

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

“And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch”

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the blessed Name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Through much mercy we are spared to commence another year and would acknowledge and be thankful for the Lord's great goodness in the many helps He has given, and also for providing our every providential need in past years. What an infinite mercy it is, as we face another year, to be able to commit ourselves, our loved ones and all our concerns to the dear Lord, who is able to do for us *"exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"* Eph.3:20. Whilst this wilderness journey appears to be increasingly difficult for all who stand firm for the Word of God, we are assured by the Lord Himself, that if we put our trust in Him, He will manage all affairs for us and bring us safely through at last. What a wonderful favour it is that we have such a kind and gracious God to go to, who feels for our infirmities and invites us to cast all our burdens and cares upon Him. What fools we are when we try to manage these concerns ourselves.

We have much need to pray that our national rulers be given wisdom. There are, however, an increasing number of instances, which indicate the Lord has removed this from them. This is surely just what we deserve, because of our national rejection of His laws and commandments. A recent example of this is the signing and final ratification of the Lisbon Treaty by Prime Minister Gordon Brown, in spite of the Government's promise that a national referendum would first be held, to determine the wishes of the people. The consequences of this action will progressively become apparent. However, the immediate implication is that the United Kingdom is no longer an independent sovereign nation and will be required to implement laws determined by un-elected dictators based in Brussels. Our Government has betrayed One thousand years of British history - which contains many examples of the Lord's goodness, mercy and deliverances from various enemies who were determined to overthrow our God-given Protestant heritage.

We include some details given in an address by Dr. Lee Rotherham at an Oxford Union debate last October entitled, **IS THERE A FUTURE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM OUTSIDE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION?** Among various details and options given are the costs incurred by our membership of the EU, which amount to £12,366 per minute. When this is considered in the light of the benefits we accrue as a result of our membership, there is every reason to support the **Campaign for an Independent Britain**, from whose newsletter this article was reproduced.

One of our Committee Members, Anthony Busk, has carried out a detailed investigation into **THE EUROPEAN EQUAL TREATMENT DIRECTIVE** and his report is included under that heading. The possible consequences, if this Directive becomes law in the United Kingdom, are explained, particularly relevant to our religious freedom. Because of the way in which this Directive is worded its implications could soon affect every aspect of the Christian way of life. Freedom of conscience would no longer be permitted and eventually it could result in a threat to western civilisation as we know it today. We request you to communicate with your MP and MEP to express your concern at the possible consequences, should this Directive become law.

The recent earthquake in Haiti with the terrible consequences in terms of loss of life and destruction, remind us of the ability and power of God to do *"according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"* (Daniel 4:35). We marvel that the Lord continues at present to spare our guilty nation from such an experience, but surely it should be a solemn warning to us and every other nation that forgets God and indulges in evils the Word of God condemns. We include an article by Dr. Alan C. Clifford under the title, **THE BIBLE AND HOMOSEXUALITY** which clearly sets forth the laws of God on the subject, but also emphasises that there is forgiveness for such sins, subject to real repentance and abstinence from them.

There are many subtle methods the devil uses in his endeavour to captivate our time and affections, many of which may appear legitimate and harmless. How important it is that we examine ourselves to establish if that which we do with our spare time is not harmful to our spiritual condition. Two popular devices, which are now in many homes, are the television and the computer, both of which can provide beneficial information but can also have a very harmful effect. Various computer programmes are available that allow a variety of subjects to be researched and the danger is that Satan has a detailed knowledge of all these and also an understanding of the sinful inclinations of the human heart and mind. He also knows in particular, how to entice and ensnare the younger generation. We include an article on this subject which was published in the Friendly Companion magazine last August under the title, **AN UNWELCOME(?) STRANGER – A Warning!** It conveys its message in an indirect but interesting way, which can be understood by the younger generation.

After the many celebrations in the closing days of the past year, most of which manifested no regard for either the name or birth of the One whose name they use, we hope it may prove profitable to meditate a little upon the fundamental biblical truths concerning the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth. With this in view we include an article on the subject by the late Bishop J. C. Ryle entitled, **THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH** in which he explains that whilst the Lord Jesus Christ retained His God-head, it was in His manhood that He experienced not only the same temptations and trials of His people (yet without sin), but also suffered and died to atone for their sins.

May we be given grace to follow the Lord in the example that He has provided for the instruction and benefit of all who rightly value His condescension in undertaking to redeem His people from an eternity in hell.

In our Nov/Dec Newsletter the CW Notice Board detailed a plan for a campaign in Glasgow. Substantial progress is being achieved and we include a report in the 'Notice Board' Section by our National Campaign Manager, Andy Clarke.


We were pleased to receive a report from the UKIP NEC Chairman, Paul Nuttall, that the self confessed lesbian, Nikki Sinclair MEP, will not be permitted to stand again as a UKIP candidate at future elections. However, we were saddened to read a report in the Daily Mail (14th January) that the Liberal Democrat leader, Nick Clegg, has stated that homosexuality is both normal and harmless and he wants all schools, including faith schools, to be legally obliged to teach this. It is very important that we communicate our abhorrence of this statement to both present and/or prospective Lib/Dem. MPs.

There is a constant decline in all biblical standards, particularly in those nations who have been historically the most favoured by the Lord - in that they have been given faithful translations of His Holy Word and Gospel preachers to proclaim it. The faithful servant of the Lord, John Owen (1616 – 1683) witnessed similar times in his day and published an address entitled, **PERILOUS TIMES**. Because of its relevance to the present times, we are republishing a slightly abridged version under the same title. A perilous time results from departing from the Word of God. The consequence is that errors abound and many are satisfied with a form of godliness. John Owen emphasises the duty of both the Christian Church and its individual members at such times. Further details will be included in our February Newsletter, DV.

Finally we desire to thank all who have renewed their membership for this year and in addition we gratefully acknowledge the kindness and generosity of all who have sent us donations recently and during the past year. We also remind those who have not yet renewed their membership, that it is now overdue. (A renewal form was included in our Nov/Dec edition.)

In closing, we take this opportunity to wish all our Members a happy New Year. Our desire is that you may each be favoured with a felt nearness to the Lord, who is able to provide for us all we need for time and eternity.

Yours in the Lord's service,



David Crowter

Management Committee

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

IS THERE A FUTURE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM OUTSIDE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION?

Extracts from an address given by Dr. Lee Rotherham at an Oxford Union debate, sponsored by the Tax Payers Alliance on 20th October 2009.

Is there a future for the UK, either in terms of withdrawal from the EU or having a much looser membership?

Our current terms are disastrous. The very proof of just how disastrous is demonstrated by the fact that the sums are deliberately kept hidden from us. There was an attempt by the Treasury to cost what EU membership means to us financially that took place when Ken Clark was Chancellor. But he found out about it and pulled the plug. So the sums stayed hidden. There was an attempt by the Treasury to cost what EU membership means to us financially that took place when Gordon Brown was Chancellor. But he found out about it and – guess what – he pulled the plug too, and the sums again stayed hidden

So what are the costs of membership?

Net costs

Let's start with the membership fees. Net payments over the whole of Britain's membership, from 1973 as far as next year's estimates in 2010, run to 81 billion pounds. That is the amount paid in total by Britain, once all the grants it has received have been subtracted, just for participating. Gross, it runs to a quarter of a trillion pounds, donated to the EU to manage on our behalf. Many would say mismanage; the case studies speak for themselves.

In the current year of EU membership, the simple net cost for Britain is estimated to run at 6.5 billion pounds. The UK is giving in aid more to other wealthy EU countries than it is giving in total (through DFID) to the empty-bellied and destitute across the whole of the world.

Now let's make the scale easier in the mind's eye. An amount of 6.5 billion pounds a year works out to over half a billion every calendar month. For example, while you were away on holiday for a week that August, the country handed over another 125 million pounds. The Saturday you stayed over with relatives, the country paid out 17.8 million pounds. In the time that it took you to boil an egg, £37,098 was surrendered to the EU. That is £12,366 in one minute. But let's picture that.

Equivalent builds

The amount paid to the EU in just two days pays for the whole Royal Family for a year. Three days would have kept your local community hospital running for a year. Five days of EU membership would have covered all the repairs needed to every cathedral in England. Ten days would have bought a new Belmarsh prison. It's a self-inflicted wound. Why not just cut out the middle man? Forget Brussels and simulate the cost ourselves.

Instead of handing over three and a half weeks of net payments, you could mimic the financial loss by cutting down all the trees in England looked after by the Forestry Commission and ploughing salt into the soil. For the equivalent value effect of five months of fees, you just burn every picture and every painting in the National Gallery.

Outside of the EU, we wouldn't have to pay these extortionate membership fees. But now look at the other costs. We could take time out to look at the democratic potage, the shambles of accountability, the saga of the whistleblowers, but let's keep it financially focused. Starting with red tape.

Red tape

Some estimates have placed the total burden on the UK economy of EU red tape at running up to £100 billion. That's about the size of the Hungarian economy being wasted as a proportion of the whole British economy through needless regulation. Let's be more cautious and just use what an EU Commissioner has estimated. Gunther Verheugen estimated EU red tape costing the European economy one twentieth of the

entire EU economy, 600 billion euros. That figure incidentally is almost four times the official EU estimate of the value of the Single Market – 165 billion euros GDP increase up to 2002.

In 2004, EU Commissioner Peter Mandelson put the cost at 4% of EU GDP, that is to say double his department's estimate of the trade benefits of membership.

Our share of the EU red tape costs come in at a ball park figure of £50 billion even according to the Enterprise Commissioner. This red tape is designed to affect only that part of Britain's trade which is exported to the rest of the EU. Laws relevant to 9% of the economy are applied to 100% of the economy, because less than one pound in ten comes from exports to the EU, over one in ten from trade beyond the EU, and eight in ten from trade within the UK.

Ten options

No doubt our opposing guests will suggest that costs are inevitable, because we have to be fully signed up members of this club in order to trade with them. I say Phooey! Look at the facts. There are many different forms of trading association.

1. France is a full EU member.
2. Denmark is a full EU member with some opt outs.
3. Norway has an internal market association outside of the EU.
4. Turkey is in a customs union.
5. Switzerland has a symmetric free trade agreement.
6. South Africa has an asymmetric free trade agreement.
7. Georgia has a partnership and cooperation agreement.
8. Macedonia has a non-reciprocal trade preference agreement.
9. Japan has most favoured nation (MFN) treatment.
10. Even North Korea has 'less-than MFN' terms.

Look at the Mexico agreement for example and you will be shocked at the similarities with the old EEC accession agreement for the UK; swap areas around, like adding clauses on mining; and subtract supranational institutions, and you get precisely the sort of trading deal that is plausible.

Special clause

And yes it is plausible, because under Article 7a (formerly i-56) of the Lisbon Treaty, we expressly read:

1. The Union shall develop a special relationship with neighbouring countries, aiming to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the values of the Union and characterised by close and peaceful relations based on cooperation.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the Union may conclude specific agreements with the countries concerned. These agreements may contain reciprocal rights and obligations as well as the possibility of undertaking activities jointly. Their implementation shall be the subject of periodic consultation. Even Valéry Giscard d'Estaing foresaw there would be countries that the EU would want close relationship without full membership. THIS PRINCIPLE IS INCLUDED IN THE LISBON TREATY! Britain could and should be one of them.

Ever-closer union

The alternative is inevitably an ever-closer union. I respect the Federal Trust for arguing the case openly. Many of their fellow travellers do not. Let's be absolutely clear about this; the EU is a prototype and nascent federal state. It has many of the attributes and trappings of a nation state:

Passport; anthem; flag; patron saints; national holiday; common external borders; suppression of internal borders; Declaration of Human Rights; dedicated taxes; police college; Supreme Court; regional aid; flagged universities; propaganda agency; common currency; Central Bank; R&D authority; patents office; designated army, navy and air force; military HQ; a police authority; Cabinet; capital city (indeed two!); development aid; Press training college; multi billion pound building portfolio with armed security; national waters; central agriculture policy; budget larger than that of several member states; directly elected Parliament; citizenship; Intelligence system; dedicated civil service; Foreign Minister; embassies; diplomatic service; diplomatic immunity; pending legal personality; nuclear authority; joint transport network; constitution;

Ombudsman; viceroys; Zollverein; Oath of Allegiance; national museums; classified document caveats; state TV stations; supremacy of Community law; 21 departmental agencies covering gender equality, narcotics, vocational training, Fundamental Social Rights, food safety, chemicals, diseases, aviation

The list goes on and increases with every passing treaty.

Past the sell-by date

The EU is a thing of the past, the child of World War 2. Reflect on where we were when Britain joined in 1973 and where the world is at today. Instead of global protectionism there is GATT. Instead of COMECON and hostile trade blocks there is world trade. Instead of a lack of confidence over decolonisation there is postcolonial post-Thatcher Britain. Instead of the threat of Russian tanks coming through the Fulder Gap, there is the danger of losing our competitiveness to the Pacific Rim through a trade gap.

Even outside of the EU, especially outside of the EU, Britain remains a major player, a major economy, a key investor, a country of the world.

Conclusion

So I say to you: there is life beyond Brussels, outside of the EU, in a new trading arrangement. But inside, there is the absence of life. Life is squeezed out of the nation state. We are talking ultimately and inevitably about the death of Britain

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THE EUROPEAN EQUAL TREATMENT DIRECTIVE – A THREAT TO WESTERN CIVILISATION

'I hope I can assure you that nothing in our domestic law (or for that matter within the draft EU Directive) would be a threat to free speech or religious conscience. Religious freedom is a fundamental human right that we intend to protect'

This is a policy statement from Michael Foster MP, in a letter received by constituents in late November 2009. As a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Equalities Office Mr Foster has the brief to support the EC Directive '*Equal Treatment*'.

Apparently a very constructive introduction, however one has to ask whether the alarm raised already regarding this Draft Directive is entirely misplaced? Unfortunately, following this welcome statement the minister in his letter appears to then ignore *religious conscience* as if it should no longer exist, and focus only on *religious freedom*, which is then described as a series of '*activities*'. Mr Foster writes:

'Religious freedom is a fundamental human right that we intend to protect. In short, activities that are necessary to exercise religious freedom will not be compromised...'

Then according to the government, religious conscience has no place within a secular society, which is confirmed by the way religious conscience is being challenged in the courts. For example, on November 30th.2009 Gary McFarlane, a Christian professional counsellor working for *Relate* lost his appeal against unfair dismissal, because he could not personally on conscience grounds give advice to homosexual couples on how to improve their sex lives. The Court refused to accept that the expression of religious conscience was a defence, even though reasonable alternative services were available.

Having dispensed with religious conscience, Mr Foster on behalf of the government now sees *religious freedom* as a series of definitions with boundaries, outside of which there is no freedom! The flexibility enshrined in UK common law has disappeared. This new approach is clearly demonstrated in the Equality Bill, where churches are to be 'told' for example what is the role of Christian ministers, and for anyone engaged in work outside of these definitions then 'equality' legal constraints would apply, such as in recruitment policy.

Taking the two points together, religion based personally held opinions on right and wrong should no longer be protected in law. There is no longer freedom of conscience, and religious freedom would be strictly proscribed. This is a travesty of the 1966 United Nations *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, that considers the human rights of freedom of thought, conscience and religion as being so important that even in time of public emergency, threatening the life of the nation, these principles must not be abandoned! They are enshrined in other documents such as *The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)* that all European Member States are expected to implement. These protocols in turn go back to collective decisions that were made following the Second World War, in order to prevent the re-emergence of fascism and communism.

If freedom of speech can be legitimately made subservient to various hostile interpretations of equality law in the workplace under existing legislation, what is likely to be the scenario should the EC Draft Directive *Equal Treatment* become law in this country? The government minister in his letter *welcomed the proposal* to prohibit discrimination because of age, disability, sexual orientation, and religion or belief, acknowledging that some of its proposals are already within domestic legislation. This then is their position. Because it is an EU Draft Directive to be passed across within the new *European Union*, it will largely be imposed upon Great Britain, with extremely limited manoeuvrability by whatever government party is in power.

Guilt Assumed

Within the Equal Treatment Directive the focus of this paper will be on sexual orientation and religion or belief. Their inclusion has the potential to directly confront established Judeo-Christian teaching, which of course is particularly rooted within the United Kingdom. The root menace lies in the Directive's legal posture, which draws together a loosely worded definition of *harassment*; an assumption of *existing guilt* so that innocence has to be proven (contrary to British legal Anglo-Saxon principles); and no upper limit to *damages*.

The definition of harassment is so broad as to create immense opportunities for militant campaigning organisations such as Stonewall, the National Secular Society, and some Islamic bodies to advance in their goals of disintegrating Christian teaching and witness. When confronted, an accused individual or Christian organisation will be faced with proving that written or spoken text or other behaviour had not... *violated the dignity of a person, and of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.* (Article 2:3). How can it be shown in court that the recipient of opinions contrary to their own was or was not offended despite what is alleged?

The Directive introduces the principle of *thought-crimes*, where strongly held opinions on religion or belief, or sexual orientation, are deemed to be so critical and so sensitive to personal feelings that free speech cannot be allowed to flourish! Simply to cause offence is sufficient to demand silence. The Directive, because it is designed to punish the expression of alternative viewpoints, will block freedom of speech for fear of legal retribution not only across this nation but also across Europe!

Christian Bodies at Risk

It is not just commercial activity where money is exchanged that would be affected; education, charities and other non profit making bodies carrying out a professional service will also come under this Directive. If the government deemed that long established missionary societies should *not* be classed as religious bodies, other than in narrowly defined activities such as time spent in specific evangelism, the full force of equality law will apply to that Trust. Organisations such as Tearfund would be particularly vulnerable because of the very high proportion of social action it undertakes, and a necessarily large administrative staff. This would also include interference with biblically based constitutions to force adherence, to 'equality law'. That could include being forced to employ staff who may well be totally opposed to what that organisation stands for and its practices.

Social Enterprises and other charitable works that are not specifically 'Christian' in their activities may therefore find they suffer continued harassment and massive expenses through being sued repeatedly on various pretexts. And the same would apply to businesses led by Christians who already suffer discrimination. Mr Foster actually mentions in his letter the example of it being against the UK law. '*... for the owner of a bed and breakfast business to refuse to provide a room to a gay couple*'.

Under the new Directive, with the government's current attitude, the penalties for holding on to a Christian conscience would be far more severe and punitive. Christians are already being discriminated against under employment law in the public sector. In the private realm with a heightened risk of other employees claiming that a Christian work colleague could be intimidating or creating an offensive environment, there would be an additional business risk in recruiting 'born again' Believers.

The Christian media is specifically not excluded, and should programmes be deemed 'offensive' - such as teaching on Islam, or testimonies by homosexual converts - then again massively expensive legal costs could be incurred, with the potential of large damages being awarded to the complainants. Even teaching against humanism could evoke a response if such organisations with their *beliefs* considered themselves degraded or humiliated. The right to free speech does not enter the equation, and newspapers, radio and television channels would have to choose between compromising the Word of God or being forced into extinction through punitive damages!

It is likely that there will be a further clarification of which Christian church's activities will be within the Directive's influence, and the Directive could encroach even further on the activities of the church. For example the content of Sunday school lessons that teach marriage and the heterosexual family, or whether 'ministry' by church officers is discriminatory in its approach towards homosexuals who deliberately put themselves forward to test attitudes. There is already case law that establishes how homosexuals now have the right to be employed to run youth work if they are appropriately qualified in a competitive recruitment environment.

Under the current Equality Bill, because Local Authorities, including the police will have a *duty* to promote 'equality', one may expect in future such bodies armed with this stronger Directive to deliberately look for breaches. Ominously Local authorities are recruiting thousands of so-called '*Neighbourhood Champions*'. For example, in Harrow² although the function of participants initially is to deliver 'cleaner and safer streets', they later could be trained to report more serious offences such as child abuse and racial harassment. The Directive would provide a framework for a more intense harassing of Christian families and individuals if functions were extended to religion, sexuality and belief.

Sadly, towards the close of his letter the minister clearly signals the Government is now not averse to the introduction of 'harassment' provisions in the area of sexual orientation, and religion and belief. He writes: *'...As we complete our analysis we will be looking to consider the potential risks and merits associated with the proposal'*. It is therefore likely that the Equal Treatment Directive will be fully applied within the context of current and intended equality law, making the Directive even more obnoxious in its impact than in its present draft format.

What is pushing 'Equality' Legislation?

The philosophy behind the 'equality' argument is to punish those who cause offence, through criticising an underlying value or opinion that when expressed to another can be *intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or create an offensive environment*. The Directive's 'Equal rights' of sexual orientation and religion or belief are driven by value systems, these are under girded by punitive legislation that is clearly intended to clash with and displace traditional European concepts of morality, and certainly with biblical and orthodox Christian teaching. The homosexual lobby such as Stonewall has persistently demanded that their supporters should have the means to crush any criticism!

A person's strongly held religious views may conflict with society's conventional beliefs, and 'equality law' exalts those value systems with legal tools that would silence contradiction. Lobbying both at United Nations levels and for many years making strident demands of the UK government, mainstream Islamic groups have vigorously wanted a means of silencing disapproval of Sharia practices alien to Western Society. This is quite the opposite to the principle of free speech, where open discussion is encouraged, with respect within bounds for the opinions of others.

The Liverpool Christian hoteliers, the Voelanzangs, accused of insulting a Muslim won their case on December 9th 2009 on the grounds of the existing right in this country to freedom of expression³. But if the *Equal Treatment* directive had been in force, the outcome would have been very different. Firstly, having been offended, the complainant would have had a *prima facie* case for civil action to commence. Then the Voelanzangs would be assumed to be guilty of causing offence unless they could prove that actually the complainant was *not offended*. How do you prove a negative? The consequence of failure would be payment of damages and legal costs, which could be massive. The message then goes across the country – do not ever criticise the Muslim faith and practice in any way- or face the consequences!

This Equality strategy, far from providing a protective arm for the under-privileged, is a political tool to replace vital democratic processes of freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and freedom of religion with a centrally controlled means of determining what the populace should accept as right and wrong, good or evil.

An Onerous Trend

Again, humanism or secularism are lawfully recognised belief systems, and it has long been an aspiration for militant organisations to be able to silence censure. Whilst it may appear far fetched, because 'belief' can be a political viewpoint such as the many faceted aspects of secularism including the principles of eugenics, this Directive does open the way for communism and fascism to promote their 'value systems' using equality principles. Through the 'equality' argument of causing offence against particular facets, step by step marxist-socialist policies inherent in humanism can be introduced. Some would argue that the intolerance of Christians in the public sector, reflects the attitude that faith groups with their focus on loving care undermines the Darwinian principle of 'survival of the fittest', and therefore is hampering the evolutionary development of animal man!

However bizarre this may seem, the concept is not new of punishing those who frustrate the imposition of new value systems and so cause offence to those in power. The Nazi concentration camp system, replicating the camps established under Stalin, came about because of the party's attitude towards opposition, and it started once the party had gained sufficient power in 1933 to fully enforce its beliefs.

In *The History of World War II (vol 24)*⁴ which was originally written shortly after the end of the Second World War, characteristics of the typical political prisoner are given:

... all those who, by their ideas and convictions, represented a resistance, active or passive, suspected or real, against one or the other of the establishment. He could be a communist, a socialist, a liberal or a democrat, a trade unionist or a member of the university, a Christian, a pacifist or merely a fanatic. They all, from the state's point of view, represented evil. Opposition was not considered as opposition but as a crime, and disagreement as heresy.

Value systems that constituted Fascism emerged gradually, supplanting freedom of speech, freedom of conscience and religion. Good and evil were defined by whether the state's values were accepted or not by its citizens, and progressively terror replaced democracy. A 'civil service' emerged based on a multiplicity of directives, that once in place gained a momentum of its own, and which were increasingly ruthless against its own people.

'This idea of evil brought in the irrationality of unbridled passions, and society began to break down, it became irrational in all its activities, but retained an inner logic which dominated the concentration camp world' (ibid).

Why is the government's Equality Office, under the guise of human rights, equality, and discrimination set on the course of removing the right of conscience, the right to conduct the Christian faith in accordance with its tenets, and the general right of freedom of speech? In its active support of the Equal Treatment Directive, with the Equality Bill as a precursor, is it not laying down a mechanism by which the State may systematically and secretly impose upon Great Britain the same militant totalitarianism that has cost, and still costs millions and millions of innocent lives across the world!

Already in place are hundreds of un-elected quangos, and supported by many civil servants who are rewarded for their successes. All Local Authorities have to follow a stringent Equality Standard, and within this are targets '*to eliminate the barriers that create that disadvantage*'. Across the country an unelected bureaucracy fuelled by the government's equality agenda is riding rough shod over democratically elected MPs and councillors to impose its own interpretations of right and wrong without reference to the damage and heartache caused.

On the train the other day, a passenger remarked to another on how her husband had moved into the Planning Department of a Council and he was astonished to be told to make sure the design of buildings did not cause offence! To whom?

Who would have imagined a Christian Care Home made up of Believers over 80 years old being denied Council funding to support a warden unless they undertook the following: To ask residents every three months about their sexual orientation, use images of homosexuals in its promotional literature, and show a *Stonewall* presentation on gay rights to staff. This was Brighton and Hove City Council, and only the threat of legal action by The Christian Institute and with national publicity did the Council restore the support⁵.

A Christian Response

Sadly, if William Wilberforce were alive today and being aware of the slavery trade, would evangelical leaders warn him that this was interference with the State and encourage him to follow through his initial intention of going into the ministry?

Amos 5:15 exhorts the Lord's people to:

'Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph'.

To '*establish judgment in the gate*' must be seen as a Christian's duty. According to Romans 13, those in authority have a grave responsibility to '*not be a terror to good works, but to the evil*'(v3), and the context of the chapter refers to the moral law as the touchstone. Christians are instructed in the same chapter that '*love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law*' (v10).

If Believers are to exercise biblical love to the world around they cannot avoid a personal responsibility to show more than a passing interest in what is happening within our society. Love is a relationship, and through intelligent and informed testimony and prayer with those who serve us in different capacities, not only is the teaching of Scripture used to highlight the difference between righteousness and wickedness, but also provides opportunities to proclaim the Gospel of saving grace.

We do not know the hearts of people we may meet. This was the situation when Jonah went to Nineveh, anticipating that his preaching would be a waste of time. Yet there *was repentance*, and a chastened Jonah had to be told by our Lord that he should have pity on people who *'cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand...'* (Jonah 4:11-12). The vast majority of British people have no contact with Scripture, and the same is likely to apply to those in authority both in Parliament and other public bodies. We are in no position to judge beforehand whether or not our witness will be accepted or rejected. However, if nothing is done and we behave like Jonah, then we shall never find out – until it is too late.

Because of protests from across Europe, the original timetable has been extended and there is still opportunity to speak out. The most appropriate route is a letter to your MP, or MEP. It is likely they have not thought through this draft Directive and will be alarmed.

Anthony Busk – Christian Watch Committee Member

Footnotes

1. Article 18
18.1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.
18.2. No one shall be subject to coercion, which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.
18.3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.
2. London Evening Standard November 9th 2009. Article: 'Army of snoopers spying on London' It is worth noting that in communist countries community watchers are a vital part in the political control of the population.
3. Daily Mail Victory for Free Speech - Paul Bracchi article p22 10/12/09
4. The History of World War II Lt. Col. Eddy Bauer et al - Orbis Publishing Ltd. London 1972.
5. Christian Institute News letter Newcastle upon Tyne February 2009

Christian Watch Note

Meeting your MP/MEP armed with these facts and other material featured in previous newsletters is the most effective way to express your opinion. If unable to meet with them, then speaking directly to them or writing a letter is the next most effective thing to do. Also, with an election looming and with such a large number of MP's standing down – it may be worth writing to prospective candidates in your constituency. You should find these details from the Political Party websites.

You Can Find Your MP/MEP's Details at

www.TheyWorkForYou.com

THE BIBLE AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Opposing the decadent agenda of aggressive liberals, orthodox Bible-believing Christians appeal to the authority of the Scriptures in the belief that there are 'absolutes'. Indeed, the Bible continues to provide infallible guidance to be applied in today's circumstances. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments do not simply provide documentary examples of the values of a bygone age for merely historical interest.

Progressive revelation

However, Christians do believe in 'progressive' revelation. With the culmination of divine revelation in our Lord Jesus Christ, certain aspects of the Old Testament became redundant. For instance, Israel's civil and ceremonial codes were not, in all their details – including the stoning of blasphemers and adulterers, to be carried over into the New Testament era. They were not to be binding on Gentile or Hebrew believers. Christ himself refused to allow the stoning of the adulterous woman (see Jn. 8:1-11). In the New Testament, there are no precedents for blasphemers being stoned. In short, new rules replaced old ones in the atmosphere of international and anti-discriminatory grace.

Law and Grace

However, the principles of the moral law – the Ten Commandments – were not abrogated. In the realm of sexual ethics, homosexuality continues to be regarded as sinful and unacceptable (see Romans 1: 26-7), along with adultery and fornication (see 1 Cor. 6:9). Heterosexual marriage remains the normal relationship for valid sexual activity. However, in accordance with the gospel of God's grace, sexual deviance disqualifies no one for Church membership *provided it is accompanied by repentance and a change of lifestyle*. Therefore all sin – including homosexuality – may be forgiven but no unrepentant sinner has any place in the fellowship of the Church of Christ. Within wider society, without prescribing civil penalties, the Church must act as salt and light, promoting by holy and loving example, the acceptance of Christian values.

What is Sodomy?

The view that sodomy in the Old Testament was not homosexuality but failure to show hospitality has no justification. Certainly Ezekiel (16: 49-50) describes the 'iniquitous' affluent and selfish society of Sodom as the materialistic and indulgent setting for the 'abominations' described in Genesis 19: 5-8. These were clearly sexual rather than social. Indeed, as was also the case with ancient Greece and Rome, these things often go together. Western affluence has also become the occasion for moral decline in general and the growth of sexual perversion in particular.

Sodomy and slavery

It is fallacious to set aside the New Testament prohibition of homosexuality on the grounds that Paul once acquiesced in now discredited slavery. When we realise that the spiritual and moral challenge of the Christian Faith did not involve a wholesale assault on the political and social culture of the Roman world, it is easy to see why Paul did not attack slavery as such. However, he did encourage slaves to seek their freedom (see 1 Cor. 7:21). Such teaching, coupled with the Biblical law of loving one's neighbour, contained the seed for the ultimate overthrow of slavery. However, there is no evidence to suggest that we may take a lenient and less rigorous view of the evil of homosexuality. It remains an abomination in the sight of God, besides being held in abhorrence by most human beings.

Gay gene?

It is simply not proven that homosexual orientation is determined at birth. No genetic explanation is forthcoming in this respect. However, there is much evidence that a soft and luxurious social environment promotes homosexual tendencies. Besides, if a 'gay gene' could be identified, the same might be true for adultery, murder and stealing. Such activities might conceivably be decriminalised on such grounds, to the utter ruin of civilised society as we have known it!

The Bible and the Body

Loving sexual relationships are to be confined to heterosexual marriage. Fidelity within marriage is the ultimate antidote to AIDS and other STDs. From a strictly physiological and anatomical standpoint, the human body is not constructed for anal intercourse. Such a common sense conclusion hardly requires a medical expert to validate it. Thus sodomy is nothing less than 'body abuse'. It is rightly regarded as a moral perversion.

Homophobia

It remains true that homophobia should not be encouraged any more than any other phobia. However, it is inconsistent to permit homosexuality and yet warn young people of its dangers. Medical, social and emotional consequences militate against the legislation of homosexuality at any age.

Transforming Grace

From the standpoint of the Christian Gospel, it is true that the love of God is available to homosexuals. Yes, it is true that God calls everyone into His everlasting love but we must repent of our sins, trusting alone in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Like adulterers and murderers, homosexuals must repent of their particular sin if they wish to be part of Christ's Church and be saved. As there is no limit to the transforming power of God's grace and Holy Spirit, so those with homosexual tendencies may be delivered from them. Such grace includes the power to repent. Such repentance is necessary. This is the judgment of God's Word, the Bible. We must not reject those whom God accepts but neither must we change His rules. What the Lord Jesus said to the adulterous woman applies equally to penitent homosexuals: "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (John 8:11). The Bible must be taken as a whole without us changing or diluting parts we find hard to accept.

Dr Alan C. Clifford,
Pastor, Norwich Reformed Church

THE UNWELCOME (?) STRANGER

A Warning!

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small Texas town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family; he had a special niche. My parents were very good parents in many ways. My mother taught me good from evil, and my Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger ... he was our storyteller. He would keep us spell-bound for hours, with adventures, mysteries and even comedies! (Even though we would never go to a cinema!).

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history, or science, he always claimed that he knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future. He took the family to the first major league game (although we would never have been allowed to go and watch a match!)

Sometimes I noticed that Mum would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other, to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave!)

Dad ruled our family with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obliged to honour these. Profanity, for example, was never allowed in our home: not from our friends nor any visitors. Our long-time visitor, however, could swear with words which made my Dad squirm and my mother blush. But he was never asked to leave, as he should have been.

We were never allowed the free use of alcohol, but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis, as he did cigarettes and tobacco, which he made look "cool."

My parents were very strict in their morals, but the stranger could talk freely (much too freely!) about things which should never once be mentioned in a Christian home. His comments were sometimes blatant, and sometimes even worse.

I know now that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked... and NEVER asked to leave as he should have been.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly so fascinating as he was at first. Still if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name?

We just call him "TV."

He has a wife now ... we call her "Computer."

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THE WORD MADE FLESH

By Bishop J.C. Ryle (1816-1900)

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth”. (John 1:14)

The passage of Scripture now before us is very short, if we measure it by words. But it is very long, if we measure it by the nature of its contents. The substance of it is so immensely important that we shall do well to give it separate and distinct consideration. This single verse contains more than enough matter for a whole exposition.

The main truth which this verse teaches is *the reality of our Lord Jesus Christ's incarnation, or being made man*. John tells us that “**the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.**”

The plain meaning of these words is, that our divine Saviour really took human nature upon Him, in order to save sinners. He really became a man like ourselves in all things, sin only excepted. Like ourselves, He was born of a woman, though born in a miraculous manner. Like ourselves, He grew from infancy to boyhood, and from boyhood to man's estate, both in wisdom and in stature (Luke 2:52). Like ourselves, He hungered, thirsted, ate, drank, slept, was wearied, felt pain, wept, rejoiced, marvelled, was moved to anger and compassion. Having been made flesh, and having taken a body, He prayed, read the Scriptures, suffered being tempted, and submitted His human will to the will of God the Father. And finally, in the same body, He really suffered and shed His blood, really died, was really buried, really rose again, and really ascended up into heaven. And yet all this time He was God as well as man.

This union of two natures in Christ's one Person is doubtless one of the greatest mysteries of the Christian religion. It needs to be carefully stated. It is just one of those great truths which are not meant to be curiously pried into, but to be reverently believed. Nowhere, perhaps, shall we find a more wise and judicious statement than in the second article of the Church of England: “The Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed virgin of her substance: so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and the manhood, were joined together in one Person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very man.” This is a most valuable declaration. This is “sound speech, which cannot be condemned.”

But while we do not pretend to explain the union of two natures in our Lord Jesus Christ's Person, we must not hesitate to fence the subject with well-defined cautions. While we state most carefully what we *do* believe, we must not shrink from declaring boldly what we *do not* believe. We must never forget that though our Lord was God and man at the same time, the divine and human natures in Him were never confounded. One nature did not swallow up the other. The two natures remained perfect and distinct. The divinity of Christ was never for a moment laid aside, although veiled. The manhood of Christ, during His life-time, was never for a moment unlike our own - apart from sin - though by union with the Godhead greatly dignified. Though perfect God, Christ has always been perfect man from the first moment of His incarnation. He that is gone into heaven, and is sitting at the Father's right hand to intercede for sinners, is man as well as God.

Though perfect man, Christ never ceased to be perfect God. He that suffered for sin on the cross, and was made sin for us, was “**God manifest in the flesh.**” The blood with which the church was purchased is called the blood “**of God**” (Acts 20:28). Though He became “**flesh**” in the fullest sense when He was born of the virgin Mary, He never at any period ceased to be the Eternal Word. To say that He constantly manifested His divine nature during His earthly ministry would, of course, be contrary to plain facts. To attempt to explain why His Godhead was sometimes veiled and at other times unveiled, while He was on earth, would be venturing on ground which we had better leave alone. But to say that at any instant of His earthly ministry He was not fully and entirely God is nothing less than heresy.

The cautions just given may seem at first sight needless, wearisome and hair-splitting. It is precisely the neglect of such cautions which ruins many souls. This constant undivided union of two perfect natures in Christ's Person is exactly that which gives infinite value to His mediation, and qualifies Him to be the very Mediator that sinners need. Our Mediator is One who can sympathize with us because He is very man.

And yet, at the same time, He is One who can deal with the Father for us on equal terms because He is very God.

It is the same union which gives infinite value to His righteousness, when imputed to believers. It is the righteousness of One who was God as well as man.

It is the same union which gives infinite value to the atoning blood which He shed for sinners on the cross. It is the blood of One who was God as well as man.

It is the same union which gives infinite value to His resurrection. When He rose again, as the Head of the church, He rose not as a mere man, but as God.

Let these things sink deeply into our hearts. The second Adam is far greater than the first Adam was. The first Adam was only man, and so he fell. The second Adam was God as well as man, and so He completely conquered.

Let us leave the subject with feelings of deep gratitude and thankfulness. It is full of abounding consolation for all who know Christ by faith, and believe in Him.

Did the Word become flesh? Then He is One who can be touched with the feeling of His people's infirmities, because He has suffered Himself, being tempted. He is almighty because He is God, and yet He can feel for us because He is man.

Did the Word become flesh? Then He can supply us with a perfect pattern and example for our daily life. Had He walked among us as an angel or a spirit, we could never have copied Him. But having dwelt among us as a man, we know that the true standard of holiness is to "walk even as He walked" (1 John 2:6). He is a perfect pattern because He is God. But He is also a pattern exactly suited to our wants because He is man.

"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made
of a women, made under the law". (Gal 4:4)

Christian Watch Notice Board

"Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength."

Winston Churchill in his first speech to Parliament as Prime Minister.

Introduction

Upon his very first entrance into the House of Commons as Britain's new Prime Minister on May 13, 1940, Winston Churchill *only received a lukewarm reception* from the assembly, while at his side outgoing Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain *was heartily cheered*. Churchill then made a brief statement, about the necessity of a unified government and talked of what he had done since being asked to form this Government.

He said.....

*"I have nothing to offer but **blood, toil, tears, and sweat**. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many months of struggle and suffering.*

You ask, what is our policy? I say it is to wage war by land, sea, and air. War with all our might and with all the strength God has given us, and to wage war against a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy.

You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs - Victory in spite of all terrors - Victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival.

I take up my task in buoyancy and hope. I feel sure that our cause will not be suffered to fail among men. I feel entitled at this juncture, at this time, to claim the aid of all and to say,

come then, let us go forward together with our united strength."

Compare this to most modern 'Church' leaders and Politicians who treat us as fools - who '*see not*' and '*hear not*' the evil of their ways. Who can blame them, however, as we are a people endowed with liberty to speak (for the moment) - but so often '*speak not*' (Psalms 115 & 135).

I believe, the need of the hour for the body of Christ and the nation, is brave '*God fearing*' leadership, not afraid to '*tell us like it is*'. Winston Churchill offered nothing but '*blood, toil, tears and sweat*' and '*an ordeal of the most grievous kind*' with '*many, many months of struggle and suffering!*'

Likewise, when Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, he like Churchill stated the obvious truths that all could see - '*Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*' (Neh 2:17). Like the magnificent response Churchill invoked in the people of Britain, the people of Jerusalem rallied around Nehemiah and declared...

'Let us rise up and build' (Neh 2:18)

At the start of 2010, let us not use the lack of '*God fearing*' national leadership to keep us from our duties and responsibilities before the Almighty. It should be plain to '*see the distress that we are in*' and **our only hope, as always, is to cry to the Lord** to help us, the people of God, to '*rise up*' and '*go forward together*'; waging war for the truth that is in Jesus '*with all our might and with all the strength God has given us*' - regardless - so that 'the Lamb that was slain may receive the reward of His suffering.'

* This was the cry of young Moravian missionaries who sold themselves into a lifetime of slavery to be able to witness of the Saviour, Jesus Christ, amongst the slaves in the Caribbean.

Activities

I intentionally did little travelling in December of last year so I could concentrate on three main issues. One, our new website (coming soon), Two, our campaign in Scotland (detailed below), and Three, preparation of material and campaigns regarding Sex Education; The European Union; The Papal visit; Gay pride marches and others.

Campaign To Stop Tax Funded Abuse of Jesus Christ, the Bible and Christians

This is a campaign against Culture and Sport Glasgow (CSG) who have supported, funded (£240,000.00) and defended the defacing of the Holy Bible ('Made in His Image' Exhibition), explicit Homosexual events and exhibitions

(shOUT) and the blasphemous play, Jesus Queen of Heaven, depicting Jesus as a transsexual who viewed all as 'equal' regardless of their sin. We do not have space in the newsletter to elaborate, but, full details of the campaign, our aims, objections, and how you can help etc are available from the website (www.CSGWATCH.com) or by requesting *Printed Information* - CSG, 5 Crowfields, Deeping St James, Cambs, PE6 8NY.

Now the campaign has become public knowledge we believe it right to provide CSG with an opportunity to rectify the situation by making certain public pronouncements and promises within the deadline stipulated, before we proceed with the other stages in our campaign.

Stage One – Has already begun with the gathering of Petition signatures whilst we await any response from CSG to our proposal. Sadly the responses to date suggests there is little chance of them accepting our proposal. So in the meantime we are compiling a 'dossier' of offences, broken statutory requirements, policies, aims and their many public pronouncements so that should we be forced to continue the campaign, we have all the facts ready to present to the necessary authorities. Further stages will be covered in future Newsletters (space permitting).

How You Can Help NOW - Wherever You Live.

- Pray for the Lord's help and blessing.
- Sign the Petition yourself – www.csgwatch.com/petition.html
- Stay informed of news and updates – www.csgwatch.com/register.html
- Help promote the Campaign – www.csgwatch.com/help.html
- Donate to the campaign – www.csgwatch.com/donate.html
- Provide any correspondence (sent and received) or media coverage you might have with regard to any of these issues, CSG itself or the Chief Executive Mrs. Bridget McConnell to dossier@csgwatch.com or the address directly below.

For printed information - CSG, 5 Crowfields, Deeping St James, Cambs, PE6 8NY

Why This Is Important

This is the first such campaign we have done which has already yielded many valuable lessons for the future. What it does show is ***how important these LOCAL actions are*** for the furtherance and defence of the Gospel and how small local actions can lead to millions (literally) hearing of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This small group of people have started awakening many in the area to the 'Perilous Times' in which we live and the desperate need for the Lord's people to make a stand for His glory. The campaign and protests to date have led to widespread coverage (details in previous newsletters) including very supportive coverage in the Scottish Daily Mail (12th January) of the current campaign (www.csgwatch.com/latestnews.html).

So please - if you need any help and assistance in making a stand for the precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, where you live, contact me urgently, and we can work together "*with all our might and with all the strength God has given us*" for the honour and glory of the Lord's name.

Andy Clarke

National Campaign Manager.

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