

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

“And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch”

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2010

April 2010

CHRISTIAN WATCH

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

We send you greetings in the blessed and holy Name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. What an infinite mercy and blessing it is to know there is One who is aware of our every need and circumstance, who also has invited us to tell Him all our concerns. He has never failed those who put their trust in Him and He never will, however trying and difficult the way may be.

We are advised that the despatch of some of our March Newsletters was delayed, owing to a breakdown of the printing machine. We very much regret this and trust that those Members who received late copies will appreciate the reason for the delay was outside of our control.

As another month of time passes into eternity we have to consider *"What hath God wrought?"* We need to examine this in ourselves, personally, as well as in our churches and chapels and also in our respective nations. Some of us are favoured to live in countries that at present are relatively peaceful compared to others. In Nigeria, for example, violence and atrocities are taking place between various factions - some of whom profess to be Christians. Our brethren in Christian Watch - Nigeria inform us of the stressful conditions which confront them at times and particularly of late, when there have been serious conflicts in the north of their country. We pray they may be preserved from harm and be enabled to put all their trust in an Almighty God, who is able to protect and to supply their every need. Some of us are witnessing most solemn developments in our own countries, which we believe foretell and warn of the inevitable further judgements of God upon us.

We wrote to the leader of the Conservative party, the Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP, to express our concern about his remarks on the subject of homosexuality. We include a copy of our letter and the reply we received from his Correspondence Secretary, which confirms that the Conservative Party is embracing Gay equality. How can any God-fearing person possibly support a political party who supports such gross wickedness? There is a twofold reason for the stance taken by the Conservative Party. Firstly, they believe it will result in additional support at the forthcoming General Election and secondly, there are a number of Conservative 'Gay' MPs and Prospective Parliamentary Candidates who Mr Cameron will not want to offend. We received a list of these and include them for your information. What Mr Cameron fails to realise is, that the stance he and his party have taken will inevitably cost them far more in a loss of support by Christians than they will gain from homosexuals. This fact is clearly highlighted in an email we include which was sent by Dr. K. B. Napier of Bible Theology Ministries to David Cameron. We have not heard that Dr. Napier has received a reply at present.

Because of the forthcoming General Election on 6th May in the UK and the perplexing dilemma in determining which candidate and Party to vote for, we include a document entitled, **How should we vote at this year's General Election?** by Moral Recovery U.K. It provides some very important points for our consideration and it is suggested that a copy of this article be sent to all prospective parliamentary candidates in your area, together with a copy of the Election Questionnaire, we included in our March Newsletter. If you do not have copying facilities, we are able to provide you with the number of copies you require, but please advise us in writing or by email (jean@christianwatch.net), as soon as possible. Alternatively, the Questionnaire can be downloaded from www.christianwatch.org.uk/downloads/ElectionQuestionnaire.pdf. We do however rejoice that owing to pressure the Government has withdrawn its plans to enforce sex education to home schooled children. There may well be other important changes to proposed sex education and other unscriptural legislation which is planned by both main parties, it is therefore important that we continue to put pressure on prospective MP Candidates.

Some of the evil practices carried out by many priests within the Roman Catholic Church have recently featured prominently in the national news. There is nothing new in priests using what should be their respected position of authority to allure young innocent children and vulnerable adults into sexual debauchery, in order to satisfy their depraved lusts. The fact that the Catholic Church secretly produced and distributed to their senior bishops a document detailing the procedure to be followed when dealing with cases of child sexual abuse by their priests, confirms that the authorities within that denomination were, and no doubt still are, fully aware of the situation. We include a document entitled, **SEX CRIMES AND THE VATICAN** by BBC News - on line, which gives details of an investigation they commenced in March 2002, the findings of which were included in a BBC Panorama programme in October 2006. No doubt the recent publicity resulting from the immoral and evil sexual activities of some Roman Catholic Priests in Ireland is a considerable embarrassment to the Pope, especially in anticipation of his forthcoming visit to the United Kingdom. We understand that he has now decided to exclude both Ulster and Southern Ireland from his itinerary.

How often we feel condemned by our many failings, with sins of omission as well as sins of commission. Those of us who make a public profession of our Christian faith should be as lights shining with progressive brightness in this time of increasing darkness in the world. However, so many who claim to be Christians, appear to be indifferent to their God-given responsibilities. The Apostle Peter, in the first chapter of his 2nd

Epistle clearly identifies the vital importance of our being in possession of the God-given virtues he identifies. He then confirms in verse 8 *“For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* However, in verses 9 & 10, Peter, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit continues, *“But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”*

By way of an encouragement to those who are exercised with a concern about the reality of their religion, we include an article entitled, **NO CONDEMNATION** by the late A. W. Pink, in which he elaborates upon the text, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.”* Romans 8:1. What an infinite mercy it is to be blessed with a God-given assurance that when we are taken by death into a never-ending eternity, we will be with the Lord Jesus Christ, which will be far better than anything this present world can provide. May we each be favoured to receive this blessed assurance from the Lord himself, so that when we come to the final judgement seat, there will be *no condemnation* for us, because the Lord Jesus Christ has atoned for our sins in the Garden of Gethsemane and at Calvary.

Dearest Jesus, bid me come;
Let me find thyself my home;
Thou the refuge of my soul,
Where I may my troubles roll. – Adams

We pray the Lord will be feelingly with you to guide and support you through all the difficulties, afflictions and trials that must occur if we are making progress in the narrow way that leads to eternal life. We remind you again of the wonderful promise the Lord has given to all those who put their trust in Him. *“For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”* Hebrews 13:5.

We thank you for your continued support and wish you the Lord’s blessing.

Yours, in the Lord’s service,



David Crowter

Management Committee

Mr D Boyd; Mr M Brockes (Hon Treasurer/ Co Secretary); Mr A Busk; Mr D Crowter(Chairman);
Mr I Henderson; Mr R Jupp; Mr D Lawson; Mr M de Semlyen; Mrs J Cummins (Secretary).

CW CORRESPONDENCE WITH A PROSPECTIVE PRIME MINISTER

10th February 2010

Rt. Hon D. Cameron MP,
House of Commons,
London.
SW1A 0AA

Dear Sir,

My purpose in writing to you is to express our concern with regard to your recent remarks concerning homosexuality. It is reported in the national press that you have requested the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, to accommodate homosexuals in our national church.

As a member of the Church of England, we would assume that you have a knowledge of the laws of God - upon which the Articles of the Church of England are established. The practice of homosexuality is very clearly condemned by the God who you profess to worship, and examples are given with regard to the Lord's judgments upon those who practice and promote that which is contrary to the laws which God has given us.

You can be assured that by far the majority of true Christians in our nation will not support the Conservative Party at the forthcoming General Election because of the views you have expressed which are contrary to their God-given laws. We sincerely hope you will reconsider your position with regard to the foregoing.

Yours faithfully,

David Crowter
Chairman

REPLY RECEIVED

3rd March 2010

Dear Mr. Crowter,

I am writing on behalf of David Cameron to thank you for your letter of 10th February 2010, following his interview with Attitude Magazine. I apologise for the delay in my reply. We have received a very high volume of correspondence recently, and it has taken us some time to respond to everyone. I do apologise for this and hope you understand.

We know that Britain is a largely Christian country with an established Church, and we would not seek to change that. We support people's right to hold their religious beliefs and express their faith in different ways.

And we recognise the great contribution the Church makes to society; from the Church of England vicar in the parish working for the local community, to the Cardinal Hume Centre transforming the lives of the homeless, to the teams of Street Pastors helping make our towns safer on a Friday night. Wherever there is a need, Christian groups are so often there – caring for the vulnerable and helping to build a strong society.

We also know that Christian groups often feel they do not get a fair deal. Our proposal for stability for charities, and a competitive return for the work they do, includes treating Christian and other faith-based groups fairly. Put simply, we support them, we want them to go on doing what they do now and we believe they should be valued for the special ethos they bring.

However, David is also absolutely clear that embracing gay equality is in the Conservative Party's true one-nation tradition. It is neither a temporary phenomenon, nor an agenda which should be reversed. David Cameron has made clear that there is no room in the Conservative Party for any form of discrimination or homophobia. Our focus today, as a Party and in the country, is on working to build a stronger, fairer and more responsible society, and making sure that people are treated equally, as part of one nation, is at the heart of that.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

James Bull
Correspondence Secretary
Office of the Leader of the Opposition

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

GAY TORY MPs

Greg Barker, 43. MP for Bexhill & Battle

Shadow Climate Minister who left his wife for a gay lover. Has remained a trusted member of the Cameron team.

Alan Duncan, 52. MP for Rutland & Melton

Dapper ex-oil trader, the first serving Tory MP to say he was gay. Entered into civil partnership with partner James Dunseath.

Nick Herbert, 46. MP for Arundel & South Downs

Co-founded independent think-tank Reform in 2002. A Business for Sterling chief executive, launched successful 'no' campaign against euro.

GAY TORY CANDIDATES

Margot James, 52. Stourbridge

A millionaire businesswoman. Regards her sexuality as 'incidental'. Lives with female partner Jay Hunt, a BBC presenter.

David Gold, 37. Eltham

Former aide to William Hague. Marketing director for private school Brighton College.

Nick Boles, 44. Grantham

Member of David Cameron's 'Notting Hill set'. Founded Policy Exchange, Cameron's favourite think-tank.

Nick King, 44. Mid Dorset & North Poole

Businessman who co-owns a group of cabaret restaurants.

Matthew Sephton, 34. Salford & Eccles

Chairs party's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender group – 'LGB Tory'. Primary-school teacher in Stockport.

Simon Nayar, 42. Hackney South & Shoreditch

London-born lobbyist and nursery school governor. Has done voluntary work in Rwanda. Managing director of communications firm Citigate Dewe Rogerson. Trustee of a Citizens' Advice Bureau.

(Mail on Sunday – 7 March – abbreviated)

Important Email to David Cameron

From Dr. K. B. Napier, Bible Theology Ministries

Sir,

The Labour party is now thinking hard about the way it has treated Christians in the matter of gay legislation. They are trying to woo us back with softer, but hollow, approaches.

The reason is that the gay '10%' rate is a deception, a figure used by gay groups because it looks good! (Quoted from a leading lesbian). In reality only 1% of people at any one time may be homosexual. (See actual official figures). This is because most of them change back to heterosexuality once or more times, and many permanently. In other words, there is no such thing as a homosexual community. As one who has worked with the figures and facts for thirty years, I know.

Yet, as Labour are now finding out, probably to their cost, that destroying their Christian voters (said to be about 5 million – but this does not include non-Christians who wish simply for a life of decency, morality and no legal threat for voicing their concerns) was not such a good idea after all. A possible 1% gay vote does not really match up to over 5 million Christians plus others!

I have a Christian website, the second-biggest in the world. Frankly, I am advising our readers to avoid all three main parties in the election, because each is determined to further destroy Christians with even more unnecessary gay legislation. Therefore this email is important.

The Home Office has just issued a Report saying that youngsters are damaged by being sexualised at an early age. They say something must be done about it. However, they forget that it is they who are to force schools to teach homosexuality from 2011! Can you see why Christians are now very cynical when it comes to the word of MPs? Especially after the expenses fiasco and the vicious attacks on Christians by employers and others.

I would remind you that you were recently praised in the Daily Express Ann Widdecombe column for openly saying you were against the sexualisation of children. Yet, you say you are going to give gays even more concessions, when previous ones were never truly required anyway...the gay lifestyle being one of immorality, unnatural acts and unhealthy options. Homosexuality is simply about gay sex, nothing else!

By giving gays more legislation you will effectively increase their already vociferous hatred for Christians and Christianity. To date legislation has been used against us in many ways, including law used against employees to silence them because they do not accept gay propaganda. If homosexuals wish to indulge in their fantasies, then let them – but behind closed doors...leave the rest of us alone and do not use law to hammer us for stating our beliefs.

Also, you would be supporting the gay intention of sexualising children in schools with the most horrific and ugly of materials. This contradicts your claim to want to stop sexualisation of children, and also your other claim, to support family values...no-one loathes family values more than homosexuals!

So, Mr Cameron, am I to keep advising Christian voters not to vote for you, Labour or the other party? Or, will you at last be reasonable and stop supporting the gay cause, which has nothing to commend it? Will you prefer to alienate Christians all who wish for a decent life? I can assure you that anything said to you by gays is propaganda, not fact.

I am not interested in a diatribe put out by one of your staff. Please can you give honest answers that reflect concern for ALL sectors in society and not just the hate-filled, very few, who constitute the falsely-called gay 'community', who have obviously given you much propaganda but no substance? Can you assure us that you will not continue to show disdain for Christians, and will stop gay legal moves to silence us and our faith? If gays think they have something good to say then let them open it to public debate – that is, by allowing everyone else in society (99%) the right of reply and comment, without fear of prison or court! Or, do you personally side with gays who wish to see us destroyed and with what is a fascist movement?

I look forward to your response. I am more than willing to advise our readers otherwise, if you can give an assurance you will at last stop gay persecution of Christians, and at last help return respect for politicians who act for everyone and not just for a favoured, very small minority. As one who always used to vote Tory, I would like to see this. But, to date, no MP shows any willingness to listen to those who vote for them.

(Bible Theology Ministries – www.christiandocctrine.net)

How should we vote in this year's General Election?

URGENT AND IMPORTANT

At the coming General Election, matters are at stake concerning the kind of society in which we live. As the new generation of children grow into adults, they will be affected by the kinds of policies being adopted by our political leaders. A key issue is the extent to which tiny minority groups are systematically trying to impose their lifestyles on children, through alterations to the national curriculum. New laws, like the new Equality Act, are being passed to promote these minority lifestyles, to the detriment of the population as a whole. Indeed, the "Equality Bill" is a misnomer as it discriminates by promoting these minority lifestyles.

Marriage is the foundation of a stable society, because it involves a solemn commitment, it prevents selfishness and fosters disciplined lives in parents and children. By contrast, sexual licence is leading to a broken society. When the driving force of sexual pleasure overcomes the power of the mind to reason, satisfaction is very short-lived and all involved may suffer long-term consequences.

British society has been founded upon two simple principles; regard for Deity, and regard for our fellow men and women. These two key principles are conducive to peace and prosperity. From at least the time of Alfred the Great, English civil and criminal laws have been modelled upon the Ten Commandments of the Holy Bible. In the sixteenth century, the whole Bible became available to everyone in the English language, stimulating the Protestant Reformation. A key issue at the time was freedom of speech. A great number of people were burnt alive for objecting that Roman Catholic teaching differed from the Bible. The Bill of Rights and accompanying Declaration of Rights in 1688-9 gave us freedom of conscience to openly speak one's mind and proclaim one's beliefs, without fear of retribution if any should be offended, but laws passed in recent years have eroded those freedoms.

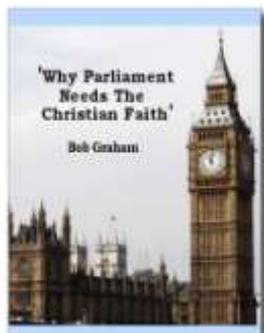
Much wisdom will be needed in dealing with the consequences of the economic recession, as we shall all suffer materially. However, the real quality of our lives in the coming years will depend upon the moral, ethical and spiritual thoughts which govern our actions.

Surely each of us should vote for a candidate, irrespective of party, who explicitly acknowledges the great benefits our nation has enjoyed from our Christian heritage, and who also pledges to work for restoration of our unique culture, which we are fast losing. All the main parties have led us step by step under the dominion of the European Union, denying the general public a democratic referendum on the issue of our EU membership. In this respect, they have shown that they are no longer in touch with the majority of the population. Our lives and freedoms are increasingly being restricted by bad legislation and the drive to implement various forms of political correctness, overriding freedom of belief and conscience. Our main party leaders are also often shown on TV to be hurling insults at each other in the House of Commons, just like children.

Queen Victoria said the Bible was the secret of Britain's greatness, King George V said the English Bible is the 'first of our national treasures', King George VI called national days of prayer during World War II. Miraculous answers were seen in battle. Our present Queen pronounced the 'National Oath' at her Coronation, to maintain the laws of God in this country. If our leaders do not follow our Maker's instructions, can we expect a peaceful and successful society?

What has happened as a result of our departure from our Christian heritage? Both main parties have changed various tax allowances so as to penalise married couples. Issues of sexual immorality cause many to suffer from sexual diseases. Teenage pregnancies and abortions have become commonplace. Then there are the evils of drink and drugs. Recent governments have not controlled heavy drinking. Our hospital A&E departments are being overwhelmed with the consequences of heavy drinking. Strong drink is available cheaply in supermarkets and pubs all day and all night. Similarly, drugs abuse has mushroomed out of control, with hundreds of thousands dependent on substances like cocaine and cannabis. We read of murders and serious crimes of violence almost every day. Which of the candidates has the policies to tackle this rising tide of evil?

"Righteousness exalteth a nation" - Proverbs 14 v 34.



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- ✓ Why what happens in Parliament is so important to our everyday lives?
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- ✓ Why Parliament needs the Christian faith in particular?
- ✓ What are the objections to the claim that Parliament needs Christianity?
- ✓ What will be the terrible price of Parliament rejecting the Christian faith?

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Election Resources

www.christianwatch.org.uk/election2010

Election Questionnaire

www.christianwatch.org.uk/downloads/ElectionQuestionnaire.pdf

SEX CRIMES AND THE VATICAN

BBC News – on line

A secret document which sets out a procedure for dealing with child sex abuse scandals within the Catholic Church is examined by Panorama.

Crimen Sollicitationis was enforced for 20 years by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger before he became the Pope. It instructs bishops on how to deal with allegations of child abuse against priests and has been seen by few outsiders. Critics say the document has been used to evade prosecution for sex crimes.

Crimen Sollicitationis was written in 1962 in Latin and given to Catholic bishops worldwide who are ordered to keep it locked away in the church safe. It instructs them how to deal with priests who solicit sex from the confessional. It also deals with “any obscene external act... with youths of either sex.”

It imposes an oath of secrecy on the child victim, the priests dealing with the allegation and any witnesses. Breaking that oath means excommunication from the Catholic church.

Reporting for Panorama, Colm O’Gorman finds seven priests with child abuse allegations made against them living in and around the Vatican City. One of the priests, Father Joseph Henn, has been indicted on 13 molestation charges brought by a grand jury in the United States. During filming for Sex Crimes and the Vatican, Colm O’Gorman finds Father Henn is fighting extradition orders from inside the headquarters of this religious order in the Vatican.

The Vatican has not compelled him to return to America to face the charges against him. After filming, Father Henn lost his fight against extradition but fled the headquarters and is believed to be hiding in Italy while there is an international warrant for his arrest.

Colm O’Gorman was raped by a Catholic priest in the diocese of Ferns in County Wexford in Ireland when he was 14 years old. Father Fortune was charged with 66 counts of sexual, indecent assault and another serious sexual offence relating to eight boys, but he committed suicide on the eve of his trial.

Colm O’Gorman started an investigation with the BBC in March 2002, which led to the resignation of Dr. Brendan Comiskey, the bishop leading the Ferns Diocese.

Colm then pushed for a government inquiry which led to the Ferns Report. It was published in October 2005 and found: “A culture of secrecy and fear of scandal that led bishops to place the interests of the Catholic Church ahead of the safety of children.”

The Catholic Church has 50 million children in its worldwide congregation and no universal child protection policy although in the UK there is the Catholic Office for the Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults.

In some countries this means that the Cimen Sollicitationis is the only policy followed. The Vatican has refused repeated requests from BBC Panorama to respond to any of the cases shown in this film.

Panorama: Sex crimes and the Vatican was on BBC One on October 1 2006.

CW Note - The most recent revelations confirm that nothing has changed in that the abuse of children and young people continues by many priests in the Roman Catholic Church.

NO CONDEMNATION

By A. W. Pink – 1886-1952

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

“There is therefore now no condemnation.” The eighth chapter of the epistle to the Romans concludes the first section of that wonderful epistle. Its opening word *“Therefore”* (“There is” is in italics, because supplied by the translators) may be viewed in a twofold way. First, it connects with all that has been said from 3:21. An inference is now deduced from the whole of the preceding discussion, an inference which was, in fact, the grand conclusion toward which the apostle had been aiming throughout the entire argument. Because Christ has been set forth *“a propitiation through faith in His blood”* (3:25); because He was *“delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification”* (4:25); because by the obedience of the One the many (believers of all ages) are *“made righteous,”* constituted so, legally, (5:19); because believers have *“died (judicially) to sin”* (6:2); because they have *“died”* to the condemning power of the law (7:4), there is *“therefore now NO CONDEMNATION.”*

But not only is the *“therefore”* to be viewed as a conclusion drawn from the whole of the previous discussion, it is also to be considered as having a close relation to what *immediately* precedes. In the second half of Romans 7 the apostle had described the painful and ceaseless conflict which is waged between the antagonistic natures in the one who has been born again, illustrating this by a reference to his own personal experiences as a Christian. Having portrayed with a master pen (himself sitting for the picture) the spiritual struggles of the child of God, the apostle now proceeds to direct attention to the Divine consolation for a condition so distressing and humiliating. The transition from the despondent tone of the seventh chapter to the triumphant language of the eighth appears startling and abrupt, yet is quite logical and natural. If it is true that to the saints of God belongs the conflict of sin and death, under whose effect they mourn, equally true is it that their deliverance from the curse and the corresponding condemnation is a victory in which they rejoice. A very striking contrast is thus pointed. In the second half of Romans 7 the apostle treats the power of sin, which operates in believers as long as they are in the world; in the opening verses of chapter eight, he speaks of the guilt of sin from which they are completely delivered the moment they are united to the Saviour by faith. Hence in 7:24 the apostle asks *“Who shall deliver me”* from the power of sin, but in 8:2 he says, *“hath made me free,”* i.e. hath delivered me, from the guilt of sin.

“There is therefore now no condemnation.” It is not here a question of our heart condemning us (as in 1 John 3:21), nor of us finding nothing within which is worthy of condemnation; instead, it is the far more

blessed fact that God condemns not the one who has trusted in Christ to the saving of his soul. We need to distinguish sharply between subjective and objective truth; between that which is judicial and that which is experimental; otherwise, we shall fail to draw from such Scriptures as the one now before us the comfort and peace they are designed to convey. There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus. *"In Christ"* is the believer's position before God, not his condition in the flesh. *"In Adam"* I was condemned (Rom 5:12); but *"in Christ"* is to be forever freed from all condemnation.

"There is therefore now no condemnation." The qualifying *"now"* implies there was a time when Christians, before they believed, were under condemnation. This was before they died with Christ, died judicially (Gal 3:20) to the penalty of God's righteous law. This *"now,"* then distinguishes between two states or conditions. By nature we were *"under the (sentence of) law,"* but now believers are *"under grace"* (Rom 6:14). By nature we were *"children of wrath"* (Eph 2:2), but now we are *"accepted in the Beloved"* (Eph 1:6). Under the first covenant we were *"in Adam"* (1Cor 15:22), but now we are *"in Christ"* (Rom 8:1). As believers in Christ we have everlasting life, and because of this we *"shall not come into condemnation."*

Condemnation is a word of tremendous import, and the better we understand it the more shall we appreciate the wondrous grace that has delivered us from its power. In the halls of human court this is a term which falls with fearful knell upon the ear of the convicted criminal and fills the spectators with sadness and horror. But in the court of Divine Justice it is vested with a meaning and content infinitely more solemn and awe-inspiring. To that Court every member of Adam's fallen race is cited. *"Conceived in sin, shapen in iniquity"* each one enters this world under arrest – an indicted criminal, a rebel manacled. How, then, is it possible for such a one to escape the execution of the dread sentence? There was only one way, and that was by the removal from us of that which called forth the sentence, namely sin. Let guilt be removed and there can be *"no condemnation."*

Has guilt been removed, removed, we mean, from the sinner who believes? Let the Scriptures answer: *"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us"* (Ps 103:12). *"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions"* (Isa 43:25). *"Thou has cast all my sins behind thy back"* (Isa 38:17). *"Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more"* (Heb 10:17).

But how could guilt be removed? Only by it being transferred. Divine holiness could not ignore it; but Divine grace could and did transfer it. The sins of believers were transferred to Christ: *"The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all"* (Isa 53:6). *"For he hath made him to be sin for us"* (2 Cor 5:21).

"There is therefore no condemnation." The *"no"* is emphatic. It signifies there is no condemnation whatsoever. No condemnation from the law, or on account of inward corruption, or because Satan can substantiate a charge against me; there is none from any source or for any cause at all. *"No condemnation"* means that none at all is possible; that none ever will be. There is no condemnation because there is no accusation (see 8:33), and there can be no accusation because there is no imputation of sin (see 4:8).

"There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." When treating of the conflict between the two natures in the believer the apostle had, in the previous chapter, spoken of himself in his own person, in order to show that the highest attainments in grace do not exempt from the internal warfare which he there describes. But here in 8:1 the apostle changes the number. He does not say, There is no condemnation to me, but *"to them which are in Christ Jesus."* This was most gracious of the Holy Spirit. Had the apostle spoken here in the singular number, we should have reasoned that such a blessed exemption was well suited to this honoured servant of God who enjoyed such wondrous privileges; but could not apply to us. The Spirit of God, therefore, moved the apostle to employ the plural number here, to show that *"no condemnation"* is true of **all** in Christ Jesus.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." To be in Christ Jesus is to be perfectly identified with Him in the judicial reckoning and dealings of God: and it is also to be one with Him as vitally united by faith. Immunity from condemnation does not depend in any-wise upon our *"walk,"* but solely on our being *"in Christ."* *"The believer is in Christ as Noah was enclosed within the ark, with the heavens darkening above him, and the waters heaving beneath him, yet not a drop of the flood penetrating his vessel, not a blast of the storm disturbing the serenity of his spirit. The believer is in Christ as Jacob was in the garment of the elder brother when Isaac kissed and blessed him. He is in Christ as the poor homicide was within the city of refuge when pursued by the avenger of blood, but who could not overtake and slay him"* (Dr. Winslow 1857). And because he is *"in Christ"* there is, therefore, no condemnation for him. Hallelujah!

Standing For Righteousness

by Andy Clarke

'When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him' (Isa 59:19) .

When evil becomes dominant it can sometimes blind us to the good achieved by Ministers, Churches, individual Christians and groups like Christian Watch. Whilst we fully acknowledge that the 'increase' and fruit is completely in the Lords hands – the Lord does bless faithful endeavour.

The Glasgow Christian Watch Group provides a good example of how making a stand can be used of God to confound the enemy. The Group recently secured front page coverage in the Scottish Daily Mail for the very troubling case of the American open air Preacher (Shawn Holes) jailed and fined £1,000 for describing homosexuals and the Islamic prophet Mohammed as 'sinners'. This case has helped further highlight the sustained and determined campaign by the Glasgow City Council, Culture and Sport Glasgow and Strathclyde Police, to victimise and marginalise Christianity in Glasgow.

I must emphasise that this is no exaggeration. Having met someone present during the arrest and court case of Shawn Holes I can advise you that it appears Mr Holes received the kind of treatment you'd only expect in totalitarian states such as Zimbabwe and North Korea – not the United Kingdom!

Had Shawn Holes not pleaded guilty he would probably have eventually been found innocent and generated little, if any, media coverage as a result. We would therefore have been none the wiser just how threatened our liberties are.

'For them that honour me I will honour' (1Sam 2:30).

Thankfully God's ways are not our ways and what appears to be a defeat (pleading guilty), God has used to generate worldwide media coverage, awaken Scottish Christians to the very real threat to their liberties and has given them a renewed zeal and determination for the preaching of God's word in public (see Notice Board). Indeed this case has hastened our plans to establish a regular witness in Glasgow.

As we repeatedly see cases of victimisation - as occurred in Glasgow - and perhaps those we would not normally hear about, we thank God for Christians like Shawn who choose faithfulness to God's Word, rather than the fear of men.

Would we have seen in the House of Lords the recent deliverances from compulsory sex education in primary and faith schools, restrictions on homeschooling or the right to state Biblical views on sexuality - if Christians, had not spoken up for righteousness? We believe not.

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved (John 3:20).

Christian Watch Notice Board

Introduction

As I write I have been in Scotland for a week and I am soon to complete my visit to Northern Ireland. What a joy and encouragement it has been for me. Many thanks to all those who have prayed, helped, provided hospitality and supported our events – without you none of it would have been possible.

Activities

Report of recent Trip to Scotland

Education and Homeschooling – 6th April

I covered many of the current dangers our children face at home, at school, from their friends and the media, highlighting the agenda to remove the Word of God and the God of the Word from children's lives completely.

Then, Mrs Jayne Richardson, the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) representative in Scotland, shared her personal experiences of educating seven children and how blessed she had been in the process. She explained the law regarding home schooling and covered many of the myths and misconceptions with regard to the subject, such as the development of social skills, the requirements to teach at home, whether children could still progress to University, and much more.

Then Mrs Richardson's eldest son Josh (19 years old), spoke of his experience of being home educated. His presentation itself helped disprove many of the concerns some may express about the development of social skills etc. He continued by highlighting how blessed he felt at being homeschooled using some personal examples.

Educational Alternatives – **should you wish to know more** or require a similar presentation at your Church, please contact me (below) for more details.

Public Protest – 9th April (see www.csgwatch.com for the latest news)

On the 9th April sixteen people protested outside the Glasgow City Chambers against the continued campaign of victimisation and marginalisation of Christians, whether directly or indirectly through arms length (ALOES) organisations set up to run council services such as Culture and Sport Glasgow (CSG).

We had a number of speakers to highlight the reason for our complaint (www.CSGWATCH.com) and called on the Council to cease supporting and funding such blatant prejudice. All the individuals and Councillors involved were reminded of their responsibilities to both the tax- payer and God Almighty.

Such was the level of support that we had no hostility from the hundreds who took our leaflets as they passed by (most unusual). The Local Group in Glasgow continues its protest, encouraging Glaswegians to consider these issues when voting at all future elections, especially the forthcoming general election.

The next step in the campaign against this policy of marginalisation is to submit material to the Charities Commission and Scottish Public Services Ombudsman regarding breaches of statutory requirements and public policy, by CSG and the Glasgow City Council. Whilst we may not **yet** have received the assurances we seek, we believe Councillors will be far more cautious before supporting such monstrous insults to Jesus Christ, the Bible and Christians in future. Be encouraged – only a handful of faithful people CAN make a REAL difference and that includes you dear reader!

Fellowship and Prayer – 9th April

Thank you to the Anniesland Reformed Baptist Church for opening up the church for a night of fellowship, discussion and prayer. It proved a very fruitful night of encouragement and honest and forthright discussion about the way ahead in that area. Plans were made for regular prayer meetings and open air witnesses in Glasgow with the intention of a campaign throughout Scotland later in the year to develop other local groups (contact me if interested).

Open Air Witness – 10th April

Approximately fifteen people gathered for some open air preaching and tract distribution in the centre of Glasgow. In light of the imprisonment and the exorbitant fine imposed on Shawn Holes (see above), particular effort was made to include some open air ministry on this trip to ensure that our liberty to witness in the open air work unhindered, is preserved. We are glad to report that despite numerous Police officers passing by we had no hindrance from them on this occasion.

Public Meeting – 13th April

I spoke on the Marginalisation of Christianity in modern Britain, the causes, consequences and cure. I trust the Lord will stir those present to follow the prescribed cure to stand firm like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – and refuse to bow the knee to the gods of this world – REGARDLESS of the consequences.

Report of Trip to Northern Ireland.

As I write I am still in Northern Ireland and to date I have held public meetings in Enniskillen, Belfast and Londonderry, warning of the dangers that lie ahead and our duty to faithfully stand on God's word. I have met many good faithful people and trust the Lord will stir them into prayerful action as a result of our meetings.

Northern Ireland appears to have maintained a greater level of its rich Christian culture and heritage than the remainder of the UK and will hence face a far greater attack from the enemy to 'bring them into line'. We are already seeing this with the Word of God effectively deemed hate speech by the Advertising Standards Authority, the attempts to force acceptance of explicit sex education, abortion and homosexuality and where the Police silence the public proclamation of God's word (see the March issue of Christian Watch Newsletter).

Please pray for Northern Ireland as they face many unique challenges and should they 'refuse to bend the knee' to the godless 'equality' and 'diversity' agenda so prevalent in Britain, it may well prove be the catalyst for a concerted and nationwide stand for the truth of God's word!

I fully intend, within the will of the Lord, to return to Scotland and N. Ireland soon. So if you were unable to meet with me this time or would like me to visit with you on my next visit – please contact me urgently.

Public Meetings

England

Telford (Shrops)- 26 April, 7:30pm. Sutton Hill Community Centre, 103 Southgate, Sutton Hill, Telford , TF7 4HG.
'Christian Marginalization – the causes, consequences and cure' - by Andy Clarke.

Peterborough (Cambs) – 21 June, 7:30pm. Caribbean (Millennium) Centre, Dickens Street, Peterborough, PE1 5GD -
'Christian Marginalization – the causes, consequences and cure' - by Andy Clarke.

The 'What Can You Do' series of articles will continue (space permitting) in the next issue of the newsletter. Let me leave you with a verse to sum up my feelings after my trip –

'Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee' (Deu 31:6) .

Every blessing

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