

# CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

“And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch”

Mark 13:37

**NEWSLETTER**

November/December 2012

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## **To all Christian Watch Members**

Dear Friends,

We greet you in the Name of the dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom we are indebted for so many mercies and favours. If Christ had not died to atone for the sins of His people, there would be no hope for us, but eternal condemnation would be our just desert. Words can never express the terribly solemn portion of those who never repent over their sins, but neither can words express the glory and eternal happiness of those who are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. The doubts and fears that occur at times in the minds of the Lord's people with regard to their eternal destiny are a direct result of their felt unworthiness, instead of having faith to look alone unto the one and only Saviour of sinners, Jesus Christ. He said, "*I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*" (Luke 5:32).

The solemn worldwide spiritual decline continues with ever increasing rapidity, particularly in those countries which, in the past, have been favoured to have their laws based upon the Word of God. To illustrate this we include an article entitled **Reflection on the U.S. Election and Future of America** by Mathew Staver, which clearly illustrates the general pattern of events and also the importance of those who profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ standing firm for Biblical standards in all aspects of personal and national life. The Lord promises to honour those who honour Him and He will never fail to fulfil His promises; neither will He fail to bring into judgement those who depart from His commandments. This was very evident by the recent **HURRICANE SANDY** and we include an article by Robert McCurry, Editor and Publisher of the American magazine 'The Wake-up Herald'. Godless man, with an atheistic mind, will always attempt to explain by human reasoning how and why such events occur, but there surely will come a time when all will know and acknowledge that there is a God in the Heavens who has all things in His control and performs what He will in dealing with both the wicked and also those who are made righteous by the merits of His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

To have God-fearing rulers in any nation is a wonderful blessing but we believe - according to the Word of God - that the Lord determines who are appointed rulers over the nations of the world. A wonderful example of this was how the Lord raised up Sir Winston Churchill at the beginning of the Second World War to rule in the United Kingdom and gave him wisdom and guidance in the affairs of State. The U.S.A. was blessed by the appointment of **George Washington** and we include his **Announcement of a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer** which was requested by the Committees of both Houses of Congress. Oh, that we in the U.K. were favoured with rulers who feared the Lord and asked Him in prayer for wisdom. Those who presently have the responsibility of government in the U.K. are very obviously under satanic influence, which is evident by their determination to pass laws which are completely contrary to the commandments of our God. Current examples are the re-definition of marriage and the promotion of homosexuality. We are thankful that over one hundred Conservative Members of Parliament have indicated that they will oppose any endeavour to legalise homosexual marriages. The same lack of a regard for the Holy Word of God exists in our National Church where they already appoint women to be vicars and now are determined to appoint them to the bishopric. Little wonder that there is such an evident falling away from the old paths in the Church of England.

We include a very searching article by the late A. W. Pink entitled **A CALL TO SEPARATION**, which emphasises the importance of those who desire to follow the Lord fully, and experience a felt closeness to Him, being separate from those who endeavour to find all their pleasure in the affairs of this life. The Lord Jesus promised that those who are willing to forsake those most dear to them for His sake will inherit everlasting life in Glory with Him forever (Matthew 19:29).

We include a solemn example of this under the title, **A Christian beheaded by extremists in Somalia**, where a young 25 year old man, who was converted from Islam to Christianity, lost his life because of his determination to remain faithful to his profession.

The persecution of Christians, particularly in Muslim countries, is increasing throughout the world and we wonder how much longer we, who openly profess the name of Christ, will have the freedom to do so. The population of Muslims in our country is rapidly increasing and they have openly stated that their ultimate objective is to gain control by their population growth. We include a report by Michael Carl on the situation in North Korea, under the heading **70,000 Christians 'locked in concentration camps'**. How solemn to consider that whole families can be imprisoned because of their possession of a Bible. We do well to ask ourselves if we would be prepared to witness for the Lord's cause when confronted with the threat of persecution. It is certain that only those who are in possession of a God-given religion will ever stand this test, for they are constrained by their love to the dear Lord Jesus Christ to do so. This was demonstrated in earlier times by those martyrs who were put to death by the Roman Catholic Church.

We include a progress report on our **"Who is on the Lord's Side?"** Campaign and we hope and pray that our Members who are able and willing to support this important work will respond to the invitation to contact Michael Hobbis to arrange local meetings.

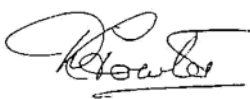
Many people, who profess to be Christians, believe they have a freedom and ability to determine their future in this life and in the life hereafter. According to the Word of God this is not so. We read many times in the Scriptures where the Lord clearly states that the choice of His people is His prerogative. In John's gospel chapter 15, verse 16, we read, *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you"*. We include an item by the late W. S. Craig entitled **FREE WILL** which clearly identifies that, if we are one of the Lord's chosen people, every detail of our lives will be ordered by Him in love, which necessitates our correction by chastening at times. *"For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth"* Proverbs 3 : 12.

Prayer is the wonderful privilege of all of the Lord's people, and as we believe that He has all of His creation in His control, including the hearts and minds of all people upon the face of the earth, what fools we are, if we fail to commit every detail of our lives to Him to manage for us. He never fails those who put their trust in Him. We include a very good and instructive article by the late John Bunyan entitled **WHAT TRUE PRAYER IS**.

Finally, we are drawing near to the close of another year and this is our end of year **NEWSLETTER**. We therefore enclose the Membership **Subscription Renewal Form** for 2013 for you to complete and return to us. Whilst we have not increased the subscription amount, we ask you to prayerfully consider the donation you may feel able to include. There is an increasing amount that we consider should be done to promote God's Word, an important one being to promote in our schools the teaching of the Ten Commandments, which we hope to progress in the New Year. Your support for projects such as this would be much appreciated.

We wish you the Lord's rich blessing for the coming year.

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).

# Reflection on the U.S. Election and Future of America

By Mathew Staver, Founder & Chairman of Liberty Counsel ([www.LC.org](http://www.LC.org))

8 November 2012

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The event we have just witnessed was far more than a general election – it was a referendum on the soul of America. We grieve today like we have lost a friend or a close relative. Millions of Americans looked evil in the eye and adopted it. Some Christian observers called the Democratic Party platform for 2012 a “Romans 1 Platform,” and they were right. Abortion, same-sex marriage, and immorality carried the day.

The great values on which America was founded were set aside because of selfishness unbalanced by Biblical truth and commitment to Jesus Christ. Race and ethnicity over-rode values. The America we love is sick and needs renewal and healing. Under these circumstances, it is okay to grieve. But, after we have grieved, we must press forward.

God is not through with our nation! God calls us to remain faithful, no matter the consequences.

We might be a Bonhoeffer in Nazi Germany who never lived to see the fruit of his faithful labour. We might be a Wilberforce in England who saw the fruit of his labour (the abolition of slavery and reformation of morals), but died soon after, never getting the chance to enjoy the results. We might even be a David who stood up against popular opinion and defeated a giant who blasphemed God Almighty. No matter what our lot might be, **we are called to be faithful!**

We have a higher calling than the world. Our calling and our values do not depend on a survey or an election. Whether we are on the verge of revival or are soon to face the death chamber makes no difference to how we respond or how we act. Our obedience is to Christ and to Christ alone!

The world hated Jesus, and it is no surprise the world hates the followers of Christ. But, be of good cheer! The Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the world and is seated on His throne. Without Christ we are nothing. We are lost and have no hope. And although I grieve for a season, yet I have hope because of Christ!

God is still in control. But the choices people make have consequences. He is in control throughout the narrative of Deuteronomy 28. He is also in control in verses 1-14, where Scripture speaks of the blessings that will come to a nation if a nation follows God and keeps His commandments. And He is in control in Deuteronomy 25:15 and following, where the Holy text speaks of the curses that come for not obeying God. Either way, He is in control! Either way, no matter what the populace does, we are not allowed to waiver and must remain steadfast.

We will no doubt see and feel the consequences of this election. More children will die. Marriage will come under greater attack. Immorality will be exalted. Sadly, the country could easily collapse under the weight of escalating economic debt. Islam will be emboldened. Our military will become weaker. Israel will not have as strong an ally as it needs at this critical time. The world will become a more dangerous place. These are all consequences that follow national actions like the ones we have just witnessed. But, when you are down, that is the time to fight all the harder!

There is NOTHING impossible for God. He is calling on His people to serve Him, and He will not abandon His people! God has called you and me for such a time as this. God is not surprised by these events. So, to re-iterate, it is okay to grieve because what has happened is indeed sad. But, we cannot go on grieving. We must arise and remember Whom we serve. God will not be mocked and His justice will not sleep forever!

In the midst of your grief, I want to encourage you. Our eyes must remain focused on the Lord and not on the crashing waves. How can we remain down when we are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb? How can we remain sad when Almighty God knows our name? How can we be uncertain when we know Who wrote the last chapter of the Book?

May the peace of the Lord be with you. Be encouraged. Remain strong.

God bless you.

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## **HURRICANE SANDY: 'Act of man' or Act of God'?**

**By: Robert McCurry,  
Editor & Publisher of 'The Wake-up Herald' (3 November Edition)**

Hurricane Sandy has been called many things: Superstorm, Frankenstorm, Mammoth storm, and Monster storm. But, the most interesting name of hurricane Sandy has been "act of God."

*[From Yahoo: WASHINGTON (AP) – Government forecasters say a big storm that they're calling "Frankenstorm" is likely to blast most of the U.S. East Coast next week.*

*The Government has dubbed this storm 'Frankenstorm'. Sure connotes a 'man-made monster', doesn't it? Is Hurricane Sandy being steered to the East coast of the United States using weather modification technique known as HAARP? We've been reporting all week that HAARP has been nailing us here in the mid-Atlantic region up to New England. What they're not telling you is that this was 'the plan'; an epic storm that could put things all along the Eastern seaboard 'on hold' for a while. The 'perfect storm' is approaching. Man made or an act of God? Buckle up! We could be in for a wild ride!*  
**Before It's News, 25 October 2012**

**Note: Information on Government controlled weather modification is available on the Internet.**

*One report said, "However, the possibility does exist that this storm could be one for the record books – perhaps one of the worst in 200 years.]*

The Sandy hurricane devastation has left at least 59 dead and an estimated \$50 billion in combined property damages and economic losses. New Jersey Governor, Chris Christie, has described the damage in the wake of Superstorm Sandy to be "unthinkable." "It is beyond anything I thought I'd ever see," Christie said. "It is a devastating sight right now."

As heart-rending as the loss of life and the seriousness of property damage and loss are in this instant matter, they do not compare with the losses in the 2005 Hurricane Katrina; the death toll post Hurricane Katrina stood at 1836 and nearly 750 people were missing in the wake of the widespread destruction; the economic costs related to the storm topped \$74 billion.

The forces of nature never spiral outside of God's knowledge or control. They are controlled by God who "shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble" (Job 9:6). Psalm 148:8 declares that storms "fulfil His word." Old Testament writers did not hesitate to attribute the forces of nature to God: "**thy waterspouts ... thy waves ... thy billows**" (Psalm 42:7). Today, God's creation is too often de-personalised. But God is sovereign; nothing takes Him by surprise. He is in control and has His reasons for all kinds of weather, both fair and stormy.

**God controls the rain, lightning, wind, thunder, snow, whirlwind, flood and clouds** "by His counsels: that they may do whatsoever He commandeth them upon the face of the world in

the earth. He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy (Job 37:12-13).

## **Act of God**

The large number of people who ignore or deny God's involvement in "natural disasters" notwithstanding, many insurance policies exempt coverage for damage caused by an 'Act of God,' which is the one time an insurance company gets religion. As a legal term relating to property damage, the term 'Act of God' appears in insurance contracts to describe disasters without a human origin or cause. Storm, wind, lightening, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes are all examples of disasters most insurance policies consider 'Acts of God.'

There are both individuals and nations who, though they had a knowledge of the true God, have ignored Him, forgotten Him, and denied Him. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:21-22). That is, they are unmindful of God, do not fear Him, or acknowledge Him, in their lives and works. God solemnly warns, "*The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God*" (Psalm 9:17).

The message that the prophet Jeremiah thundered forth is a message for America:

**"Hear ye the word of the LORD ... Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle. Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it unto other gods, whom neither they nor their fathers have known ... and have filled this place with the blood of innocents"** (Jer. 19:3,4).

The U.S. Supreme Court, acting on behalf of the American people, sanctioned the murder of over 60 million babies by legalised abortion since 1973; their body parts sold for pharmaceutical research. American's sewers are past flood stage with the blood of the innocents.

Sodomy is now mainstream in American politics, business, education, entertainment, religion, and social arenas.

America's judicial system has banned the true, living Jehovah God from every public arena. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is now anathema in the public sector.

America is now worshipping the false gods of lust, sexual promiscuity, and materialism.

Yes, America has forgotten and forsaken the one true living Jehovah God. Now God is speaking to America in thundering tones and in box car letters across the Heavens.

Stay tuned. There's more to come unless there is repentance.

Passive and silent pastors and churches have sought comfort and acceptance by the world - traded persecution for popularity - and have graduated from the arena of persecution to the grandstands of the spectator.

**If God has now withdrawn His hand** of blessing and protection from America as many are suggesting, it is not because of the liberal and corrupt politicians, a corrupt judicial system, humanists, pagans, abortionists, sodomites, feminists, the ACLU and ADL, as responsible as they are for their wickedness. **It is because Pastors, Christians, and the Lord's Church have been "weighed in the balances and found wanting."** **It is His people He is calling to repentance before America will be blessed.**

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

# George Washington's

## Announcement of a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer

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Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favour; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of Government for their safety and happiness:"

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a Nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favourable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of Government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the National one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favours which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations **and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions**; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good Governments, peace, and concord; to promote the practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, A.D. 1789.

*G. Washington*

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# **A CALL TO SEPARATION**

**By A. W. Pink**

**“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”..... (2 Cor. 6:14-18).**

This passage gives utterance to a Divine exhortation for those belonging to Christ to hold aloof from all intimate associations with the ungodly. It expressly forbids them entering into alliances with the unconverted. It definitely prohibits the children of God walking arm-in-arm with worldlings. It is an admonition applying to every phase and department of our lives – religious, domestic, social, commercial. And never perhaps was there a time when it more needed pressing on Christians than now. The days in which we are living are marked by the spirit of compromise. On every side we behold unholy mixtures, ungodly alliances, unequal yoke. Many professing Christians appear to be trying how near to the world they may walk and yet go to Heaven.

“Be ye not unequally yoked together.” This is a call to Godly separation. In each dispensation this Divine demand has been made. To Abraham, Jehovah’s peremptory word was, “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house.” To Israel He said, “After the doings of the land of Egypt wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do; neither shall ye walk in their ordinances” (Lev. 18:3). And again, “Ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you” (Lev. 20:23). It was for their disregard of these very prohibitions that Israel brought down upon themselves such severe chastisements.

At the beginning of the New Testament we are shown the forerunner of Christ standing outside the organised Judaism of His day, calling on men to flee from the wrath to come. The Saviour announced that “He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out” (John 10:3). On the day of Pentecost the word to believers was “Save yourselves from this untoward generation” (Acts 2:40). Later, to the Christian Hebrews Paul wrote “Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp” (13:13). God’s call to His people in Babylon is “Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” (Rev. 18:4).

“Be ye not unequally yoked together.” This is God’s word unto His people today. Nor does it stand alone. In Romans 16:17 it is said, “Mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them.” In 2 Tim. 2:20-21 we read, “In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master’s use.” 2 Tim. 3:5 speaks of those “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof;” then it is added, “from such turn away.” What a word is that in 2 Thess. 3:14, “If any man obey not our word by this Epistle, note that man, and have no company with him.” How radical is the admonition of 1 Cor. 5:11 “Now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner: with such an one no, not to eat.”

“Be ye not unequally yoked together.” We are fully persuaded that it is disregard of this commandment, for commandment it is, which is largely responsible for the low state which now obtains so generally among Christians, both individually and corporately. No wonder the spiritual pulse of many churches beats so feebly. No wonder their prayer meetings are so thinly attended; Christians who are unequally yoked have no heart for prayer. Disobedience at this point is a certain preventative to real and whole-hearted devotion to Christ. No-one can be an unshackled follower of the Lord Jesus who is, in any way, “yoked” to His enemies. He may be a truly saved person, but the testimony of his life, the witness of his walk, will not honour and glorify Christ.



“Be ye not unequally yoked together.” This applies first to our religious or ecclesiastical connections. How many Christians are members of so-called “churches,” where much is going on which they know is at direct variance with the Word of God – either the teaching from the pulpit, the worldly attractions used to draw the ungodly and the worldly methods employed to finance it or the constant receiving into its membership of those who give no evidence of having been born again. Believers in Christ who remain in such “churches” are dishonouring their Lord. Should they answer: “Practically all the churches are the same, and were we to resign, what could we do? We must go somewhere on Sundays.” Such language would show they are putting their own interests before the glory of Christ. Better stay at home and read God’s Word, than fellowship with that which His Word condemns.

“Be ye not unequally yoked together.” This applies to marriage. There are but two families in this world: the children of God, and the children of the devil (1 John 3:10). If, then, a daughter of God marries a son of the evil one, she becomes a daughter-in-law to Satan! If a son of God marries a daughter of Satan, he becomes a son-in-law to the devil! By such an infamous step an affinity is formed between one belonging to the Most High and one belonging to His arch-enemy. “Strong language!” Yes, but not too strong. And, oh, the bitter reaping from such a sowing. In every case it is the poor Christian who suffers. Read the inspired histories of Samson, Solomon, and Ahab, and see what followed their unholy alliances in wedlock. As well might an athlete, who attached to himself a heavy weight, expect to win a race, as a Christian to progress spiritually by marrying a worldling. Oh what watchfulness in prayer is needed in the regulation of our affections!

“Be ye not unequally yoked together.” This applies to business partnerships. Disobedience at this point has wrecked many a Christian’s testimony and pierced him through with many sorrows. Whatever may be gained of this world by seeking its avenues to wealth and social prestige will but poorly compensate for the loss of fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. Read Prov. 1:10-14. The path which the disciple of Christ is called to tread is a narrow one, and if he leaves it for a wider road, it will mean severe chastenings, heartbreaking losses, and perhaps the forfeiting of the Saviour’s “Well done” at the end of the journey.

We are to hate even the “garment” – figure of our habits and ways – spotted by the flesh (Jude 23), and we are to keep ourselves “unspotted from the world” (James 1:27). What a searching and sweeping word is that in 2 Cor. 7:1 - “Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” If any occupation or association is found to hinder our communion with God or our enjoyment of spiritual things, then it must be abandoned. Beware of “leprosy” in the garment (Lev.13:47). Anything in my habits or ways which mars happy fellowship with the brethren or robs me of power in service is to be unsparingly judged and made an end of – “burned” (Lev. 13:55). Whatever I cannot do for God’s glory must be avoided.

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

The contrasts presented are very pointed and searching. “Righteousness” is right doing; “unrighteousness” is wrong doing. The unerring and only standard of right doing is “the Word of Righteousness” (Heb. 5:13). By this alone is the Christian’s life and walk to be regulated. But the worldling disregards and defies it. Then what “fellowship” can there be between one who is in subjection to God’s Word with one who is not? “Light” and “darkness.” God is light (1 John 1:5) and His saints are “the children of light” (Luke 16:8). But the children of the Wicked One are “darkness” (Eph. 5:8). What communion, then, can there be between

members of families so dissimilar? “Christ” and “Belial” – what concord can there be between one to whom Christ is everything and one who despises and rejects Him?

“For ye are the temple of the living God: as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them: and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” How blessed is this! First, we have the exhortation given - “Be ye not unequally yoked together”; second, the reason adduced - “for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?”; third, the inducement proffered. This is a Divine promise and it is striking to note it is a sevenfold one:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1) “I will dwell in them”                   | 2) “and walk in them”              |
| 3) “And I will be their God”                | 4) “And they shall be My people”   |
| 5) “And I will receive you”                 | 6) “And will be a Father unto you” |
| 7) “And ye shall be My sons and daughters.” |                                    |

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

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

(Slightly abbreviated)

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## **A Christian beheaded by extremists in Somalia**

Islamist extremists have beheaded a young Christian man before a crowd of onlookers for leaving Islam. Farhan Haji Mose, age 25, was executed on the 16<sup>th</sup> November in the coastal city of Barawa; accused of being a spy for a foreign religion, according to local sources.

Mose, who ran a small cosmetics shop, had in 2010 spent time in Kenya, during which time he became a Christian. A further business visit to Kenya last year aroused extremists suspicions and consequently he had been constantly monitored for at least the past six months. His body was dumped near to a beach and his family were too frightened to recover it immediately, for fear of being killed themselves. Barawa is currently under the control of *Al-Shabaab* rebels who want to impose strict Islamic law throughout Somalia. Mose is the fourth Christian known to have been beheaded in Somalia in the last eighteen months.

**Release International Report – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

# 70,000 Christians 'locked in concentration camps'

By Michael Carl

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## *Believers now labelled as 'security threat'*

Sources confirm North Korea has eased or lifted a number of restrictions for citizens since Kim Jong Un succeeded his father, Kim Jong II.

Kim Jong II's tenure as dictator was marked by intense persecution of Christians, including imprisonment of generations of a family for a single individual's offence, and executions.

Bans have been lifted on Western foods such as pizza and French fries, and restrictions on the number of cell phones have been loosened, for example, according to Ryan Morgan, an analyst with International Christian Concern Asia.

"The new ruler has even been uncharacteristically shown on state television, smiling and visiting an amusement park," Morgan said.

"However, whatever secular benefits may have trickled down to residents of the isolated communist nation, there is no evidence of any improvement in the condition of the persecuted church there," he said.

"We have not heard any reports of improvement for Christians in the country and have no reason to believe anything has changed. The regime still has up to 70,000 Christians locked away in virtual concentration camps."

Morgan explained that a Christian believer and three generations of his or her family can still go to prison for life - just for owning a Bible.

"We're hoping and praying this changes soon, but we haven't seen any sign of it yet," he said.

In fact, recent media reports say Kim Jong Un has moved to re-structure the nation's security apparatus to maintain his control.

Morgan pointed to a report by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, stating that the North Korean regime is increasingly viewing refugees with religious beliefs or contacts as 'potential security threats.' The report says the regime is offering rewards for anyone providing information leading to the arrest of individuals involved in distributing Christian literature.

Open Doors USA reports, through a source, who cannot be named for security reasons, that border security is no longer the responsibility of the army.

"The NK secret service has taken over responsibility for guarding the borders from the army. They catch smugglers and force them to spy out Christian networks in China, especially those with ties to refugees," the Open Doors source said.

Believers in North Korea tread softly because of the nation's history of persecution as well as the message from the new dictator.

"Kim Jong Un seems to send signals to the people and other countries that he is in control. Christians are aware of this and operate with great caution," the Open Doors source said.

The source emphasised that North Korean Christians are still focused on ministry.

"Christians pay attention to Kim Jong Un but are more concerned about doing God's ministry," the source said. "Our work has not been affected by these developments."

Officials with both agencies say what is needed is prayer from Christians in the West.

"Christians continue to be thankful for our prayers and other support. It's what keeps them alive," the Open Doors source said.

Open Doors lists North Korea No. 1 on its list of the worst persecutors of Christians in the world.

"Still the most hostile country in which to live and practise the Christian faith, there are reports of many Christians arrested, with at least 25 per cent of Christians believed to be languishing in labour camps for their refusal to worship founder Kim Il-Sung's cult," the organisation's report states. "Half the population lives in the North, close to China, where family-based networks of house churches exist in significant numbers. Roughly ten million inhabitants are mal-nourished, with thousands eating only grass and bark."

The organisation reports: "In North Korea, any form of worship to anyone other than the 'Great Leader' (Kim Il-Sung) and the 'Supreme Leader' (Kim Jong-il) is seen as treason. North Korean Christians are often arrested, tortured or even killed for their faith in Jesus Christ."

In fact, one Open Doors' contact for Christians inside North Korea said that ever since it became apparent Kim Jong Un would follow Kim Jong Il in power, "North Korea has stepped up its attempts to uncover any religious activities. There have been more house raids and more spies trained to infiltrate religious and human rights networks. One South Korean Christian was murdered in China because he helped refugees.

Christians fear what Kim Jong Un [is] capable of doing. He will do anything to keep hold of power," the contact said.

Michael Carl is a veteran journalist with military experience and experience as a political consultant. He also has two Master's Degrees, is a bi-vocational pastor and lives with his family in the North-east United States.

Source: World Net Daily online

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**"Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me:  
fight against them that fight against me.  
Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help.  
Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me:  
say unto my soul, I am thy salvation."**

**Psalm 35 v 1-3**

# Report on 'Who is on the Lord's side campaign?' for October/November

There have been encouragements and set-backs in the last few weeks. The bad news is that due to an Everton football match in November, it will not now be possible to visit the Free Presbyterians' congregation at Liverpool and also the two other churches between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November. However, all these meetings have been re-booked for early February. Kent and Lowestoft areas are next to be visited, the Lord willing. Sadly some in other areas, who seemed committed to help, have waxed cold.

However, the group in Chichester, Worthing and Horsham are very zealous for the Lord's work in their areas and keen to build up the membership. We recently had an encouraging joint open-air meeting in Worthing with many people stopping to listen earnestly. Some remained for above 30 minutes – young and old - standing in the slow drizzling rain to listen to the Gospel being preached. Also groups of young people who had previously been embarrassed and amused began to attentively hear the Word preached, albeit from a distance of about 10 yards. Afterwards some came forward and asked for literature. All in all, a great blessing in an age where even the professing believers will not attend open-air meetings. Praise God for the folk in Worthing who are ready to hear the things spoken in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many in other areas are openly hostile, even a little violent, but I have not had problems with the police as yet, even though the Word is faithfully preached without fear or favour.

The Horsham Local Contact Group members meeting was held on the evening of the 23rd November, and while the numbers in attendance were few - on a cold and wet night - everyone who attended enjoyed good fellowship and were encouraged. The meeting was opened by Marcus Brockes, our National Treasurer, who lead in prayer and read the Scriptures for us. This was followed by an address from David Heyes on the local work, and a Word from myself from 2 Timothy 4:5. For any who may desire to hear a recording of this meeting it can be heard on our CW website.

I was recently saddened to meet a believer who has little regard for the Lord's Day and who said that he felt at liberty to spend that day as he wished. Is it, as the Rev. Peter Simpson wrote in one of the letters we published in our Newsletter last month, that some in this generation now feel able to lay aside the Moral Law of God – the Ten Commandments? The 'New Evangelicalism' has, it seems, infected even the Reformed Churches.

May I use this space to suggest that if any do not feel that the fourth commandment of the Decalogue, or indeed any of the other nine commandments are not binding upon them as Christians under Grace, that they obtain a copy of the Puritan Samuel Bolton's excellent work 'The True Bounds of Christian Freedom' (Banner of Truth books). Love wants to run in Christ's commands!

Our Lord was most clear when He stated that whosoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven.

I am now in the process of diarising next year's deputation meetings. If you would like me to visit your Church, please communicate with me by phone or e-mail.

Every blessing to all.

**Michael Hobbis**  
National Coordinator

Mobile: 07702 431 584. E-mail: [mjhobbis@christian watch.net](mailto:mjhobbis@christian watch.net)

# FREE WILL

By W. S. Craig (1867 – 1920)

**THE WILL**, choice and desire practically mean the same thing. Men act freely in choosing that which is agreeable with their nature, love and desires; but they do not thus act freely with that which is not agreeable, for it is contrary to their real choice. They may be, and very often are, prevented from possessing their choice, but not from willing or desiring it. But the Arminian belief that the will is self-determining and that man can of himself change his will is a very great error. In nature's night men act freely in committing sin, but because they are willingly in love with it and as willingly bound with its chain, and are willingly haters of God, they have no power or ability or real willingness in and of themselves to reverse all this.

They may, and often do, claim to make such a choice; but as this can only be an empty profession, what is it but hypocrisy? For without the blessed Spirit's work of grace in the heart, no-one can make a genuine profession of religion. And it is very wrong to urge anyone who has not had this heart-change to make such a profession, for of all things surely this is the worst place to practise deception. But when the gracious Lord is pleased to take away the hard and stony heart and give a tender heart of flesh, and shed abroad His love therein, then this regenerated person freely loves God, and can then freely and truly choose to make profession of His service. For when he is painfully made aware of the awful plague of his heart, he then will freely hate sin instead of loving it as before. And such awakened sinners should certainly always be encouraged and comforted; and it is wrong not to do so.

But man positively cannot of himself reverse his desire, change his heart, and prepare himself for God's service. And all men are quite powerless to aid each other in this line, for "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord" (Proverbs 16:1). "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jeremiah 13:23). "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Matthew 12:34, 35).

I am positive that the above is true. But, sad to say, in this proud age of popular profession, free-will is so often perverted and "run up to seed," and an acquired head-knowledge is generally substituted for the necessary Spirit-given heart-work. The devils plainly possessed quite an intellectual knowledge of Jesus Christ. (See Luke 4:34, 41). Historical knowledge alone puffeth up; but God's grace in the human heart humbleth.

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**Loved of my God, for Him again  
With love intense I'd burn;  
Chosen of thee, ere time began,  
I choose thee in return.**

*Augustus Toplady*

# WHAT TRUE PRAYER IS

By: John Bunyan (1628 – 1688)

**Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised or according to His Word, for the good of the Church, with submission in faith to the will of God.**

Sometimes there is a sweet sense of mercy received – encouraging, comforting, strengthening, enlivening, enlightening mercy. Thus, David pours out his soul to bless, praise, and admire the great God for His loving kindness to such poor, vile wretches. “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s” (Ps. 103:1-4). Thus is the prayer of saints sometimes turned into praise and thanksgiving and yet it is still prayer. This is a mystery: God’s people pray with their praises, as it is written, “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil. 4:6). A sensible thanksgiving for mercies received is a mighty prayer in the sight of God; it prevails with Him unspeakably.

**Prayer is a sincere, sensible, and an affectionate pouring out of the soul to God.** O, what heat, strength, life, vigour, and affection there is in true prayer! “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God” (Ps. 42:1). “I have longed after thy precepts” (Ps. 119:40). “My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God” (Ps. 84:2). “My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times” (Ps. 119:20). O, what affection is here discovered in prayer! You have the same in Daniel. “O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God” (Dan. 9:19). Every syllable carries a mighty vehemency in it. James calls this the fervent or the working prayer. So again, “And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly” (Luke 22:44). He had His affections more and more drawn out after God for His helping hand. O how wide are most men with their prayers from this prayer! Alas! The greatest part of men make no conscience at all of the duty. As for them that do, it is to be feared that many of them are very great strangers to a sincere, sensible, and affectionate pouring out of their hearts or souls to God. They content themselves with a lip labour and bodily exercise, mumbling over a few imaginary prayers. When the affections are indeed engaged in prayer, then the whole man is engaged, and in such sort that the soul will spend itself, as it were, rather than go without that good desire, even communion and solace with Christ. Hence it is that the saints have spent their strength and lost their lives rather than go without the blessing (Ps. 69:3; 38:9-10; Gen 32:24,26).

Prayer is a pouring out of the heart or soul. There is in prayer an unbosoming of a man’s self, and opening of the heart to God; an affectionate pouring out of the soul in requests, sighs, and groans. “All my desire is before thee,” says David, “and my groaning is not hid from thee” (Ps. 38:9). Again, “My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me” (Ps. 42:2,4). Mark, “I pour out my soul.” It is an expression signifying that in prayer there goes the very life and whole strength to God. As in another place, “Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him” (Ps. 62:8). This is the prayer to which the promise is made for the delivering of a poor creature out of captivity and thralldom. “But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul” (Deut. 4:29).

Again, prayer is a pouring out of the heart or soul to God. This shows also the excellency of the spirit of prayer. It is the great God to whom it goes. “When shall I come and appear before God?” (Ps.42:2). And it argues that the soul that thus prays indeed sees an emptiness in all things under Heaven; that in God alone there is rest and satisfaction for the soul. “Now she that

is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God” (1 Tim. 5:5). So says David, “In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in Thy righteousness and cause me to escape: incline Thine ear unto me, and save me. Be Thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: Thou has given commandment to save me; for Thou art my rock and my fortress. Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. For Thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: Thou art my trust from my youth” (Ps.71:1-5). Right prayer makes God the hope, stay, and all. True prayer sees nothing substantial and worth the looking after but God. And that, as I said before, it does in a sincere, sensible and affectionate way.

**Again, prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God through Christ.** This “through Christ” must needs be added, or else it must be questioned whether it is prayer, though in appearance it be never so eminent and eloquent.

Christ is the way through whom the soul has admittance to God and with whom it is impossible that so much as one desire should not come into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. “Whatsoever ye shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in My Name, I will do it” (John 14:13-14). This was Daniel’s way in praying for the people of God; he did it in the Name of Christ. “Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of Thy servant, and his supplications, and cause Thy face to shine upon Thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord’s sake” (Dan. 9:17). And so David, “For Thy Name’s sake, O LORD” – that is, for Thy Christ’s sake – “pardon mine iniquity; for it is great” (Ps. 25:11). But now, it is not everyone that makes mention of Christ’s Name in prayer that does indeed, and in truth, effectually pray to God in the Name of Christ or through Him. This coming to God through Christ is the hardest part of prayer. A man may be sensible of his condition and sincerely desire mercy, and yet not be able to come to God by Christ. The man that comes to God by Christ must first have the knowledge of Him: “For he that cometh to God must believe that He is” (Heb. 11:6). So he that comes to God through Christ must be enabled to know Christ. “I pray thee,” says Moses, “shew me now Thy way, that I may know Thee” (Ex. 33:13).

This Christ, none but the Father can reveal (Matt. 11:27). And to come through Christ is for the sinner to be enabled of God to hide himself under the shadow of the Lord Jesus, as a man hides himself under a thing for safeguard. Hence it is that David so often terms Christ his shield, buckler, tower, fortress, rock of defence (Ps. 18:2; 27:1; 28:1). Not only because *by* [Christ] he overcame his enemies but also because *through* [Christ] he found favour with God the Father. So God says to Abraham, “Fear not, Abram: I am Thy shield (Gen. 15:1). The man, then, that comes to God through Christ must have faith by which he puts on Christ and in Him appears before God. Now he that has faith is born of God and so becomes one of the sons of God by virtue of which he is joined to Christ and made a member of Christ (John 3:5,7; 1:12). Therefore, he, as a member of Christ, comes to God; I say, as a member of Christ, so that God looks on that man as part of Christ; part of His body, flesh, and bones; united to Him by election, conversion, enlightenment; the Spirit being conveyed into the heart of that man by God (Eph 5:30). So that now he comes to God in Christ’s merits – in His blood, righteousness, victory, intercession – and so stands before Him, being “accepted in the Beloved” (Eph. 1:6). And because this poor creature is thus a member of the Lord Jesus, and under this consideration has admittance to God, therefore, by virtue of this union is the Holy Spirit conveyed into him, whereby he is able to pour out his soul before God.

**Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God through Christ by the strength or assistance of the Spirit.** These things so depend one upon another that it is impossible that it should be prayer without a joint concurrence of them. Though it be [most] eloquent, yet, without these things, such prayer is rejected of God. For without a sincere, sensible, affectionate, pouring out of the heart to God, it is but lip labour; and if it be not through Christ, it falls far short of ever sounding well in the ears of God. So also, if it is not in the strength and by the assistance of the Spirit, it is but like the sons of Aaron offering strange fire (Lev. 10:1-2).

I say that which is not petitioned through the teaching and assistance of the Spirit cannot be “according to the will of God” (Rom. 8:26-27). There is no man or church in the world that can



come to God in prayer but by the assistance of the Holy Spirit. "For through Him [*Christ*] we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Eph. 2:18). Wherefore, Paul says, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Rom. 8:26-27). And because there is in this Scripture so full a discovery of the spirit of prayer and of man's inability to pray without it, therefore I shall in a few words comment upon it.

"For we." Consider first the person speaking, even Paul, and, in his person, all the apostles. We apostles, we extraordinary officers, the wise master-builders, some of whom have been caught up into paradise (Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 3:10; 2 Cor. 12:4), "We know not what we should pray for." Surely there is no man but will confess that Paul and his companions were as able to have done any work for God as any Pope or proud prelate in [the Roman Catholic tradition], and could as well have made a Common Prayer Book as those who at first composed this. [Paul and his companions were] not a whit behind them either in grace or gifts.

"For we know not what we should pray for." We know not the matter of the things for which we should pray, the object to whom we pray, nor the medium by or through whom we pray. None of these things know we but by the help and assistance of the Spirit. Should we pray for communion with God through Christ? Should we pray for faith, for justification by grace, and a truly sanctified heart? We know none of these things. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so, the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (1 Cor. 2:11). But here, alas! the apostles speak of inward and spiritual things, which the world knows not (Isa. 29:11).

Again, as they know not the matter of prayer without the help of the Spirit, so neither know they the manner thereof without the same. Therefore, he adds, "We know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit helps our infirmities with sighs and groans that cannot be uttered." Mark here: they could not so well and so fully succeed in the manner of performing this duty as these in our days think they can.

The apostles, when they were at their best – yea, when the Holy Ghost assisted them – were fain to come off with sighs and groans, falling short of expressing their mind but with sighs and groans that cannot be uttered.

"For we know not what we should pray for as we ought." Mark this: "as we ought." For the not thinking of this word, or at least the not understanding it in the spirit and truth of it, has occasioned some men to devise, as Jeroboam did, another way of worship, both for matter and manner, than is revealed in the Word of God (1 Kings 12:26-33). "But," says Paul, "we must pray as we ought." This we cannot do by all the art, skill, cunning and device of men or angels. "For we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit," nay, further, it must be "the Spirit itself" that helps our infirmities – not the Spirit and man's lusts. What man may imagine and devise of his own brain is one thing; that [he is] commanded and ought to do is another.

**Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Spirit, for such things as God has promised** (Matt. 6:6-8). Prayer is only true when it is within the compass of God's Word; it is blasphemy, or at best vain babbling, when the petition is unrelated to the Book. David therefore in his prayer kept his eye on the Word of God. "My soul," says he, "cleaveth unto the dust: quicken Thou me according to Thy Word." And again, "My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen Thou me according unto Thy Word" (Ps 119:25,28. See also verses 41-42, 58, 65, 74, 81-82, 107, 147, 154, 169, 170). And, "Remember the word unto Thy servant, upon which Thou has caused me to hope" (119:49). Indeed, the Holy Ghost does not immediately quicken and stir up the heart of the Christian without the Word, but by, with, and through [it], by bringing that to the heart and by opening that whereby the Man is provoked to go to the Lord to tell Him how it is with him, to argue, and to supplicate, according to the Word. Thus it was with Daniel, that mighty prophet of the Lord. He, understanding by books that the captivity of the children of Israel was

nearing its end, then, according unto that word, he makes his prayer to God. "I Daniel," says he, "understood by books," viz., the writings of Jeremiah, "the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes" (Dan. 9:2-3).

As the Spirit is the helper and the governor of the soul when it prays according to the will of God, so it guides by and according to the Word of God and His promise.

**For the good of the Church.** This clause covers whatsoever tends to the honour of God, Christ's advancement, or His people's benefit. For God, Christ and His people are so linked together that if the good of the one be prayed for [then] the others must needs be included. As Christ is in the Father, so the saints are in Christ; and he that touches the saints touches the apple of God's eye. Therefore, pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and you pray for all that is required of you. For Jerusalem will never be in perfect peace until she be in Heaven; and there is nothing that Christ more desires than to have her there. That also is the place that God through Christ has given her. He, then, that prays for the peace and good of Zion, or the Church, asks in prayer [for] that which Christ has purchased with His blood; and also [for] that which the Father has given to Him as the price thereof. Now he that prays for this must pray for abundance of grace for the Church, for help against all her temptations, that God would let nothing be too hard for her; that all things might work together for her good; that God would keep His children blameless and harmless, the sons of God, to His glory, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation (Phil 2:15). This is the substance of Christ's own prayer in John 17. And all Paul's prayers run that way, as one of his prayers eminently shows: "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God" (Phil. 1:9-11). But a short prayer, you see, and yet full of good desires for the church from the beginning to the end that she may stand and go on and that in the most excellent frame of spirit, even without blame, sincere, and without offence until the Day of Christ. Let her temptations or persecutions be what they will ((Eph. 1:16-21; 3:14-19); Col. 1:13).

**And, because, as I said, prayer submits to the will of God and says, "Thy will be done," as Christ has taught** (Matt. 6:10). Therefore, the people of the Lord in all humility are to lay themselves and their prayers and all that they have at the foot of their God to be disposed of by Him as He, in His Heavenly wisdom, sees best. Yet not doubting but God will answer the desire of His people that way that shall be most for their advantage and His glory. When the saints therefore pray with submission to the will of God, it does not argue that they are to doubt or question God's love and kindness to them. But because they, at all times, are not so wise, [and] sometimes Satan may get advantage of them, [tempting] them to pray for that which, if they had it, would prove neither to God's glory nor [to] His people's good. "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him" (1 John 5:14-15), that is [if we ask] in the Spirit of grace and supplication.

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**'Wrestling prayer can wonders do  
Bring relief in deepest straits,  
Prayer can force a passage through  
Iron bars and brazen gates.'**

*John Newton*

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