

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011

April 2011

CHRISTIAN WATCH

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

Another month has quickly passed since our last Newsletter, reminding us of the words of the Apostle James in chapter 4:14. ***“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”***. No doubt many of us are aware of relatives and friends who have recently passed into eternity. May the Lord prepare us each for our departure from this world, and when we die, take us to glory to be with the dear Lord Jesus Christ, which will be far better than anything this world can provide.

We are regularly reminded by the various events taking place in the world that scriptural prophecy relative to the time prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this world is being fulfilled. We read in Matthew 24:6&7 concerning wars, famines and earthquakes, for example. Whilst the terrible events in New Zealand and Japan have been extensively reported, many other earthquakes have occurred which have not been publicised. For example, in February and March there were at least five, two of which occurred off the coast of Scotland. Most recently another powerful earthquake has occurred in Japan whilst remembrance services were being held for those who lost their lives in the previous one. There are many other signs foretold in Scripture which are placed there as a warning to all that will take heed to them. It is solemnly true that many so-called places of worship, which claim to be Christian, are practising forms and traditions which are God-dishonouring. It is very solemn if we are content with a form of worship which takes the Name of the Lord in vain. The Lord clearly and positively warns us in Exodus 20:7 that He will not hold those guiltless that take His Name in vain.

Because of our concern that our Members are aware of the signs of the times, we include an article entitled **Prophetic Signs that we are in the End Times** by Jennifer Rast of Contender Ministries. The signs given are identified from Scripture and are clearly related to events currently taking place in the world. May we follow the exhortation given to search the Scriptures to establish our personal position relative to the times in which we are living and those which are before us. To this end we also include a very searching article by Pastor Ken Kemble of Texas, USA entitled, **Where Do You Stand?** In this he likens the current times to those of Noah, Lot and Sodom. It is important beyond words that we prayerfully examine ourselves relative to the points detailed and prayerfully seek to make our calling and election sure. Pastor Kemble finally asks the question, “Are you standing on the Solid Rock?” That alone is a sure foundation, as the late Augustus Toplady knew when he composed that blessed hymn:

Rock of Ages , cleft for me;
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

The times we are living in are extremely dark spiritually and morally and the rate of decline continues. The evil influences upon our children continue with the so-called sex education experts determining that five year olds should not only receive sex education lessons that previously were reserved for teenagers, but that they should now be shown graphic images and descriptions of adult sexual activities. Furthermore, it was recently reported in the Daily Mail that children of eleven could soon be asked about their

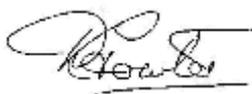
sexuality, without their parents' consent. It stated that a report commissioned by the Government's equalities watchdog found that it was 'practically and ethically' possible to interview children about their sexuality. We wonder how depraved the minds of those who determine such things must be. Thankfully, the Conservative chairman of the Commons Education Select Committee, Graham Stuart, said these plans were invasive, threatening and sinister. We emphasise the importance of parents regularly inquiring at their children's school about what is being taught relative to these issues.

We who profess to be followers of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ have a great responsibility to conduct our lives and all our affairs in a manner which reflects our profession. We are told in Luke 12:48 "*For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required*". May our lives accurately convey our religious profession. We include a further article by Andy Clarke on this subject entitled, **Christian Responsibility** in which he asks a number of very searching questions for our self-examination. The importance of turning away from all that is devil-orientated and prayerfully endeavouring to live a life close to the Lord by studying His Word and having communion with His people, is emphasised. May the Lord grant us each the willingness and gracious ability to do so.

We were extremely concerned for our Christian Watch Members in Nigeria and the dear children attending their orphanage school, when we received news of the political war that is taking place in their locality. Because of the current situation they cannot go into their local town to send e-mails. We understand from news reports that there are still conflicts which are not only political, but also religious, between the Muslim and Christian communities. We pray that the lives of our Members and those of the dear children and their teachers will be spared and a peaceful existence may be soon restored to them. We include a letter recently received from one of the Nigerian CW Group leaders, Esseme Akpan, entitled, **LETTER FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN NIGERIA TO CHRISTIAN WATCH COMMITTEE** in which they are requesting financial support to build a six classroom block in which the children can be educated more effectively, plus an office in which to attend to all necessary administration. The cost to build these facilities they estimate at £25,000 and our purpose in providing you with a copy of their letter is to request your prayerful support with regard to their needs and to request you to consider making a contribution towards the required funds. All contributions should be clearly marked '**Nigeria School Fund**'. Details of this school, together with photographs of the children can be seen on the Christian Watch web-site: www.christianwatch.org.uk. We read in 2 Corinthians 9:7 "*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver*".

We desire the Lord's blessing for each of our Members and we are thankful to Him who continues to supply our needs in these increasingly difficult times, financially. We value an interest in your prayers and particularly ask for your prayerful support for our House of Lords meeting, planned for 11th May, that it may convey the Word of God to all in attendance.

Yours, in the Lord's service,



David Crowter

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Prophetic Signs that we are in the End Times

Jennifer Rast - Contender Ministries

The Bible gives many examples of signs that should warn us of the coming end of the age. Six such signs are given by Jesus, two characteristics are given by Paul, and twelve other occurrences are given by the prophets to occur prior to or soon after the end of the age. While we are also told we will not know the time of the End, God obviously wanted us to know when that time was getting closer. As the Christian church is increasingly drawn into the interfaith movement, and as more and more churches go into isolation, preparing to sleep through the growing attacks on their faith, perhaps God knew it would take a few signs to wake us up and remind us that we have work to do.

Unfortunately, many Christians take the verses that tell us we won't know the time of His coming to mean they should ignore any and all scripture that might warn us of this time of tribulation. Others have fallen into the trap of fearing being labelled a "conspiracy theorist" should they display an interest in the Biblical prophecies about our future on Earth. My philosophy is simple. God included it in the Bible and, since God is all knowing, we should trust that it is something we should know and study along with the rest of His Word.

It is increasingly obvious that the time of our Lord's coming is drawing near. Prophecy is being fulfilled daily, and at a faster pace than ever before. Whether you believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, or believe Christians will be witness to the full tribulation, wrath, and final judgments, matters not. The beginning of birth pangs and the signs of the times should have the same effect on all of us. It should motivate us to see as many souls saved as possible in the time that we have left. The Great Commission tells us to be disciples to all nations, bringing the message of salvation through Christ to all people. If the Church is raptured before the tribulation, it is important that we leave behind an explanation for the trials and judgments those left behind will face. How else will they recognise the deception of the anti-Christ and seek instead the truth of the Bible? If we are to endure the tribulation alongside them, we will need to be prepared to not only share the message of salvation, but share with them the reasons for God's judgment and hold it up as further proof of their need to be saved.

Below is a study of the prophetic signs God gave us as a warning of the approaching end of the age. Many of them are being fulfilled now and many will be fulfilled in the near future. I would encourage you to study prophecy, know what is coming and be prepared to share it with others.

SIX SIGNS GIVEN BY JESUS TO INDICATE HIS COMING AND THE END OF THE AGE

In Matthew 24:3 Jesus was asked, "*Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*"

Jesus told his apostles to look for the following signs prior to his second coming and the end of the age.

1. FALSE PROPHETS AND CHRISTS

Matthew 24:5 "*For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*"

Matthew 24:11 *"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."*

In the last several years many have claimed to be the Messiah. Jim Jones and David Koresh are examples of these false christs as well as countless others who are not as newsworthy. These false prophets are a prelude to the ultimate false christ, the antichrist. Many New Age groups, even some NGO's (National Government Officials) working for the United Nations, are anxiously awaiting the antichrist, preparing the way for his acceptance as the head of the hierarchy of gods and the one who will usher in world peace.

2. WARS

Matthew 24:6 *"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."*

Rumours of wars in all areas of the world now occur frequently thanks to instant media coverage and the availability of a multitude of 24-hour news sources.

Matthew 24:7 *"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."*

More people have been killed in warfare in this century than at any other time in history. As the death toll rises in the Middle East, more and more countries work feverishly to develop devastating weapons of mass destruction. Add to that the expanding threat of terrorism and unpredictable dictators, and the potential for the outbreak of war exists in nations, kingdoms and places across the globe.

3. FAMINES

Matthew 24:7 *"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."*

As white, Christian farmers are driven out of Zimbabwe in increasing numbers, and foreigners move in to replace life-sustaining crops with poppies that now supply 25% of the world's drugs, famine spreads across the African continent. The undernourished are not limited to Africa, however. A large portion of the world's 5 billion people suffer from a shortage of food.

4. EARTHQUAKES

Matthew 24:7 *"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."*

The number and intensity of earthquakes this century is at a level higher than any other time in history. A staggering number of seismic events occur around the world daily. The earthquake seismic monitor IRIS shows all major earthquakes for the last year. Indicated by yellow and red circles, the seismic events of the last 15 days provides strong evidence of the fulfillment of Matthew 24:7 in our day. By contrast, in the years from 1890 to 1900 there was only one major earthquake in the world.

5. TRIBULATIONS

Matthew 24:8-9 *"All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."*

Christians are under attack throughout the world today. In the United States Christians still enjoy freedom to worship God, without suffering much more than ridicule, hatred, or discrimination at work and school. However, in many other countries such as China, Sudan, Africa, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Russia, and many Muslim nations, Christians

suffer much greater persecution and often-times death for their faith. During the tribulation, this suffering will be worldwide and will continue even to the point of martyrdom. These first 5 signs will increase in intensity and severity as the tribulation approaches; much like the birth pangs or contractions of a pregnant woman worsen as the delivery time approaches.

6. THE GOSPEL WILL BE PREACHED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Matthew 24:14 *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."*

This prophecy has already been fulfilled through television, radio, missionaries, the translation of the Bible into many languages, and the internet. People all over the world now hear the message of Christ from missionaries who have the means to travel the globe, and via technology that allows us to communicate with people on the other side of the world right from our own homes, churches and offices.

TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF THE END OF THE AGE FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL

1. GODLESSNESS IN THE LAST DAYS

II Timothy 3:1-5,7 *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

For anyone who has watched television, read a newspaper, lost a retirement to corporate greed and corruption, or just walked outside their front door, it is obvious this prophecy has been fulfilled by our generation. Our leaders are often corrupt; our cities are filled with crime, brutality, and neon signs proclaiming our sinful, godless nature. The New Age Movement brings in increasing numbers of mystics who claim to be the enlightened ones. They are some of the most educated and influential people in our societies, and yet the most lacking in real truth.

2. APOSTASY (FALLING AWAY FROM THE FAITH)

I Timothy 4:1-3 *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."*

Churches today are becoming more and more ecumenical, embracing the New Age interfaith agenda, and denying Christ as the only way to salvation. Giving in to the politically correct media and a corrupt society, they have embraced homosexuality as an acceptable alternate lifestyle and preach tolerance and compromise in place of God's truth for the salvation of the world. The environmentalist movement, within the New Age movement, lures them into a worship of mother earth, belief in past lives, reincarnation, and Karma while demonizing all those who would eat the meat God gave us as nourishment for our bodies.

TWELVE FULFILMENTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY REQUIRED FOR THE END OF THE AGE

1. EXISTENCE OF A 200,000,000 MAN ARMY IN THE EAST

Revelation 9:16 *"And the numbers of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them."*

An army of that size had never existed until China's army reached that number in the 1960's.

2. REDEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (EUROPEAN COMMUNITY)

Daniel 2:32-33 *"This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay."*

Daniel 2:40-43 *"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."*

The fourth kingdom of iron is the Roman Empire according to Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The two legs are the division of the Roman Empire into an eastern portion called the Byzantine Empire which ended in the 1400's and a western portion based in Rome which ended in the 400's. The nations of Europe since the Roman Empire dissolved have never adhered or formed one Empire but continue as separate nations. However, the European Union now has 27 Member States and is preparing for the accession of others.

3. RETURN OF THE ONE PURE LANGUAGE, HEBREW, TO ISRAEL

Zephaniah 3:9 *"For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent."*

Prior to the restoration of Israel in 1948, Hebrew was a dead language. Now Hebrew is spoken throughout Israel.

4. REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE, RESTORATION OF TEMPLE WORSHIP AND ANIMAL SACRIFICES IN JERUSALEM

For several end time prophecies to be fulfilled, the temple will have to be rebuilt.

Revelation 11:2 *"But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."*

Daniel 9:26-27 *"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."*

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of

abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

Some archeologists believe that the temple mount is actually 340 feet south of the Dome of the Rock site, putting the Dome of the Rock within the Court of the Gentiles. This may be the court outside the temple that is left out.

There are many groups already working on preparations for the new temple. The blueprints are already done; the temple garments have been made; and there have already been attempts to lay the cornerstone of the temple. The only thing standing in the way of the construction of the new temple is Islam's third holiest site, the Dome of the Rock, and government support for such an undertaking. Some possible scenarios for the rebuilding of the temple are as follows:

1. The persuasion and performing of miracles by the Antichrist and False Prophet convinces the Islamic world to approve the rebuilding.
2. The United Nations will negotiate the rebuilding of the temple following a war with the armies from the North (Russia and Islamic forces). This assumes that the war with the armies from the North is not the battle of Armageddon as some feel and that this attack occurs before the rapture or tribulation period begins. The supernatural destruction of the Russian army and Islamic forces will cause an outpouring of Christian worship and zeal amongst the Jewish people who will reconstruct the temple.
3. It is determined that the site of the first two temples is actually south of the Dome of the Rock, and the court of the gentiles (Dome of the Rock) will be left out of the 3rd temple.

A group in Israel called the Temple Mount Faithful have obtained most of the clothing, instruments and other equipment required for temple worship and are actively preparing for the laying of the third temple's cornerstone.

5. APPEARANCE OF THE RED HEIFER AFTER 2000 YEARS

Numbers 19:2-7 "This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke: And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall slay her before his face: And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times: And one shall burn the heifer in his sight; her skin, and her flesh, and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn: And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer. Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp, and the priest shall be unclean until the even."

A red heifer will be required to be used in the process of purification described in the book of Numbers. In May 1997 the first Red Heifer was born in 2000 years. Another red Heifer was born in Israel in March of 2002.

6. INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE AND TRAVEL

Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

A former evangelist was quoted as saying, "ninety percent of all the engineers and scientists who have ever lived are alive today." Air travel, space travel, DNA research

and human cloning are all examples of the rapid increase in knowledge in our generation.

7. RETURN OF THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL

Zephaniah 3:10-11 "From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering. In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain."

In 1984, Operation Moses saw the airlift of 15,000 Jews who had already fled to refugee camps in Sudan to escape starvation. In 1991, Operation Solomon flew 20,000 Jews to Israel from Ethiopia itself. A further airlift began in June of 1999, aimed at transporting the last 3,000 members of the Quara Jewish community from northeastern Ethiopia to Israel.

8. THE RISE OF RUSSIA

Ezekiel 38:2,4,8 "Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him.

And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them."

In order for some end time events to occur Russia will have to be a strong nation with a strong military.

9. RETURN OF RUSSIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL

Jeremiah 23:7-8 "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land."

In the 1970's and 1980's there was a mass exodus of Russian Jews out of Communist Russia. In 1999 the Associated Press reported a dramatic increase in the number of Jewish immigrants from Russia, bringing the largest number of Russian Jews to Israel since the early 1990's.

10. TECHNOLOGY FOR THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Revelation 13:16-17 "And he 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."

Recently, three members of a family in Florida became the first people to receive the biochip implant. Each device, made of silicon and called a VeriChip, is a small radio transmitter about the size of a piece of rice that is injected under a person's skin. It transmits a unique personal ID number whenever it is within a few feet of a special receiver unit. VeriChip's maker describes it as "a miniaturised, implantable, radio

frequency identification device (RFID) that can be used in a variety of security, emergency and healthcare applications."

Is the biochip the mark of the beast to be used by the antichrist? We can't really know. What is significant is that people are being softened to the idea of a mark or an implant as a means of maintaining security, providing medical information, and regulating a more interdependent world. As attitudes change, fears subside, and people are convinced of the need for such a mark, the true mark of the beast will be easily introduced to the world by the antichrist.

11. PLANS FOR THE ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT

The United Nations, World Trade Organisation, International Criminal Court, UN peacekeeping/police force, numerous UN National Government Officers, and other agencies are taking preliminary steps to the formation of a one world government. We now have the communications technology, transportation, and the pro-globalisation media necessary to usher in the one world government headed by the antichrist. The increasing terrorist threat and the Middle East conflict will only speed up the formation of this governing body as fear - and promises of better security - make more people willing to give up their national sovereignty for global governance.

12. INSTANT COMMUNICATION AROUND THE WORLD

Revelation 11:3, 7-10 *"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*

And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth."

Television and the 24-hour news networks make it possible for people around the world to see the dead prophets and rejoice at their deaths.

Luke 21:28 *"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."*

Luke 21:32 *"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled."*

(Slightly edited)

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 24:42- 44

Where Do You Stand?

There are fearful days ahead. We believe that we are approaching the very last days. Things are just as they were in the days of Noah, and of Lot and Sodom; false prophets abound; the love of many has grown cold; and the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not (Mark 13:14).

The shaking has begun and it is about to get fierce. The national economy is extremely unstable, and many analysts are saying that the coming crash will make the crash of 1929 look like a day in the park. Life as we know it is about to change drastically, and in the end, only that which cannot be shaken will remain (Hebrews 12:27).

Where do you stand?

In Matthew chapter 7, we read that there are a great many people out there who think they are okay, but in the end will not make it.

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:21-23

It is clear that these people fully expected to be welcomed into the kingdom with open arms. They had called Jesus their Lord, preached the Word, cast out devils and even performed miracles. They arrived on the scene expecting to hear *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant! Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!”* But were instead met with the chilling words, *“I never knew you: depart from me.”*

Most of you reading this cannot boast such a list as these folks did – you have never prophesied, preached, cast out devils or performed any miracles in Christ’s Name. Think about it. If these people do not make it into the kingdom, *what makes you think you will?*

He continues *...“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”* Matthew 7:24-27

In the fearful days ahead, what will you be standing upon? Will you be standing upon the wealth that you have accumulated? Do you really think your life’s savings will protect you in a financial collapse? Paper money isn’t worth the paper it’s printed on. It costs the same amount of money to print a one dollar bill as it does to print a one hundred dollar bill. None of them are worth a thing. Most wealth is imaginary anyway. It is just on the books. It is an illusion. The pressing of a few computer keys can make you wealthy or make you a pauper.

And what about gold and silver? What good will a brick of gold be when the economy comes crashing down? Who will you sell it to when nobody has any money? Can you eat it?

What about your position? Will it really matter that you are a Chief Executive Officer of a large company when it all comes crashing down?

Guns can protect you to some extent, but what happens when you run out of bullets?

Some people place their trust and hope in their friends and family. Having friends and a loving family is one of the greatest treasures one can have in this world, and they will make a world of difference in the days ahead – but even they will pass away. What will you do if they go first, and you are left? How will you make it?

People build their lives on a great many things – money, power, friends, family. All of these things are sand, and will all pass away. Even religion is sand, for you can have a form of religion – even an impressive ministry – and still not truly know the Lord Jesus Christ, as is very plainly evidenced by the above passage.

All that can shake *will be shaken*, and will crumble as the dust. I exhort you this day to place your trust and hope in the one thing – *the only thing* – that will truly endure forever, no matter what happens. The only sure foundation, and the only hope you have in the days ahead, is to *know the Word of God and to build your life upon that Word!*

“...All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field:... The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.” Isaiah 40:6-8

“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven!” Psalm 119:89

That Word is the Lord Jesus Christ!

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-4, 14

I ask you again - **Where do you stand?**

Your answer to that question is all important, for it will determine your fate in the days immediately ahead, and in eternity to come. Are you standing on the Solid Rock? Or are you standing on sand? If you are not sure, it is time to make sure.

Pastor Ken Kemble, Uvale, Texas, United States of America.

Slightly edited

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

II Corinthians 13:5

Christian Responsibility

(Part 2 – ‘The signs of a true Christian?’)

We looked previously at the foundational distinguishing mark that separated the mass of ‘professing’ Christians from the true Christian – ‘*Ye must be born again*’. In this issue we will briefly look at what foundational signs and characteristics there are that you can look for to be sure you are a true Christian. Please remember, when reading, that even for true Christians these signs may be experienced in a variety of ways, with different timings and with varying degrees of intensity, from those described.

TRUE OR NOT?

Before looking at the signs of a Christian upon conversion we must first remember that no conversion can be true without 1) a real conviction of your guilt before God 2) a deep sorrow for your sin 3) a full and complete realisation that salvation is ALL of God and 4) you express a full and complete repentance toward God, accompanied with a whole- hearted turning from your sin.

SIGNS YOU ARE A TRUE CHRISTIAN?

Once ‘*born again*’ (Jn 3:3) of the spirit of God, a genuine Christian can be identified by two *foundational* signs or marks - 1) a turning *towards* God, His Word and His people and 2) a turning *away* from the devil, sin, self and the world. It is an obvious fact that you cannot face in two directions at the same time. To see what is in front, you have to first lose sight of what is behind, and vice versa. The Lord Himself told us we cannot serve two masters. ‘*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon*’ (Matt 6:24). This verse alone destroys any possibility, dear reader, of being a ‘carnal Christian’ and *living* with one foot in the world and the other seeking after God. Of course, even the most Godly and selfless of Christians can lose their way from time to time. However, the Biblical truth is clear; you cannot *live* in two camps or serve two masters at the same time. Like Joshua (Jos 24:15), you too, must decide whom you serve - God - or the devil, self, sin and the world? Thankfully the Lord in His mercy does not leave you ignorant of what He expects and so come with me and consider some of the marks that identify the true Christian.

1. Turning Towards God, His Word and His People

Dependence upon God

The Lord made it clear (Matt 6:25-34) that His people **MUST** not fret about the future, their food, water, clothes, home or even their very lives, but be *totally dependant* upon Him. To the self-sufficient and independent modern mind this is nothing but foolishness. However, to the true Christian this becomes a living reality as they witness the Lord’s faithfulness and trustworthiness to do **EXACTLY** as He promises. Are you totally dependant upon God, dear reader?

Communion with God

With conversion comes a ‘discovery’ of true prayer - prayer not only for self- gratification or as a last resort in times of trouble or distress – but a genuine desire for *continual* and *regular* communion with the Lord, both in private and in corporate worship.

Study of God’s Word

Whilst the Scriptures have what can be hard to understand for even a mature Christian, when it comes to the ‘essentials’ vital to salvation and obedience to God - what was previously passed over, unseen and hard to understand, now becomes clear to the genuine convert. This growth in understanding and desire to study God’s Word may fluctuate in intensity but is a certain sign of a true conversion as we read that the Holy Spirit alone can unlock the Scriptures ‘*...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*’ (1 Cor 2:14) (Emphasis added). Do you love to study God’s word, dear reader?

Fellowship with the Lord's People

For a true Christian, meeting with and fellowshiping with the Lord's people has a special place in their life. Whilst in outward appearance, age, health, wealth, influence, spiritual maturity etc. they may have nothing in common, yet there is still this strong bond of fellowship. Within minutes of meeting a Christian for the first time, it can feel as if you have known each other for years. Equally, the conversation, ways and the habits of worldly family and friends is no longer stimulating as it once was and becomes difficult to bear and wearisome. Is this true for you?

Witnessing

Upon conversion, there should be a desire to witness of what the Lord has done for you, openly to the world (Matt. 9:31). Witnessing should not just be a desire borne out of love for what the Lord has done for you, but is also a clear command from the scriptures (Mark 5:19; 16:15; Matt. 28: 19,20; Acts 1:8) '*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*' (Matt. 10:32, 33). Solemn indeed!

2. Turning Away from the devil, sin, self and the world.

Hatred of sin

It is sin that nailed the precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the tree on Calvary's hill to suffer and die for His people. So the true Christian's attitude towards sin should NEVER be anything less than one of utter revulsion and horror. Sin for the true Christian is not only something to be fought against at ALL times but is something to be *actively* run from and avoided in ALL its forms and guises and at ALL costs (Matt. 5:29,30).

Careful of their own soul

The true Christian not only keeps clear of sin but also everything that may lead to it. They are careful of what they set before their eyes and ears, the company they keep, the activities they participate in and the friendships they maintain. '*...he that is begotten of God keepeth himself,*' (1 Jn 5:18). Are you careful of your soul?

No concern or love of the ways, habits or opinions of man

The very things once coveted and sought after should now be considered nothing more than 'dung' to the true Christian (Phil. 3:8) because with this Holy Spirit initiated transformation of the heart comes a transformation in *mind* (1 Jn 3:23; 4:15; 5:1,5), *will* (1 Jn 2:3-6; 3:6,9; 5:18) and *affections* (1 Jn 2:10; 3:14; 4:7, 19-21). As stated above, it is not possible to love God *and* still be attached to the world, its ways and opinions. '*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him*' (1Jn 2:15).

Perseverance and 'Overcoming' of the world

The truest long term test of a Christian's standing before God is his/her perseverance in overcoming the world. The Apostle John summed it up well when he wrote '*Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God*'? (1Jn 5:5). This perseverance is despite a deceitful and wicked heart naturally inclined to wickedness and a life lived in a world hostile and antagonistic to everything Biblical. As the Apostle of love writes above, this can ONLY be achieved by one '*that believeth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God*'.

I trust this brief article proves profitable in helping you in the solemn business of assessing your true standing before Almighty God. May I encourage you to also prayerfully and thoroughly study the eighth Chapter of the Book of Romans, Acts chapter two and the First Epistle of John to gain a better understanding of this vital issue.

In the will of the Lord we will begin to look at the responsibilities of a Christian as laid out in the Scriptures in the next issue.

Every blessing in the Lord.

Andy Clarke

LETTER FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN NIGERIA TO CHRISTIAN WATCH COMMITTEE

Dear Colleagues in Christ,

CRYING FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BUILD SIX CLASSROOM BLOCK, INCLUDING ONE OFFICE, IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, NIGERIA.

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord the Saviour be unto you all in His Name. Amen.

Firstly, we sincerely appreciate you all – the Committee of CW UK – for both your prayers and financial support to us in Nigeria, since we united as one body in Christ in 2003. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Lord Almighty and to you all by spreading the GOSPEL to reach us in Nigeria. We said – May God in His infinite mercy reward you abundantly and grant you all long life for the good works of the Lord you have done. THANKS.

Indeed, your kindness is a thing of great joy to us, despite the terrible occurrences in our country, where people are facing the dilemma of insecurity. Kidnapping and armed robbery attacks are taking place and peoples' lives are being terminated by the use of deadly weapons throughout the country. Coupled with this, is the difficult economic situation and the worship of idols, which hinder man from knowing the true God. The top politicians and Government functionaries are also routing money into their private businesses and employing evil practices to foist themselves on the people and ride to political power. The Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar's desecration of the temple in Jerusalem, and the punishment God meted to him, shows that nobody can fight God and succeed.

Because of the above, it has caused extreme hardship and difficulty to continue our work and to feed ourselves. No matter what the conditions, be assured that we would uphold the Protestant faith. The Lord has proved His supremacy over the devices of this wicked world and has called us to Himself, providing for us and sustaining our lives. 'For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the Lord upholdeth the righteous.' (Ps 37:17).

Please note that one of our main aims is for the establishment of a school to convert children to the Christian faith and for their spiritual welfare. Our work is centred on the belief in one God through His Son Jesus Christ and to encourage good living habits. This is why we established the less privileged and orphanage school with 10 children and 2 staff, to ensure that the children from their childhood are treading in the ways of the Lord for their life. Now the school has so far grown to 91 children and 6 staff. We thank God for this growth in His vineyard; however this growth poses very serious challenges to us at CWLC Group Nigeria, as our old accommodation cannot accommodate all the children. We are crying to the Lord in prayer, that we need to have permanent classrooms and one office, for comfortable learning and teaching. The cost of this building is 58750 00 naira (£25,000). We trust in God and hope that God who started this work will help us through this challenge. So therefore we beg you, the Committee and Members of CW UK for Christ's sake to encourage the work and help us, through prayer and financial support, to achieve our goal.

Finally, we want to express our appreciation to all Members of CW UK and all the Committee who are lovers of the Lord for their prayers, advice, encouragement, co-operation, and financial support for the great work of our group here in Nigeria (Proverbs 19:17). May the Lord bless you all abundantly for helping the poor and needy. Amen.

Yours faithfully,

Esseme Akpan, CWLC Group Nigeria

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