

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

August 2013

August 2013

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

2 Samuel 22: 29-33 reads –“*For Thou art my lamp, O Lord: and the Lord will lighten my darkness. For by Thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all them that trust in Him. For who is God, save the Lord? And who is a Rock, save our God? God is my strength and power: and He maketh my way perfect.*”

As the summer months begin to disappear and the dark nights creep in, we rejoice that our God is our Spiritual Light and that we can say with the Psalmist that ‘the Lord will lighten my darkness.’ There is none like God – and His ways are perfect.

We greet you in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and would encourage you to keep on in the battle for truth and righteousness. You are no doubt familiar with the incident recorded for us in 2 Samuel 24 when King David ordered the numbering of the people in Israel and Judah. For nearly 10 months, his army leaders were occupied with the task – but the task was never finished (see 1 Chronicles 27:24) because God, in His wrath, caused 70,000 men to die of a plague. David could rely on 1.3 million competent soldiers (excluding young men under 20 years of age), so why was he so determined to carry out a census against God’s wishes? Was he not aware that the Lord alone had led him to victory against the enemies of Israel? Why did he want to know the measure of his human forces? Was victory through God not enough for him?

We can learn so much from King David. Sometimes when we experience some success, we immediately consider which of our abilities was responsible for it – instead of giving God alone all the glory. Sometimes we are overwhelmed by a great need - and become nearly desperate – because we realise that our strength is insufficient to meet it. Let us keep before our eyes time and time again what our position in Christ really is – and what a privilege it is to serve Him. Is it not God who, through His Son, has led us out of death into life?

Our National Chairman, David Crowter, continues to make good progress as does our National Co-ordinator, Michael Hobbs. Please continue to remember them both in your prayers that the Lord will restore them to full health and strength once again.

Much of our Newsletter this month refers to articles on the subject of same-sex marriage. **Gay ‘Marriage’, Distant Consequences** by Brian Fitzpatrick was written in 1996 but predicted the consequences of ‘gay marriage’ being publicly recognised. We are now witnessing these consequences for ourselves.

It’s Time We Knew the Real Gay Marriage Story by Christopher Booker is a real eye-opener. Secret, clandestine meetings – involving European delegates – resulted in a headlong rush for same-sex marriage to become a Europe-wide human right. **UKIP Concerns Over Gay Marriage Realised** warns of the danger likely to threaten churches if the European Court of Human Rights attempts to force them to ‘marry’ gay couples and already – in our report headed **Gay Couple To Sue Church Over Gay Marriage Opt-out** – we learn of two men in a civil partnership who plan to take legal action to be allowed to ‘marry’ in their Parish Church.

We thank God for those in our Parliament at Westminster who voted against the recent same-sex marriage legislation and, in **Action Needed**, we include a list of all those Members of

Parliament who so voted. If your Member of Parliament's name is included, drop him/her a message of support and thanks but at the same time express your concern (if you are writing to a member of one of the three main Parties) that your vote cannot be guaranteed if their Party remains on the same course. Similarly, if your Member of Parliament's name is absent, drop him/her a line expressing your concern and warning them of the consequences for this nation if we continue to fly in the face of Almighty God.

We have included four **News Items** for your information, interest and prayers, as follows:-

1. Dr. Alan Clifford is now awaiting a decision from the Crown Prosecution Service on accusations of homophobia – a sign of the times in which we live.
2. The plight of Christians in the Sudan – described as 'insects, a plague that needs to be eradicated'. How we must pray urgently for our persecuted brethren!
3. Then we have the appalling development of the first godless church in the United Kingdom and, finally,
4. A warning that all of us will be branded as Europeans from the cradle to the grave.

We live in dark days but God is able. He is Sovereign and as He brought the light of the Gospel by the glorious Protestant Reformation, so He is still on the throne today. **A Watchword For All Who Profess and Call Themselves Christians** by Joseph Irons has been included for our benefit and learning.

Let us be encouraged by the Psalmist, who, in Psalm 37, states:-

- Fret not thyself because of evil doers
- Trust in the Lord and do good
- Delight thyself also in the Lord
- Commit thy way unto the Lord
- Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him
- Wait on the Lord, and keep His way.

In closing, we would encourage you to plan to support our **Annual Public Meeting** in Luton on Friday, 4th October. Enjoy fellowship with God's people of like precious faith as you come under the sound of the Word, faithfully preached – and take the opportunity to obtain good reading material from the various book tables on display.

May you know the continuing presence of the Lord as you witness for Him in your locality.

Yours in His Service,

Every blessing,

Ian Henderson

Ian Henderson,
(Vice-Chairman)

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Mr. D. Boyd; Mr. M. Brockes (Hon. Treasurer/Co. Secretary); Mr. D. Crowter (Chairman);
Mr. I. Henderson; Mr. M. Hobbis; Mr. D. Lawson; Mr. M. De Semlyen; Rev. P. Baker;
Mrs. J. Cummins (Secretary)

Gay 'Marriage,' Distant Consequences

By Brian Fitzpatrick

In his book, *On Character*, eminent social commentator James Q. Wilson defines virtue as “habits of moderate action; more specifically, acting with due restraint on one’s impulses, due regard for the rights of others, and reasonable concern for distant consequences.”

Alarm bells should ring when prominent commentators start talking seriously about decidedly immoderate notions like homosexual ‘marriage,’ without considering the consequences. William Raspberry recently [in 1996] noted in his *Washington Post* column that gay and lesbian couples of his acquaintance are “not dangerous,” wondered why some people believe allowing homosexuals to “marry” could threaten their own relationships, and suggested that opposition to “gay marriage” springs from prejudice. He asked, “What are we afraid of?” The answer, of course, is the distant consequences. The health and survival of our civilisation is at stake.

To understand the danger posed by homosexual ‘marriage,’ you must join the great scholars in asking some fundamental questions. Why do some civilisations flourish? Why do others perish?

Perhaps the definitive work on the rise and fall of civilisation was written back in the thirties by an Oxford anthropologist. In *Sex and Culture*, a study of 86 human civilisations ranging from Rome to Tahiti, J. D. Unwin found that a society’s destiny is tied inseparably to the limits it imposes on sexual expression. The highest levels of social development are reached only by cultures that practice what Unwin called “absolute monogamy,” in which marriage is limited to one man and one woman, sex outside marriage is not tolerated, and divorce is prohibited.

Absolute monogamy promotes cultural growth by solving what anthropologist, Margaret Mead, termed the “central problem of every society,” to “define appropriate roles for men.” Monogamous civilisations require men to choose either lifelong celibacy or the responsibilities of a husband: fidelity, breadwinning, and fatherhood. Most marry, to their good fortune, because married men tend to be healthier, happier, and more productive than bachelors. Joseph Schumpeter, the great economist, attributes the success of capitalism not to the entrepreneur’s lust for money or status, but to his love of family. The central pillar of any healthy civilisation is the self-sacrificing married man who doesn’t spend his income on himself, but prefers to “work and save primarily for wife and children.”

Civilisations cease to grow, found Unwin, within two to three generations after retreating from absolute monogamy. Moral standards erode when a society’s members chafe at the discipline imposed by monogamy, and begin to gratify their personal impulses without regard for the consequences inflicted on others. According to sociologist, Robert Nisbet, “What sociologists are prone to call social disintegration is really nothing more than the spectacle of a rising number of individuals playing fast and loose with other individuals in relationships of trust and responsibility.”

If individualistic selfishness and self-seeking are not checked, Harvard sociologist Pitirim Sorokin warns us, a society will lapse into “sexual anarchy.” In *The American Sex Revolution*, Sorokin wrote that “both sex and society are degraded” as a culture becomes “sexually obsessed.” “The members of such a society are habituated to look at the opposite sex as a mere instrument for pleasure...to these individuals, talk of human dignity, religious and moral commandments and rules of decency is just bosh...the society degrades the values of womanhood and manhood, of motherhood and fatherhood, of childhood and venerable age, of marriage and family, and even of love itself.” Divorce, desertion, and deviance become commonplace, when “what used to be considered morally reprehensible is now recommended as a positive value; what was once called demoralisation is now styled moral progress and a new freedom.” Sorokin describes this as “moral schizophrenia.”

In an amoral, hedonistic society, you can't trust the people you need to trust, not even your spouse. If people can make and break relationships at will, with no legal repercussions or social stigma, they are much more likely to abandon their marriages – at their children's expense – when they encounter tough problems. Husbands with roving eyes are much more likely to trade in the wife for a new model.

Such selfish, undisciplined societies meet ugly fates. In his *Social and Cultural Dynamics*, Sorokin studied 1,623 “internal disturbances in Greco-Roman and European history,” and found that sexual permissiveness almost always precedes or accompanies “an explosion of socio-political disturbances.” Unwin found that every society, without exception, that rejects absolute monogamy either becomes a stagnant cultural backwater or collapses altogether.

What does all this mean for homosexuality and ‘gay marriage’? No sector of our society is more obsessed with sex, or more promiscuous, than the homosexual sub-culture. To accept the practice of homosexuality is to make irresponsible sexual behaviour easier for our society. To permit homosexual relationships to be formalised is to establish a dangerous precedent that people may form sexual unions outside the healthy one-man, one-woman framework. In effect, we'd be rejecting Unwin's “absolute monogamy” model for good, because rights are very difficult to withdraw once they have been granted.

What of Margaret Mead's “central problem” in society, defining the duties of the male? Homosexuality does nothing to channel men into the husband/father/provider role that so benefits society. Male homosexuality entices men away from that role, by offering a sexual outlet with no strings attached - and – even trains them to view one another as sexual objects through the anonymous sexual encounters so prevalent among homosexual men. Lesbianism eliminates male responsibility altogether.

“But wouldn't ‘gay marriage,’” counter supporters, “encourage homosexuals to be monogamous?” Hardly. In the homosexual press, ‘gay marriage’ advocates admit openly that they would not remain faithful if married. Homosexual columnist, Michaelangelo Signorile, writes that ‘gays’ would seek instead to make adultery acceptable, by redefining the “archaic institution” of marriage. The purpose of ‘gay marriage’ is to win legal benefits and social sanction for homosexual couples, not to improve their behaviour.

According to Unwin “the historical evidence [suggests] that homosexuality is a habit that appears in a society...that has been absolutely monogamous, and is relaxing.” If Unwin is correct, then the increasing prominence of homosexuality in our culture confirms ominously that America has strayed too far from the straight and narrow morality that invigorates cultures. To give homosexual couples the right to marry would be like taking another giant, virtually irrevocable step down the road to sexual anarchy and cultural ruin. Here are the distant consequences that threaten every marriage in our society, including Raspberry's; here is the reason why opposition to ‘gay marriage’ is not based on prejudices, but on common sense.

Granting homosexual couples the right to marry would be a milestone on the road to cultural oblivion. American's first step back to moral sanity and cultural vitality should be to reject ‘gay marriage.’ Next, we must return to the ideal of “absolute monogamy,” and start teaching our children that their duty to society is to remain chaste until they wed. As James Q. Wilson observes, “in the long run, the public interest depends on private virtue.”

(Slightly abbreviated)

(Originally Published by Americans for Truth – 9 August 2013 (www.americansfortruth.com))

“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” (Proverbs 22:28)

IT'S TIME WE KNEW THE REAL GAY MARRIAGE STORY

Gay marriage dominates the agenda for political, rather than ethical, reasons

By: Christopher Booker, Telegraph – 25 May, 2013

In view of the devastation inflicted on the Tory party by the gay-marriage issue, it is remarkable how little interest has been shown in the story that lies behind David Cameron's desperation to get a measure – that was not mentioned in his 2010 election manifesto – on to the Statute Book by no later than June this year.

The drive to get same-sex marriage into law was master-minded from 2010 onwards by an alliance between Theresa May, the Conservative Home Secretary; Lynne Featherstone, the Lib. Dem. Equalities Minister and gay pressure groups, led by one called Equal Love. They pushed the issue forward, not in Westminster, but through the Council of Europe, culminating in March last year with a day-long "secret conference" chaired by Miss Featherstone in Strasbourg. With the public excluded for the first time in the Council's history, it was here that – with the active support of Sir Nicholas Bratza, the British President of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) – a deadline was set with their planned coup of June 2013. If, by this date, "several countries" had managed to put gay marriage into law, Sir Nicholas pledged that his Court would then declare same-sex marriage to be a Europe-wide human right. Hence the recent rush for several countries to oblige, including France, where gay marriage has brought thousands of protesters out on to the street. And hence the unprecedented revolt in the House of Commons, when 133 Tories voted against their Government.

They included Owen Paterson, the only Cabinet Minister to vote for all the amendments moved by his Parliamentary Private Secretary, David Burrows, designed to give protection from intolerance to those opposed to same-sex marriage for reasons of conscience or principle.

An irony of all this was that among the amendments defeated by the Government was one proposing that heterosexuals should be given an equal right to homosexuals to enter into civil partnerships. Originally, in 2010, Theresa May had been all for this, as was Equal Love, which supported a case by eight gay and non-gay couples to be taken to the ECHR. But when the Government checked the financial implications of allowing non-gay couples to enjoy civil partnerships, finding that the resulting tax privileges could cost the Treasury up to £4 billion a year, it ruled that this was a step it couldn't afford. When it comes to equality, it seems that money takes precedence – and that some people must be considered more equal than others.

UKIP Concerns Over Gay Marriage Realised

From: UKIP e-Bulletin

One of the key reasons for UKIP's opposition to the legislation on gay marriage was that the Party did not believe Government assurances about exemptions for religious organisations, so that no religious group would be forced to conduct such a ceremony if it went against their beliefs.

At the time our response to the Government consultation included the following:

"We are quite sure that, whatever the Government's worthy declaration that it proposes no change to the duties of the Church in relation to the estate of marriage, there will, very soon after the introduction of gay civil marriage, be a challenge in first the domestic courts of England and Wales and then in the European Court of Human Rights alleging that the exclusion of gay people

from the right to have a religious ceremony of marriage is unlawful discrimination against them on the grounds of their sexual orientation.

We believe that, given the current nature of the European Court of Human Rights' attitude to such matters, there is a very strong likelihood that the Court at Strasbourg will agree that it is an unlawful discrimination on those grounds and order the United Kingdom to introduce laws which will force Churches to marry gay people according to their rites, rituals and customs. This conviction is supported by the statement of the Justice Minister, Mr Blunt, who is quoted in the Daily Mail of 13th June, 2012 saying, "It would be hard to guarantee that clergy would not face court challenges if they refused to preside over same-sex unions."

But an article in the Essex Chronicle shows, precisely as UKIP feared, that the new law – which has only just received Royal Assent - is already going to be challenged in the courts. Barrie Drewett-Barlow intends to take legal action and was quoted as saying “The only way forward for us now is to make a challenge in the courts against the church.” (Extract)

Gay Couple to Sue Church Over Gay Marriage Opt-out

The Christian Institute, 2nd August, 2013

Wealthy gay dad, Barrie Drewitt-Barlow, says he and his civil partner, Tony, will go to court to force churches to host gay weddings. He told the Essex Chronicle that he will take legal action because “I am still not getting what I want”.

A Government Bill legalising gay marriage passed Parliament recently but it included measures to protect churches from being forced to perform same-sex weddings.

Mr. Drewitt-Barlow said: “The only way forward for us now is to make a challenge in the courts against the church. It is a shame that we are forced to take Christians into a court to get them to recognise us.”

He added: “It upsets me because I want it so much – a big lavish ceremony, the whole works, I just don't think it is going to happen straight away. As much as people are saying this is a good thing, I am still not getting what I want.”

The gay couple shot to fame in 1999 when they became the first British same-sex couple to be named on their children's birth certificates. They entered a civil partnership in 2006 - and Barrie Drewitt-Barlow has reportedly donated around £500,000 to groups lobbying for same- sex marriage.

Last year the Church of England warned that the Government's plans to re-define marriage could trigger legal problems and end the 500 year link between Church and State.

In January this year, a leading lawyer cautioned that the plans left the Church of England open to legal challenge. The Prime Minister was sent a copy of the legal opinion by Lord Carey, a former Archbishop of Canterbury.

In June 2012, Crispin Blunt MP, who was then a Justice Minister, admitted that the Government's plans could lead to legal issues. He said the Government is “seeking to protect, indeed, proscribe religious organisations from offering gay marriage”, but he continued, “that may be problematic legally”.

ACTION NEEDED!!!

We are increasingly concerned over the alarming impact being made by the gay rights organisations, following the passage of the recent Same-Sex Marriage Bill through Parliament. Their endeavour is to force churches/chapels to administer wedding ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples. This is already substantiated by the article on Page 6.

We are aware that many local MPs of various political persuasions and their party members are against such developments. For example, the article on Page 5 - which is an extract from a UKIP bulletin - emphasises this point. The Christian Institute have also circulated an article which indicates that many 'grassroots' Conservative members are unhappy over gay marriage issues.

It is important for us to keep the pressure on our MPs to stress that many of their constituents do not support this Bill and its consequences - which are already being forcibly pursued by the gay/lesbian community.

We include a list of all MPs who voted against this Bill and would request you – **if your local MP is listed** – to communicate with him/her. Please thank them for voting against the Bill and request them to stand firm in opposing relevant issues in the future. If necessary - even to change from their present political party to become an independent or join with a party that is opposed to this Bill.

CONSERVATIVES: Nigel **Adams** (Selby & Ainsty), Adam **Afriyie** (Windsor), Peter **Aldous** (Waveney), David **Amess** (Southend West), James **Arbuthnot** (Hampshire North East), Richard **Bacon** (Norfolk South), Steven **Baker** (Wycombe), Tony **Baldry** (Banbury), Guto **Bebb** (Aberconwy), Henry **Bellingham** (Norfolk North West), Sir Paul **Beresford** (Mole Valley), Andrew **Bingham** (High Peak), Bob **Blackman** (Harrow East), Graham **Brady** (Altrincham & Sale West), Julian **Brazier** (Canterbury), Andrew **Bridgen** (Leicestershire North West), Steve **Brine** (Winchester), Fiona **Bruce** (Congleton), Robert **Buckland** (Swindon South), Simon **Burns** (Chelmsford), David **Burrowes** (Enfield Southgate), Alun **Cairns** (Vale of Glamorgan), Douglas **Carswell** (Clacton), Bill **Cash** (Stone), Rehman **Chishti** (Gillingham & Rainham), Christopher **Chope** (Christchurch), Geoffrey **Clifton-Brown** (The Cotswolds), Geoffrey **Cox** (Devon West & Torridge), Stephen **Crabb** (Preseli Pembrokeshire), David **Davies** (Monmouth), Glyn **Davies** (Montgomeryshire), Philip **Davies** (Shipley), David **Davis** (Haltemprice & Howden), Nick **de Bois** (Enfield North), Caroline **Dinenage** (Gosport), Richard **Drax** (Dorset South), Charlie **Elphicke** (Dover), Jonathan **Evans** (Cardiff North), David **Evennett** (Bexleyheath & Crayford), Michael **Fallon** (Sevenoaks), Dr. Liam **Fox** (Somerset North), Mark **Francois** (Rayleigh & Wickford) George **Freeman** (Norfolk Mid), Roger **Gale** (Thanet North), Sir Edward **Garnier** (Harborough), Mark **Garnier** (Wyre Forest), Cheryl **Gillan** (Chesham & Amersham), John **Glen** (Salisbury), Robert **Goodwill** (Scarborough & Whitby), James **Gray** (Wiltshire North), Andrew **Griffiths** (Burton), Robert **Halfon** (Harlow), Simon **Hart** (Carmarthen West & Pembrokeshire South), Sir Alan **Haselhurst** (Saffron Walken), John **Hayes** (South Holland & The Deepings), Oliver **Heald** (Hertfordshire North East), Gordon **Henderson** (Sittingbourne & Sheppey), Philip **Hollobone** (Kettering), Adam **Holloway** (Gravesham), Sir Gerald **Howarth** (Aldershot), Stewart **Jackson** (Peterborough), Gareth **Johnson** (Dartford), David **Jones** (Clwyd West), Marcus **Jones** (Nuneaton), Greg **Knight** (Yorkshire East), Kwasi **Kwarteng** (Spelthorne), Mark **Lancaster** (Milton Keynes North), Pauline **Latham (Derbyshire Mid)**, Jeremy **Lefoy** (Stafford), Edward **Leigh** (Gainsborough), Julian **Lewis** (New Forest East), David **Lidlington** (Aylesbury), Peter **Lilley** (Hitchin & Harpenden), Jack **Lopresti** (Filton & Bradley Stoke), Jonathan **Lord** (Woking), Tim **Loughton** (Worthing East & Shoreham), Karen **Lumley** (Redditch), Karl **McCartney** (Lincoln), Anne **McIntosh** (Thirsk & Malton), Stephen **McPartland** (Stevenage), Esther **McVey** (Wirral West), Anne **Main** (St. Albans), Paul **Maynard** (Blackpool North & Cleveleys), Stephen **Metcalf** (Basildon South & Thurrock East), Nicky **Morgan** (Loughborough), Anne-Marie **Morris** (Newton Abbot), David **Morris** (Morecambe & Lunesdale), James **Morris** (Halesowen & Rowley Regis), Bob **Neill** (Bromley & Chislehurst), Caroline **Nokes** (Romsey & Southampton

North), David **Nuttall** (Bury North), Stephen **O'Brien** (Eddisbury), Matthew **Offord** (Hendon), Jim **Paice** (Cambridgeshire South East), Neil **Parish** (Tiverton & Honiton), Priti **Patel** (Witham), Owen **Paterson** (Shropshire North), Mark **Pawsey** (Rugby), Mike **Penning** (Hemel Hempstead), **Mark Pritchard** (The Wrekin), John **Randall** (Uxbridge & Ruislip South), John **Redwood** (Wokingham), Jaco **Rees-Mogg** (Somerset North East), Simon **Reevell** (Dewsbury), Sir Malcolm **Rifkind** (Kensington), Andrew **Robathan** (Leicestershire South), Laurence **Robertson** (Tewkesbury), Andrew **Rosindell** (Romford), David **Ruffley** (Bury St. Edmunds), David **Rutley** (Macclesfield), Andrew **Selous** (Bedfordshire South West), Alec **Shelbrooke** (Elmet & Rothwell), Sir Richard **Shepherd** (Aldridge-Brownhills), Henry **Smith** (Crawley), Sir John **Stanley** (Tonbridge & Malling), John **Stevenson** (Carlisle), Bob **Stewart** (Beckenham), Mel **Stride** (Devon Central), Julian **Sturdy** (York Outer), Robert **Syms** (Poole), Sir Peter **Tapsell** (Louth & Horncastle), David **Tredinnick** (Bosworth), Andrew **Turner** (Isle of Wight), Shailesh **Vara** (Cambridgeshire North West), Martin **Vickers** (Cleethorpes), Ben **Wallace** (Wyre & Preston North), Robert **Walter** (Dorset North), James **Wharton** (Stockton South), Heather **Wheeler** (Derbyshire South), Craig **Whittaker** (Calder Valley), John **Whittindale** (Maldon), Bill **Wiggin** (Herefordshire North), Gavin **Williamson** (Staffordshire South), Jeremy **Wright** (Kenilworth & Southam).

Tellers: Peter **Bone** (Wellingborough) and Therese **Coffey** (Suffolk Coastal).

LABOUR: Joe **Benton** (Bootle), Ronnie **Campbell** (Blyth Valley) Tom **Clarke** (Coatbridge, Chryston & Bellshill), Rosie **Cooper** (Lancashire West), David **Crausby** (Bolton North East), Tony **Cunningham** (Workington), Jim **Dobbin** (Heywood & Middleton), Brian **Donohoe** (Ayrshire Central), Robert **Fleelo** (Stoke-on-Trent South), Mary **Glindon** (Tyneside North), Paul **Goggins** (Wythenshawe & Sale East), Dai **Havard** (Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney), Michael **McCann** (East Kilbride, Strathaven & Lesmahagow), Jim **McGovern** (Dundee West), Iain **McKenzie** (Inverclyde), George **Mudie** (Leeds East), Paul **Murphy** (Torfaen), Stephen **Pound** (Ealing North), Frank **Roy** (Motherwell & Wishaw), Jim **Sheridan** (Paisley & Renfrewshire North), Derek **Twigg** (Halton), Mike **Wood** (Batley & Spen).

LIB. DEMS: Sir Alan **Beith** (Berwick-upon-Tweed), Gordon **Birtwistle** (Burnley), John **Pugh** (Southport), Sarah **Teather** (Brent Central).

DUP: Gregory **Campbell** (Londonderry East), Nigel **Dodds** (Belfast North), Jeffrey **Donaldson** (Lagan Valley), Rev William **McCrea** (Antrim South), Ian **Paisley** Junior (Antrim North), Jim **Shannon** (Strangford), David **Simpson** (Upper Bann), Sammy **Wilson** (Antrim East).

INDEPENDENTS: Nadine **Dorries** (Bedfordshire Mid) and Lady Sylvia **Hermon** (Down North).

NEWS ITEMS

1. Police interview of Dr. Alan C. Clifford, Norwich Reformed Church

Interviewing Officer: PC Arnold (PC1396), Norfolk Constabulary

Location: Dr. Clifford's home address *Date & Time:* Saturday, 17 August, 2013 at 5.45 p.m.

I was informed that a complaint had been made to the Police by the 'chair person' of Norwich 'gay pride' (Norfolk LGBT Project) about an e-mail sent by me on 29 July. This e-mail consisted of a report sent to Editors and others of a Christian witness five of us made against the city-centre 'gay pride' demo of the previous Saturday, 27 July, 2013. (Since their official pamphlet gave a contact e-address, I decided to include them on the larger list of recipients.) The 'gay pride' recipient (or another) found the e-mail's two attached leaflets offensive. These leaflets were '**Christ Can Cure - Good News for Gays**' and '**Jesus Christ - the Saviour we all need**'. PC Arnold said that there was reason to believe that I was chargeable with a homophobic incident, having communicated by electronic means something likely to annoy or cause

offence. Accordingly, I had two options. I could admit I'd done wrong and pay an 'on the spot' fine of £90.00, or produce a signed statement in defence of my actions. I decided on the latter course.

PC Arnold proceeded to ask me a series of questions. Unfortunately, I was not permitted to make a photocopy of the statement I eventually signed (it then would be a document in the criminal investigation), so the following details from memory simply reflect the main points discussed.

Among other things, I was asked why I had sent this e-mail. Was it to annoy or cause offence? I said, "No. I was reporting to the 'gp' people our Christian complaint against the public display of their homosexual propoganda, which we find offensive."

I was asked if I was aware that I'd committed a homophobic offence, as defined by the official police leaflet now presented to me: "Any incident which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person."

I rejected the accusation, adding that everything depends on the meaning of 'homophobia'. Since a 'phobia' (from Greek) is 'a fear', it does not mean 'hatred' in the now commonly- understood use of the term.

I certainly fear the influence of homosexuality on society, but this should not be regarded as 'hatred' unless criticism is taken to mean 'hatred'. I reminded the officer that my leaflet was subtitled '*A Compassionate call to Christian Conversion*'. Is that hatred? We don't hate these people. We love them and want to help them. So, even though the 'gp' people are upset, we are guilty of no crime.

I asked the officer that since we are offended by their public display of homosexuality, could we not have made a complaint to the police? He answered that we had such a right to complain.

I then explained that we were perfectly within the law regarding our criticism of homosexuality. Yes, the 'gp' people are upset by my leaflets but they contain nothing wrong where the law is concerned.

I elucidated this point by quoting as follows:

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), in *Handyside v UK* (1976), made it clear that freedom of expression embraces not only information and ideas that are favourably received or regarded as inoffensive, but also, '... those that offend, shock or disturb the State or any sector of the population. Such are the demands of that pluralism, tolerance and broadmindedness without which there is no democratic society'.

Lord Justice Sedley, in *Redmond Bate v DPP* (2000), famously said that, 'Free speech includes not only the inoffensive, but the irritating, the contentious, the eccentric, the heretical, the unwelcome and provocative provided that it does not tend to violence. Freedom only to speak inoffensively is not worth having'.

Therefore we are persuaded that we are guilty of no crime.

I was asked if I wished to contact a solicitor. I said, "No, not at the moment."

PC Arnold then informed me that a senior officer would decide whether the complaint is sent to the Crown Prosecution Service. A decision on this should be made in about a week's time.

PC Arnold thanked me for my co-operation, and I thanked him for his courtesy, adding that as Christians we only wish to act with integrity in these matters. With a final 'thank you', I said, "God bless you."

UPDATE:

I received a call from PC Arnold on Sunday, 18 August at 8.50 pm. His supervisor has made his decision that my action more than likely caused offence. The file is to be passed to the CPS to decide whether I will be summoned to Court to answer for my actions.

2. From Release International - *The plight of Christians in Sudan and South Sudan* www.releaseinternational.org

The 2011 secession of Southern Sudan from the rest of Sudan brought hope of co-existence between the mainly Muslim North and Christian South. But President al-Bashir's forces are waging a campaign of genocide and rape against the black Africans in the Darfur and Nuba Mountains areas of Sudan. They are being bombed, shot, and hacked to death. Thousands have fled their homes with only the clothes on their backs.

'There's talk about cleansing the North of the stain of Christianity. Official statements refer to Southern Sudanese as insects, a plague that needs to be eradicated from Sudan,' says Lee De Young, of Words of Hope broadcasting ministry.

3. An atheist church for UK's most godless city

From: Ben James – ben.james@theargus.co.uk

Last year Brighton and Hove was dubbed the UK's most godless city after 42% of city residents described themselves as having no religion in the census.

Now, a group of atheists has set up Brighton and Hove's first godless church.

Out are the likes of Bread of Heaven and Morning has Broken – in are feel good classics such as 'Build me up Buttercup' and Bonnie Tyler's 'Holding out for a Hero'. Gone are the sermons on Noah, Moses and Joseph and in their place talks on science, philosophy and psychology.

The Sunday Assembly started in London in January this year. It proved so popular that a group of atheists in Brighton and Hove decided to bring the movement to Sussex. The branch will hold its first service at St. Andrews's Church, Waterloo Street, Hove, on September 22.

Organiser Simon Care, from Hove, said: "I think there is certainly a gap in the market here. The aim is to take all the good bits of religion and going to church and leave out the bad bits. We want people to come along, listen to some speakers, sing some songs and be able to leave feeling happier about life – without having to resort to any spiritual stuff.

We want people to come and feel part of a community and have fun – but we can't promise eternal life." (Abbreviated)

4. British people will be branded EU citizens from "cradle to grave", Ministers warn

Steven Swinford, Senior Political Correspondent – The Telegraph (www.telegraph.co.uk/news)

Eric Pickles, the Local Government Secretary, fears the European Union flag could replace the Royal Crest on all the official documents within three years under EU regulations. The Government says it is powerless to stop the forms from being rolled out across the country because they are being introduced under the Lisbon Treaty.

Mr. Pickles said: "From cradle to grave, Britons are now to be stamped with the EU flag, as Brussels starts interfering in people's birth, death and marriage. This imposed Euro-law is part of an aggressive propaganda campaign to bully councils and public institutions into flying the EU flag at every opportunity. Eurocrats are brazen about their political agenda to advance their 'European project', wipe nation states off the map, and remove the Union Jack and our Royal Crest from public life."

The European Union insists the documents are optional, but Mr. Pickles believes that 'Euro creep' means they will become compulsory in Britain. He gave the example of driving licences, which were given 'mutual recognition' across Europe in 1991, only for the use of the European Union flag on them to be made compulsory five years later.

He said: "This EU stamp won't be optional – just look at the Euro-creep of the EU flag ending up on every driving licence."

The documents, described as 'union multi-lingual standard forms', are being rolled out across the European Union from next year. They will carry the same weight as official British documents, but can be used in any member State.

The European Commission has said that the initiative is part of plans to give a 'new political dimension' to the 'European Project', which will see more than £265 million spent on promoting EU citizenship. The legislation suggests that birth, marriage and death certificates will not be the only standardised forms. Other documents being introduced in Britain include company records, proof of land ownership and a form demonstrating the 'absence of a criminal record'. Digital copies of the documents will be made so they can be e-mailed between Authorities.

(Abbreviated)

A WATCHWORD FOR ALL WHO PROFESS AND CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS

By **JOSEPH IRONS** (1800 – 1882)

"Beware of men" (Matthew 10:17)

This is the caution which the Son of God gave to His disciples, when He ministered among them on earth, and the Holy Ghost caused it to be penned, that the true Church of God might use it as a watchword to the end of time; and never since this caution dropped from the lips of Jesus has it been needed more than now: for men seem to vie with the Prince of Darkness who shall most effectually oppose the Kingdom of Christ and the spiritual interests of His blood-bought family.

"Beware of men." Not merely of profane men, open infidels; but little caution is necessary respecting them, because "the show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not" (Isa. 3:9). But the men who assume the profession of Christianity, without possessing its vital principle, are the men of whom the Saviour's watchword is "Beware!" The men who put on the form of godliness, but deny the power thereof, whose carnal minds and carnal interests have always warred against the pure truth of God, have perverted the whole plan of salvation by lying fables and human traditions, seducing the souls of millions to utter destruction.

This baneful poison produced the monster Popery in the days of Constantine, when carnal men professed to be Christians, because the Emperor professed to be such, and thrust themselves into priestly office, blending priestly power with political power, until superstition and tyranny supplanted Christianity and exercised a despotic sway over mankind; proudly dictating to every man's conscience, plundering his property, degrading his existence, and pretending to power over his eternal destiny; so that priestcraft sat like an infernal incubus over the entire population of Christendom, and spread its darkness, horror, and death over this favoured land, with tortures and cruelties perfectly satanic.

That awful night was chased away by the glorious Reformation, and the principles of liberty have had a shining day; but who does not see the evening shades gathering around us again, threatening midnight darkness with tempestuous horror? Intellectual pride vaunts itself

against the light of revelation; superstition is trampling upon the simplicity of the Gospel; and error, of every name and form, is at war with the truth.

There is now scarcely a city or town in England but in which there are men sprung up in the office of priest (some Papist, some Puseyites*), who are using all their efforts to bring back those dark days and those degrading superstitions which dishonour God, foster the pride of man, and delude millions of souls fatally; and hence the importance of our Saviour's watchword, "Beware of men." For these men are doing more mischief than devils could do without them.

"Beware of men" who boast of apostolical succession, which they cannot prove, and who are no more like the Apostles of our Lord, either in doctrine or character, than sin is like holiness, or Satan like God. See what monstrous opinions they broach, such as baptismal regeneration, which rejects the ministry of the Holy Ghost; priestly absolution, which insults and virtually denies Christ; ecclesiastical authority, which sets at nought the Word and the decrees of God the Father, and thus genders atheism, by denying all the Persons of the Godhead. Can they be honest, when they know that there is not a word in all the New Testament to sanction the existence of an official human priesthood, Christ only being the Priest of the Gospel Church after the order of Melchisedec? Can they be honest in their boasted reference to the fathers, when they know that the usurpation of ecclesiastical power, and the right of one Christian Minister to exercise authority over others, was never allowed in the churches for 300 years after Christ's ascension to glory?

"Beware of men." Such as our dear Redeemer has described, "which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; which devour widows' houses, and for a show make long prayers" (Luke 20:46/47). And again, the same Divine Teacher says, they outwardly appear righteous before men, but within are full of hypocrisy and iniquity; therefore He denounces them as serpents and a generation of vipers, who shall not escape the damnation of Hell (Matt. 23:28-33). Indeed, whoever would see a full-length portrait of Puseyism, has only to read the whole of the twenty-third chapter of Matthew. It has enslaved the finest minds; it has prostrated the brightest genius; it has sugared the most virulent poison; and sainted the most reprobate enemies to vital godliness; in fact, it has outdone Popery itself in deception.

The tradition of apostolic succession is a religious hoax: the existence of an official human priesthood is a rejection of Christ and a return to Judaism; the doctrine of baptismal regeneration is a barefaced falsehood; and all pretensions to priestly absolution are blasphemy. Yet men who hold these hideous notions, arrogate to themselves the exclusive right to teach their fellow men, saying with lying words, as did the false teachers in Jeremiah's day, "The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, are these;" (Jer. 7:4) or, in modern language, "The Church, the Church, the Church," is the enthusiastic cry of those who possess not one feature of the Church of Christ as described in Holy Scripture, and as exhibited in the early ages. The Church of Christ is a spiritual body.

"Beware of men." Those very men who now seek to do to "all who profess and call themselves Christians," as the spider does to the fly; first bind the wings and the legs of our liberty with an invisible web; and then suck our blood by persecution, as in the days of yore. Oh! Search the Scriptures, and learn from thence what the true Church of God is, and do not suffer a carnal priesthood to blind your eyes, enslave your consciences, and ruin your souls. See how they toil for human patronage; mark their thirst for worldly honours; watch their abuse of ecclesiastical power; weigh the mock sanctity of their long prayers; and then say if these are the marks of Apostolic descendants, or the characteristics of Christ's Ministers. Rather, are they not the features of Baal's priest, the broad marks of Antichrist?

"Beware of men." Even of those who pass for evangelical men; for every grade of error is to be found among them. Even while I am writing this paper, my soul is distressed with the awful perversions of the Word of God which surround me, and which are advocated by men of renown; one drowning the doctrine of regeneration in the baptismal font; another substituting the credence of carnal reason for the faith of God's elect, and another denying the Son of God;

while the great bulk of so-called evangelical preachers try to dethrone Christ, and to enthrone proud free-will as absolute sovereign.

“Beware of men.” For even those whose views are, in the main, scriptural, seem determined to bite and devour one another through jealousy, that they make each other offenders for a word, and put more stress upon the shibboleth of a party than upon the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel; drinking into the spirit which our Lord reproveth in His disciples, when they said, “Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name, and we forbid him, because he followed not us!” Oh! These are awful signs of the times, when even the real disciples of Christ have exchanged brotherly love for party spirit and jealousy; all seeking their own, and not the things that are Jesus Christ’s (Phil. 2:21).

What, then, it may be asked, is real religion? I answer, it is altogether supernatural. It originates in the love of God the Father to His whole Church, His chosen family, which is scattered all over the world. It is entrusted to God the Son, in positive responsibility by an everlasting covenant, for the redemption of their persons with His own blood, and their eternal salvation in His own righteousness imputed to them. It is communicated to them by the regenerating and quickening operations of the Holy Ghost creating in them a new and holy life, capable of enjoying God. This new and holy life consists of all the graces of the Holy Spirit, and becomes manifest by their actions upon Christ. Faith trusts Him and claims Him; hope aspires after Him, and waits for Him; love cleaves to Him and honours Him, rejecting all that is unlike Him.

Reader, is this your religion? If so, Heaven is secure. If not, when you die you will descend to eternal despair, though loaded with all the forms of Pharisees, all the traditions of Rome, and all the mock sanctity of Oxford.

Arise, O Lord, and plead thine own cause, prays His willing servant in the cause of Truth.

** Puseyism – the name given to the Anglo-Catholic party in the Church of England in the 19th century. The name was for Edward Pusey, who adopted Roman Catholic views of sacramentalism, especially baptismal regeneration. They were also called Tractarians and the Oxford Movement.*

Open Air Witness in Portsmouth

Saturday, 27th July, 2013

On a hot summer’s day, the Christian Watch Witness table was set up for 4 hours in Portsmouth’s main shopping area.

Thousands of people passed by and heard Pastor Evan Richards, Jim Scoales and Malcolm Hey of Grace Baptist Church preach in rotation. Tracts, booklets and Bibles were handed out.

- A young man, Sparky, on a big mobility scooter, stayed some time and was spoken to about the things of God. We pointed him to Bethel Church, Leigh Park, and gave him literature.
- Chris, describing himself as a philosopher, didn’t like the idea of Hell, but took in some Biblical points.
- Stefan, a young Pentecostal, family man from Russia – here for 6 months – was missing Christian fellowship and said he would come to Church.

Our brother Lui (Malaysian) and sister Ying Li (Chinese) made a point of tracting and speaking with the many Chinese people. A Christian student, Ice, had arrived that day from China, and had prayed to meet believers, Ying Li was able to speak with him.

A number of believers encouraged us in the work, though a Charismatic Arminian evangelist was more hostile and said he had "a word from the Lord for us" against Reformed Doctrine. Sometimes strongest enemies can be from "within".

We thank the Lord for the opportunity to preach Christ.

Malcolm Hey

Footnote: Two of the people spoken to at the witness attended Church the next day.

CHRISTIAN WATCH

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

to be held, God willing, at

**Slip End Village Hall,
Grove Road, Slip End, Luton LU14BJ**

**(Near M1, Junction 10 – drive towards Harpenden/St. Albans and take
the right hand turning to Slip End)**

Friday, 4th OCTOBER, 2013 at 7.15pm

Speaker:

Mr. Graham Chewter

(Trinitarian Bible Society Deputation Speaker)

Address:

‘Who is on the Lord’s side?’

Book Tables

Light Refreshments

Collection for Christian Watch

Contact: Mr. David Lawson 07889365645

**“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord’s side?
let him come unto me.”**

(Exodus 32:26)

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Published by:

CHRISTIAN WATCH, PO Box 2113, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY.

Email: info@christianwatch.org.uk **Web:** www.christianwatch.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1095108