

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

June 2013

June 2013

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

We greet you in that Name which is above every other name, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all who are given faith to trust in Him alone for the salvation of their immortal souls. If the eye of faith is taken off the Lord Jesus Christ, how soon doubts and fears arise concerning our prospects for eternity. The Devil waits for any and every opportunity to encroach upon us with suggestions and temptations, which soon bring into question our standing for eternity.

The rapid decline and departure from the Biblical standards in the United Kingdom continues in virtually every section of the community; in Government, Church and population. How sad and solemn it is to witness the rejection of those Scriptural principles and standards upon which the nation prospered because it honoured the Lord who made Britain Great. The Lord promises to honour those who honour Him. Details of such a solemn departure are given in a personal testimony by the Rev. John Shearer in an article we include, under the title, **“The subversion of the Evangelical Party in the Church of England 1962 – 2012.”** How sad and solemn it is to witness our National Church departing from its Biblically-based Articles of Faith upon which it has stood firm for many centuries following the Reformation. May it please the Lord to open the eyes and understanding of our present Church leaders that they may earnestly contend for the Biblical foundation upon which such preachers as John Newton and Isaac Watts proclaimed the Gospel.

Those people who contend for Biblically-based religion are considered by the majority to be **“A peculiar people”** and we include an article under this title by Pastor Donald E. Martin of the U.S.A. in which he identifies some of the marks of grace which cause those who do not possess a real religion to consider those who do as a peculiar people. How important it is that we convey to everyone with whom we come into contact that we believe and trust in the Word of God for all the knowledge and understanding we need in regard to our religious beliefs. The key that identifies real religion is true faith and this is not obtained from any earthly source, but is the gift of God. How wonderful it is when we can commit our every circumstance, including troubles, afflictions and losses, into the hands of a kind and merciful Lord God, who has promised to manage all for those who have that implicit trust in Him. May we be enabled so to do in our lives and thereby bring honour and glory to the God who we profess to serve.

We are now in the ‘marching season’ for Gay Pride when the streets of our major cities are alive to the sound of raucous chanting and obscene behaviour. Pray that God will strengthen those who witness for Bible truth at such events – in the face of extreme hostility and abuse. What a state we are in when our leaders show support for such! We have included a BBC report entitled **“Cabinet Office to fly rainbow flag for gay pride week.”**

The same-sex marriage debate continues through the Committee stages in Parliament. The overwhelming vote in favour of same-sex marriage in the House of Lords was a great disappointment to God’s people but our God is still Sovereign and we can be encouraged by the article by David Wilkerson – **“God still chooses the weak”** – where each one of us – ordinary saints with child-like faith – can be used of God in the fulfilment of His Will. A report is included of a parental campaign that has been commenced under the heading **“Wellbeing**

of children being ignored in same-sex marriage debate” with a 10 point charter concentrating on the children.

We increasingly feel the importance of public witnessing, as and when the opportunity permits. The majority of people, both young and old, never hear the Word of God either preached or read to them. How imperative it is that we do all within our ability to convey the Biblical message to those who are presently ignorant of the Gospel. We know that in many towns and cities throughout our land, open-air preaching is carried out, faithfully exhorting those who pass by to heed the Word of God and in this connection we include a **“Report on open-air witnessing in Portsmouth”**. May God be pleased to bless His Word as it goes forth.

A donation form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please accept our thanks for your financial support in the past but it is vital that the work of Christian Watch is able to continue in the future. There is much that needs to be done. If you feel you can help in any way, please complete the form and return it with your gift.

In closing, may I just give a brief update on the health of our Chairman, David Crowter, and our National Co-ordinator, Michael Hobbis. David is currently in hospital following surgery for a hip replacement. Please remember him - and his dear wife - in prayer that a full recovery will be effected.

Michael has been sent home from hospital to convalesce. After three operations for severe blood loss, two small cancerous tumors were found, however, we understand that all the diseased tissue has been successfully removed and chemotherapy will not be required. It is thought that the cancer was in the very early stages and, God willing, is not likely to return. Pray too for Michael and his wife. God is good. The lovely words of the hymn - ‘Morning by morning new mercies I see’ and ‘Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow’ come to mind.

We again thank you for your prayers and support as we labour for the Master. May the Lord continue to bless us in our work and witness for Him.

Yours in our Lord’s service,

Ian Henderson

Ian Henderson,
(Vice-Chairman).

Management Committee

Mr. D. Boyd; Mr. M. Brockes (Hon. Treasurer/Co. Secretary); Mr. D. Crowter (Chairman);
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J. Cummins (Secretary)

The subversion of the Evangelical Party in the Church of England 1962-2012

A personal testimony

John Shearer

'For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.' Philippians 3.18

We are here dealing with the subject of 'apostasy', a Biblical word, which can be applied to either individuals or whole churches, where there is a serious departure from the faith of Christ, while still professing that faith. (It is a Greek word found in Acts 21.21 and in 2 Thessalonians 2.3.) At the present time, all would agree that this country, if not the whole world, is in a state of great darkness and confusion, and that largely as a result of a general departure from the laws and rule of God. From being primarily a God-fearing nation, we have become pre-eminently a God-despising nation, all within the past 50 years.

This has not just happened without any explanation. It has been organised by the prince of darkness, by 'spiritual wickedness in high places.' (Ephesians 6.12). The church itself has fallen short to the extent of substantially following the world's agenda, and the general failure of evangelicals to sound the alarm has been the chief cause of this tragedy.

As William Cowper wisely said: 'When Satan leads a nation in its sins,'Tis in the church the leprosy begins'.

But how has this happened? What has been the process? Why have men changed so much?

That is the subject I wish to put before you. How can we explain this phenomenon, when we see men professing to be Christians, but denying the truth and power? 'Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.' 2 Tim 3.5.

In one sense, this is nothing new; it has always been with us, from the time of the New Testament, but in the last 50 years it has been something of a landslide among evangelicals in the Church of England. From the little I know of other churches, similar things have taken place there too, and can be summed up in our text in the words of the Apostle Paul. 'For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.'

The Apostle is writing from prison in Rome to his Philippian friends. This was the first church in Europe, and a church which supported him in prayer and gifts beyond any other. It was a church with no problems or distractions or deceptions within it. It was a letter, therefore, which came not out of any need of correction, but out of pure love for the brethren.

They were a people with whom he could be more personal and intimate than with any other. There was no fear of being misunderstood: it was a church with whom he could 'let his hair down' and be entirely natural and personal. He would not have spoken like this to any other church: speaking to them of false believers, who once professed Christ, but, while remaining as professors within the wider Christian Church, had deviated seriously from the faith. He is speaking of those he had often mentioned with pleasure and pride; of converts from paganism, from Judaism and worldly ambitions. Then they were servants and ambassadors of Christ; but now there had been a change. They had departed from the faith while remaining in the churches and among them. (Notice that in our English version, this statement is in brackets, indicating that it is an aside from the main theme.)

'Enemies of the cross of Christ.' The 'cross of Christ.' What is that? It is the good news of the death and dying of a perfect sacrifice and substitute, the eternal Son of God, in human flesh, to make atonement for sinners who receive Him. There are three fundamental elements to the cross of Christ, which are non-negotiable: the Sinfulness of man, the Deity of Christ and the Atonement for sin made at Calvary. All these can, and should be, filled out, but reduce any of them, and the cross of Christ, the Gospel of our Salvation, is denied. We know that as early as the first century in New Testament times, there were those who denied one or all of these three pillars of the Gospel. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul has to tell them these things and warn them, for these false believers are still around and they still walk in the sphere of the churches, in order to encourage them to faithfulness to Christ, the Gospel of the cross. What I am talking about in this paper is what I have seen in Anglican Evangelicalism over the last 50 years, painful though it has been.

So let's take a quick bird's-eye-view of the more recent past.

During the Second World War, we had been pressed into a God-fearing nation, as we confronted the great enemies of Hitler and Nazism, with its arrogance, cruelty and expansionist plans. There were National Days of Prayer and most people felt the need for Divine help for our soldiers, sailors and airmen on the front line, as well as those at home facing daily uncertainty and the constant fear of destruction and even invasion, and news of injury and death of loved ones far away.

With the cessation of hostilities, there was a great flowering of Christian activity: conventions, rallies, holidays, house-parties, CSSMs, Christian Unions in schools and universities, Billy Graham at Haringay, and, not least, the ministry of Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones at Westminster Chapel. Churches experienced great growth, from All Souls, Langham Place to evangelical parish churches in almost every major centre of population. From these came a large number of young converts. Young men and young women became active and enthusiastic within them and there was much social, spiritual and evangelistic activity laid on for them. Out of this, a large number of young men began to think seriously about the Christian ministry. They would speak to their Vicar, and he would direct them to an already existing Ordinands Fellowship in the Diocese, with its own Director of Ordinands. Then they were on a fairly easy 'conveyer belt' that led to Ordination—University, Selection Conference, Theological College, and after a short 'retreat' with the Bishop they would wake up one morning in a 'dog collar' to be a minor star in a very grand service in the Cathedral, and then on to a curacy.

But one thing had been missing from all this: there was never any serious test of either a man's conversion or his call to the ministry—apart, that is, from a perfunctory announcement in his home church: 'If any of you know why...should not be ordained to the ministry of Christ's church ye are to declare it.' Of course like the Banns of Marriage, nobody does!

These young men would all be very keen and enthusiastic in their first curacy. They are men who have come under the sound of the Gospel and have seen its irrefutable logic; they have experienced the spiritual, as well as the social blessings of belonging to a Christian Church; they have seen the truth and power of the Holy Scriptures, and felt the awful responsibility for their own souls, and the urgency of convincing others about life beyond the grave. However, for many of these men, they have never been converted, never been born again, and therefore never been renewed in their inmost souls, thus making them vulnerable to error. 'Oh, that surely can't be possible?' you say. But just listen to this:

'For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the Heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: but that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. But, beloved, we are

persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.' Heb. 6.4-9.

Notice, first of all, that it is not talking of 'us' or 'you'; but 'those'—talking about some others. The metaphor of the rain coming down upon the earth producing at the same time both good crops and useless weeds, is an illustration of the spread of Gospel life bringing forth both good fruit in the believer and that which is condemned in the false professor. A closer look at the words used will indicate that we are on the right track.

'Once enlightened' The Word of God changes, brings light, even if only transitorily, for it gives a true and accurate account of Creation, the Fall, Salvation and Judgement.

'Tasted of the Heavenly gift' There is a great difference between tasting and consuming. It is possible to know the truth and reject it.

'Partakers of the Holy Ghost' The word actually means 'companions', 'alongside', and not a reception of the Holy Ghost; otherwise verses such as Philippians 1.6 would be contradicted.

'Tasted the good Word of God' Again they have tasted Bible truth in their minds, but have never digested it in heart and life.

'Powers of the world to come' They have noted the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the fact of life after death, but have never received the reality in their life.

By contrast, the Apostle is persuaded of 'better things' being true of those to whom he is writing, for they possess 'things that accompany salvation'; a new heart, a new mind and a new will. Thus it is that those who fall away, reject and deny these Gospel truths, after having come so close, cannot be renewed again. They are guilty of the unforgivable sin of 'blasphemy against the Holy Ghost.' Matt. 12.31.

So, we must now try to see, without necessarily judging any individual (for God alone knows the human heart), how it is possible for so many, in fact the vast majority, of evangelicals, to fall away from their Biblical inheritance. In one way or another, these things have always happened, in the Old Testament, as well as in the New, and all of Christian history, but over the last 50 years they have been powerfully manifest among Anglican evangelicals. A very godly man I knew well, and who had spent almost the whole of his ministry teaching in an Anglican Evangelical Theological College, said to me, near the end of his life, that he was grieved that so many of the keen and able young men he had taught had lost their zeal after a few years in the ministry. He told me that some 20 years ago, when I was unable to comment. Now as an old man myself, I am able to see things more clearly!

For in the early 60s, all the seven evangelical theological colleges were bursting at the seams, and producing some 200-300 men for ordination each year. Some of these men were very able intellectually, and gained the ear and attention of older men as well as that of their peers. So when the first National Evangelical Anglican Congress (NEAC) was to be held at Keele University in 1967, they were able to persuade the organisers to tear up the agenda, and replace it with their own progressive and modernising substitute. There was some resistance, but only by a very few among a thousand. The aim was to send out a comprehensive statement to be agreed, the separate components of which were worked out in smaller groups, and then brought to the plenary session each day for approval or amendment, which was decided on a show of hands. So incredibly, doctrine, as well as practice, was decided on a majority vote. Can you believe that? The reasoning, of course, was that if a majority of good evangelical (Bible men) believed something, then it must be right!

Keele was to be the watershed of modern evangelical history, and indeed of the Church of England itself; if not also of the Nation. For there, in that place, and at that time, there was a decisive move away from a pure Biblical creed to one of compromise and involvement. The concept of separation was abandoned. No longer would evangelicals claim their just right to be true and legitimate Anglicans, with others, such as the Liberals and Anglo-Catholics, as usurpers and trespassers on the Lord's inheritance. Now they were merely one of several different positions. 'We must work together with the whole church,' they said. 'We must come out from behind our defensive stockades.' Their idea being that we were now such a vibrant

and powerful force in the Church of England, that we could have much greater influence in the new clothing of compromise. But what a mistake!

Personally, I was so stunned by this change, which I could not entertain, that on the way home I called in to see a ministerial friend, in his first living, for some light and advice on the subject, and this is what he said to me: 'If you stay in your position in the Church of England, John, the only place it will get you is out of it.' Perhaps we should have got out at that point, as several did, for Keele was, in part at least, probably triggered by the legalisation of Mass Vestments in 1964; the first Romeward move in our Canons which evangelicals had been persuaded to accept on the grounds that no doctrinal change was implied! However, we stayed and fought a rear-guard action, for which we were not thanked, and became increasingly marginalised, especially by fellow evangelicals. One or two personal anecdotes may clarify.

(1) Being in the Oxford Diocese, I became involved with the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship of Clergy and was active on the Committee. I was aware that my view of things in the church was not shared by most others on the Committee, but imagine my surprise, having missed just one Committee meeting, being told at the next public meeting by a most apologetic Chairman, that my place was taken by someone else. I could, of course, have made a fuss about such undemocratic and high-handed procedure, but I just said, 'Thank you, Lord, for making the weakness and subterfuge of my fellow evangelicals so clear.'

(2) At one meeting of about 100 evangelical clergy, the subject up for discussion was the eternal position of the 'good non-Christian'. It was put forward that there must be some way in which a righteous God would know the good and noble work of those of other religions or none. I simply stood up and recited, 'He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life.' 1 John 5.12. This was followed by some embarrassment and mutterings of 'We must understand that in its context!'

(3) There was also a very effective national organisation of younger clergy called 'Eclectics' which ran in parallel with the DEFs. In course of time, it was decided that the cut-off age for membership should be 40. Some of us argued against it, saying that older men could bring help and maturity to the younger; but in vain. If this was not a sinister move, it certainly did little to prevent the evangelical downgrade.

This is not the time or place to highlight further stages in this tragic trend, but it was to culminate in the General Synod vote for the Ordination of Women in 1992, instigated by an evangelical Archbishop and assented to by a significant number of evangelicals. This was followed by a lot of huffing and puffing in the evangelical camp, but with only a few of us declaring our intention to leave. As we said at the time, this would soon be followed by the homosexual issue and women bishops, with evangelicals becoming more and more marginalised and confused, with little influence in a clearly apostate church.

Thus, we have to see, and see clearly, that any who profess the Christian faith, while never receiving the truth in their own experience, particularly if they are Ministers, are a great danger to the church because their natural state is still at enmity to the things of God; their mind is still blinded to the truth, and they have no defence against error or the latest vain fashion.

This should be no surprise to us, because such things are clearly foretold in the Scriptures:

'Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing.' Matt. 7.15.

'This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.' 2 Tim. 3.1. 'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.' 2 Tim. 4.3.

'For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.' Acts 20.29-30.

It is important to understand that we are not saying that all Anglican evangelicals have been guilty of apostasy, but that it has been characteristic of the movement in general. Many also are essentially good and faithful men who have kept quiet for one reason or another. Some just live in the small world of their own ministry and do not wish to be involved in the wider church, while others have fear of opposition, or of disapproval from their Bishop.

For our own personal spiritual well-being we should know that the defection and subversion of so many churches in these days, from the Bible standard, doesn't just happen, it is planned and organised that way. We should be able to say of the Devil, 'We are not ignorant of his devices.' 2 Corinthians 2.11. Even more importantly, we must search our own souls to be sure that we have experienced the power of the truth we proclaim. Jonathan Edwards rightly said that 'truth in the mind is of no value unless it also affects the heart.'

The Apostle Paul's prayer for the believers at Ephesus is something that we should expect to be answered in every believer's life:

That he would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.' Ephesians 3.16-19.

Ask Him, and He will do it for you!

'If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in Heaven give good things to them that ask Him.' Matthew 7.11 (Luke has 'Holy Spirit' in the parallel passage).

For many walk—professing the way of Christ—but are, in fact, enemies of the cross—the way of salvation. 'For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.' Philippians 3.18.

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“WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE OLD EVANGELICALISM”

By Francis J. Harris

In this booklet the author contrasts the vapid form of 'New Evangelicalism' of today with the solid 'Old Evangelicalism' of yesteryear.

Price: £2 (inc. P&P)

Pages: 20

‘The Church Under Judgement’

By John A. Day

This booklet identifies that the Church in our day is under solemn judgement because of its departure from the Word of God. The author emphasises the urgent need for the true Church to prayerfully examine itself and seek the Lord for repentance and restoration to Biblical standards.

Price: £1.75 (Including P&P)

Pages: 8

Both booklets available from:

Christian Watch Resources

PO Box 3268, Leamington Spa, CV32 6YA

Email: jean@christianwatch.org.uk

“A peculiar people”

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a PECULIAR people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” (I Peter 2:9-10).

In reading this particular portion of Scripture, I began to ponder the concept of being identified as a “PECULIAR” people, or person. If I was brought before a jury made up of various folks from every profession and description, could they find ENOUGH evidence “without reasonable doubt” to judge me as being a PECULIAR person?

The word “Peculiar” is defined as: different from the usual or normal. I am convinced that one that has been called of God out of darkness into the marvellous light of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and been translated into the Kingdom of God’s dear Son, is going to be identified as a PECULIAR person. If any man be in Christ he is a NEW creature (II Cor.5:17) and this NEW creature is not of the norm; they have been ushered into the Kingdom of God by the supernatural operation of God’s sovereign, ever-ruling grace. These people which I am referencing are identified as Strangers, Pilgrims, and Sojourners as well in this time world. They are marching to a DIFFERENT drumbeat; they hear the voice of the Good Shepherd that the worldling knows nothing of. They have been given the ears to hear the Gospel of their salvation, whereas the worldling is deaf under deprivities’ curse. These Peculiar people have been given eyes to see by the miraculous vehicle of the faith of Christ, this glorious Saviour that bled and died on Calvary’s tree on their behalf.

Yea, beloved professor of such blessed hope, are you seen by the unregenerate people that you meander about daily as one that is PECULIAR? Can you laugh at the immoral jokes of the natural man’s humour as others? Does the vulgar God-dishonouring language of the majority become an offence to your ears? Are you vexed with the wickedness of this sin-dominated society?

If these things are not offensive to you as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, then one ought to question what has been made PECULIAR in your nature since you have been called to believe? I did once ask myself these very questions and am convinced that there is a part of me that hates sin and the influence of its wickedness. There was a time when I loved sin and walked after it with a rebellious heart against those things that resembled God. There was no fear of God before my eyes and my ears were deaf to the Gospel trumpet. But, when grace came in its mighty power, it arrested me; it slew me prostrate before the Almighty, to whom I was introduced. Sin was revealed as a vile poison to me and I begged for forgiveness as repentance was granted to this wretched sinner. Faith had brought its perfect work, causing me to believe Jesus Christ was who the Scriptures say He is, and that God is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

I became PECULIAR through this supernatural experience, never to be the same. This was an experience that occurred 42 years ago in this man’s heart and soul. I stand amazed day by day that I continue to believe in this Christ of whom I have not seen with the physical eye, yet embrace Him as my beloved Saviour!! I often question, how could this be, that one such as me could believe in this supernatural Gospel GOOD NEWS?

I conclude it was ALL by grace that this poor sinner was made to lay hold on such spiritual experience. It is ALL by grace that I was sought, and ALL by grace that I persevere, and it shall be ALL by grace that I arrive at that immortal place which God has prepared for them that love Him. Oh! to be PECULIAR is my heart’s desire, to be seen as STRANGE before a sin-cursed society, and be made to feel as a PILGRIM and SOJOURNER seeking another country whose builder and maker is God, the Almighty!!

O to Christ how great a debtor this poor needy sinner has been made to be.....

Grace, grace, free and sovereign grace is my plea, for ONLY grace could rescue one like me.

Pastor Donald E. Martin, Sr.
Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church
Florida, U.S.A.

Cabinet Office to fly rainbow flag for gay pride week

BBC – 24 May, 2013

Francis Maude and Nick Clegg have agreed to demonstrate the Government's commitment to equality by allowing the rainbow flag to fly from the Cabinet Office during Pride week. They argue that there should be greater public acceptance of same-sex relationships.

Some 133 Tory MPs voted against plans to allow same-sex marriage earlier. Fifteen Labour MPs, four Lib. Dems., eight Democratic Unionists and an Independent were also against the move.

The rainbow flag was designed by Gilbert Baker in 1978 as a symbol of gay and lesbian community pride. It first flew from Government buildings during Pride 2012.

Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, said: "Flying the rainbow flag is a great symbol of pride – and what better place than Whitehall, the centre of Government, to demonstrate that.

"I was proud to raise the flag for the first time last year, and hope to see more Departments following suit this year."

Pride week, which will run from the 23 – 30 June, will this year have a theme of "love (and marriage)", in recognition of the equal marriage law which the Government is pushing through Parliament.

Several Conservative MPs spoke out against the equal marriage law, but it passed the Commons with the help of Labour and Lib. Dem. votes.

Francis Maude has previously written that his brother, who was gay and died from AIDS in 1993, would have experienced a much better life if "there had been greater acceptance of publicly acknowledged stable same-sex relationships".

A Cabinet Office spokesman said: "We are proud to fly the flag and look forward to a time when same-sex couples can get married."

"It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law."

Psalm 119:126

Parental campaign group:

"Wellbeing of children being ignored in same-sex marriage debate"

An informal group of professionals and parents has launched a new campaign to put the wellbeing of children at the centre of the same-sex marriage debate.

The move came as the Coalition's controversial Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Bill began its Committee Stage in the House of Lords.

The 'Gay Marriage No Thanks' group brings together legal, educational, medical and sociological experts. It is driven by concerns that the impact on children has been overlooked in a debate that has concentrated instead on claims of equality and religious freedom.

In an advert aimed at Peers in the Times newspaper, the group presented Ten Good Reasons why the House of Lords should say No to the Bill. The majority of them focus on the impact that the proposed changes will have on children and young people.

The group has also launched a dedicated website that is intended progressively to provide easy access to the wealth of evidence on the subject - for Peers, civil servants, media, parents and others. It operates under the tagline 'because children matter'.

Alan Craig, a spokesman for the group, said:

"Talk of the rights of adults has dominated debate about the issue, whether those are homosexual rights or religious rights. But what about the rights of children? And what does the evidence say about the impact of these plans?"

"We want to take some of the emotion out of the debate and help people engage with the actual evidence that shows how disruptive and damaging these changes will be for children and young people. After all, it is the next generation who will be most affected by these proposals."

Luca Volonte, who chairs the largest political grouping at the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, welcomed the launch saying:

"I very much welcome the launch of this new resource and campaign in the UK. Across Europe ordinary citizens are opposing same-sex marriage for the sake of their children. I am glad that the English are now engaged in this battle to save marriage as the best place for procreation and the nurture of the next generation."

Earlier this year, Californian Professor Robert Oscar Lopez sparked debate when he told legislators in the US:

"Couples deserve to have love recognised, but I know as a child raised by my lesbian mother and her partner that there is something missing when a child is raised by two same-sex parents."

"... We've heard a lot from same-sex marriage activists who feel they've earned property rights to children but we haven't heard enough from children's rights advocates in a full debate."

N.B.

The campaign group's new website is available at <http://www.gaymarriagenothanks.com/> and the Ten Good Reasons published in The Times (see website for references to appropriate research and evidence) why the House of Lords should say No to the same-sex marriage Bill are:-

- (i) Intact biological families provide the gold standard for the wellbeing of children.
- (ii) Children have a human right to be nurtured by both their biological parents.
- (iii) Gay parenting - by definition - denies the child from having one or both biological parents.
- (iv) Popular support for the Bill is based on the unfounded theory that people are 'born gay'.
- (v) All school children will be taught that as adults they can have marriage relationships with either men or women.
- (vi) Adolescents commonly experience temporary same-sex attraction: this does not mean they are gay.
- (vii) There is no evidence that SSM strengthens marriage. In Spain, marriage rates fell precipitously.
- (viii) Behind this Bill is a militant move to deny gender difference.
- (ix) 'Equal love' leads to unequal marriage.
- (x) Civil partnerships already provide all the legal and financial benefits of marriage for gay people.

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Confession and Prayer for Church and Nation

Part of a Hymn by

John Newton

‘Lord, while Thy judgments shake the land,
Thy people’s eyes are fixed on Thee;
We own Thy just uplifted hand,
Which thousands cannot, will not, see.

How long hast Thou bestowed Thy care
On this indulged, ungrateful spot!
While other nations, far and near,
Have envied and admired our lot.

Here peace and liberty have dwelt,
The glorious Gospel brightly shone;
And oft our enemies have felt
That God has made our cause His own.

But ah! Both Heaven and earth have heard
Our vile requital of His love;
We, whom like children He has reared,
Rebels against His goodness prove.

His grace despised, His power defied,
And legions of the blackest crimes,
Profaneness, riot, lust, and pride
Are signs that mark the present times.

The Lord, displeased, has raised His rod;
Ah! Where are now the faithful few
Who tremble for the Ark of God,
And know what Israel ought to do?

Lord, hear Thy people everywhere,
Who meet to mourn, confess, and pray;
The nation and thy Churches spare,
And let Thy wrath be turned away.'

GOD STILL CHOOSES THE WEAK

By David Wilkerson

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty”
(I Corinthians 1:27).

God still chooses the weak to show forth His strength. Have you ever grieved over weakness? Have you felt insignificant, frail and useless to God? Have you looked upon others who seem so strong, so perfect, and thought of yourself in comparison as too sinful, too dull to be used of God? God is not looking for spiritual giants, but rather for ordinary saints with childlike faith who have lost all confidence in the flesh.

God will confound the strong and wise by anointing as His instruments those who are considered weak and foolish. The Lord will bypass those who lean on the arm of flesh, who trust in their talents, their knowledge, their background, their family reputation. Instead, He will raise up the broken-hearted, the weak and the weary. He will pour on them a spirit of praise and a baptism of love. He will show them His greatness, His faithfulness, His covenants, and they will become strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Is there a spirit in you that urges you on to new and higher places in the Lord? Is there a fire for God ignited within? Do you feel a drawing to a renewed faith and trust in God? Be thankful! That is the call of Jesus Christ the Lord!

His promises to us are great and precious. “Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou has wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues” (Psalm 31:19-20).

“But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (I Corinthians 2:9-10).

Report on Open-Air Witnessing: Portsmouth - Saturday, 18 May, 2013

We were able to set up the table in a prime position in the main thoroughfare in Commercial Street - the main shopping precinct in Portsmouth.

The fair weather saw multitudes of shoppers converging on the area and we were able to proclaim the Gospel loud and clear, with a megaphone, to the constant stream of people.

The exercise was a far cry from the previous open-air witnessing in Horsham - we were taken aback at how many people were prepared to listen.

Manning the stand was Steve Black, with local preachers Malcolm Hey and Jim Scoales alternating on the preaching.

We were pleasantly surprised at the number of youth with whom we were able to engage with this Saturday. Wonderfully, four Bibles were handed over to different individuals - as well as a number of tracts.

It is tragic to grasp the fact that so much of British youth are unaware that there exists an alternative viewpoint to the "evolution and billions of years" narrative which they are taught at school. They are quite simply in the dark when it comes to the Biblical account of Creation as a viewpoint with scientific backing. Faith (and critical thinking) have been excised from their thoughts and worldview and the knowledge that their most important and precious possession (their soul) is eternal comes as a huge surprise to them.

That the secular humanists have succeeded in capturing the minds and hearts of the youth was blatantly apparent to us this day. What hope have they when they view their lives as purposeless, random molecules and atoms which coalesced for a time - only to fade into oblivion at the point of death? Purpose in the LORD Jesus Christ was therefore a joy for us to proclaim; hope for forgiveness of sins and new life in the Great Redeemer, the King of Kings!

We spoke with Jolly, an Indian Roman Catholic, who accepted tracts exposing the heresy represented by the Catholic Church. Please pray that he will read them and find true faith in Jesus Christ.

An Arab follower of Islam saw the Arabic writing on the table and, his interest roused, asked for an Arabic Bible.

Tamsin and Lucy are two young teenagers who passed our stand a number of times during the course of the day. Eventually, an opportunity was opened by God's Providence whereby a Bible was handed to them and a discussion about their souls desperate state followed. The Gospel was proclaimed loud and clear.

We were also approached by a lady who was concerned for her neighbour, who was French, and asked for tracts to place under her neighbour's door.

Whilst Jim was preaching, a young mother and small child listened with interest. Our spirits lifted when, as he closed, they approached and he prayed with them. The mother confessed that she had backslidden and had prayed that very morning that the LORD would bring someone to her that day.

We solicit your prayers for the youth of Portsmouth - and Britain at large - who have been successfully propagandised by the secular-humanists since the 1960's. Please pray for the people mentioned above to whom Bibles and tracts were handed.

We noticed the prevalence of Muslims in Portsmouth. We pray that the Gospel will be shared with them. It is clear that unless we do so urgently, we face Islamic Sharia as the controlling force in most major UK cities.

Additionally, please keep us in prayer as we seek to alert church leaders/goers to the apostasy now rampant in the evangelical church in various guises with the next talk in Horsham entitled "**Apostasy in the Evangelical Church: Where does the Christian worship?**" *

In Christ Jesus our LORD,

David Heyes

* *This address was given at a CW Meeting on 31st May and is now available on our website www.christianwatch.org.uk or as a CD/DVD and can be ordered from CW Resources, PO Box 3268, Leamington Spa, CV32 6YA at a price of £2.00, including P&P.*

EVENTS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17th August - Horsham Public Meeting to be held at Horsham Girl Guide Headquarters, Denne Road, **Horsham**, R12 1JF to commence, GW, at 7p.m.

Speaker: Rev. Patrick Baker Subject: "**Confidence in the Word of God**" 2 Peter 1:19

4th October - Christian Watch Annual Public Meeting. Venue: Slip End, Nr. Luton.

Speaker: Mr. Graham Chewter of the TBS. Subject: "**Who is on the Lord's side?**"

Protestant Reformation Society

JOHN BENT – DEVIZES MARTYR:

OUR DEBT TO THE REFORMATION

A lecture by **DR. DAVID SAMUEL**

(President of the Protestant Reformation Society)

at **Maryport Street Baptist Chapel,**

Maryport Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1AH

at **3.00 p.m. on Saturday, 6th July, 2013**

Followed by afternoon tea

All Welcome

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