

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

“And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch”

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2010

August 2010

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

It is because of the Lord's mercy and favour that we are preserved and our religious liberty is maintained to us. May we rightly value this great blessing, which so many of our forefathers - by the grace of God - were willing to give their lives to defend. It is certain that if we rightly value this blessing, we shall not remain silent or be indifferent to the planned forthcoming visit of the Pope of Rome to our country in September. We must not be under any illusion as to who is behind this arrangement, or to the intended objective. It has often been stated since the Reformation that neither the devil, nor the Church of Rome, will be content until the United Kingdom reverts to the Catholic faith and its Government becomes once again subject to the Pope's control. We included in our Nov/Dec 2009 Newsletter details of how the Pope is enticing clergy from the Church of England to convert to Catholicism. This is a further step in their strategy to achieve their final target, which is world government. This was stated in a Papal Treatise published by Pope Benedict XVI on the 29th June 2009, in which he called for internationally regulated globalisation and a powerful world government in the form of a reformed United Nations. The fact that the Pope has received an official State invitation to visit the United Kingdom, we consider to be a complete betrayal of our Protestant Constitution by those responsible. One of these, we understand, was the late Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who after he relinquished office, confessed the Roman Catholic faith.

We include an article by Intercessors for Britain, entitled **THE PAPAL VISIT** which explains the beatification of the late Cardinal Newman - a convert from the Church of England - which the Pope and his followers plan to celebrate during his visit. Various Roman Catholic errors are explained and also the vital necessity for us to possess a real God-given faith by which saving grace is established and not to depend upon 'works' which is the teaching of the Church of Rome.

We firmly believe the Pope of Rome to be the one who is clearly defined in Scripture as the Antichrist. Many references could be given to confirm to this, but our very able friend and the Lord's servant, Shaun Willcock (Bible Based Ministries - South Africa), has produced an excellent document which we include, entitled, **The Present Pope, Like Every Pope Before Him is...THE ANTICHRIST**. In the article he clearly substantiates this claim from scripture and gives many solemn warnings concerning the endeavours of the devil and his Papal agent to 'deceive the very elect'. (*Matt.24:24*). If we stand firm for the Word of our God as being only revealed in the Bible, we shall not be deceived. The belief of the Catholic Church was summarized by a statement contained in a publication launched at the opening of the Second Vatican Council in October 1992 as follows: "*Therefore both Scripture and Tradition should be accepted with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence. Both form a single sacred deposit of the Word of God entrusted to the Church*". In other words, whatever the Pope or his councillors determine, must be considered equal to God's word as contained in the Holy Scriptures.

A further example of this is given in the article by Dr. Alan C. Clifford, entitled '**NO PLACE LIKE ROME?**' in which the errors of the Catholic Church are clearly identified.

In order to demonstrate our opposition to the Pope's visit, Christian Watch and other Protestant organisations have issued a protest document (see document '**SHOULD WE WELCOME THE POPE?**') and are organising a variety of activities. Details of these are included in Andy Clarke's **Notice Board**. We trust those of our Members who are able, will join with us, together with friends and associates, to support these important witnesses.

There are a wide variety of booklets and other publications available, which deal with the Pope and various aspects of his planned forthcoming visit to the United Kingdom. We cannot review them all, but include a list together with relevant details. However, we do include a review of a booklet, which has been produced specifically for the Pope's forthcoming visit and the planned beatification of John Henry Newman. The article entitled **The Vatican's Cunning Strategy** is reproduced from the rear cover of the booklet.

We include a review of the final volume in the series of six by Dr. Peter Trumper, which provide an excellent aid for the study of the complete books of the Bible. This review is included under the title of the book, **CHRIST TRIUMPHANT**.

It is important that we are not forgetful of those who are persecuted and suffer much for their religion; examples of such sufferings in India and Pakistan are given under the heading of 'FOREIGN NEWS'. It is important that we remember these in our prayers.

The power of prayer can never be over emphasised, but do we use this wonderful privilege to the extent to which we are exhorted? We are told by the Lord Jesus Christ "that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." (*Luke 18:1*). We include an article by the late William Huntington entitled, **THE EXCELLENCY OF PRAYER** in which he describes what real prayer is and what can be achieved by it.

We are pleased to announce that we plan to hold our **Annual Public Meeting** this year in Luton on the evening of Friday 29th October. The main address will be given, God willing, by the Rev. David Blunt who is Pastor of the Free Church at Knockintorran, Isle of North Uist. The Rev. Blunt has recently written a booklet, which we have published under the title, "**Roman Catholicism – Christian or Counterfeit**". Ordering details are given on Page 17.

Considerable additional expense is being incurred by us at the present time in the preparation and printing of leaflets and booklets, which are specifically aimed at identifying the errors of the Roman Catholic religion and defending and promoting the Word of God. These are for public distribution before and during the forthcoming Pope's visit to our country. If any of our Members are willing to assist us by making a donation to help cover these additional expenses, it will be much appreciated.

We wish all our Members the Lord's blessing, and His help and support in dealing with all the affairs of this life. May we each be favoured and well prepared for the life which is to come.

Yours, in the Lord's service,



David Crowter

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THE PAPAL VISIT

The Pope is due to visit Britain in September particularly to celebrate the beatification of Cardinal Newman who was a Tractarian (who wrote a series of tracts in support of Catholicism within the Church of England). He wrote the hymn; “Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom” and finally converted to Catholicism. It is thought that a Mass for up to 100,000 Catholics will be held in the former MG Rover plant. The site is near to the Catholic cemetery on Rednal Hill where Cardinal Newman was buried in 1890.

Lord Patten is overseeing the Government’s organisation of the visit. It was the former Prime Ministers, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown who invited Pope Benedict XVI. The visit is expected to cost the Catholic Church £14 million with a similar figure being spent by the Government.

It has always been the aim, and regular prayers are said each Friday, to see England return to Catholicism, so Cardinal Newman’s beatification (a step towards sainthood) is seen as celebrating his work to turn Britain to Catholicism.

Unfortunately, in these days of the Ecumenical Movement, we no longer see the errors of Rome and the need for the Reformation. The Catholic catechism states that “the sacraments are the chief means of salvation.” That means attendance at Mass, penance and indulgences, together with good works, are necessary for salvation. Merit can be achieved through various religious rites such as meditating on the stations of the cross, attending the basilicas in Rome, and even giving up smoking during the turn of the Millennium in 2000. This shortens one’s time in purgatory. The Reformers rightly emphasised Paul’s doctrine of “justification by faith” and that “by grace are ye saved through faith.” – “not of works lest any man should boast.” (See Ephesians 2: 8 & 9).

There are so many other matters for concern. Transubstantiation (where the bread and wine is supposed to be changed into the body and blood of Jesus at the blessing) is anathema (*CW – detested thing*), because they believe that Christ is offered up each time the Eucharist is celebrated, as a sacrifice on the altar. Paul used the words, “as often as you eat this bread”, and Jesus said that He would not drink again of the fruit of the vine until He drank it anew in His Father’s Kingdom. Paul knew he was partaking of bread and Jesus knew He was drinking wine. Also Jesus offered Himself “once for all” as the writer to the Hebrews states several times.

The priesthood has no place in the New Testament except that all believers are described as a “royal priesthood” offering up spiritual sacrifices to God. No priesthood is required because Jesus, as High Priest offered up the sacrifice (Himself) to end all sacrifices. There is no need of confession to an earthly priest because we confess our sins directly to God through Jesus.

The place of Mary as the Queen of Heaven, together with her bodily ascension is unbiblical. It is a syncretistic step, embracing Ishtar where in Jeremiah, cakes were offered to the Queen of Heaven. Again, the place of saints is not biblical because we do not go to God via the saints, but through Jesus, the only way to the Father. Through Christ we can come boldly to the throne of grace to find the help we need.

Therefore, we view the Pope’s visit as dangerous as it will only reinforce all the errors which have arisen in Catholicism over the centuries.

Pray for eyes to be open and true believers to contend for biblical Christianity.

Source: Intercessors for Britain.

The Present Pope, Like Every Pope Before Him, is

THE ANTICHRIST

Author: Shaun Willcock

Yes! That man, dressed in white, who looks so serene, who calls himself the “Holy Father”, who addresses vast crowds from a balcony in the Vatican, whose followers number over a billion of the world’s inhabitants – **that** man is the Antichrist! Of him the beloved apostle, John, wrote in the first century, saying, “*ye have heard that antichrist shall come*” (1 Jn.2:18). And come he did – precisely as prophesied in the Word of God.

The prophesied Antichrist was not Hitler. He was not Mussolini, or Lenin, or Stalin, those monsters of iniquity who appeared on the stage of history for a few brief years, and then went the way of all the earth. He is not some Communist dictator, or Muslim fanatic, alive right now. The Antichrist is the pope of Rome. He is every pope of Rome. The present pope is the Antichrist, the previous pope was the Antichrist, and the pope to come will be the Antichrist. Antichrist is alive today, and Antichrist was alive a hundred years ago, and a thousand years ago. Christians in the Dark Ages came up against Antichrist, and Christians today face him still. Hear the Word of God!

Jesus said, “*For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many*”(Matt.24:5). Not just one man at the end of time, but **many** men, a succession of men, all claiming to come in the name of Christ, and each one of them claiming to **be** Christ. A succession of men, down through the centuries, one after another, each one spewing forth the same blasphemy. The Antichrist is the pope who is alive at any given moment.

“*Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that Antichrist shall come, even now are there many Antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time*” (1 Jn.2:18). The last times began in the first century, as both John in this verse, and others, make clear (Acts 2:16,17; Heb. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:20; Jude 18). There were already, in that first century, many lesser Antichrists; but as John wrote, another was coming, *the* Antichrist, greater than them all.

But **when** was he to come?

The Bible gives the answer. At the time when John wrote, “the spirit of the Antichrist” was already in the world, but not the Antichrist himself: “*and this is that spirit of Antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world*” (1 Jn.4:3). Paul wrote along similar lines; “*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way*” (2 Thess.2:7). At that early time, the groundwork was being laid for the great and evil religious system that would continue developing as the years went by, coming finally to fruition a few centuries later; the “mystery religions” of ancient Babylon were present, and they were active, and there was a spirit at work, the spirit of Antichrist, guiding these currents along a path that would culminate in the great satanic masterpiece, “*MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH*” (Rev.17:5). And what was that? Nothing less than the Papacy, the religion of the popes, the Roman Catholic system.

Centuries earlier, the prophet Daniel had declared when the Papacy would arise, and where: “*I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn*” (Dan.7:8). The interpretation of this vision was also given: “*And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them*” (Dan.7:24). The ten kings (or kingdoms) were the barbarian nations that overran the Roman Empire; and the little horn that came up among them, rising after them, was the Papacy, the kingdom of the popes. So it was prophesied, and so, precisely, was the prophecy fulfilled.

And Paul prophesied of the very same thing, when he wrote: “*And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth [restrains; hinders; obstructs] will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed...*” (2 Thess.2:6-8).

When he wrote these words, something, and someone, was restraining the full manifestation of that Wicked; that something was the Roman Empire, and that someone was the Roman emperor. But in the fifth century, this restraint was removed, and **then** that Wicked was revealed. And who was “that Wicked”? The very same as the Antichrist of John’s prophecy! How do we know? By a comparison.. John wrote of the Antichrist who was to come; Daniel wrote of the little horn arising after the fall of the Empire; and Paul wrote of the Man of Sin and Son of Perdition (2 Thess. 2:3) who would be revealed, once the Empire had been taken out of the way.

What, then, do the Scriptures reveal? They reveal that the spirit of Antichrist was at work in the first century already, preparing the way for the coming of the Antichrist. There were many lesser Antichrists, but one was coming who would be **the** Antichrist. And in fulfilment of the prophecies of Daniel, Paul, and John, he arose on the stage of history a few centuries later, in Europe, being revealed in all his wickedness once the Roman Empire had fallen.

History, fulfilling divine prophecy, leaves us in absolutely no doubt as to Antichrist's identity. It was the Roman Papacy. Just as Christ is the Head of the true Church, so Antichrist is the head of the **false** "church". That false "church" is the Roman Catholic institution, perfectly described for us in Rev.17; and the only head of that false "church" is the pope of Rome.

Now, a common objection is usually raised at this point: "How", it is asked, "can the Papacy be the Antichrist, when the Scripture says that Antichrist denies the Father and the Son; denies that Jesus is the Christ; confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh? The popes do not do this! They acknowledge these things. In actual fact, the very verses which are pointed to by such objectors provide yet further evidence that every pope of Rome is the Antichrist.

Here are the verses. 1 Jn.2:22 says, "*Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*" 1 Jn.4:3 says, "*And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist.*" And 2 Jn. 7 says, "*For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*"

Those who attempt to use these verses to deny that the pope of Rome is the Antichrist do not understand the meaning of the word. They assume that one who is anti-Christ is one who is openly against Christ; one who openly opposes Him. He must (they argue) be an atheist, a Communist, a Muslim, or a Jew; he cannot be one who professes to love Him, to follow Him, to serve Him, and who calls himself a Christian.

But this is where they are terribly deceived! The Bible shows us clearly that the Antichrist, far from being an atheist, is very religious; and not just religious, but he professes to be a Christian! And none of the verses quoted above contradict this. In fact, they confirm it!

Firstly, the word, "Antichrist", itself. What does it mean? The Greek, "anti", means "instead of". It is often used to designate a *substitute*. It is used in 1 Tim.2:6 of Christ, who became a ransom, a substitute. In 2 Thess.2:4, the Antichrist is described as "antikeimenos" (translated as "opposeth"), which means one setting himself in opposition, and particularly as a *rival foundation*, in the place of, or against, another foundation.

Now, 1 Cor.3:11 says that Jesus Christ alone is the foundation.

Very significantly, the words are, "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*"; and the Greek word for "laid" is "keimenon". Thus, Antichrist usurps the place of Christ, the only true foundation!

So, "Antichrist" means a substitute "Christ", an imitation of Christ – one who claims to **take the place of** Christ! And this is precisely what the pope of Rome does!

He even terms himself "the Vicar of Christ"; and the word, "vicar", means one who takes the place of another; a substitute. Just as the vice-president is the one who takes the president's place in his absence, so the Roman pontiff claims to be the Vicar of Christ, the "vice-Christ", the one who takes the place of Christ on earth! Thus, the "Vicar of Christ" is the Anti-Christ; for the Greek "anti" has the same meaning as the Latin "vicar".

Secondly, the pope of Rome most certainly denies that Jesus is the Christ; denies the Father and the Son; confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh! How so?

The word, "*deny*", as used in these Scriptures, does not automatically imply atheism. Yes, a man may deny the Lord by denying His existence; but he may also deny Him, by apostasy – a departure from the truth! This is very plain from such Scriptures as Matt.10:33; Tit.1:16, and 2 Tim.3:5.

Does the pope of Rome deny that Jesus is the Christ? Does he deny the Father and the Son? Yes; in the following ways:

He denies the Lord, firstly, in *works*. "*They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate*" (Tit.1:16). With their lips the popes profess to know God; but by their evil **works** they deny Him. A man can profess to be a Christian all he likes, but if his conduct is not godly, the profession of his mouth is worthless (Matt.15:8). If any man is truly in Christ, he is a new creature, and his works will not be the works of darkness. The works of the Papacy are the works of darkness – the works of the spirit of Antichrist. They have a mere form of godliness, but deny the power of true godliness (2 Tim.3:5).

The pope of Rome denies the Lord, secondly, by his damnable **heresies**. "*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them...*" (2 Pet.2:1). None can deny that the pope of Rome is a false teacher, who disseminates damnable heresies; and he denies the Lord by these – such evil doctrines as that salvation is by works, and that Mary and so called "saints" are necessary to salvation, and that Christ must be eaten physically in the blasphemous mass, and that regeneration is by baptism, to name just a very few.

And does the pope of Rome confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh? No, he does not. Oh, he may do it with his lips, saying, "I confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh", but this is not the meaning of the words. And yes, he may confess such doctrines as the true divinity and humanity of Christ; but the words are not limited to these doctrines. To confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is to confess **all** the truth about Christ, as revealed in His Word; that He **alone** is the way to the Father; that there is salvation in no other; that He alone is the Head of the Church; that to eat His flesh and drink His blood, is to partake of Him spiritually, by faith, and not physically; that His sacrifice was perfect and complete and never to be repeated; etc., etc. All these great truths, the popes deny.

Men who in any way deny the truth regarding Christ are Antichrists; and the pope of Rome is the supreme Antichrist, for no one denies the divine truth regarding Christ as he does. The Antichrist, then, far from being an atheist, a Communist, a Jew or a Muslim, is one who claims to be the chief of all Christians, the Vicar of Christ, in fact he reaches the height of blasphemy and claims to be Christ Himself!

Lest any think that it cannot be, consider the following:

Pius IX was described as "the living Christ", and "the Lamb of the Vatican". And in a speech, he said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Pius X said: "The Pope...is Jesus Christ Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh."

Pius XI, on 30 April 1922, in the Vatican throne room, said: "You know that I am the Holy Father, the representative of God on the earth, the Vicar of Christ, which means that I am God on the earth." The Canon Law in the Gloss on the Extravaganza of John XXII, AD 1315-1334, calls the Roman pontiff "Our Lord God the Pope."

And this was continued in all editions of the Canon Law up to AD 1612. Martin V was addressed as: "The most holy and most blessed, who holds the celestial jurisdiction, who is Lord over all the earth...the anointed...the ruler of the universe, the father of kings, the Light of the World."

During the Vatican Council, 9 January 1870, it was stated: "The pope is Christ in office, Christ in jurisdiction and power...we bow down before thy voice, O Pius, as before the voice of Christ, the God of truth; in clinging to thee, we cling to Christ."

The Roman Catholic theologian, Thomas Aquinas, said: "There is no difference between the Pope and Jesus Christ." The cardinal, Manning, said: "He (the Roman pope) was elevated to be, in his Divine Master's Name, King of kings and Lord of lords." In July 1993, when John Paul II visited Brazil, the Roman Catholic crowds sang, "You are the Christ!"

And consider this: this Man of Sin, this Antichrist, usurps Christ's prophetic office, by claiming to be God's spokesman on earth; he usurps Christ's priestly office, by claiming the power to forgive sins, and to offer propitiatory sacrifices in the mass; and he usurps Christ's kingly office, by claiming to be the head of the Church. What is all this, but claiming to be Christ himself?

What did Jesus say? "*For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ*" (Matt.24:5). How perfectly the prophecy has been fulfilled!

So monstrous are his claims, so vile his works, that even Papist apologists have been forced to the inevitable conclusion that the pope, if he is not who he claims to be, must be the Antichrist! Priest Philip Fletcher, editor of the organ of the "Guild of Our Lady of Ransom", wrote in 1914: "The Vicar of Christ or Antichrist...If the Pope of Rome is not the Vicar of Christ, he must be Antichrist: there is no middle view." And Arnulphius, at the Council of Rheims, said of the pope: "Verily, if he be void of charity...then he is Antichrist."

Throughout the ages Christians believed that the Papacy was the Antichrist. When the diabolical Jesuit Order came into existence, one of its members, Francisco Ribera, was commissioned to develop a theory of prophetic interpretation that would cause Protestants to turn their gaze from Rome and look elsewhere for the Antichrist. He developed, before the close of the sixteenth century, what came to be known as the "Futuristic" interpretation of prophecy, claiming that the Antichrist was not the pope of Rome, but that he would be someone who would arise in the future. In time this Popish plot was eminently successful; today, the vast majority of Protestants do not believe the pope of Rome to be the Antichrist. Instead, they are expecting him to be some super-politician who has yet to appear. They have no idea that they are following a theory developed by a Jesuit with the intention of deliberately misleading them. And most, even if they knew the truth, would not care one whit anyway, so besotted have today's Protestants become with that mystical Babylon on the seven-hilled city, and with the man who heads it. Professing themselves to be Christians, most modern Protestants are as blinded as any Papist, and have eagerly embraced the Antichrist as a servant of Christ!

The Lord Jesus, just before He spoke of those coming in His name and claiming to be Christ, said, "*Take heed that no man deceive you*" (Matt.24:4). Christian reader, take heed that you are not deceived by the teaching of the Jesuit Ribera. Take heed that you are not deceived by those misguided Protestant teachers who have followed in his steps,

proclaiming the same fanciful and speculative theories. And take heed that you are not deceived by that Man of Sin and Son of Perdition himself – by his friendly smile, or his crowd-pleasing manners, or his pious-sounding words! Be well-acquainted with the blasphemous doctrines, and blood-stained history of the system of which he is the head; study these things in the light of the Word of God; and boldly proclaim the same truth which the saints of God through the ages have proclaimed:

THE PAPACY IS THE ANTICHRIST

Bible Based Ministries – South Africa – www.biblebasedministries.co.uk

NO PLACE LIKE ROME?

The Case for Religious Reformation and National Resistance

Pope Benedict XVI is due to visit the United Kingdom next month (16-19 September). While even secularists will not be able entirely to ignore the visit, many Christians seem set to welcome it.

Of course, it is tempting to welcome the Pope as a counterblast to secular irreligion and all forms of moral relativism, and even Islam. However, the original teaching of Christ and His Apostles, together with many significant events in British and European history, continues to raise questions about the validity of any forthcoming religious excitement. Even where Islam is concerned, the Papacy is no longer a defence against this equally-false religion (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #841). During his visit to Turkey in 2006, Pope Benedict stated that the Virgin Mary is a figure who unites Christians and Muslims (*Daily Telegraph*, 29 November 2006), as if the Muslim denial of Christ's Deity counted for nothing!

Sadly, sentimentalism and a refusal to face up to these questions will probably carry many people along in a torrent of euphoria.

So, what is the case against welcoming the Pope of Rome to these shores?

I begin with a double statement:

1. **The Pope's religion is *not* the Christianity of Jesus Christ.**
2. **The Pope's church is *not* the true Church of Jesus Christ.**

So, since the Pope may be identified as '**antichrist**' (as many British theologians have cogently argued in past centuries), conversion to the Roman Catholic Church is a retrograde and tragic step. While the apostate condition of many, so called, Protestant Churches (including some 'feminised' and 'sodomized' in the Church of England) gives sufficient cause for disillusionment, the Roman option cannot provide a safe or satisfying spiritual home, as affirmed in the doctrinal declaration:

Dominus Iesus (2000), Rome claimed to be the only 'correct' church. In a more recent decree (2007), we are told that 'Christian Communities born out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century' cannot be 'called Churches in the proper sense'. However, Rome's claim could not be more invalid. The proof is as follows:

I The doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church are utterly inconsistent with the plain teaching of the New Testament. The finality of Christ's unique sacrifice and His priestly intercession (see *Hebrews 9:28; 10:11-12*) rule out the sacrifice of the mass and a human priesthood. **The theory of transubstantiation is an absurd philosophical fiction and utterly detrimental to the simple symbolism of the Lord's Supper – a memorial of our Saviour's once-for-all sacrifice.** Thus His blood shedding is remembered not repeated, on a table not an altar (hence ministers are pastors not priest); His real presence is spiritual, not physical, in the hearts of His people and not in the bread and wine.

II **Justification by faith in Christ's merit alone** (see *Romans 5:1-9*) and **direct access to Him as sole Mediator** (see *Matthew 11:28; 1 Timothy 2:5*) rule out the false, idolatrous and pretentious teaching that **Mary is Mediatrix, a 'female mediator' through whom we approach our Saviour.** Calling our Lord's mother 'Queen of Heaven' has turned her into a goddess!

The idea that the merits of the faithful are a necessary contribution to their salvation undermines the all-sufficiency of Christ's merit. Rome's traditional mistake in making sanctification a part of justification arises from her reliance on the Latin *justificare* instead of the Greek *dikaioo*. While the former verb means 'to make righteous', the latter means 'to declare righteous' by the remission of sins through faith in the blood of Christ (see *Romans 4:5-8; 5:1,9*). Our pardon is provided by Christ's sacrificial righteousness alone, imputed to all who trust in Him. While good works are a necessary and certain fruit of saving faith (see *Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:8-1*), their imperfection rules them out from justifying us. **Our persons and our performances alike always require pardon.** That said, Christian sainthood is the present status of true though imperfect believers (see *Ephesians 1:1-2*) not that of dead believers canonised by the Church of Rome.

III **Thus purgatory and prayers for the dead (including requiem masses) have no apostolic warrant.** Those who die 'in Christ' have no need of our prayers. Those who die otherwise cannot be helped by them.

Besides corrupting Baptism and the Holy Communion, Rome arrogantly added five more supposed sacraments to those commanded by Christ. Her realignment of the Ten Commandments – combining the first two and dividing the tenth – obscure in summary form God's prohibition of the idolatry of such popular graven images as crucifixes and statues of Mary. Venerating the bones of the saints and other relics breeds superstition.

Other distortions of divine truth are no less serious. The Pope's title 'Holy Father' is a blasphemous insult to God the Father (see *John 17:11*). His claim to be the 'vicar of Christ' is a further insult to the Holy Spirit, Christ's true representative on earth (see *John 14:16-17*).

The political claims of a highly fallible Papacy conflict with Christ's words that His kingdom 'is not of this world' (see *John 18:36*).

Rome's entire governmental structure – pope, cardinals, archbishops, etc – has more in common with pagan imperial Rome than the apostolic Presbyterian order of the New Testament.

Rome's growing ambition to dominate Europe as in the days of the Holy Roman Empire is a re-emerging tyranny to be resisted by individual Christians and national governments alike.

Ever since the Reformation, the Papacy has always been opposed to the independence of the United Kingdom. Her arrogance is at odds with Christ's liberating truth (see *John 8:32,36; Galatians 5:1*).

IV In addition to theological objections, the track record of Roman Catholicism does not commend itself. For violent and bloody persecution, no organisation can compete with Rome. Since the true Church of Christ is 'persecuted' rather than 'persecutor', this one consideration alone makes Rome's claim to 'correctness' null and void (see *John 15:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:12*). Besides the burnings of the sixteenth-century British reformers, the dreadful cruelties inflicted on the ancient Waldensians, the French Huguenots, the Dutch Protestants and others (including Jews, Muslims and Eastern Orthodox) have never been truly repented of – since the doctrine directing these atrocities remains intact. Indeed, under another name – The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Inquisition still exists.

Current persecution of Protestants in Central and South America shows no change in Rome's methods where she has a free hand. The intrigue and corrupting influence of the Jesuits knows no parallel. Vatican complicity in the rise of Hitler and the Nazi holocaust is well attested.

The evils of the confessional and the 'unholy wedlock' of supposedly celibate priests refute Rome's sanctimonious image. While marital failure among protestant pastors is to be lamented, is it any wonder that paedophilia and HIV are rife among sexually-frustrated and homosexual Roman priests?

V Considering the post-reformation dogmas of Mary's immaculate conception (1854), papal infallibility (1870) and the Assumption of Mary (1950), the Church of Rome is even more apostate than she was in Luther and Calvin's day. Thus any form of ecumenism on Rome's terms is nothing but satanic delusion (see *2 Thessalonians 2:1-12*). Especially in the wake of *Dominus Iesus*, when naïve and gullible evangelicals, charismatics and others try to persuade us that 'Rome is changing', ask them which of her anti-biblical dogmas has Rome renounced? Indeed, the late Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones was right to say that **"The Roman Catholic Church is the devil's greatest masterpiece."** May all God's people understand the 'signs of the times' and cease not 'contending earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints' (*Jude 3*). *Amen!*

**Dr. Alan C. Clifford,
Pastor Norwich Reformed Church**

SHOULD WE WELCOME THE POPE?

Joint Protest against the 2010 Papal Visit to the United Kingdom

Remembering the deaths of the Protestant martyrs of the sixteenth century Reformation, we the undersigned protest against the state visit of the Pope to the United Kingdom.

The Pope claims to be the supreme head of the universal church and that all governments should be subject to him. There is only one head of the universal church - the Lord Jesus Christ. No man can claim that title. In the United Kingdom the Queen is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England and is pledged to defend the Church of Scotland. She is bound by oath to uphold the Protestant Reformed religion established by law. She is the head of state and, together with the British Parliament, we accept no other temporal authority.

We reject the Pope's absurd pretensions to power over governments and churches. In particular we reject his blasphemous claim to infallibility. God alone is infallible. The recent scandalous revelations over child abuse demonstrate the falsehood of such claims. The Pope does not owe his status as monarch of the Vatican City State to God but to a self-serving treaty with Mussolini.

Thanking God for the great outburst of spiritual light that shone during the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century, we declare:

The Bible, the inspired Word of God, is our supreme rule and contains no shred of evidence for the false and idolatrous doctrines of the Roman Church.

There is only one mediator between God and men – the man Christ Jesus. The Pope cannot mediate between man and God. Neither Mary nor the 'Saints' can make intercession for us. Jesus Christ is our only advocate with God the Father.

At Calvary Jesus Christ died for the sins of all those who put their trust in him. That sacrifice was made once for all and can never be repeated. The so-called sacrifice of the Mass is, as the Articles of the Church of England make plain, a blasphemous fable and a dangerous deceit.

Repentant sinners find forgiveness by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. God alone can absolve our sins and the confessional is a useless fraud.

The Roman doctrine of purgatory has no biblical foundation. There are only two possible destinations for men and women after death – heaven or hell.

The Papal visit is a betrayal of our Protestant Constitution and of the Gospel that sustains it. Christ promised – 'He that believeth on me hath everlasting life' (John 6:47). He alone is King of kings.

'For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God' Ephesians 2:8

This declaration is a Protestant Truth Society (PTS) led initiative which at present will be endorsed by a list (growing) of Protestant organisations including Christian Watch, Trinitarian Bible Society, Protestant Alliance, Protestant Reformation Society, United Protestant Council, Spirit of 88, English Churchman, British Church Newspaper, Association of the Continuing Church Trust.

Christian Watch Notice Board

"It hath been found by experience that it is inconsistent with the safety and welfare of this protestant kingdom to be governed by a popish prince." Bill of Rights 1689.

The Papal Visit – A Test

This is a momentous time in our history with the first *official* Papal visit to these shores. Sadly, few (including many professing Christians) seem able to grasp the significance of the Pope's visit or the profound implications and ramifications of his invitation and welcome. I believe this visit can be seen as both a judgement of God, but also as a mercy and an opportunity the Lord has provided for us to witness and to:

- remind the Nation of our Protestant Biblical Constitution, heritage and culture and the many blessings we have undeservedly received because of it,
- make a stand against the blasphemous spiritual and preposterous temporal claims and teachings of the Pope and his counterfeit 'church'.
- witness to those poor souls deceived by that masterpiece of deception – the Roman Catholic system.

What We Plan

100,000 are expected at the Glasgow mass. 90,000 at the Hyde Park Prayer vigil, along with 65,000 in Birmingham for the beatification of Newman (mostly paying for the 'privilege!'). These figures highlight the desperate need for a concerted *united* effort by *all* Protestants.

So, together with a number of other Protestant organisations, we plan in the will of the Lord, to have a Protestant Gospel witness and/or a placard protest at most of the major events in the Papal itinerary. If you are intending to participate please be mindful of the following:

Make allowances – The situation is fluid and subject to change so please be sure you register for the **Papal Protest Supporters List** (see below) to be kept informed.

<p>Do not attend <i>any</i> of these events (except the London Protest on 17th) without having the details confirmed beforehand either via the Papal Protest Supporters list or by making contact with the organisers yourself.</p>
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Respect organisers wishes – They have taken the time and effort to organise the event and most are locally based and so they also have to live and witness in that area all the time – not just for the Papal visit. So please respect their wishes.

Maintain a UNITED and worthy witness - Many may have different opinions and ideas as to how these events should be conducted, but the truth is we can't all do what we wish to and still have an effective and God-honouring witness. **It has to be organised and co-ordinated by someone.** So please make sure you come on the understanding that this is an unprecedented opportunity for true Protestants to put on a UNITED front.

Sadly all that most people see of Christianity today is grand buildings, pomp and ritual, fine robes or the 'madness' seen on television and in many 'contemporary' Churches. Likewise most marches seem to end in violence - even so called 'peace' marches. So what a pleasure it would be to have thousands of Protestants turn up, well dressed, well spoken, courteous and full of the joy of the Lord to show the face of true Biblical Christianity. Bold and forthright in our views, but also peaceful and gracious in our conduct. **Please help us make it so.**

I believe we can get thousands out if we all do something!

Events – for more details, maps and posters etc – www.christianwatch.org.uk/papalvisit

Edinburgh

Prayer Meeting – 7:00pm - Wednesday 15th September
Magdalen Chapel, 41 Cowgate, Edinburgh.

Gospel Witness – Thursday 16th September

The witness will start at 8:30am at the north end of Princes Street in front of the Scottish Records Office and opposite the North British Hotel. There will be tables of literature, Biblical texts and tracts available for distribution. Organisers have asked that no extra placards, bible texts etc be brought as they will have plenty there – just bring yourself.

Glasgow

Prayer Meeting – 7:00pm – Wednesday 15th September.

Anniesland Reformed Baptist Church, 4 Herschell Street, Anniesland, Glasgow, G13 1HR.

Gospel Witness – Thursday 16th September

The witness will be for most of the day and the Pope is expected in Bellahouston Park between 5:30 and 6:30pm. The witness points are still to be decided so join **the Papal Protest Supporters List**. Again organisers have asked that this witness is limited to tract distribution and one-on-one discussion.

IMPORTANT NOTE: if you plan to be at both Scottish witnesses we suggest you leave Edinburgh by 2pm and use the train as some of the M8 is expected to be closed.

Local Contact: Donald Morrison – Tel: 01463 241618. Email: murtieuk@yahoo.co.uk.

London

Westminster Gospel Witness – Friday 17th September

We will meet in the Westminster Baptist Church, 100 Horseferry Road, London, SE1 at 11:30am. Have a time of prayer, plan our witness, eat some lunch and then aim to be in the Westminster Abbey area for 2:00pm. If you can't make it to Westminster Baptist Church but would like to join our Gospel witness before and after the protest then please register for the **Papal Protest Supporters List** or call the local contacts on the day for more details: Andy Clarke: 07835 804183 and Tony Beasley: 07956 373943

Westminster Protest – Friday 17th September

This is a Protestant Truth Society (PTS) led protest with our support. The Police have agreed a **prime location** in front of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London, SW1P 3EE. If those attending can aim to arrive at 3:30 to 4:00pm and use St James Park tube station for easy access to the exclusive protest area. The Pope is expected to arrive at Westminster at approximately 5:00pm and to pass the protest on his way to the Abbey within about an hour of arriving. The protest should be over by approximately 7:00-7:30pm. **This is VERY important** – *No personal banners, placards, tracts etc will be allowed in the protest area.* They will all be provided for you on the day.

Local contacts for the day: Duncan Boyd: 07984 882413 and Jeremy Brooks: 07745 524729

If there is ONLY one event you can attend I believe this should be it. The unprecedented nature of having the Pope make an address within the Parliament buildings, together with the media presence makes this the Papal event where the number of protestors present is likely to have the greatest impact.

Westminster Cathedral and Hyde Park Gospel Witness – Saturday 18th September

We will be meeting in Westminster Baptist Church, 100 Horseferry Road, London, SW1 2P at 7:00am, have a time of prayer and organisation and then go for our first witness at Westminster Cathedral, 42 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QW United Kingdom for 8:00-8:15am. We will be there until approx 1:00pm when we will be meeting in Victoria Main Line Station, 115 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London, SW1W 9SJ, for lunch. We will be in the open plan area around the restaurants on the upper mezzanine floor until 2:30pm when we be leaving for the Hyde Park area. We can have no way of knowing exactly where we will be once we are in the Hyde Park area so please be sure to register for **The Papal Protest Supporters List** or if you can only come to this witness after 2:30pm and want to find out where we are please contact one of the local contacts on the day:

Andy Clarke: 07835 804183, Tony Beasley: 07956 373943, Dave Horsfall: 07967281539, Michael Forbes: 07752 765834, Bill Gracey: 07956 345177. Please only use these contact numbers about these witnesses – thank you.

Birmingham

Crofton Park – Sunday 19th September

We have no knowledge of any witness or events.

How Can You Help?

We need all the help we can get, so please make every effort to support us.

- **Pray** – Pray that the Lord will constrain His people to witness for the Truth.

- **Join the protests** – it is important we join together in a UNITED Protestant witness.
- **Join the tract distribution teams** – to spread the ‘good news’ of the unsearchable riches of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- **Support financially** – There are banners, placards, tracts, media packs, gospel tracts etc to be produced, which of course require financing. In addition there are also plans to reach a national audience stating the reasons why we object to the Papal visit - featuring the Declaration (see Page 10) - in The Times of London and/or Daily Telegraph newspapers. The PTS have had a very encouraging response so far to the fund raising efforts but are still short of the funds needed to be able to maximise the Gospel opportunity provided by this historic Papal visit. We encourage you therefore to assist in any way you can.

How to contribute

You can contribute by sending Cheques made payable to ‘The Protestant Truth Society’ to: The Protestant Truth Society, 184 Fleet St, London, EC4A 2HJ. Please identify the funds by writing ‘Papal Visit Protest’ on the reverse of the cheque.

- **Promote our activities** – this is a once in a generation opportunity and we need your help to promote it. We request all Pastors and church leaders to encourage their congregations to attend and perhaps organise a church group to attend. Posters and promotional literature will be available on the website or by request.

Join The Papal Protest Supporters List

www.christianwatch.org.uk/papalprotest

This will be the ONLY list used to communicate
with our members about the Papal visit.

Register online at: **www.christianwatch.org.uk/papalprotest** - or call me on 01778 344130 or email: andy@christianwatch.org.uk to be included on the list.

May the Lord raise a ‘righteous army’ to stand for the truth of His Word and may all be done for the glory and honour of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords – Jesus Christ.

Every blessing in the Lord.

Andy Clarke

Tel: 01778 344130 or email: andy@christianwatch.org.uk

BOOK REVIEWS

John Henry Newman: Becoming Rome's First Ecumenical Saint

By Richard Bennett & Michael de Semlyen

The following article is taken from this booklet, and is an important brief to study in advance of the Pope's planned visit to the United Kingdom in September. Part 1 of the booklet details John Henry Newman becoming Rome's First Ecumenical Saint, Part 2 details Newman's devotion to the Eucharist and the Consequences. This booklet can be purchased from **Dorchester House Publications**, PO Box 67, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5SJ. Tel. 01923 282333. Price details £2 each; £1.25 for 10 or more. DVDs (from each article) Price £7.50 each; £5.00 each for 10 or more.

The Vatican's Cunning Strategy

For nearly five hundred years, since King Henry VIII's severance of English servitude to the Pope, the Vatican, with its Counter-Reformation has sought unremittingly to undermine the religious and political influence of the Church of England and its Supreme Governor, the reigning monarch of the UK. The planned Papal visit to the UK of September 2010 is in keeping with this centuries-long Vatican policy; and is expected to provide a major step forward. By choosing to elevate John Henry Newman towards "Sainthood" with a thoroughly Roman Catholic ecclesiastical event in England in September, Pope Benedict is seeking to demonstrate to the world that the Church in England is being brought back to its pre-Reformation status of submission to the Church of Rome. This should come as no surprise, for the Papacy has never withdrawn its claim of divine jurisdiction to judge or to correct those who lead nations.

With the EU Constitutional *Treaty of Lisbon* so recently brought into force, the *de facto* re-emergence of the Papacy as a political power is making its impact on the world stage. With its reliable fifth column within the member nations of the EU, and its commanding influence over their social policy, the Church of Rome is considerably closer to her long-term objective of re-establishing the Holy Roman Empire. On March 16th 2010, less than four months after Lisbon's enactment, the British Government announced that, "At the invitation of Her Majesty The Queen, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI will pay a Papal Visit to the United Kingdom from the 16th-19th September 2010." This invitation for the first ever official State visit of a Pope to the United Kingdom sadly represents the abandoning of the safeguards, wisely built into our Protestant constitution by our forefathers. It also marks a departure by the Queen from her solemn Accession oath, sworn before nation and Commonwealth, at her Coronation of June 2nd 1953; "**I, Elizabeth do solemnly and sincerely in the presence of God profess, testify and declare that I am a faithful Protestant.**"

This apparent abandoning of our Reformation heritage and Protestant Constitution makes it all the more imperative that individual Christian leaders, especially those of the Church of England, remember their martyrs who died for the truth as revealed in God's Word. The majority of the English martyrs of the Protestant faith chose to die because they denied the unbiblical doctrine of '*the real presence*' of Christ in the Mass, the burning issue of the Reformation.

Newman's beatification during the State visit is particularly important to Pope Benedict because of Newman's rejection of the Biblical faith of the martyrs as he became an enthusiastic believer in the real presence and the divine power of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Before the world stage the Pope is about to attempt to bring the UK back under Papal edicts. Are we ready to, "*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*" and expose the teachings of Newman and the Pontiff and others who during the visit are intent on perverting the true faith with the errors of Rome?

“CHRIST TRIUMPHANT”

by Dr. Peter Trumper

This beautifully produced hardback volume is the sixth in a series by the Author to assist in the study of the holy Word of God. It covers the books from the Acts of the Apostles to the Revelation and therefore together with the previous five volumes, covers all the books of the Bible.

This latest volume, “CHRIST TRIUMPHANT”, consists of 560 pages and is very instructive and helpful for all who are desirous to study and learn from the scriptures. It correctly exalts the Lord Jesus Christ and places the crown upon His head. The various characters involved, including the Apostles, are explained and details given as to how their experiences were either sanctified for their spiritual benefit and teaching or alternatively, used for their condemnation.

Scripture references and cross references are given to assist in both understanding and substantiating the explanations given. In addition to being instructive for those who desire to have an in depth knowledge of the Bible, it also provides for spiritual self examination for those who are exercised with regard to the reality of their personal religion. To assist in self examination an extensive number of questions are asked relative to each section, which allows for further study if correct answers are not known.

We are exhorted in *John 5:39* to search the scriptures and when it is done with a prayerful desire for our spiritual benefit, the Lord will honour it by granting the blessing of the Holy Spirit. This alone will give a greater and more intimate understanding of the sacred truths the Word of God contains for the benefit of those who truly hunger and thirst after righteousness.

It is the fervent desire of the Author, Dr. Peter Trumper, that the six books, covering the whole of scripture, be used by God for His own honour and glory and for the spiritual benefit of many souls. They are therefore offered without a fixed price, but trusting that the Lord will constrain those who place an order to make a donation, as they are enabled.

Those Members who desire to receive a copy of **CHRIST TRIUMPHANT** together with details of the other five volumes, should send an order with a donation to the following:

Dr. P. Trumper, ‘Wyclif’, 42, The Pistyll, Holywell, Flintshire. CH8 7SH.

“ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” *Romans 15:4*

FOREIGN NEWS:

INDIA

Pastors beaten and cars burnt amid accusations of forced conversion

Hindu extremists across India are continuing to use anti-conversion laws as an excuse to attack Christians and try to limit church activities.

In the latest reported attack, two pastors were seriously injured when men attacked them with iron bars at a tea stall in Chandapura, Karnataka state, accusing them of converting people to Christianity by force. Pastors Shidu Kurialose and Nithya Vachanam from Gethel Assembly of God Church were admitted to hospital after the assault.

The previous day, extremists reported to be from the Bajrang Dal organisation burnt at least seven vehicles belonging to the Jesus with Us Pentecostal Church in Mathikere, Tamil Nadu. The attack followed efforts by extremists to prevent the church holding a four-day convention. In the event, the gathering went ahead in a different location, under police protection.

Meanwhile, in Uttar Pradesh, Hindu extremists reported to be from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh organisation raided a meeting at Jesus Church in Firozabad and threatened to harm Pastor Breymond Shastri if he continued to lead worship there. They also persuaded the local media to publish an article accusing the pastor of forcible conversion.

Eight Indian states have introduced anti-conversion laws – though one, Tamil Nadu, has since repealed them.

- **Pray that the church in India will remain steadfast in their Faith.**
 - **Pray that Indian politicians and law enforcers will take a tougher line on extremist elements who are falsely accusing Christians of forced conversion.**
-

PAKISTAN

Two Christian families devastated by rape attacks on children

Two Christian families in Pakistan are devastated after their young daughters were raped.

In Kotri village, Sindh province, a brutal assault on a six-year-old girl has left her in intensive care. And in Mohalla Raja Sultan, Rawalpindi, a 14-year-old is recovering from being kidnapped, drugged and raped by five men.

The attackers of the 14-year-old threatened to kill her unless her father allowed her to convert to Islam and marry one of her rapists. The child was freed on June 6 – eight days after she was abducted – during a police raid near Islamabad. Her attackers told her father they believed they would have '70 virgins in heaven' if they raped or married a non-Muslim girl. He has since reported the incident to the police.

In the case of the six-year-old child, however, her relatives' initial attempts to persuade police to investigate only prolonged their torment. A Release source said police arrested the girl's 'close relatives' instead and tortured them to try to extract a confession from them. They were freed only when local media showed an interest in the case.

The same Release source says the six-year-old girl is in a stable condition but is 'extremely traumatised'. It has been reported that she is not receiving 'proper medical care'.

(Sources: Compass Direct, Release International)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE CONCERNING ROMAN CATHOLICISM AND THE POPE'S VISIT

ROMAN CATHOLICISM –CHRISTIAN OR COUNTERFEIT? - by Rev. David Blunt

A review of Roman Catholicism and its doctrines from a Protestant perspective, with details of its inception and history to the present day. The booklet also covers the teachings of Rome on such subjects as the Mass; the pope; Virgin Mary, etc, etc.
Price including P&P - £3.00 each

WAS THE REFORMATION A MISTAKE? A CARING CATECHISM FOR ALL SEEKING PEACE WITH GOD
- by Anthony Busk.

An 8-page leaflet in which the Roman Catholic Catechism is judged against the Scriptures on issues such as: What is sin? Purgatory and Hell, Confession, etc.etc.
Price including P&P - £2 each, 5 copies - £1.75 each, 10 copies - £1.50 each

THE FOUNDATIONS UNDER ATTACK – The Roots of Apostasy

By Michael de Semlyen.

Price including P&P - £10 each, or 2 for £15

FROM TRADITION TO TRUTH – A Priest's Story - by Richard Bennett

SPECIAL OFFER PRICE including P&P 80p each.

THE PAPACY IS THE ANTICHRIST – by Rev. David Blunt

SPECIAL OFFER PRICE including P&P 80p each.

*The above titles can be obtained from **Christian Watch (Resources)**, PO Box 3268, Leamington Spa, CV32 6YA*

POPE BENEDICT XVI AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, published by Free Presbyterian Publications, 133 Woodlands Road, Glasgow, G3 6LE www.fpchurch.org.uk/publications.

Price including P&P - £6.75

ROMAN CATHOLICISM – An examination by a former Roman Catholic by Dermot Nash. Available from The Protestant Truth Society Inc., 184 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HJ. www.protestant-truth.org.

Price including P&P £1.50

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN – The Greatest Pervert to Rome - by Matthew J. Hyde, available from The Huntingtonian Press, 72a Upper Northam Road, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 4 EB.

Price including P&P £2.30.

(To the end of October, Huntingtonian Press are offering the above booklet and an address by Henry Sant, entitled, **The Accomplishment and Application of Justification** at a price of £3, including P&P.)

THE EXCELLENCY OF PRAYER

By William Huntington (1745-1813)

Prayer is the blessed means which God has appointed to bring every grace from Christ to the believer. The believer is to let his requests be made known unto God, and for his encouragement God says that the prayer of the upright is His delight, yea, He says that He loves to hear it. "Let Me hear thy voice, let Me see thy face."

Prayer is pouring out the soul unto God and showing before Him our troubles. It is casting out cares upon Him who careth for us; and our burdens upon Him in whom we are to say, "I have righteousness and strength." It is opening the heart, the mind and the mouth to Him who hath said, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." It is opening to Him who is the Well-beloved of His people, and who has said, "Let Me hear thy voice, let Me see thy face; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely." It is besieging the everlasting kingdom, moving the throne of grace, and knocking importunately at the door of mercy, encouraged by the promise, "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

In prayer we must take no denial. If we have but a feeling sense of our wants, a Scripture warrant to go upon, or *one* promise to plead, we must sue, argue, reason, plead, supplicate, intercede, confess, acknowledge, thank, bless, praise, adore, repeat, importune, observe, take hold of, and turn to advantage whatsoever may be of use to the soul. Sinners, sensible of their lost estate by nature, who feel their need and poverty, have many invitations, encouragements, precedents and promises. They have, under the teachings of the Holy Spirit, to plead and rely upon the covenant of Jehovah, the oath of God, the merits of Christ, and all His covenant engagements, undertakings and performances; the covenant characters He sustains, His incarnation and near relationship to them – together with all the glorious train of divine perfections found in the proclamation of the name of God to Moses (Exod. 34. 6,7) – for all these sweetly harmonise and brightly shine in Christ crucified, who has *never once yet disappointed* the hope of a penitent sinner, but has graciously said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." His promises, like Himself, are unchangeable, and this is one of them: "Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out."

Prayer has brought in countless providential mercies, as well as spiritual blessings. God could have granted them all without asking, but has condescended to honour this exercise by saving, "I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them."

Prayer is God's appointment, the Spirit's gift, the saints' privilege, and the scourge of Satan. Therefore, prize it and use it.

"Prayer was appointed to convey
The blessings God designs to give.
Long as they live should Christians pray
For only while they pray they live."

J Hart.

Additional copies of any article printed in this publication can be obtained in A4 format at cost from:

CHRISTIAN WATCH

Head Office

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Email: jean@christianwatch.net

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