals of how far they can go in imposing their radical vision of a Sharia-based theocracy. Ignoring provocative statements like the mufti's sends a signal to these groups that they can engage in the same sort of bigotry and anti-Christian violence with no consequences.

Mr. Obama's outreach campaign to the Muslim world has failed to generate the good will that he expected. In part, this was because he felt it was better to pander to prejudice than to command respect.

When members of the Islamic establishment call for the religious equivalent of ethnic cleansing, the leader of the free world must respond or risk legitimising the oppression that follows.

The United States should not bow to the extremist dictates of the grand mufti, no matter how desperate the White House is for him to like us.

Comment by Dr. Alan C. Clifford.

Muslim mufti orders "Destroy all churches"

The West's failure to challenge this jihadic aggression shows just how much our Christian-based values have been betrayed. Islam - the religion of peace? Not according to Muhammad (peace & blessings *not* be upon him). Wake up West!

"...it is also a signal to others in the Muslim world that destroying churches is not only permitted but mandatory."

"They are testing the waters in their relationship with the outside world, looking for signals of how far they can go in imposing their radical vision of a Sharia-based theocracy."

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THAT GREAT CITY

By Shaun Willcock

An awesome religious and political power, which for centuries has ruled over entire nations and vast multitudes of people, is today the most powerful organisation on the face of the earth. And what is truly amazing is that the Bible reveals its *identity*, although it was written *long before* this institution came into existence!

IMPOSSIBLE? READ ON...

In the book of Revelation, chapter 17, this great institution is described. There is **ONLY ONE** institution that perfectly fits the prophetic description, in every detail. While there is much more, the following is sufficient to positively identify it:

1. It is a *religious* system, a false “church”. Revelation 17:1 says, “I will shew unto thee the judgment of the *great whore*”. In the Bible, the *true Church* of Jesus Christ, which is made up of all those who have received Christ by faith, is called the “bride” or “wife” of Christ (Revelation 19:7; 21:9). Thus, this “whore” refers to something that **PRETENDS** to be the true Church, but which is in reality an impure counterfeit – not a church at all.
2. This “church” is a *worldwide* religion. Revelation 17:1 says, “the great whore that sitteth upon many waters”; and v.15 says, “The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Entire nations, and hundreds of millions of people, are under the control of this religion.
3. It is identified with the city of *Rome*. Revelation 17:18 says, “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” At the time this was written, the city of Rome ruled the world. Today, it is *still* the “great city” of the world. And to remove all doubt, v.9 declares that the “woman” sits on “seven mountains”; and Rome has always been called the “seven-hilled city”, the city built on seven hills. There is **ONLY ONE** worldwide religious institution, with its headquarters in Rome, that calls itself the “true Church” of Jesus Christ; and there has never been another. It is the *Roman Catholic institution*. It has over a billion members, found throughout the world; entire nations are Roman Catholic; and it “sits” heavily on these nations, influencing every aspect of the lives of the people. It calls itself the “ONE TRUE Church” - and the Vatican in Rome is its headquarters.

But that is not all!

4. The *colours* of this system are given. Revelation 17:4 says, “And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour”. These two colours, purple and scarlet, have always been the predominant colours of the Roman Catholic institution.
5. The immense *wealth* of the system is alluded to. Revelation 17:4 says, “And the woman was... decked with gold and precious stones and pearls”. The Roman Catholic institution is the wealthiest organisation on the face of the earth. In Revelation 18:3 it says that “the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through

the abundance of her delicacies.” Her wealth has been accumulated over centuries, and continues to increase.

6. The religious system that is called Roman Catholicism is not based upon the Bible, but originated in ancient, pagan Babylon, centuries before Christ. Revelation 17:5 says, “And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT”. Although it claims to be Christian, the truth is that its doctrines are those of the religion of ancient Babylon, but made to appear “Christian”. The veneration of Mary, baptismal regeneration, the mass, purgatory, prayers for the dead, and much more – these things are not found in the Bible, but come from ancient paganism. There is no Biblical foundation for Rome’s false doctrines. There is therefore no possibility that Roman Catholicism is Christian!
7. The Roman Catholic institution has exercised control over kings and governments of the earth for centuries. Revelation 17:2 says of the whore, “With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication”; and Revelation 17:18 says the great city “reigneth over the kings of the earth”. History records that kings and governments have come under her power, obeyed her Popes unconditionally, and given their strength to her. And today they are *still* doing so. World rulers recognise that the Vatican is the greatest power on earth. They know that the Pope of Rome controls more people than any other man on earth. The Vatican is involved in secret negotiations and political operations with the world superpowers, as well as many other nations – the purpose of which is to place the entire world under its control.
8. This system has murdered millions of Christians through the centuries. Revelation 17:6 says, “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus”. And not only Christians have suffered at her hands, but countless Jews and others as well (Revelation 18:24). The pages of history are filled with her crimes.

Revelation 1:1,2 declares that this is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which He showed to John the apostle. It was written in the *first century AD*; but, historically, the Roman Catholic institution took shape under Constantine the Emperor in the *fourth century*! (it was not founded on Peter!). This astounding prophecy, given to John centuries before the Roman Catholic institution came into existence, has been perfectly fulfilled. It was given by the One who, the Bible says, “came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15).

According to Bible prophecy, we are approaching the time of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. He will destroy the Great Whore. The Bible says, “Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her” (Revelation 18:8). Revelation 19:3 says, “And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.” The reason for her destruction is given in Revelation 18:5: “For her sins have reached unto Heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”

The Bible declares, “There is *none* righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10); “For ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). We are told in God’s Word, the Bible, that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), eternity in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15; 21:8). Man cannot save himself from sin, by doing good works, etc. His heart is “desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9).

Jesus Christ is GOD manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16; John 1:1). He lived a sinless, perfect life, in order to become the perfect sacrifice for sin (1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21). He died a terrible death on the cross, putting away sin by the sacrifice of Himself (Hebrews 9:26); for on the cross He was “once offered to bear the sins of many” (Hebrews 9:28). This is why He is called “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). On the cross, His blood was “shed for many for the remission [forgiveness] of sins” (Matthew 26:28). For God has decreed that “without shedding of blood [there] is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22). The blood of Jesus Christ alone can wash away our sins (Revelation 1:5; 1 John 1:7).

On the third day He rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:4), and later ascended to heaven, “alive for evermore” (Revelation 1:18).

God, in His great love, gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that “whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). The ONLY way to be saved from sin and eternal damnation is by FAITH in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24); and, “He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is *condemned already*, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18). The only way to have eternal life is to believe in Jesus Christ, *repenting* of your sins (Matthew 4:17). “If we confess our sins [to the Lord], He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). “REPENT ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19).

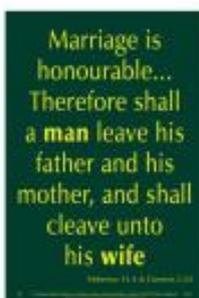
Salvation is a free gift (Romans 6:23). It cannot be earned. “For by grace [God’s grace] are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the *gift of God: not of works*, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8,9). Good works cannot save you. Being baptised cannot save you (baptism is to *follow* conversion; it does not save – e.g. Acts 18:8). Church membership will not save you. Only CHRIST can.

If you are a Roman Catholic, repent of your sins, turn from this false religion, and in obedience to the Lord, “*Come out of her*” (Revelation 18:4); “For her sins have reached unto Heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities” (Revelation 18:5).

But it is not only Roman Catholics who are lost! ALL have sinned (Romans 3:23). ALL are on their way to Hell. The only hope for any man, woman, boy or girl, is Jesus Christ. Jesus said that “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Whoever you are, this message is addressed to you.

Jesus said: “I AM the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me” (John 14:6).

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Vatican Fulfils Prophecy

By [Anton Bosch](#), Pastor of [Sun Valley Community Church](#),
Sun Valley, California, USA.

The Bible paints quite a clear picture of the major events that precede the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. Many of the smaller details may be difficult to interpret but the major events concerning the world's religious, economic and political future are clearly spelled out in Revelation 13, 17 and 18:

A world religious figure will rise to prominence. He unites all the world's religions into one universal religion. This religious leader looks like a man of God. (Revelation 13:11).

But he receives his power from the Antichrist and, ultimately, from Satan. He is known as the False Prophet (Revelation 19:20). A second figure comes on the scene. Whereas the first world leader is religious and unites all people under a single world religion, the second man is political and unites all the people under a single world government. We commonly know him as the Antichrist.

The Antichrist does not only unite the world under one political system, but he establishes a single world monetary system which abolishes all private or individual business transactions that are not part of the global system (Revelation 13:17). The relationship between the False Prophet and the Antichrist is an interesting one. The Antichrist (political) empowers the False Prophet (religious). But ultimately the False Prophet causes the whole world to worship the Antichrist. (Revelation 13:12).

The False Prophet also encourages the people of the world to subscribe to the world financial and economic system and to receive the mark of the Beast (Antichrist) which gives them access to the financial system. Thus the global economy, global political authority and global religion become intertwined. This all happens in the name of unity which sounds good, but is not. It is a bad unity because it is man-centred and is a unity against the Lord and His Christ.

How do we move from a world of many separate economies, religions and Governments to a single system? This will not happen by military might, but individual Governments willingly become part of the world Government. This comes about because of two factors: First the nations are deceived into believing that the Antichrist has the answers to the world's political and financial problems. Second, it is part of God's plan: *"For God hath put it in their hearts to fulfil His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled."* (Revelation 17:17).

Practically, the world's leaders will realise that their individual economies are so intertwined and the only way to solve the ever-increasing financial crises is to bring all the separate economies under one roof. Those who stay abreast of world affairs will recognise that there is an ever-increasing number of influential leaders who have begun to promote the idea of a global economy. The most significant of these is the G20 which in recent years has made several statements advocating such a global economy.

But the most startling statements were recently made by the Vatican's Pontifical

Council for Justice and Peace in a 41 page “note”. It was published on October 24, 2011 in several languages. The Council speaks for the Pope and is filled with legal verbiage and complicated language, but is one of the most amazing documents I have ever read. It is amazing because it calls for a word-for-word fulfilment of the prophecies of Revelation 13, 17 and 18 and places Rome at the centre of the drama.

The first half of the note deals with background and related philosophical issues. But the second half calls for a single world Government and for a single world financial system. Had I not read and studied the document, I would not have believed the statements made in it. I hope in the following lines to summarise this document.

They quote several recent Popes to show that support for a single world ruler is very much part of the core philosophy of Rome. For instance John XXIII “...also expressed the hope that one day “a true world political authority” would be created”. In the context of the document this means that John XXIII wanted to see a single world Government. The document continues to state that today this teaching (of a single world Government) is “even more vital and worthy of urgent implementation”.

They continue to say of the current Pope that “Benedict XVI himself has expressed the need to create a world political authority”. In the same paragraph they list all the reasons why a single world government is desirable. Things like peace and security, disarmament and arms control, the protection of human rights, the protection of the environment, the management of the (world’s) economy, the “universal common good”, the protection of weaker nations from the power of stronger nations, etc.

John XXIII is further quoted as saying that in order for such a world government to be effective “it should be endowed with structures and adequate, effective mechanisms equal to its mission”. This simply means it has to be a real Government with “teeth” and have real authority over the world’s peoples, rather than a United Nations type organisation with little ability to enforce its will. They concede that the United Nations is the agency to bring this world Government about, but at the same time, it needs to be a real Government, unlike the UN which is simply a committee.

They continue to say that such an Authority must have “global reach”, not by “force, coercion and violence, but should be the outcome of free and shared agreement...”. Revelation 17:17 says that the world’s nations will willingly hand over all their authority to the Antichrist. Note their use of the word “Authority” with a capital letter. This is their term for what the Bible calls the Antichrist. They alternatively use the terms “Authority”, “world Authority”, “world public Authority” and “global Authority” – always with a capital “A”. Revelation 13 and 17 speaks seven times about the Antichrist having “authority”.

The document speaks about the need for all nations to be part of this system and that none should be excluded: “...the world Authority should consistently involve all peoples...”. Revelation 13:7 says “...*And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations*”. The note says that policies must be binding on all and that the Authority should have “universal jurisdiction”.

In the fourth section that deals with a global economy they say there is a need for “... the commitment to create some form of global monetary management” and “one can see an emerging requirement for a body that will carry out the functions of a kind of “central world bank” that regulates the flow and system of monetary exchanges...”

They then speak of the need for such a world economy to be under the control of the world Government. Revelation 13:16-17 says that the False Prophet "...causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." In this document, the Vatican has pledged its commitment to fulfil this prophecy to the letter!

Before continuing with the closing comments of this document, let me remind you that Revelation 17:5 refers to "Babylon the great, the mother of harlots". In the past many have believed that this is an unequivocal reference to the Church of Rome (the mother of harlots) and that the "daughter harlots" are the rest of the false religions. I used to hold that Babylon is not necessarily a reference to Rome alone, but to all forms of false religion. However, this document is causing me to reconsider my view. Had I not verified that this document indeed was produced in the Vatican at the very highest levels, I would have discounted it as a fake. It seems simply too surreal that the note calls for the implementation of prophecy in such minute detail. I must assume that the Pontifical Council knows what Revelation teaches on this subject and yet is willing to identify itself intimately with the False Prophet, the Great Harlot and Babylon the Great.

May I also remind you that the tower of Babel was man's attempt at "global" unification centred on man, and against God, and that the Lord was so displeased that He made them speak different languages and so caused division and the scattering of mankind. God is all for unity, but it has to be a Godly unity centred on the Lord Jesus Christ. God is against unity that has man as the focus, especially when that unity is used to oppose God as they did at Babel and as they will in the last days. Babel is the Hebrew name for Babylon – they are the same place: but more than a place, it is a philosophy and a spirit. The Babylon(s) of Revelation 17 and 18 are a revival of the Babel of Genesis 11 and represent the same anti-God and man-centred philosophy. Both symbolise the pinnacle of all anti-God and Antichrist structures.

The Vatican document concludes with the following lesson: Quoting the tower of Babel and Genesis 11, they say that Babel warns us that diversity (as opposed to unity) is as a result of selfishness and leads to division. It further states that Babel is a warning of what happens when we don't stick together and when nations choose to be separate. The document very clearly calls for mankind to reverse the effects of Babel and to return to the process of building a unifying (and God-defying) structure. I do believe I sum this up correctly by saying they are literally calling for the rebuilding of Babylon (not the physical, but the spiritual, political, religious and financial Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18)!

I will quote the final sentence of the document verbatim: "Only a spirit of concord that rises above divisions and conflicts will allow humanity to be authentically one family and to conceive of a new world with the creation of a world public Authority at the service of the common good." (Emphasis mine).

Allow me to remind you that what this document calls for is not a pipe dream. It will come to pass, exactly as they are envisioning it and precisely as the Bible has predicted. Let me also remind you that Rome is not isolated from the rest of the world's religions. In *The Berean Call* of November, 2011, Dave Hunt provides detailed evidence that the most influential evangelical leaders in America all support and endorse Rome and its leaders.

All this tells me that the end is closer than we like to think and that everything is ready for the fulfilment of the final end-time prophecies. *“And I heard another voice from Heaven saying, Come out of her (Babylon), my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not her plagues.”* (Revelation 18:4).

“And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird! ... The kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more” (Revelation 18:2, 9-11).

‘WHO IS ON THE LORD’S SIDE?’ CAMPAIGN

PUBLIC MEETINGS

to be held in the will of the Lord as follows:

Wiltshire - for those in Salisbury and surrounding area

Date: **April 14th at 3.30pm**

Britford Memorial & Community Hall
High Road
Britford
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP5 4DS

Crediton near Barnstaple

Date: **April 13th at 7.00pm**

Speaker: Mr. Duncan Boyd

Black Dog Memorial Hall
Black Dog
Crediton
Devon
EX17 4QS

For further information please contact Michael Hobbis
Tel: 07702 431 584 Email: mjhobbis@christianwatch.net

THE JOHN NEWTON PROJECT

The John Newton Project is celebrating its tenth year as a registered charity. Our objective is “*the transformation of society through faith in Jesus Christ, using the life and works of John Newton as one great example.*”

We have much cause for thanks for the opportunities the Lord has given us to reach into different aspects of society during these past years, through books (such as *365 days with Newton* and *Ministry on my mind*), articles, musical performances, PowerPoint presentations, TV and radio programmes - and even providing tourist boards with information on their local Newton connections (in Inishowen, Co Donegal and St Kitts, Eastern Caribbean).

John Newton had an extensive transformational influence on the nation through his writings, preaching and pastoring. As Alec Motyer has noted in his Foreword to *365 days with Newton*, his ministry was consistently Biblical, spiritual, simple and practical. Newton mentored many young people, encouraged his peers, broke down barriers between denominations and was a catalyst in the foundation of several missionary societies. Yet many in our generation are unaware of what it was that enabled people like him to have such a significant influence on so many. For we live “in an era when the regular, worthy rhythm of life is less eye-catching than doing something extraordinary”, as Her Majesty the Queen so aptly expressed in her Diamond Jubilee speech to Parliament.

One of those whom Newton encouraged in this “regular, worthy rhythm of life” was a young man who sought him out secretly – William Wilberforce, MP. Newton wrote compassionately to the young MP: “My heart is with you, My Dear Sir. I see, though from a distance, the importance and difficulties of your situation. May the wisdom that influenced Joseph and Moses, and Daniel rest upon you. Not only to guide and animate you in the line of political duty - but especially to keep you in the habit of dependence upon God, and communion with him, in the midst of all the changes and bustle around you.”

When Wilberforce fell seriously ill at a most crucial time in the anti-slavery campaign, he appealed to Newton for prayer: “Oh my Dear Sir, let not your hands cease to be lifted up, lest Amalek prevail.”

Newton was quick to reply: “Yes, Sir, you have many praying for you, and among them not a few who are really fervent in prayer, and have the liberty of children at a throne of grace. It is hoped and believed that the Lord has raised you up for the good of His church, and for the good of the nation.”

This year we would like to prepare for publication the letters of John Newton to William Wilberforce. This correspondence has never been published before. It reveals the warmth of their relationship and a Godly wisdom which could be so useful today.

Our charity is in urgent need of funding to continue this and similar work. Our annual expenses are fairly modest, always below £10,000. We have recently lost a major source of funding, through pressures caused by the present economic situation. Can you help us? If you could contribute to our work we would be most grateful to hear from you. We can keep you informed through our bi-monthly prayer letter.

We believe that making more widely known the Godly wisdom and counsel of John Newton could make a difference in our nation today. It certainly did in the 18th century, when Newton confided to Wilberforce: “My heart is pained by the prevalence of sin and misery, and the evidences of God’s displeasure, against a nation that has long enjoyed and long abused, more light, liberty and prosperity, than was ever vouchsafed to any people upon the face of the earth.”

Marylynn Rouse

The John Newton Project

Donations to “The John Newton Project” should be sent to:

The Hill Lodge, Warwick Rd, Stratford on Avon, CV37 0NP or ask for Bank details

Web: www.johnnewton.org, email: admin@johnnewton.org, tel: 01789 298174

“The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

1 John 1:7

There's a painful truth that glares out to us from this beautiful text and that is this – sin must be cleansed. But not just any old sin, it is our personal sin that needs to be cleansed. The blood cleanses “us” from all sin! Since our sin needs to be cleansed, it must, therefore, be filthy and polluted, but more than that, without this cleansing we are left filthy and polluted. It's a painful picture, isn't it?

There is a tendency today to forget just how horribly wretched sin is. We've dulled our spiritual senses so much that we cease to see sin as being what the Bible says it is, “exceeding sinful” (Rom 7:13). What a choice of words! “Exceeding sinful.” God, wanting to call sin by the worst of words could have called it vile or wretched or any number of names, yet He chose to call it by its own name “sin”. Literally, sin is heinous beyond all measure. When a person begins to see how ruinous and awful sin is and at the same time to see just how holy God is, it is then that they begin to wonder whether or not they, as polluted sinners, could ever meet the all-holy God in peace. It is only when we see these two things - our utter pollution by sin and the absolute holiness of God - that the Gospel begins to make any sense. Indeed, unless we see these things we will have a very low notion of the Lord Jesus and His saving work. Furthermore, our life will not be filled with Gospel wonder and astonishment concerning Him.

Sin, like roundabouts and swings, has made us both losers and gainers. For example, through sin we lost the image of God; lost God's presence and lost God's fellowship; but through sin we gained God's wrath; gained God's disfavour; gained God's displeasure; gained God's rejection and gained God's curse. Furthermore, God's holy justice is incensed against sin and cries out against it. Heaven's gates are shut tight and Hell's gates yawn wide open for the unsaved sinner. It is no wonder then that our sins need to be cleansed.

So listen again to this truth – “The blood of Jesus Christ..... cleanseth us from all sin.” This is exceedingly good news for those who feel their need of cleansing. It tells us something of mercy and power, for the blood cleanses us from the entire defilement of our sin. Our pollution is no match for the blood of Christ, for through the blood we are pronounced clean. We know, based on the Word, that we have been truly and really cleansed from all sin by the blood! This is not something to be felt before it is believed, but something to be believed before it is felt. We receive our sight by faith and not the reverse. If Christ took our sins away then it follows, that in God's eyes, we no longer, legally, have any sin. We no longer have it because the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

There is an old, long forgotten truth – our sin cannot be in two places at the one time. If Christ Jesus as the Lamb of God has taken our sins away (John 1:29) then we no longer have them. If Jesus has already been punished for our sin, our sin cannot be punished again, unless God is unjust; and for God to be unjust, He would have to cease to be God.

*“If Thou hast my discharge procured,
And freely in my place endured
The whole of wrath divine,
Payment God will not twice demand,
First at my bleeding Surety's hand,
And then again at mine.”*

Miles McKee – Minister of the Gospel,
New Ross, County Wexford, Southern Ireland

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