

# CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

**"And what I say unto you**

**I say unto all, Watch"**

**Mark 13:37**

**NEWSLETTER**

**March/April 2013**

March/April 2013.

# CHRISTIAN WATCH

## To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

Firstly, we would apologise for the delay in producing the March Newsletter, which has been caused by computer breakdowns and also personal health problems. I am still awaiting surgery and therefore have to endure considerable pain and many consequential difficulties. We have decided, therefore, to make this issue a joint March/April edition (instead of the usual June/July combined edition).

We are thankful to be spared to greet you in the blessed Name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and can we not say with the Apostle Paul, "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day" *Acts 26:22*.

It is a wonderful mercy if the Lord has enabled us to trust in Him concerning all our circumstances, however trying and perplexing the future may appear. The majority of the Lord's people, who do not have an assurance of their eternal destiny in glory with the Lord, are subject to many temptations, causing doubts and fears with regard to their eternal state. Many and various questions arise as a result of our looking at ourselves and the many satanic temptations to which we are subject, instead of having our eyes by faith firmly fixed upon the dear Lord Jesus Christ. If we can mentally go back in our lives to just one occasion when the Lord has favoured us with a special blessing, which could only have been His doing, He will never leave or forsake us, in spite of all our fears.

The time in which we are living is becoming increasingly evil, and one in which many appear to be content with an outward form of religion, which can never be of any real spiritual benefit. A new Archbishop of Canterbury has been appointed to lead the Church of England, as has a new Pope of Rome to lead the Roman Catholic Church. Both of these appear by their statements to clearly identify themselves with those who do not possess the vital teaching of the Holy Spirit. The fulfilment of Biblical prophecy concerning the events that will take place in the period preceding Christ's second coming are increasingly identifiable. How important it is, therefore, that we prayerfully search the Scriptures so that we are aware of that which is prophesied to occur prior to Christ's return.

There has been a considerable amount revealed recently about ongoing corruption within the Roman Catholic Church. From the information we receive, it is apparent that the evils of fornication and homosexuality have been practised by many RC Priests for centuries, although this has mainly been concealed by various means from the general public. It is reported by Yahoo News that the recent resignation of Pope Benedict XVI followed an internal investigation in the Vatican which informed him about a web of blackmail, corruption and gay sex. Three Cardinals were asked by Pope Benedict to verify these allegations which resulted in them handing to the Pontiff a report of almost three hundred pages, containing details of many of the evils that were taking place inside the Holy See. The newspaper, La Republica, reported that it was on the day Pope Benedict received and read the Cardinals' report that he took the decision to resign. The replacement Pope, Francis I, is a Jesuit - these call themselves the 'Society of Jesus'. The history of the Jesuits contains volumes of their vile doctrines and details of the evil and wicked deeds which they have committed. A book entitled "*The Jesuits: the Secret Army of the Papacy*" by Shaun Willcock is very enlightening and can be obtained from [www.biblebasedministries.co.uk](http://www.biblebasedministries.co.uk).

In order to provide you with important information with regard to recent developments within the Church of Rome, we include three articles entitled **NO PLACE LIKE ROME?** by Dr. Alan C. Clifford; **THE TWO HORNS OF ANTICHRIST** by the late John Calvin and **THE APPOINTMENT OF A JESUIT POPE** by a CW Member. The latter was brought up in a staunch Roman Catholic family and married a man of the same faith. By the wonders of redeeming grace, however, the Lord revealed to her the errors of her religion and having

provided her with a Bible, He shone upon the sacred pages and enlightened her understanding concerning real religion. Her Bible now is one of her most valuable possessions.

Many of the events currently taking place in countries which have historically established their laws, based upon the Word of God, are now solemnly departing from it. This is particularly evident by the current developments in both the United Kingdom and the United States of America with regard to the marriage union, which is so clearly identified in the Word of God as being a life-long union between one man and one woman. The current arguments that are used in an attempt to justify unscriptural relationships clearly identify the work of Satan, in his constant endeavour to deceive. We include a copy of a letter sent to the British Prime Minister with the sub-title, **Encouragement to Stand Up for Marriage and the Family**. This letter provides an excellent example of the fulfilment of a responsibility we all have to defend the Word of God and to encourage - particularly those in authority over us - to adhere to both the Commandments and exhortations given in Scripture by our all-wise God.

Our Campaign, **Who is on the Lord's side?**, continues under the supervision of our National Co-ordinator, Michael Hobbis. As explained in the report, the bitterly cold weather has been a considerable deterrent to the planning and holding of public meetings, particularly in the open air. In addition, both Mr. Hobbis and his wife were taken ill and told by their doctor to rest and keep warm. Thankfully, they are now both slowly recovering.

Many professing Christian people in our day are solemnly deceived by the unscriptural doctrine of freewill. In other words, it is claimed that we are able to choose to either accept or reject the eternal benefits and blessing procured by Christ alone in His sufferings and death upon the cross. The false theory of freewill is explained in an article we include by the late Augustus Toplady entitled **The Golden Idol of Freewill**.

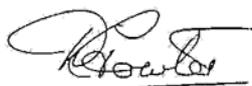
The Apostle Paul, in his letter recorded in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 says, "*But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.*" We include an article by the late A.W. Pink entitled **CHOSEN TO SALVATION** in which he refers to the foregoing verse of Scripture and draws our attention to three salient points. May we never be left to place our hope for the eternal salvation of our immortal souls upon any other than the Lord and only Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We include under the heading **EVENTS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY** details of some meetings that have been organised by the Christian Watch Local Contact Groups. We sincerely hope that those of our Members who are able to support these meetings will do so, and also encourage others who live in the vicinity to attend. We never know if and when the Lord may use His Holy Word, or that which is spoken in an address, for the spiritual benefit of perhaps just one person present.

Finally, we would ask those of our Members who are able to visit our Christian Watch website [www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk) if they would kindly respond to the request given under the heading **CW Website – Feedback**. Our motive is to make our website as effective as possible. We thank you in anticipation of your assistance in this matter.

We wish you the Lord's blessing and His constant help and support in this wilderness journey.

I remain, yours in the Lord's service.



**David Crowter**

---

**Management Committee**

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).

# NO PLACE LIKE ROME?

By Dr. Alan C. Clifford

## PREPARING FOR THE QUINCENTENARY OF THE GLORIOUS PROTESTANT REFORMATION

(1517-2017)

*Avoiding Rome's predictable lies and her inevitable ecumenical deception in the run-up to this event, we unashamedly issue the following statement:*

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

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

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

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

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

The idea that the merits of the faithful are a necessary contribution to their salvation undermines the all-sufficiency of Christ's merit. Rome's traditional mistake in making sanctification a part of justification arises from her reliance on the Latin *justificare* instead of the Greek *dikaioo*. While the former verb means 'to make righteous', the latter means 'to declare righteous' by the remission of sins through faith in the blood of

Christ (see *Romans 4: 5-8; 5: 1, 9*). Our pardon is provided by Christ's sacrificial righteousness alone, imputed to all who trust in Him.

While good works are a necessary and certain fruit of saving faith (see *Galatians 5: 6; Ephesians 2: 8-10*), their imperfection rules them out from justifying us. **Our persons and our performances alike always require pardon.** That said, Christian sainthood is the present status of true though imperfect believers (see *Ephesians 1: 1-2*); not that of dead believers canonised by the Church of Rome.

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

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

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

The political claims of a highly fallible Papacy conflict with Christ's words that His Kingdom 'is not of this world' (*John 18: 36*). Rome's entire governmental structure - Pope, Cardinals, Archbishops etc. - has more in common with ancient imperial Rome than the apostolic Presbyterian order of the New Testament.

Rome's growing ambition to dominate Europe as in the days of the Holy Roman Empire is a re-emerging tyranny to be resisted by individual Christians and National Governments alike. Ever since the Reformation, the Papacy has always been opposed to the independence of the United Kingdom. Her arrogance is at odds with Christ's liberating truth (see *John 8: 32, 36; Galatians 5: 1*).

**IV In addition to theological objections, the track record of Roman Catholicism does not commend itself.** For violent and bloody persecution, no organisation can compete with Rome. Since the true Church of Christ is 'persecuted' rather than 'persecutor', this one consideration alone makes Rome's claim to 'correctness' null and void (see *John 15: 20-1; 2 Timothy 3: 12*). Besides the burnings of the sixteenth-century British Reformers, the dreadful cruelties inflicted on the ancient Waldensians, the French Huguenots, the Dutch Protestants and others (including Jews, Muslims and Eastern Orthodox), have never been truly repented of - since the doctrine directing these atrocities remains intact. Indeed, under another name - The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith - the Inquisition still exists.

Current persecution of Protestants in Central and South America shows no change in Rome's methods where she has a free hand. The intrigue and corrupting influence of the Jesuits knows no parallel. Vatican complicity in the rise of Hitler and the Nazi holocaust is well attested. The evils of the confessional and the 'unholy wedlock' of supposedly celibate priests refute Rome's sanctimonious image. While marital failure among Protestant Pastors is to be lamented, is it any wonder that paedophilia and HIV are rife among sexually-frustrated and homosexual Roman priests?

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

Dr. Alan C. Clifford, Pastor,  
Norwich Reformed Church  
[www.nrchurch.co.nr](http://www.nrchurch.co.nr)

---

## **THE TWO HORNS OF ANTICHRIST** *JOHN CALVIN on Rome and Islam*

And seeing that the Son of God is come, is it reasonable that men should put forth their own dreams and traditions, and that Jesus Christ should hold His peace? But the Popish religion tends to none other end, than to put Jesus Christ to silence. The Pope boasts himself to be His vicar. But however the case stands, he makes laws at his own pleasure: he makes new articles of faith; to be short, the [true] Gospel is but an aside, if we believe the Pope: and the traditions that he has devised are the full perfection of all.

For, behold, they have not been ashamed to say, that the things which the Popes and their councils have decreed, and all their rituals, filth and pelting trash, (which yet notwithstanding are but devilish abominations to pervert the service of God) are the things which the Apostles could not bear, when Jesus Christ said to them, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (*Jn. 16:12*). And what things be they? O they be the high mysteries which the Pope devised about the Gospel [the Mass, purgatory, etc.].

Like as Muhammad says that his *Qur'an* is the sovereign wisdom: so says the Pope of his own decrees: for they be the two horns of Antichrist. Since it is so, do we not see that we cannot in anywise cleave to the Pope but by renouncing Jesus Christ. Then let us bear well in mind, that seeing it is God's will to exalt His only Son after that fashion; surely He will have us to look unto Him, and that all doctrine be referred unto Him, and do concern Him. So we must conclude that all who will speak in the Church must utter nothing but that which they have learned in the school of this great Schoolmaster.

*Sermons on Deuteronomy*, tr. Arthur Golding (London 1583), p. 666 (Extract ed. A. C. Clifford, 2007)

---

# THE APPOINTMENT OF A JESUIT POPE

## THE JESUIT MISSION CONTINUES TODAY IN FULL STRENGTH - those in the Church who have ears... let them hear

**By a former Roman Catholic and current CW Member**

The Papal Conclave on the 13th March, 2013 chose Jorge Mario Bergoglio to be the 266th Pope, Bishop of Rome and Sovereign of the Vatican - the first ever Jesuit Pope in history - who chose the name Francis in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi.

There is a history of brutality within the Roman Catholic Church in its mission to establish the legacy and false Kingdom here on earth of the Pope, who is also known as the “vicar of Christ.” Foxe’s Book of Martyrs describes many of these atrocities.

During the Reformation, many notable Protestants strove to spread the truth of God’s Word. The Counter-Reformation which followed was led by Ignatius Loyola who founded the Jesuit Order in the mid 1500s. They had a strategic mission to oppose all those who stood against the papacy and Rome.

The Emperor Ferdinand, a devout Jesuit supporter, whose hatred of the Protestants was without bounds - not thinking he had sufficiently oppressed them - instituted a High Court to prosecute the Reformers upon the plan of the Inquisition. The difference, however, was that the Court was to travel from place to place and always to be attended by a body of troops. This Court was conducted chiefly by Jesuits and following their decision there was no appeal - by which it may be easily conjectured that it was a dreadful tribunal indeed.

This Court, attended by a body of troops, seldom examined or saw a prisoner, for the soldiers were permitted to murder the Protestants as they pleased and then to make a report of the matter to them afterward.

The Jesuits were commissioned by the Pope to do whatever it took to end the Protestant Reformation.

### **The 1540 Constitution of the Jesuits states:**

*Let whoever desires to fight under the sacred banner of the Cross, and to serve only God and the Roman Pontiff, His vicar on earth, after a solemn vow of perpetual chastity - let him keep in mind that he is part of a society, instituted for the purpose of perfecting souls in life and in Christian doctrine, for the propagation of the faith . . . Let all members know, and let it be not only at the beginning of their profession, but let them think over it daily as long as they live, that the society as a whole, and each of them, owes obedience to our most holy Lord, the Pope, and the other Roman pontiffs, his successors, and to fight with faithful obedience for God.* (Emphasis added).

Ecumenism and a one-world religion seem to be the current strategy and has watered down true Biblical truths. Christ is not found in a wafer and a goblet of wine to be re-crucified at the altar every Sunday by the Priest but has died once for his Elect (Hebrews 7:27; 10:11-14).

The following quote from “Essay on Popery” by Rev. Ingram Cobbin, M.A. (taken from one edition of *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*) states:-

“The Jesuits, though at times expelled or pretendedly so from Rome, have been its awful emissaries to augment its power. The intrigues and deceptions of these men would fill volumes, and the conveniency of their creed to deny or affirm anything, or assume any profession as it may serve their purpose, is too well known to need recapitulating here. These men have at times assumed so much that every papal state has ejected them; and large numbers are now in this country - doubtless many under false colours - waiting the most favourable opportunities to corrupt the rising generation, and, as much as possible, restore the dark days of former ages. The Jesuits are unchangeable.”

## **The Counter-Reformation Continues**

Jesuit influence is present - and even stronger now - with the appointment of Pope Francis. “...for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 11:14, 15).

The Word of God says, “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

To believers who are standing fast, “look up . . . .for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28). “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. . . . See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:6-11, 15-17).

Jesus Christ is the one and only High Priest of His people - holy, faithful and without blemish and is now at the right hand of the Father. There is no need for any mediator between man and God, such as a Priest, to make any sacrifices or atonement, for the people. Jesus paid the price once when He declared “It is finished” on the blessed cross, through His sufferings and shed blood. He has now taken His seat on the right hand of God and intercedes for His people. No human priest, or Pope, can rightly perform any religious duties. May we ever take heed of the warnings in Hebrews 10:26-31.

---

**The blood of Christ, how sweet it sounds,  
To cleanse and heal the sinner’s wounds!  
The streams thereof are rich and free;  
And why, my soul, why not for thee?**  
(C. Cole)

# Letter to the Prime Minister

14<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

Dear Prime Minister,

## **Encouragement to Stand Up for Marriage and the Family**

Thank you for your public statements in support of both the Christian faith and of the family as the lynchpin of society. I am, however, concerned that we are under attack, and in acute danger, from exceedingly determined and devious activists, whose public facade effectively conceals a most sinister agenda. My aim in writing is to alert you to this very real and immediate danger. I beg you to hear me out?

Please, please, may I just ask you to consider the possibility that you, along with many of the British public, have been grossly deceived by very subtle and persuasive 'gay' propaganda? Their clever deception could well lead you to make the most serious mistake of your life; a mistake which would be ruinous for you personally, for the Tory party, and for British Society.

The deception depends on at least three crucial lies:-

1. That homosexuals are somehow 'born gay', so that their adoption of a homosexual lifestyle is no more a matter of choice than is their skin colour.
2. That homosexual practices and relationships are in all ways equal, or at least equivalent, to those of heterosexuals.
3. That legislating for same-sex marriage will strengthen marriage and result in a more humane and liberal society, in which freedom is advanced and discrimination is eliminated.

These are all demonstrably false, as is comprehensively documented in the web links below.

Taking the lies in order -

1. All studies that purported to show a tenuous genetic link to homosexuality have been proved to be fatally fraudulent and were usually conducted by homosexuals, with very clear motives to falsify their findings. There is emphatically no proof whatever that homosexuality is innate or genetic. There is some evidence that certain factors in a person's upbringing can make the adoption of a homosexual lifestyle more likely, but ultimately the individual's decision is just as much a matter of choice as is the case with a spouse who feels "irresistibly" tempted to commit adultery, or to engage in any other harmful or deviant behaviour. People succumbing to such temptations are in no way entitled to equality rights, or to have their destructive lifestyle foisted upon our democratic society and promoted through the education system.
2. Compared to people engaging in heterosexual practices, especially within a faithful marriage, homosexuals suffer from far higher rates of psychological disorders, suicides, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and, of course, medical problems; including cancers of the mouth and anus, and STD infections; especially HIV/AIDS. Apart from the obviously unnatural nature of sodomy, with its much increased risk of infections, all of these disorders are very greatly exacerbated by the inherent infidelity and instability of homosexual relationships.

While it has been emotionally compelling to portray homosexuals generally as being faithful, devoted couples, earnestly desiring to reinforce their relationships by a marriage ceremony, in general, this is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. The reality is that homosexuals typically have multiple partners, and it is largely this that accounts for the hugely heightened rates of infection, stress, and domestic violence. The extra costs to the NHS and Social Services alone would be reason enough to make the normal British taxpayer unhappy for homosexuality to be promoted, as would undoubtedly be the effect of the proposed same-sex marriage legislation.

3. The very real and successfully pursued 'agenda' and aim of the gay activists is unquestionably the destruction of the foundations of traditional society, and in particular the elimination of the family as the basis for nurturing children. Be under no illusions: their public clamour for tolerance is actually extremely selective and is definitely not extended to anybody who dares to question their views. With utter contempt for democratic consensus, they will suppress and sweep away all vestiges of our Christian heritage and morality, so that unrestrained promiscuity and sexual anarchy can become the norm for society. To this end, a new 'political correctness' will become established and used energetically, in truly Orwellian fashion, against anyone, who dissents from, or even fails to embrace with sufficient zeal, the measures enacted to promote this "Brave New World". (You might find it eye-opening to study Peter Tatchell's web-site).

As already mentioned, all of the gay activists' lies and the refutations of them I have stated are authoritatively documented in the web links below, which I have listed in the same paragraph order used above. I trust that you will make the time to study these thoroughly and be persuaded to reverse the tide of evil, which will otherwise overwhelm our society. Would you not prefer to be remembered as the brave Prime Minister, who saved Great Britain from the anarchic tyranny assaulting many Western nations, rather than the one who misguidedly accelerated us into the abyss of Sodom and Gomorrah?

Yours respectfully,

**T.P. Cripps, Sqn. Ldr., RAF, Ret'd.**

Web Links:

1. <http://conservativecolloquium.wordpress.com/2007/10/01/born-gay-hoax-studies-debunked/>
2. : <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/population-groups/lesbian-gay-and-bisexual-lgb-people/data/health-issues>  
<http://carm.org/homosexual-gay-sex-harms-no-one>
3. [www.massresistance.org/docs/gen/.../Redeeming\\_rainbow/index.html](http://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen/.../Redeeming_rainbow/index.html)  
(especially pages 108-112) and: <http://c4m.org.uk/downloads/10reasons.pdf>  
[www.massresistance.org/docs/marriage/effects\\_of\\_ssm.html](http://www.massresistance.org/docs/marriage/effects_of_ssm.html)

---

Slightly edited

# 'Who is on the Lord's side?'

Campaign report for March

The campaign moves forward, with even a group of believers from as far away as Nairobi, Kenya, expressing a desire to join with us.

The recent dire weather conditions here have not only affected farmers, but also prevented the Open Air Witness planned by the Worthing and Horsham Local Contact Group on 16<sup>th</sup> March at Bognor Regis. This meeting has now, in the will of God, been re-arranged to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> April in London Road, Bognor Regis at 2 p.m. We welcome all who are able to attend this first open air meeting in this town. It is the experience of many that the more believers who are present, then there seems to be a corresponding increase in those who stop to listen.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April, the Birkenhead/Liverpool Local Contact Group will finally be holding their first Public Meeting. The full details are given under 'Events – Dates for your Diary' (page 14) in this issue. The contact for this group is Andy Jones (tel: 0151 327 3194).

It is hoped that soon we will be able to bring news of a linking up with others to visit schools with power-point presentations on Biblical truths, with the Gospel clearly applied. Do look out for more information.

Ian Gander of Hailsham is shortly to take over as Group Leader of the East Sussex Local Contact Group. He will be introduced at the next members' meeting – date to be arranged. Do pray that he will be upheld and the Lord will bless him in this work.

There have been recent enquiries from Cornwall from those who would like to start a new Local Contact Group down there. Do pray for the fulfilment of this hope and that they will be encouraged by others in the locality.

So many dear believers seem dis-inclined to take an active part in such new groups because they feel unable and ill-equipped to play an active part. However, we find in the Scriptures that there are several, if not many, examples of those who felt precisely the same backwardness in service because of their feeling weakness, but who went on to do great things for God – Moses, Gideon and Jeremiah to mention but a few. Even those of us who feel no such sense of our inadequacy are soon shown by the Holy Ghost what sad spectacles we are without His gracious aid. I can do all things – but only through God who strengthens me. Without God we are like Samson - shorn - just as other men.

**Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; that I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance (Ps. 106:4, 5).**

**Michael Hobbis**

National Co-ordinator

Mobile: 07702 431 584. email: [mjhobbis@chistianwatch.org.uk](mailto:mjhobbis@chistianwatch.org.uk)

## **“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

Available from:

**Christian Watch Resources**

PO Box 3268, Leamington Spa, CV32 6YA

Email: [jean@christianwatch.org.uk](mailto:jean@christianwatch.org.uk)

# The Golden Idol of Freewill

By: Augustus Toplady (1740 – 1778)

**“Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth’s sake (Psalm 115:1).**

Some expositors have supposed that this Psalm was penned by the prophet Daniel on occasion of the miraculous deliverance of Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego, when they came out, unhurt, from the burning fiery furnace into which they had been thrown by the command of King Nebuchadnezzar. Indeed, there are not wanting passages, in the Psalm itself, which seem to countenance this conjecture. As where we read, at the fourth verse of Psalm 115 (speaking of the idols of the heathens and, perhaps, with particular reference to that golden image which Nebuchadnezzar commanded to be worshipped), their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands: they have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they but they see not.

I dare say that, in such an auditory as this, a number of Arminians are present. I fear that all our public assemblies have too many of them. Perhaps, however, even these people - idolaters as they are - may be apt to blame and, indeed with justice, the absurdity of those who worship idols of silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. But let me ask: If it be so very absurd to worship the work of other men’s hands; what must it be to worship the works of our own hands? Perhaps, you may say, God forbid that I should do so. Nevertheless, let me tell you, that trust, confidence, reliance, and dependence for salvation are all acts, and very solemn ones too, of divine worship: and upon whatsoever you depend, whether in whole or in part, for your acceptance with God and for your justification in His sight; whatsoever, you rely upon, and trust in for the attainment of grace or glory; if it be anything short of God in Christ, you are an idolater to all intents and purposes.

Very different is the idea which Scripture gives us of the ever-blessed God, from that of those false gods worshipped by the heathen; and from that degrading representation of the true God, which Arminianism would palm upon mankind. Our God (says this Psalm, verse 3) is in the Heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased. This is not the Arminian idea of God: for our free-willers and our chance-mongers tell us that God does not do whatsoever He pleases; that there are a great number of things which God wishes to do and tugs and strives to do, and yet cannot bring to pass: they tell us as one ingeniously expresses it:

That all mankind He fain would  
But longs for what He cannot have  
Industrious, thus, to sound abroad, A  
disappointed, changing God.

How does this compare with that majestic description - our God is in the Heavens! He sits upon the throne, weighing out and dispensing the fate of men; holding all events in His own hand; and guiding every link of every chain of second causes, from the beginning to the end of time. Our God is in Heaven, possessed of all power; and (which is the natural consequence of that) He hath done whatsoever He pleased: or as the Apostle expresses it, (the words are different, but the sense is the same), He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will (Ephesians 1:11).

Therefore it is that we both labour and suffer reproach: even because we say (and the utmost we can say upon the subject amounts to no more than this: to wit) that our God is in Heaven, and has done whatsoever pleased Him. And do according to His own sovereign pleasure He will, to the end of the chapter; though all the Arminians upon earth were to endeavour to defeat the divine intention and to clog the wheels of divine Government. He that sits in Heaven laughs them to scorn: and brings His own purposes to pass, sometimes, even through the means of those very incidents which evil men endeavour to throw in His way, with a mad view to disappoint Him of His purposes. All things, saith the Psalmist, serve Thee (Psalm 119:91). They have all a direct tendency, either effectively or permissively, to carry on His unalterable designs of providence and grace. Observe: effectively, or permissively. For we never say, nor mean to say, that God is the worker of evil: we only maintain, that for reasons unknown to us, but well-known to God, He is the efficacious permitter (not the agent, but the permitter) of whatsoever comes to pass. But when we talk of good, we then enlarge the term; and affirm, with the Psalmist, that all the help that is done upon earth, God does it Himself.

I remember a saying of the great Monsieur Du Moulin, in his admirable book, entitled *Anatome Arminianismi*. His observation is that the wicked, no less than the elect, accomplish the wise and holy and just decrees of God: but, says he, with this difference. God's own people, after they are converted, endeavour to do His will from a principle of love: whereas they who are left to the perverseness of their own hearts (which is all the reprobation we contend for), who care not for God, nor is God in all their thoughts; these persons resemble men rowing in a boat, who make toward the very place on which they turn their backs. They turn their backs on the decree of God; and yet make to that very point, without knowing it.

One great contest, between the religion of Arminius and the religion of Jesus Christ is - who shall stand entitled to the praise and glory of a sinner's salvation? Conversion decides this point at once; for I think that, without any imputation of uncharitableness, I may venture to say, that every truly awakened person - at least when he is under the shine of God's countenance upon his soul - will fall down upon his knees with this hymn of praise ascending from his heart. "Not unto me, O Lord, not unto me, but to Thy Name, give the glory: I am saved not for my righteousness, but for Thy mercy and Thy truth's sake..." And this holds true even as to the blessings of the life that now is. It is God that sets up one, and puts down another (see Psalm 75:7). Victory, for instance, when contending princes wage war, is all of God. The race is not to the swift, as swift; nor the battle to the strong (Ecclesiastes 9:11), as such.

It is the decree, the will, the power, the providence of God, which effectually, though sometimes invisibly, orders and disposes of every event.

At the famous battle of Agincourt, in France, where - if I mistake not - 80,000 French were totally defeated by about 9,000 English, under the command of our immortal King Henry V. After the great business of the day was over, and God had given that renowned Prince the victory, he ordered the foregoing Psalm (114<sup>th</sup>), and part of this Psalm from whence I have read you the passage now under consideration, to be sung in the field of battle: by way of acknowledging that all success, and all blessings, of what kind soever, come down from the Father of lights. Some of our historians acquaint us that, when the triumphant English came to those words which I have taken for my text, the whole victorious army fell down upon their knees, as one man, in the field of conquest; and shouted, with one heart, and with one voice, 'Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake.' And thus it will be when God has accomplished the number of His elect, and completely

gathered in the fullness of His redeemed Kingdom. What, do you think, your song will be, when you come to Heaven? Blessed be God that He gave me free-will; and blessed be my own dear self that made a good use of it? O no, no. Such a song as that was never heard in Heaven yet, nor ever will, while God is God and Heaven is Heaven. Look into the Book of Revelation, and there you will find the employ of the blessed, and the strains which they sing. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

**'Thou art worthy to take the Book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation'** (Revelation 5:9).

---

## **“CHOSEN TO SALVATION”**

**A.W. Pink – 1886 - 1952**

**“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth”** 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

There are three things here which deserve special attention.

First, the fact that we are expressly told that God's elect are “chosen to salvation”. The language could not be more explicit. How summarily do these words dispose of the sophistries and equivocations of all who would make election refer to nothing but external privileges or rank in service! It is to “salvation” itself that God has chosen us.

Second, we are warned here that election unto salvation does not disregard the use of appropriate means: salvation is reached through “sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth”. It is not true that because God has chosen a certain one to salvation that he will be saved willy-nilly, whether he believes or not: nowhere do the Scriptures so represent it. The same God who “chose unto salvation” decreed that His purpose should be realised through the work of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

Third, that God has chosen us unto salvation is a profound cause for fervent praise. Note how strongly the apostle expresses this – “we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation” etc. Instead of shrinking back in horror from the doctrine of predestination, the believer, when he sees this blessed truth as it is unfolded in the Word, discovers a ground for gratitude and thanksgiving such as nothing else affords, save the unspeakable gift of the Redeemer Himself.

### **FINAL REMINDER**

to those Members who have not yet renewed  
their CW subscriptions for 2013

Please send your subscription to the Secretary:

Christian Watch Resources,  
PO Box 3268, Leamington Spa, CV32 6PH

## EVENTS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2013

**20<sup>th</sup> April** - Birkenhead/Liverpool LCG. Public Meeting to be held at The Lauries Centre (situated behind Asda), 142 Claughton Road, **Birkenhead**, Wirral, CH41 6EY. Speaker: Pastor David Carson. Subject: God's Alarm Call – Amos 3:6.

**27<sup>th</sup> April** - Worthing and Horsham LCG. Open Air Witness in **Bognor Regis**, London Road, in the Town Centre, at 2 p.m.

**14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May** - Please visit the Christian Watch Stand (No 111), Surrey Hall, at the **Christian Resources Exhibition**, Sandown Racecourse.

**31<sup>st</sup> May** - Horsham Public Meeting to be held at Deene Road, **Horsham**. Speaker: Dr. John Baigent. Details to be advised.

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June** - Please visit us at the **Cornwall Show**, Wadebridge, where we have been kindly invited to share the facilities of the David Livingstone Trust.

**4<sup>th</sup> 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?"

(N.B. LCG = Local Contact Group)

## CW Website - Feedback

Ian Gander, who maintains our website on a daily basis, has requested feedback from you - our Members - concerning our website, as this has now been up and running for a while. What do you, as Members, think about the site?

It would be much appreciated if those who access our website would look at the list below and answer as many of the points as possible and then e-mail them to [jean@christianwatch.org.uk](mailto:jean@christianwatch.org.uk).

1. How often do you access the Christian Watch website?
2. How long do you spend on the website?
3. What time of day would you normally go on to the website?
4. Do you go on to the website for a particular reason? i.e. Devotionals, events or news etc.
5. Is there anything you would like to see on the website or more of anything that is on the website now? If so, why?
6. Is there anything about the website content you would change? If there is, what and why?
7. Is there anything about the website you don't like? If so, what and why?

Because the feedback is required only from Christian Watch Members, it was considered that the best medium to gather this information would be via the Newsletter. Requesting this information on the website itself might attract unwanted responses.

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

# CHRISTIAN WATCH

## **Head Office**

P O Box 2113, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY

**Email:** [info@christianwatch.org.uk](mailto:info@christianwatch.org.uk)

**[www.ChristianWatch.org.uk](http://www.ChristianWatch.org.uk)**

## **Christian Watch Resources (Orders) PO**

Box 3268, Leamington Spa, CV32 6YA

**Email:** [jean@christianwatch.org.uk](mailto:jean@christianwatch.org.uk)

**[www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk)**

### **How to Support Christian Watch**

#### **Join as a member**

[www.christianwatch.org.uk/register](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk/register)

#### **Donate**

[www.christianwatch.org.uk/donate](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk/donate)

Request membership forms or post cheques payable to 'Christian Watch' to the address above.

Some articles may not necessarily reflect the opinions and beliefs of Christian Watch but are there for information only and not as an endorsement.

#### **Published by:**

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

**Email:** [info@christianwatch.org.uk](mailto:info@christianwatch.org.uk) **Web:** [www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk)

**Registered Charity No 1095108**