

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

FEBRUARY 2011

NEWSLETTER

February 2011

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

We feel increasingly to need the Lord's help and guidance in the preparation of our Newsletters and particularly concerning the articles we include. Our desire is to provide information which will be of value to our Members in making them aware of national and international developments and also those events which increasingly manifest the Lord's judgements upon us, because of the super-abounding evil and wickedness in the earth. In addition, we consider it important to provide at least one article which directs our minds to the One who alone can provide for us a secure refuge in every perplexing circumstance and trial which we may have to experience. It is a wonderful mercy and benefit if we are enabled to trust in the Lord at all times and in whatever circumstance we may have to face. It is also a great blessing if we can testify to the Lord's honour and glory of a personal experience whereby, in our darkest and deepest troubles and experiences, the Lord has granted complete peace of mind and a sweet submission to His will, enabling us to say with one of old, *"It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good"* (1 Samuel 3:18).

In our January Newsletter we included an article by the Rt. Revd. Dr. Barry Shucksmith on the subject of women holding office in the Church of God. This month we include a further article by Rt. Revd. Shucksmith entitled, **CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN THE 21st CENTURY** with a sub-heading, **SOME AUTHENTIC MINISTRIES FOR CHRISTIAN WOMEN**, in which he uses Scriptural examples of where the Lord clearly appointed females to occupy particular positions and to fulfil defined responsibilities. One of the reasons we are witnessing the solemn decline in our churches and chapels at the present time is because of the general departure from the Lord's commandments and the clearly defined requirements and responsibilities He has given to us in His Holy Word. We ignore these at our peril – personally, as well as in our places of worship where there is a withholding of the Holy Spirit, and also in the nation where the Lord's solemn judgements are upon us.

A further example of this departure is the consideration being given by the General Synod of the Church of England to remove references to 'Christianity' from their baptising service. The godly Church fathers, such as John Newton, Isaac Watts and Bishop Ryle, plus many others, saw no reason to change the words used. In fact the wording for a baptising service in the Book of Common Prayer went virtually unaltered for more than 400 years until 1980, but since then there have been three complete revisions.

Various events that are taking place in the world continue to identify the most solemn times in which we are living. We truly know not what a day will bring forth, but the important point is for us to search the scriptures in which the signs of the times are identified and to prayerfully request the Lord to grant us the necessary grace to endure whatever trials, tribulations and/or perhaps persecutions we may be called upon to experience.

The situation in Egypt continues to rapidly deteriorate and at present we know not what the outcome will be. However, we do believe the turmoil there may well prove to be a pattern of what is before many other countries. This view is shared by Wayne Allyn of the American publication, 'Big Government'. We include an article from the February edition of The Wake Up Herald (USA) entitled, **EGYPT'S CRISIS EVENTUALLY COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU?** in which many important points are identified. These relate to many European countries as well as to the USA. The comments by the Editor & Publisher, Robert McCurry, point us very clearly and precisely to our only Refuge and also to our responsibilities in such a time as this.

It is not only in the United Kingdom that there is a constant departure from the true Christian faith in the churches. We include an article entitled **THE CHRISLAM MOVEMENT IN THE APOSTATE CHURCH** by Bill Wright which has been recently printed in the publication OUT OF AFRICA. The article explains that many Christian churches in the United States of America are endeavouring to achieve reconciliation between Muslims and themselves. Such reconciliation could only be achieved by the so called Christian Churches departing further from the basic and foundational doctrines given for a true Church of Christ in the Word of God. Any compromise will always allow the devil to gain further ground in his constant endeavour to undermine the Scriptures. In addition, such a development will prove ultimately to be of assistance to the Muslim community in their stated endeavour to achieve complete domination, both religiously and politically in many countries presently professing to be Christian.

We are very concerned by the reports we are receiving from some parents with regard to the teaching their children are receiving at school on the subject of homosexuality. One parent, whose sons attend a Church of England School, advises us that the boys' Religious Education teacher tells them that Christ never condemned homosexuality. Such a distorted understanding of the Word of God is so obviously devil orientated, but how damaging to the minds of children and young people to be told such things by one whose instruction they are expected to respect and believe. The Sexual Orientation Regulations were introduced at the initiative of the 'gay rights' organisation, Stonewall, and the harmful consequences of it are increasingly evident, particularly in

respect to the school curriculum. Parents have a responsibility to protect their children from such vile wickedness by taking issue with school heads and teachers, if and when it occurs. It was recently reported in the Daily Mail that young children are to be taught about homosexuality in their Maths, Geography, Science and English lessons as part of a Government backed plan to 'celebrate the gay community'. It stated that lessons will be designed to raise awareness about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual issues and in theory could be used in lessons for children as young as four years old.

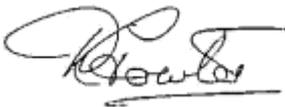
One of our esteemed supporters, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has kindly made arrangements for us to hold a public meeting in the House of Lords on the 11th May, DV, to which we intend to invite all Members of both Houses of Parliament. The subject we plan to address will relate to the 400th Anniversary of the Authorised Version of the King James Bible with particular reference to the fulfilment of the events prophesied to occur prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth. Our Members are all invited to join with us on this occasion and necessary details for those wishing to attend will be included in our March Newsletter.

Our final items on this occasion are entitled **A CALL TO SEPARATION** by A. W. Pink and **CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY** by Andy Clarke, in which they both emphasise the importance of those who profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ being born again of the Holy Spirit and identifiable as such by their conduct, their conversation and also by their separation from those who indulge in worldly and unscriptural practices. May we each be preserved, by the influence and presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, from participating or indulging in those sins which are now so prevalent in this evil world.

May we remind our Members who have not renewed their Membership for the current year that this is now overdue and we would appreciate a positive response before our March Newsletter is despatched.

We thank you for your continued support and request you to remember us in your prayers.

Yours, in the Lord's service,



David Crowter

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CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN THE 21st CENTURY

SOME AUTHENTIC MINISTRIES FOR CHRISTIAN WOMEN

A fresh appreciation in the light of contemporary church disorder

By Rt Revd Dr J Barry Shucksmith Royal Navy (Rtd)

Woman is created by God, for man, and chiefly for procreation and companionship

The creation of woman is recorded in Genesis 1:27 and 2:21-22. Both man and woman are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28) and commanded to be fruitful, as well as to bring the earth under dominion. It was not good for man to be alone. So the Lord God made woman as a help meet for him (Genesis 2:18). She was given by God to man and named by him (Genesis 2:23). The record of her fall into sin, along with Adam, is mentioned in Genesis 3:1-16. Eve was the first to sin (Genesis 3:6). Yet, women of faith were last at the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 27:55-56). Women were also first at the sepulchre of our Lord (Mark 15:46-47; 16:1-6; Luke 23:27ff). Our Lord first appeared to women when He arose from the grave (Mark 16:9; John 20:14-18).

Jesus lifted women to new heights of value and respect

Wherever you look in the New Testament, women are highly and respectfully treated by our Lord Jesus Christ. He received their ministrations and was lovingly attended by them. In Simon's home, a sinful woman washed his feet with tears, wiped them with the hairs of her head, kissed His feet, and anointed them with ointment. He rebuked the thoughtless Pharisee but commended the act of devotion and singular love given by the penitent female (Luke 7:36-50). The Son of man had nowhere to lay his head (Luke 9:58), yet the home of Mary and Martha in Bethany was special to Him (Luke 11:38-42). Mary sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word; Martha gave loving practical service. Both were graciously received by our Lord, although Martha was reminded not to be anxious, or to be stressful in her "waiting upon tables." Our Lord treated women as equal to men in every respect. He lifted womanhood to a new level of appreciation. By word and deed, He promoted their precious and unique value, and also their contribution. One of His final acts, while dying upon the Cross of Calvary, was to commit His mother to the care of John (John 19:25-27).

Our Lord desires the contribution and witness of all converted women

Early in His ministry, our Lord Jesus Christ had gone out of His way to bring salvation to a sinful Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4:1-29). He did not rebuke her for her public testimony, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29). Many men believed as a consequence of her words. They then responded to Christ Himself (John 4:42). In the New Testament, there are numerous records of our Lord's dealings with women. In these cases, He shows immense respect, treats them in a kind and singular manner, highly commends their faith, values their loving service, and promotes their wellbeing. Later, after the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord, apostolic authority confirmed the spiritual equality of all Christian women – "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ...there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-28).

Every member is valued, and every contribution is needed, in the wider life of the Christian Church

In the Biblical records which concern the Christian Church, there is reference to "the Body of Christ" (1 Corinthians, chapters 12-14). The teaching is crystal clear. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many." The contextual verses indicate that each member has a part to play because every individual is of equal value and worth. "And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness" (1 Corinthians 12:23). All Christians are to "covet earnestly the best gifts," love being the superior gift of all (1 Corinthians 12:31-1 Corinthians 13).

Whatever the world says, or does, the Christian church has an infallible and divinely given principle, for home and church

With the completion of apostolic revelation, the close of the canon of Holy Scripture, and the development of the settled ministry, outlined in the pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus), it appears only the Teaching/Ruling office of the Church, and its public congregational ministry, now gives Biblical warrant to exclude women. Different Christian traditions, as well as local church discipline, will vary regarding the

practical outworking of this Biblical principle, some feeling able to allow more female activity, others less. The cardinal principle is *the maintenance of the headship arrangement which is non-negotiable, by Divine command, for church and home (1 Corinthians 11:1-9; 1 Peter 3:1-7)*. Within the context of marriage, equally applicable to official office in the church, the man is to give honour unto the woman, “as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered” (1 Peter 3:7).

Aggressive feminist reaction to the humiliation of women has overstepped God's parameters

Throughout the 2000 years history of the Christian Church, women have often been victimised, humiliated, undervalued, abused, rejected, and turned into second-class citizens. This has led to a harsh and aggressive secular feminism, which presently fights for “the rights of women”. Much of this is to be welcomed. But some of it is in direct disobedience to the Lord's command. He did not appoint a woman apostle. He did not choose women for ruling leadership positions in the embryo church. This does not make them less valued, less able, less qualified, or more inferior to men, in any respect at all. It simply exemplifies and sets forth our Lord's own example – humility and submission for Christian service are the primary requirements for every form of ministry. Equally, this is so for those called to specialist ministries, as well as for the more common gifts and activities of believers. Paul writes to Christian *men and women* in Philippi... “let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a *servant*, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8). (See also Luke 2:51-52 and Luke 22:39-42)

Ministry is fundamentally humble service rendered to the Lord, and to others

This word “*servant*” is of the very essence of Christian ministry. Ministry is not about status, reward, equality, rights, promotion, preferment, or being ‘one up on others’. This is how the world thinks. Christianity turns such thinking upside down. “Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest. And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him. And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he [she?] that is least among you all, the same shall be great” (Luke 9:46-48).

Bishop J.C. Ryle says, “the world's idea of greatness is to rule, but Christian greatness consists in serving.” Victor Nyquist is even more firm. ‘You do not do God a favour by serving Him. He honours you by allowing you to serve Him.’ Contemporary feminist ideas and actions often seriously militate against Christian humility. Men likewise are hardly excluded from the same charge. How often we forget St. Augustine's counsel – especially as ordained ministers of God – *‘for those who would learn God's ways, humility is the first thing, humility is the second, humility is the third.’*

Can we now identify possible areas of service for Christian women? There are many. The following list is hardly exclusive and not necessarily in order of importance. It contains important aspects often overlooked or neglected, when thinking of women's ministry. Indeed, the list could be added to by any thoughtful believer who is prepared to study the Scriptures, and able to make the relevant identification. The New Testament only has been consulted, but rich Old Testament passages could also be drawn upon.

1. The Ministry of home and family. Even Christians appear to have downgraded the most important ministry of all for women. While some women are called to the single life, the majority are not. Underwritten by Scripture, The Book of Common Prayer is most deeply perceptive. Matrimony was... *‘First ordained for the procreation of children to be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of His holy Name. Secondly, it was ordained for a remedy against sin, and to avoid fornication; that such persons as have not the gift of continency might marry, and keep themselves undefiled members of Christ's body. Thirdly, it was ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.’*

It is also worth remembering the preamble to the Form of Solemnization of Matrimony ‘which is an honourable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and His Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence, and first miracle that He wrought in Cana of Galilee.’ Marriage is the first ordinance of creation. Any women's ministry compared to this must be singularly inferior! Our Lord and the Apostles upheld the privilege and glory of marriage. For Christian women it is the most profitable and consequential of all ministries. Scripture is full of examples of godly women who have produced and nurtured great and godly men, as well as lovingly supported a dependent husband. Susannah Wesley is only one example, among many, of those godly women

who have 'shaped the husband, spiritually-nurtured the children, and made the extended family,' a life time of fruitful ministry.

2. *The Ministry of prayer.* It is not essential to be "ordained," or set apart as a pastor/teacher, to have great influence for the Lord. Another of the most neglected of all ministries today seems to be that of prayer. We read of the remarkable lady, Anna (Luke 2:36-38). She had been married but was now a widow. Before Scripture revelation was complete, she is described as a prophetess. She is chiefly known for her closeness to the place of worship. She is presented to us as, "about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God (note, not with prophecy!) but with fastings and prayers night and day." In another place, the Apostle Paul speaks about widows, "trusting in God and continuing in supplications and prayers night and day" (1Timothy 5:5). What a ministry! The apostle also exhorts males and females to engage in life-transforming prayer without ceasing. In many of his Epistles, Paul reveals the character of his own intercessions. To the Ephesians he says, "God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20). How many women have been, humanly-speaking, instrumental in revivals of religion. How many men, like the great Augustine of Hippo, have been converted by the prayers of their mothers?

3. *Then there are the truly serving Ministries.* Not only "continuing instant in prayer but distributing to the necessity of saints, given to hospitality, rejoicing with those that rejoice, weeping with those that weep" (Romans 12:6-15). Women are particularly gifted and sensitive to human need in all its forms. Hospitality is a further manner of strengthening the ministries of Christians. Paul commends Phebe, a sister in the Lord, a servant of the Church... "for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also" (Romans 16:1-2).

4. *Mature Christian women can teach other women and should do so, with the Pastor's and the local church's blessing.* Titus 2:3-5 outlines the qualifications required for a female servant of the Lord. Primarily they should be "discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed." But also, "they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children."

5. *Christian women can also exercise ministry among children.* As a child, Timothy knew the Holy Scriptures, which had made him wise unto salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:15). It appears Timothy may have had a Greek (pagan) father but his mother Eunice and Grandmother Lois had done their foundational work well (2 Timothy 1:5). Who can measure the wide-sweeping consequences of teaching a child the Word of God, which is not merely limited to the home. It is extended in the local church, for example through Sunday School, Bible Classes and so on. Perhaps Charles Haddon Spurgeon was being too charitable when he said he learned all his theology from a maid girl in the home? But he made a valuable point worth remembering. How many godly men and women found Christ through instruction as children? How many have been thrust into Christian service by a woman's patient teaching of gospel passages, or the learning of memory texts?

6. *Women can bear constant witness to the Lord Jesus Christ without seeking "ordination or the laying on of hands,"* which has no command or authority of Almighty God and, therefore, can hardly merit His blessing? Acts 8:1-2 speaks of the persecution under Saul of Tarsus, which drove the whole church out into the world. He not only made havoc of the church but he "haled men and women and committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3). Other men and women were scattered abroad and "*went everywhere preaching the word*". It is significant, the Greek word used is not "preaching as an official of the church," as occurs in Acts 8:5. In Acts 8:4, the word used of women "preaching" is more in keeping with evangelism – 'gossiping the gospel'. So, there is no limit to the evangelism women can engage in, without holding a ruling/teaching office in the church.

7. *Women, surely, in the right context, can even counsel men?* Granted that Aquila was always present when Priscilla ministered to others (Romans 16:3), yet it would be foolish to assume she never spoke on these occasions! Apollos was "mighty in the Scriptures," although he lacked a more rounded Christian understanding. He was taken aside by both husband and wife. They expounded to him the way of God more perfectly (Acts 18:24-28). Subsequently, an inadequate male preacher became a mighty convincing orator; one who centred upon the Lord Jesus Christ, with fresh and fuller enlightenment, to the wider benefit of the Christian church. As a Christian Minister, I do not think I could function at all, without the contribution of my dear wife's gracious constructive criticism, and her wise and godly counsel.

It would be a useful exercise for personal Bible study, or a local church discussion group, to pursue this matter much more comprehensively. I venture to say, we have not yet discovered, “the multitude of ministries available to godly women,” supported by the infallible and ever sure Word of God.

The view of a leading contemporary evangelical scholar

A more courageous and able writer than myself has opined, with regard to non-ordained ministry, ‘*such as treasurer, staff positions such as youth minister or counselling director, or children’s minister, and so forth, the only question to be asked is whether these offices include the ruling and teaching functions reserved for elders in the New Testament. If not, then all of these offices would be open to women as well as men, for we must be careful not to prohibit what the New Testament does not prohibit*’ (Wayne Grudem; Church Government; Systematic Theology; 1994; Inter Varsity Press).

The Word of God is a final revelation but it has more light to break forth

Without being facetious, I would simply comment on the position of Church Treasurer. Women are invariably, like Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, good in handling the household budget. Judas, the apostolic treasurer, hardly shines as an outstanding model, although He was chosen by our Lord to fulfil the far-wider role in the work of our salvation, even through betrayal of the perfect Son of God. ***Such is always the grace of God. He uses the most imperfect and unworthy of human instruments***, male or female.

With respect to the wider observations and conclusions of this brief paper, I might add this. It is merely intended to be a catalyst for further study, and not a blueprint set in concrete. The Word of God is a final revelation. However, ***there is always more light to break forth from our Great God’s Written Word*** - through regular study, prayerful waiting upon the Lord, and the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit.

“For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.” (Mark 12:44)

“She hath done what she could.” (Mark 14:8)

EGYPT'S CRISIS EVENTUALLY COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU?

An article from 'The Wake Up Herald' – February 2011 (USA)

Barack Obama and the US government have called for a 'peaceful transition' in Egypt, in response to massive protests, riots and escalating anarchy. But I wonder if President Obama is taking notes? I wonder if he realises just how close America is to facing a similar crisis that could result in riots, revolt in the streets, and economic paralysis. I wonder if President Obama would act much differently to President Mubarak in Egypt. So far, small signs hint that Obama might turn out to be just as intolerant to dissent as Mubarak.

Think it couldn't happen here? Think again. Let's review the economic crisis that America faces at this very moment. Just in the days since Obama's State of the Union speech there have been numerous signs that the US faces an economic Armageddon. Dark storm clouds are fast approaching:

- The US budget deficit is far more than even economic experts imagined.
- Unemployment is up yet again – far more than experts projected.
- Social Security shortfalls are bigger and have happened sooner than any expert predicted – a decade sooner.
- Fourth Quarter GDP was lower than projected – and even the figure released was merely the result of the Fed printing fake money 24 hours a day, to create false consumer confidence, to prop up a US economy that is falling off a cliff.
- The foreclosure crisis is deepening beyond what any expert imagined. As a result, real estate prices are falling even further, thereby threatening not only consumer spending, but the very survival of major banks.
- Inflation is skyrocketing on the two things that matter most – food and energy prices. One more disaster – perhaps the fall of Egypt, leading to an oil crisis – could lead to a hyperinflation that could turn America into a combination of Zimbabwe and the Weimar Republic.
- We already face economic Armageddon on a state and local level. US cities, counties and states are teetering on the verge of bankruptcy. Their grave financial condition is the result of massive unsustainable spending and debt, caused in a large part by irresponsible public employee salaries, pensions and health benefits. The worst part of this crisis is that the stimulus money is gone and the federal government is bankrupt, unable to bail itself out, let alone the cities, counties and states.
- There are early signs of revolt and anarchy here in America – with a record number of policemen shot and killed during a two-week period in January.
- The Middle East threatens to turn into a powder keg that could lead not to democracy, but to radical Islamic control of many Arab countries. This grave new threat to America, American interest, and the survival of our ally Israel, would lead to more military spending and a potential oil crisis that could engulf and overwhelm the US economy. In our current vulnerable economic state this tragedy could set off a worldwide economic panic.
- Japan's credit rating was downgraded on what most economists agree is a disastrous slide toward oblivion. Japan's debt is so huge it can never be repaid. As one famous economist describes the crisis they are facing: "Japan is a bug in search of a windshield." Japan's impending implosion could also trigger a worldwide economic panic.
- Spain just announced unemployment of over 20%. Not only does this news threaten the survival of the EU, it also drives a stake through Obama's strategy for saving the US economy by creating green jobs. Spain proves there is no market for green jobs. The whole idea is a mirage created by leftist progressive politicians desperately grasping for straws.

Can you imagine that all of this toxic news has occurred in only the few days since Obama's State of the Union speech?

Our economy, our country, and global conditions are deteriorating faster than any expert imagined. The threats we face are unprecedented. Although they are running the presses 24/7, our Fed can't print money fast enough to keep up with deteriorating conditions.

Our 'real' US unemployment may in fact be close to 20%. Among youth and minorities unemployment may be well over 30%. For the first time in modern history, there are few jobs for millions of new college graduates, while they each face education debt of \$100,000 or more. There are seemingly no jobs at all for minority youth without college educations - all at the same time that prices are exploding for basic essentials. Sound familiar? Those are the exact same incendiary ingredients that led to revolt, revolution, and anarchy in Egypt.

So how will President Obama react to massive protests, riots, and revolt in the USA? Will he choose to shut down the Internet? He criticises Mubarak, yet Obama is already asking Congress for the authority to do just that (without judicial review). Will Obama cut off access to Facebook and Twitter? Will he try to shut down talkradio and FOX News? Obama and his Democratic allies have already suggested doing that (before a true crisis) with 'The Fairness Act.' Will Obama attempt to ban guns? He has already come out strongly in support of gun control or bans on numerous occasions before he was even elected President. Will Obama call in the military to contain the riots of unemployed, hungry, angry youth here in America's biggest cities? Will he allow free speech - even if massive protests call for Obama to step down?

Is Obama taking notes in Egypt? He had better. Because Egypt's crisis could eventually be coming to a city near you.

By **Wayne Allyn Root**, Big Government (31 January 2011)

Comment by Robert McCurry, Editor & Publisher of "The Wake-up Herald":

God alone is the answer to America's national crisis and foreign enemies' debacle. "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD" (Jer. 17:5).

God called His pastors to proclaim His Word, to be vigilant watchmen sounding forth the clear clarion trumpet of God's Word, calling both Christians and non-Christians alike to repentance and obedience to God's law; calling out God's people to prepare for and war against the host of evil advancing all around us.

God's commission to His true preachers remains unchanged. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine**" (2 Tim 4:1-2).

American pastors, with a few exceptions, have failed in this responsibility before God, and America is paying a dire price for that failure. As goes the pulpit, so goes the church; as goes the church, so goes the nation. American's current catastrophic moral, political, and economic crisis can be traced back to passive, silent, inert pastors.

This failure must now be countered by 'Thus saith the LORD' preaching of God's Word without compromise or apology "That men may know that thou, Whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth" (Ps. 83:18). God's Word is true! Jesus Christ is the only true God, Lord, and Saviour; He is holy, completely sovereign and commands all to repent or perish! He alone is the answer to American's humanly unsolvable 'societal meltdown' and the advancing foreign enemies.

Wake-up, Pastors! Wake-up, Christians!

THE CHRISLAM MOVEMENT IN THE APOSTATE CHURCH

During the weekend of November 13, 2010, many Christian churches across the United States began a series of sermons aimed at bringing about reconciliation between Muslims and Christians. These misguided Presbyterian ministers are trying to focus on a relationship between the Holy Bible and the Koran which they call 'Chrislam'. They are saying that because the Koran mentions Jesus that there is common ground with Christianity. To prove their point, they are placing Korans alongside the Holy Bible in their pews and they are teaching that you can be a follower of Christ without necessarily believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who died for His people's sins, providing them with the gift of eternal salvation.

Writes commentator Paul Williams: "The Chrislam movement has gained impetus by statements from President George W. Bush that Christians, Jews and Muslims all worship the same God, and by Rick Warren's reference to Isa (the Muslim name for Jesus) in his prayer at the inauguration of President Barack Obama." Williams points out that Jesus in the Koran is not the only-begotten Son of God nor the Messiah. Williams says, "He is rather viewed as a prophet who was appointed by Allah to prepare mankind for the coming of Mohammad." In the Koran, Williams reminds readers, "The victim at Calvary was either Simon of Cyrene or Judas Iscariot."

The Koran states in Sura 5:17, 'In blasphemy indeed are those that say that God is Christ the son of Mary. Say: 'Who then hath the least power against God, if His will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and every-one that is on the earth? For to God belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between. He createth what He pleaseth. For God hath power over all things.' The Koran has many verses that command the followers of Allah to kill Christians and Jews if they do not convert to Islam. There is absolutely no common ground between the Holy Scriptures and the Koran when these are the mandates of the prophet Mohammed, who wrote the Koran.

Jesus said in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

This is the central doctrine of Christianity. There is instruction by the Holy Scriptures to have no fellowship with those who do not recognise the truth of this doctrine. 2 John 1:9-11 says, *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."*

Thus are those deceivers who believe in common ground with Islam.

By Bill Wright - www.outofafrica-uk.org

(Note by 'Out of Africa Newsletter' Editor) This has long been a problem in countries like Nigeria where the church has tried to compromise in order to be acceptable to Moslems and the name 'Chrislam' was first used in Nigeria.

Christian Responsibility

(Part 1 – ‘Are you a true Christian?’)

Before we consider a Christian’s responsibilities, I believe that we must first make certain we are Christians, in the true and Biblical sense. There is so much confusion, error and apostasy in our day about what constitutes a Christian, that there seems to be nothing gained in considering a Christian’s responsibilities, without first knowing that you are a true Christian.

So in this article we will explore what makes you a Christian, and then in the next issue we will consider how to identify the evidences that you are a true Christian according to the Scriptures, and not simply the “*sermon hearer*” *ritualistically ‘going to church’ and seemingly little touched or affected by what you hear or see*” as I described in the introduction (January 2011 issue). Indeed, what I described is nothing new. The first Bishop of Liverpool, J.C. Ryle, lamented over the state of the professing church in his day (19th Century).....

“The plain truth is, the vast proportion of professing Christians in the Churches have nothing whatever of Christianity, except in name. The reality of Christianity, the graces, the experience, the faith, the hopes, the life, the conflict, the tastes, the hungering and thirsting for righteousness – all these are things of which they know nothing at all.”

When observing the visible church of today one cannot escape coming to the same conclusions as Bishop Ryle. Whilst there are many divergent and often opposing views from those who profess to be Christians, there are ultimately only two, very distinct, classes of ‘Christian’ within the visible church. 1) those who are Christian in name and form only (seemingly the majority) and 2) those who are Christians in deed and in truth according to the Scriptures.

The Church of England articles of faith describe the visible church as containing *‘the evil ever mingled with the good’* (Article 26), with some *‘wicked and void of a lively faith’* (Article 29) whilst others are *‘made like the image of God’s only begotten Son, Jesus Christ’*, and who *‘walk religiously in good works’* (Article 17).

So what separates these two classes of ‘Christian’? Is there a distinguishing characteristic we can identify that makes one *‘wicked and void of lively faith’* and another *‘made in the image of God’s only begotten Son?’*

The simple answer is, yes, there is a distinguishing mark – SPIRITUAL REGENERATION.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)
(Emphasis mine)

The Apostle John calls it being *‘born again’* or *‘born of the spirit’* (John 3:3-6) and Peter calls it *‘being converted’* (Acts 3:19), and Paul being *‘alive from the dead’* (Romans 6:13). The Old Testament Prophet Ezekiel described this new birth in Chapter 36 verse 26 as God *‘giving a new heart, and putting within us a new spirit’* and *‘taking away the stony heart out of your flesh’* (Emphasis mine). As is evident from these various verses (and many others too), this is no mere change of moral state or motivation, but a complete and total renewal and transformation of the heart. This spiritual rebirth is the creation of a new creature within a body unchanged in appearance, but utterly transformed from within. This TRUE Christian is now so transformed that the same world he once loved, followed after and belonged to, is now worthless and nothing but ‘dung’ to him (Phil 3:8). He not only has a new heart and new spirit with new desires and new priorities, but he also has a new home. This life, and the world it is lived in, now offers nothing more to him than a road of pilgrimage he must take, through a foreign and hostile land, to get to his new heavenly home.

A man (woman or child) is no more capable of achieving this REGENERATION of the heart themselves than a marble statue has of giving itself life. No amount of religious observance, pious living, church attending, sermon hearing or Bible reading can do it. No Pope, priest, preacher, teacher, denomination or

'church' can accomplish it for you. No ceremony, ritual, rite or sacrament can achieve it. No work, deed or action, however charitable or worthy, has any ability to transform the human heart.

ONLY a gracious act of God can renew the heart to make you fit for heaven. This God given spiritual rebirth is what transforms, renews and enables the recipient to be made '*like the image of God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ*', and to '*walk religiously in good works*', rather than be '*wicked and void of lively faith*.' This is what separates the TRUE Christian from the 'professing' Christian. This is the common denominator for that '*great multitude*' in heaven '*which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues*' (Rev 7:9) – they have been **born again of the Spirit of God**.

You might rightly ask, "*With a transformation so radical and so complete surely there must be evidence of this new birth? Surely there are observable and identifiable marks and signs with which we may know if we have been recipients of this new birth or not?*"

Indeed there are such marks and evidences and again Bishop Ryle explains this well....

"Now these signs and evidences [of being Regenerated by the Spirit of God] are laid down plainly for us in the Scriptures. God has not left us in ignorance on this point. He foresaw how some would torture themselves with doubts and questionings, and would never believe it is well with their souls. He foresaw how others would take it for granted they were Regenerate who had no right to do so at all. He has therefore mercifully provided us with a test and gauge of our spiritual condition, in the First Epistle of John. Here he has written for our learning, what the Regenerate man is, and what the Regenerate man does – his ways, his habits, his manner of life, his faith, his experience."

I realise this is a series of articles on Christian responsibilities, which to date I have yet to cover. However, I trust you will patiently bear with me on this vital issue and be encouraged to personally examine whether you are a creature reborn and made alive from the dead by the transforming power of God and not a mere 'professing' Christian little different from the world around you and '*void of lively faith*'.

If upon personal examination this proves a matter of concern or uncertainty for you, then please take comfort from the fact that just as we have discovered in this article that God's Word leaves no room for doubt about what makes you a Christian, so too do the Scriptures make clear just what signs and evidences you can look for to be able to '*make your calling and election sure*' (2 Peter 1:10). It is some of these very marks and signs we will explore in the next issue, God willing.

Every blessing in the Lord.

Andy Clarke

A CALL TO SEPARATION

An extract from an article by - A.W. Pink

We are to hate even the "garment"—figure of our habits and ways—spotted by the flesh (Jude 23), and are to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). What a searching and sweeping word is that in 2 Cor. 7:1, "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." If any occupation or association is found to hinder our communion with God or our enjoyment of spiritual things, then it must be abandoned. Beware of "leprosy" in the garment (Lev. 13:47). Anything in my habits or ways which mars happy fellowship with the brethren or robs me of power in service, is to be unsparingly judged and made an end of—"burned" (Lev. 13:52). Whatever I cannot do for God's glory must be avoided.

2 Cor.6:14-16 "For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" How explicit and emphatic are the terms used there! No excuse whatever is there for failing to understand the terms of this exhortation, and the reason with which it is supported. "Fellowship, communion, concord, part, agreement" are so plain they require no interpreter. All unions, alliances, partnerships, entanglements, with unbelievers are expressly forbidden to the Christian. It is impossible to find within the whole range of Holy Scripture plainer language on any subject than we have here. "Righteousness, unrighteousness; light, darkness; Christ, Belial—what have they in common? What bond is there between them?"

The contrasts presented are very pointed and searching. "Righteousness" is right doing; "unrighteousness" is wrong doing. The unerring and only standard of right doing is "the Word of Righteousness" (Heb. 5:13). By this alone is the Christian's life and walk to be regulated. But the worldling disregards and defies it. Then what "fellowship" can there be between one who is in subjection to God's Word with one who is not? "Light" and "darkness" - God is light (1 John 1:5) and His saints are "the children of light" (Luke 16:8). But the children of the Wicked One are "darkness" (Eph. 5:8). What communion, then, can there be between members of families so dissimilar? "Christ" and "Belial"—what concord can there be between one to whom Christ is everything, and one who despises and rejects Him?

"For ye are the temple of the living God: as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." How blessed is this! First, we have the exhortation given, "Be ye not unequally yoked together"; second, the reason adduced, "for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?"; third, the inducement proffered. This is a divine promise, and it is striking to note it is a sevenfold one: 1) "I will dwell in them," 2) "and walk in them," 3) "And I will be their God," 4) "And they shall be My people," 5) "And I will receive you," 6) "And will be a Father unto you," 7) "And ye shall be My sons and daughters."

"I will dwell in them," is fellowship; "and walk in them," is companionship; "and I will be their God," is relationship. First, in them, then, for them; and "if God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). "And they shall be My people," is ownership, acknowledged as His. "And I will receive you," means being brought to the place of experimental and conscious nearness to God. "And will be a Father unto you" means "I will manifest Myself to you in this character, impart to your hearts all the joys of such." "And ye shall be My sons and daughters" means that such godly separation from the world will afford demonstration that we are His "sons and daughters." Compare Matt. 5:44.

"Saith the Lord Almighty." This is the only time the divine title "Almighty" is found in all the twenty-one Epistles of the New Testament! It seems to be brought in here for the purpose of emphasising the sufficiency of our Resource. As another has said, 'Let any Christian act on the Command of separation given in 2 Cor. 6:14-17, and he will find his path so beset with difficulties and so tending to arouse the hostility of all, that if his eyes are not kept fixed on the Almighty God who has thus called him out, he will surely have a breakdown.' But let it be noted that these promises are conditional, conditional on obeying the preceding exhortations. Yet if the heart lays hold of this blessed inducement, then obedience to the command will be easy and pleasant.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christian Watch Meeting in the House of Lords

Wednesday, 11th May 2011

(More details in the March Newsletter)

The Campaign for an Independent Britain Public Rally on *'Leaving the European Union'*

Saturday 2nd April, 2.30 – 5pm.

Admission FREE.

Venue:

Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, Euston, London NW1 2BJ

General Enquiries:

0116 2874622

UPC (United Protestant Council) Annual Public Meeting,

Saturday 5th March at 2pm

Subject:

SOWING & DEFENDING

Speaker:

Rev. Stephen Holland

Venue:

St. John's Wood Road Baptist Church, NW8 8QX

Enquiries:

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