

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

Nov/Dec 2013

November/December 2013

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

Firstly we would apologise for the lateness of the October Newsletter, which was caused by a machine breakdown at our printers and the delay in obtaining the necessary part to repair it. These events are obviously beyond our control, but, nevertheless, we trust you found the content helpful when it did arrive.

As another year is fast coming to its close, we are reminded that our time upon this earth is also passing hastily by. How vitally important it is for us to have that sweet and blessed assurance given by the Lord Jesus Christ when He said, *"I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."* John 14:2,3. A God-given realisation and understanding of the importance of this will make the events and concerns of this life appear very trivial. May our prayerful desire be with that of the hymn writer, Draycup.

May I be found a living stone,
In Salem's streets above;
And help to sing before the throne,
Free grace and dying love.

We continue to witness many events in the world, and particularly in our own country, which evidence a departure from the paths of righteousness and the consequential adverse developments that inevitably follow. We include an article by the Rev. George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, entitled **An age when all faiths are equal – except Christianity**, in which he identifies various solemn developments that will inevitably contribute to the ruination of our once most favoured nation by undermining the Christian faith upon which our laws and statutes were founded. May the Lord hear and answer the prayers of those who sigh and cry to Him over the abominations now promoted and practised in our country.

To further emphasise the foregoing point, we include various examples under the heading **NEWS ITEMS**. When consideration is given to these and many other un-Biblical developments, it is not beyond an alert and understanding mind to observe how self-destruction is currently taking place. We depart from - and disobey - the laws of God with inevitable and disastrous consequences. How vitally important it is that we who profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ convey to all about us - and those with whom we have contact - that we endeavour to carefully and prayerfully follow the Lord in the keeping of His Word and Commandments.

The fourth item under **NEWS ITEMS** details how the UK is to provide £100 million for the benefit of the Muslim community. On 27th November, information was released by the Christian Institute under the heading **School Kids labelled 'racist' if they miss Islam workshop**. It appears that the Muslim community is determined to have their religious views promoted at the expense of Christianity. Another item, by Christian News Network, tells of capital punishment being administered in various countries when professing Christian people refuse to convert to the Muslim religion.

Another important warning by Lord Carey is included under the title **Christianity at risk of dying out in a generation** in which he places a considerable amount of blame upon those Ministers of religion who fail to warn or give positive direction to their congregations with regard to the importance of standing firm for the Word of God and who fail to contend against wickedness and all false religions.

The foregoing point is clearly identified in the very solemn and heart-searching article we include by the late Jonathan Edwards entitled **FINAL JUDGMENT UPON SECRET SINS**. That final Day of Judgment none can escape, when each individual will be called to give an account of the deeds done whilst here on earth, whether they be good or bad. None of us can claim a sinless life and we are told that our heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. It is, therefore, vital that we pray to God that He will cause us to increasingly consider what the dear Lord Jesus suffered on behalf of His people to atone for their sins and to grant them that precious gift of real repentance; ever remembering it was His love for them that constrained Him to do so. We have no other hope for our own personal eternal salvation. The late Charles Wesley expressed it very beautifully in the hymn he composed - and can we say it personally for ourselves?

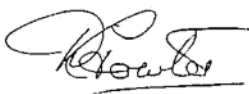
Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone;
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed;
All my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of thy wing.

We include a very relevant article entitled **WHY U.K. CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE BOLDER WITH THEIR FAITH** by Kate Smedley of Christians Today which reveals some very solemn facts. For example, it is stated that Christians are persecuted in 130 countries in the world and that there are in excess of 8,700 professing Christians persecuted annually. The point immediately comes to mind how thankful we should be that we live in a country where we are still free to meet together for worship and we can read our Bibles without fear of persecution. An increasing number of Christian people face opposition and sometimes experience legal battles for contending for that which they believe to be contrary to the laws of God. We know not what we may be called upon to endure for the Lord's cause in time to come, but may grace be given to us that will enable us to earnestly contend for the Word of God whatever the cost may be.

We include, we hope for the encouragement of our Members, details from Mike Jeshurun's blog entitled **MEMORABLE QUOTES OF EMINENT SAINTS PRIOR TO THEIR DEATH**. May our confidence be alone in the dear Lord and a precious Christ as we approach our final moments here upon earth, prior to entering eternity. If it is so, it can be said of us, after we have left our time on earth, that the day of our death was better than the day of our birth.

We are approaching the close of another year and we wish you the best of all blessings for the coming season and the New Year. We thank you for your continued support and trust you will join with us for 2014. You will be aware that the costs incurred by the work we endeavour to undertake are increasing and in planning our work for the coming year we have had to consider this fact. However, the Lord knows our every need and is able to provide for us. We thank you for your prayerful and financial support.

I remain, yours in the Lord's service.



David Crowter

Management Committee

Mr. M. Brockes (Hon. Treasurer/Co. Secretary); Mr. D. Crowter (Chairman);
Mr. I. Henderson; Mr. M. Hobbs; Mr. D. Lawson; Mrs. J. Cummins (Secretary).

An age when all faiths are equal – except Christianity

By George Carey, Former Archbishop of Canterbury

Christianity is a force that has profoundly shaped our civilisation. From literature to architecture, from music to education, the morality and aesthetics of the Christian faith are the very foundations of our nation's culture.

Crucially, Britain's legal system also has its roots in the ethics of Christianity. The concepts of honesty, personal responsibility, opposition to violence, concern for others and respect for their property – which are all part of the fabric of our laws – lie at the heart of the Gospels.

Tragically, this rich and inspiring heritage is now under attack as never before. Our Christian identity is being ruthlessly marginalised. No longer regarded by officialdom as the bulwark of our society's moral code, it is increasingly treated as a minority fad or even a dangerous anachronism.

This trend has been driven by the ideologies of atheism, secularism and multi-culturalism, which together have formed a battering ram against our traditional Christian culture. Society's leaders are fond of talking about 'social inclusion', yet they now seem determined to exclude Christianity from the public realm.

This tendency was highlighted recently in a speech by Sir James Munby, the senior Judge and President of the Family Division of the High Court, who spoke about Christianity's decline as an influence in the judicial system. Drawing a contrast between modern Britain and the more devout Victorian age, Sir James declared that 'the days are past when the business of Judges was the enforcement of morals or religious beliefs'. Significantly, he said: 'We sit as secular Judges serving a multi-cultural community of many faiths', with the result that he and his colleagues 'happily' no longer had a role in enforcing morality.

On one level, Mr. Justice Munby is absolutely right.

Equality before the law is one of the essential principles of British justice. Everyone, no matter what their beliefs, is entitled to equal respect in the courts. But that does not mean that Christianity should be banished from public life altogether.

I am afraid that his rhetoric represents another disturbing assault on the role of the Christian faith in civic life. For all his judicial restraint, his words are part of a pattern whereby, in the name of tolerance and equality, Christianity is increasingly ostracised.

Everywhere there are examples.

Only recently, the managers of a set of student halls at Huddersfield University banned the distribution of Bibles because, like the Judge, they said they wanted to remain 'ethically neutral'.

Similarly, Town Halls have increasingly abandoned the tradition of saying prayers before their meetings, while crucifixes and other aspects of Christianity have been outlawed in many workplaces.

In one particularly outrageous recent case, a highly-experienced paediatrician was forced out of his position after he emailed his work colleagues a copy of the beautiful 16th century prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola, which contains the famous lines, 'to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds'. Understandably, the doctor thought St. Ignatius's verses might

serve as an inspiration at his clinic, but instead he found himself out of a job. This case goes to the core of the problem.

In our dogmatically secular world, the Christian faith has, ludicrously, come to be seen as a threat to equality, freedom and progress. Indeed, that was the thrust of Sir James Munby's speech, particularly in his comment about the religiously-minded supposedly reactionary Victorians.

But the truth is that there is no conflict between equality and Christianity. In fact, the opposite is true. The idea that all human beings are equal before God is central to the Christian faith. It is precisely because of this egalitarian impulse that Christianity has appealed to so many people over the centuries. It is this same principle of equality that has infused British law since Magna Carta.

What Justice Munby seems to have failed to understand fully is that our whole legal system has its basis in Christian morality, with its emphasis on empathy and selflessness. Christianity has nearly always been a restrained, tolerant faith, keener on compromise than obedience.

'The gentleness of English civilisation is its most marked characteristic,' wrote George Orwell, whose famous image of 'old maids cycling to communion' so brilliantly evoked the English character.

Just as misleading is Sir James's pretence that, thanks to the decline of Christianity, today's judiciary no longer has to impose any form of religious morality.

But that, too, is completely wrong. The modern State does indeed have its own new religion: the creed of political correctness, which it imposes with fervour. The consequent marginalisation of Christianity has left a vacuum, which is now filled by the ideologies of diversity and human rights.

This new morality, in a deeply anti-British, anti-Christian way, demands complete obedience.

Those who refuse to obey are treated by the State as heretics to be punished, as was graphically illustrated by the case of a Christian couple who owned a B&B in Cornwall and, because of their religious belief that sex should only happen inside marriage, refused to allow unmarried couples – gay or straight – to share a room.

In a landmark legal case which sealed the supremacy of gay rights over Christian belief under the Sexual Orientation Regulations introduced in 2007, the B&B owners were ordered to pay £3,600 compensation. The modern British State cannot tolerate such unorthodoxy.

The couple have been forced out of business. It is a case that makes a mockery of the Judge's claim that the judiciary is no longer involved in 'the enforcement of morality'. In truth, we now have a class of judicial activists and public officials who have taken on the highly political role of imposing this new orthodoxy.

Other controversial recent human rights cases include the demand that prisoners be given the vote.

In another recent incident, a nurse was suspended from her job for offering to say a prayer for a patient. Her managers ruled that she had failed 'to demonstrate a personal and professional commitment to equality and diversity' – a statement that could hardly be more political.

What is so disturbing about these developments is that double standards are being employed. Christians are often hounded for their beliefs, yet there would be outrage in some quarters if adherents of other faiths were treated in the same way.

Christians in the NHS, for example, are told that they cannot wear crucifixes, yet Muslims are allowed to wear headscarves. In the same vein, a Christian doctor is currently under

investigation for 'sharing his faith' with a patient. Would Sikh or Hindu doctors be scrutinised for talking about their faiths? I doubt it.

Contrary to what High Court Judge Sir James Munby claims, we are not moving towards equality – but towards something far more sinister; the slow disappearance of Christianity from the forefront of our society.

In the process, I fear, we are losing something extremely precious.

Mail Online – 1 November, 2013 (Slightly abbreviated)

NEWS ITEMS

1. Theresa May seeks to outlaw Christian street preachers

David W. Virtue, VirtueOnline – 12 November, 2013

The Government is fast becoming the most authoritarian threat to our liberties of the modern era. Not content with re-introducing State regulation of the Press, the Home Secretary, Theresa May, is intent on outlawing anything that people may find 'annoying'.

The judicious John Bingham writes in the Telegraph: 'Christian preachers, buskers and peaceful protesters could effectively be driven off the streets under draconian new powers designed to clamp down on anyone deemed "annoying", according to a former Director of Public Prosecutions.'

Lord Macdonald, QC, said that the Home Secretary's plans for a new civil injunction to replace Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) amount to "gross interference" with people's private lives and basic freedoms. In a formal legal opinion being circulated to Peers, he savages the proposals as opening the way for the outright "suppression" of anything deemed "potentially annoying" with only "vague" justification. The proposed safeguards to prevent abuse of the new system are "shockingly" weak, he writes.

Under proposals currently before Parliament, ASBOs are to be scrapped and replaced with wide-ranging new orders known as IPNAs (Injections to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance).

How is this statutory proposal to be balanced with the freedom of speech and the freedom of expression? What of the freedom to preach the Gospel?

Christians are called to proclaim the Good News. Whether it be from a pulpit, on television or walking up and down Oxford Street with a sandwich board, such proclamation ought to be tolerated in the public sphere in a free society. Some might preach the wonders of Heaven, the Way of Salvation and the boundless love of Jesus, whilst others choose to focus on sin and damnation.

In 1999, Lord Justice Sedley championed the rights of people to express such views - and quoted Socrates and two famous Quakers in doing so. There is no breach of the peace if what is uttered is merely offensive. He said: "Free speech includes not only the offensive, but the irritating, the contentious, the eccentric, the heretical, the unwelcome and the provocative, providing it does not tend to provoke violence." Theresa May is trying to outlaw His Grace.

The world has seen too many examples of State control and censorship of unofficial utterances. Some may well find this blog offensive, irritating, contentious, eccentric, heretical, unwelcome and provocative, but it is His Grace's judgment that society is all the better for such expressions being permitted; freedom reigns while people are at liberty to spout their views.

His Grace draws the line at prejudice, irrational discrimination or incitement to violence. Or he used to, before Labour introduced the concept of 'hate speech'. But now, it seems, any utterance which a minority group might find offensive is to be outlawed by the spawn of ASBO.

The contentious, eccentric, heretical, unwelcome and provocative must give way to a state-enforced normative orthodoxy of de-natured social harmony.

No, Home Secretary. Think again, before you irritate His Grace overmuch and things get messy. **Slightly abbreviated**

2. Christianity at risk of dying out in a generation, warns

Lord Carey - John Bingham, Religious Affairs Editor, The Telegraph, 18 November, 2013

Christianity is just a "generation away from extinction" in Britain unless churches make a dramatic breakthrough in attracting young people back to the faith, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, has warned. Clergy are now gripped by a "feeling of defeat", congregations are worn down by "heaviness" while the public simply greets both with "rolled eyes and a yawn of boredom".

His comments at a Christian conference came as a stark report laid before the Church of England's General Synod warned that its position as a "national institution" will be in doubt if numbers in the pews drop much further.

The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, also underlined the scale of the crisis telling members of the Synod they must "evangelise or fossilise". In an impassioned plea for the Church to adopt a new missionary stance, he told them that their constant internal debates were like "re-arranging furniture when the house is on fire". He called for an ambitious campaign aimed at the "re-evangelisation of England", on a par with the ministry of the northern saints such as Cuthbert, Hilda and Aidan who spread Christianity in Anglo-Saxon times.

The Synod responded by voting to set up a Committee.

Lord Carey's warning came as he addressed the recent Shropshire Light Conference at Holy Trinity Church in Shrewsbury discussing how the church could be "re-imagined". He said that while the church is doing much important work, it faces an existential challenge.

"In many parts of Britain churches are struggling, some priests are diffident and lack confidence; a feeling of defeat is around. The burden seems heavy and joy in ministry has been replaced by a feeling of heaviness."

He said that the reaction from the public was not so much hostile as dismissive. "So many people do not see the average church as a place where great things happen. To sit in a cold church looking at the back of other peoples' heads is surely not the best place to meet exciting people and to hear prophetic words."

He added: "It is still the case that people are essentially looking for spiritual fulfilment. "One of the most worrying, most urgent groups we need to invest in, is young people.

He warned against relying on "more gimmicks" to revive the Church's fortunes adding: "The most urgent and worrying gap is in young peoples' work. So many churches have no ministry to young people and that means they have no interest in the future. As I have repeated many times in the past, we are one generation away from extinction. We have to give cogent reasons to young people why the Christian faith is relevant to them."

Abbreviated

3. European Parliament rejects resolution declaring abortion a fundamental ‘human right’ - Hilary White, LifeSiteNews, 23 October, 2013

Pro-life lobbyists at the European Union are declaring a victory after the European Parliament rejected a resolution that would have declared abortion to be a ‘human right,’ and demanded that all EU countries legalise the practice.

Observers described the debate as “loud and lively.” It ended with members voting down the “Estrela Report” on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and sending it back to Committee for “further study”. 351 MEPs voted in favour of referring the non-binding resolution back to Committee, while 319 voted against.

Anthony Ozimic of the UK-based Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC), whose members lobbied MEPs prior to the vote, told LifeSiteNews.com that the response from MEPs against the report demonstrated “that the pro-abortion lobby does not have it all its own way, even in the culture of death which is prevalent in Europe.”

“Forthright and intelligent lobbying by individual pro-lifers and their representative organisations can and does frustrate the designs of powerful anti-life forces,” he said. “Although the pro-abortion lobby has many times the funding of the pro-life movement, pro-lifers can punch above their weight because we have the truth with us. There is all to play for, and the victory is won in terms of lives saved and families protected.”

Sophia Kuby, head of the NGO watchdog group European Dignity Watch (EDW), said after the vote that, “A referral back to Committee will give time to investigate further the numerous problematic points of this report, especially the fact that it was co-written by the commercial abortion organisation International Planned Parenthood Federation in Brussels.”

The report – co-written by Vicky Claeys, Regional Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network, and presented by Portuguese MEP Edite Estrela, representing Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament – demanded the universal legalisation of unrestricted abortion, calling it a “human right.” It called for the mandatory “re-education” of doctors and medical students to force them to promote abortion and contraception.

EDW had warned that, if adopted, the resolution would have effectively suppressed the rights of doctors and nurses to refuse to participate in abortion. “The 40-page resolution reads like a manual on how to restrict fundamental freedoms in Europe,” the group said.

Opponents of the report had pointed out that there is no international consensus on the claim that abortion is a human right, but there are many international agreements protecting conscience rights.

The report also included a call for EU wide compulsory sex education in primary schools, “provided in a taboo-free interactive atmosphere between students and educators,” that, among other things, would convey a positive image of homosexuality.

An analysis prepared for MEPs by the European Federation of Catholic Family Associations (FAFCE) revealed that the sexual education programme would also have included information on “early childhood masturbation,” for children from 0-4 years old and upwards. “A revelation,” they said, “that not only shocked families profoundly, but also the MEPs who voted to refer the proposed text back to the Committee”.

Kuby said that the report had been launched in an effort to “politically neutralise” the wildly successful international citizens’ initiative, the “One of Us” campaign, which recently surpassed its goal of 1 million signatures.

The “One of Us” campaign is calling for MEPs to recognise that the human embryo, starting at the moment of fertilisation, represents a stage of development of the human body. It calls for human embryos to be protected by relevant legal instruments and international agreements.

Abbreviated

4. UK to provide £100 million for Muslim entrepreneurs – World Bulletin/News Desk - 30th October, 2013

London’s Mayor, Boris Johnson, has announced that the Government plans to create a £100 million fund for Islamic technology entrepreneurs to set up their businesses in the UK. He proposed the plan at the World Islamic Economic Forum in London on 29th October.

“Britain is a global hub for the tech industry, while the Islamic world has young entrepreneurs with ambitious ideas,” he was quoted as saying by ‘The National’.

The Quantum Capital financial firm is playing a leading role in setting up the fund, which aims to link the UK with countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. Entrepreneurs from the Middle-East will also be encouraged to come to the technology centres where they will learn skills that they could take back to their countries.

According to ‘The National’, administrators have already contacted the UAE based organisation, the Emirates Foundation for Youth Development, which helps young entrepreneurs set up their own businesses.

5. Plan to ‘wreck’ EU from within – Ian Traynor, the Guardian, 14 November

Two of Europe’s leading far-right populists struck a pact on 13th November to build a continental alliance to wreck the European Parliament from within, and slay “the monster in Brussels”.

Marine Le Pen, the leader of France’s right-wing nationalist Front National, and Geert Wilders, the Dutch maverick anti-Islam campaigner, announced they were joining forces ahead of European Parliament elections next year to seek to exploit the euro-scepticism soaring across the EU after four years of austerity and the financial and debt crisis.

Le Pen, who has predicted that the EU will collapse as did the Soviet Union, said the aim was to by-pass Brussels and restore freedom to the nations and people of Europe.

The rise of populists on the right and the left, from Sweden to Greece, has worried the mainstream EU elites and is already shaping policy ahead of the May elections. At the top level of EU institutions in Brussels, there is talk of “populists, xenophobes, extremists, fascists” gaining around 30% of seats in the next Parliament and using that platform to try to paralyse EU policy-making.

“This is an historical day. Today is the beginning of the liberation from the European elite, the monster in Brussels,” declared Wilders after meeting Le Pen in the Dutch Parliament in the Hague. “We want to decide how we control our borders, our money, our economy, our currency.”

The aim of the electoral alliance appears to be to form a Trojan horse in Brussels and Strasbourg: a large Parliamentary caucus dedicated to wrecking the very institution that the far-right has entered.

To qualify for caucus status, the new group needs at least 25 MEPs from seven countries, which they will get easily on current poll projections, although it is not clear if they can yet muster seven National Parties.

Abbreviated

FINAL JUDGMENT UPON SECRET SINS

By Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)

“But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the Truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile.”

When the Day of Judgment comes [the wicked] shall rise to the resurrection of damnation. When that day comes, all mankind that have died from off the face of the earth shall arise – not only the righteous, but also the wicked. “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Dan. 12:2). “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works” (Rev. 20:13). The damned in Hell know not the time when the Day of Judgment will be; but when the time comes, it will be made known. It will be the most dreadful news that ever was told in that world of misery. It is always a doleful time in Hell. The world of darkness is always full of shrieks and doleful cries. But when the news is heard that the Day appointed for the Judgment is come, Hell will be filled with louder shrieks and more dreadful cries than ever before.

When Christ comes in the clouds of Heaven to judgment, the news of it will fill both earth and Hell with mourning and bitter crying. We read that all the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him, and so shall all the inhabitants of Hell. Then must the souls of the wicked come up to be united to their bodies and stand before the Judge.

They shall not come willingly, but shall be dragged forth as a malefactor is dragged out of his dungeon to execution. They were unwilling when they died to leave the earth to go to Hell. But now they will be much more unwilling to come out of Hell to go to the last judgment. It will be no deliverance to them: it will only be a coming forth to their execution. They will hang back, but must come. The devils and damned spirits must come together. The last trumpet will then be heard: this will be the most terrible sound to wicked men and devils that ever was heard. Not only the wicked that shall then be found dwelling on the earth shall hear it, but also those that are in their graves. “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:28-29).

Then must the souls of the wicked enter their bodies again, which will be prepared only to be organs of torment and misery. It will be a dreadful sight to them when they come to their bodies again, those bodies that were formerly used by them as the organs and instruments of sin and wickedness and whose appetites and lusts they indulged and gratified. The parting of soul and body was dreadful to them when they died, but their meeting again at the resurrection will be more dreadful... Thus shall they rise out of their graves, and shall lift up their eyes and see the Son of God in the clouds of Heaven in the glory of His Father with all His holy angels with Him. Then shall they see their Judge in His awful majesty. [This] will be the most amazing sight to them that ever they saw and will still add new horrors. That awful and terrible Majesty in which He will appear - and the manifestation of His infinite holiness - will pierce their souls...

Then must they appear before their Judge to give up their account. They will find no mountains or rocks to fall upon them that can cover them and hide them from the wrath of the Lamb. Many of them will see others at that time. [Some] were formerly their acquaintances, who shall appear with glorious bodies, with joyful countenances and songs of praise, and mounting up as with wings to meet the Lord in the air, while they are left behind. Many shall see their former neighbours and acquaintances, their companions, their brothers and their wives taken and they left. They shall be summoned to go and appear before the Judgment Seat. Go they must, however unwilling. They must stand at Christ's left hand in the midst of devils and wicked men. This shall again add still further amazement and will cause their horror still to be in a further degree than ever. With what horror will that company come together!

Then shall they be called to their account. Then shall be brought to light the hidden things of darkness. Then shall all the wickedness of their hearts be made known. Then shall be declared the actual wickedness they have been guilty of. Then shall appear their secret sins that they have kept hidden from the eye of the world. Then shall be manifested in their true light those sins that they used to plead for and to excuse and justify. Then shall all their sins be set forth in all their dreadful aggravations. All their filthiness will be brought to light to their everlasting shame and contempt. Then it shall appear how heinous many of those things were that they in their lifetime made light of. Then will it appear how dreadful their guilt is in thus ill-treating so glorious and blessed a Saviour.

And all the world shall see it! Many shall rise up in judgment against them and condemn them: their companions whom they tempted to wickedness, others whom they have hardened in sin by their example shall rise up against many of them. The heathen that have had no advantages in comparison to them and many of whom have yet lived better lives than they shall rise up against them. And they shall be called to a special account: the Judge will reckon with them, they shall be speechless, they shall be struck dumb, their own consciences bearing testimony against them and shall cry aloud against them. For they shall then see how great and terrible a God He is against whom they have sinned. Then shall they stand at the left hand, while they see others whom they knew on earth sitting at the right hand of Christ in glory, shining forth as the sun, accepted of Christ and sitting with Him to judge and condemn them.

Then the sentence of condemnation shall be pronounced by the Judge upon them. "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). This sentence will be pronounced with awful majesty. There shall be great indignation; and dreadful wrath shall then appear in the Judge – in His voice with which He shall pronounce the sentence. What a horror and amazement will these words strike into the hearts of the wicked on whom they shall be pronounced! Every word and syllable shall be like the most amazing thunder to them and shall pierce their souls like the fiercest lightning! The Judge will bid them depart from Him. He will drive them from His presence as exceedingly abominable to Him. And He shall give them the epithet '*accursed*': they shall be an accursed company, and He will not only bid them depart from His presence, but into everlasting fire, to dwell there as their only fit habitation. What shows the dreadfulfulness of the fire is that it is prepared for the Devil and his angels. They shall lie forever in the same fire in which the devils, those grand enemies of God, shall be tormented! When this sentence shall be pronounced, there shall be, in the vast company at the left hand, tremblings, mourning, crying, and gnashing of teeth in a new manner – beyond all that ever was before. If the devils – those proud and lofty spirits – trembled, many ages beforehand at the bare *thoughts* of this sentence, how will they tremble when it comes to be pronounced! Their anguish will be aggravated by hearing that blessed sentence pronounced on those who shall be at the right hand: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34).

Then the sentence shall be executed. When the Judge bids them depart, *they must go*. However [unwilling], yet they must go. Immediately upon the finishing of the judgment and the pronouncing of the sentence will come the end of the world. The frame of this world shall be dissolved – the Heavens be dissolved, and then the earth shall be set on fire. As God in wrath once destroyed the world by a flood of water, so now shall He cause it to be all drowned in a deluge of fire; and the Heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and "the elements shall melt with fervent heat" (2 Peter 3:10); and that great company of devils and wicked men must then enter into those everlasting burnings to which they are sentenced.

In this condition, they shall remain throughout the never-ending ages of eternity. Their punishment shall be then complete, and it shall remain in this completion forever. Now shall all that come upon them that they so long trembled for fear of, while their souls were in a separate state. They will dwell in a fire that never shall be quenched, and here they must wear out eternity...There is no reckoning up the millions of years or millions of ages; all arithmetic here fails; no rules of multiplication can reach the amount, for there is no end. They shall have nothing to do to pass away their eternity, but to conflict with those torments. This will be their work forever and ever. God shall have no other use or employment for them. This is the way

that they must answer the end of their being. And they never shall have any rest, nor any atonement, but their torments will hold up to their height and shall never grow any easier by their being accustomed to them. Time will seem long to them, every moment shall seem long to them, but they shall never have done with the ages of their torment.

From "Sermon VII" in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Vol. 2, reprinted by The Banner of Truth Trust, www.banneroftruth.org

WHY U.K. CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE BOLDER WITH THEIR FAITH

By Kate Smedley, Christian Today

The recent debate among MPs which discussed the '*Persecuted and Forgotten?*' Report by the charity 'Aid to the Church in Need' highlighted two shocking facts:

- Every hour a Christian is tortured and murdered for his or her faith. That's 24 Christians every single day – over 8,700 annually.
- Christians are persecuted in 130 countries around the world. This is persecution in the real sense of the word; the type which results in harsh or extreme suffering. The sentence of 80 lashes given to Christians in Iran for taking Communion wine is a stark example of this worrying trend.

Compare that to the perceived 'persecution' of UK Christians: employees refused permission to visibly wear a crucifix in their working environment or those asked to work on Sundays.

We are fortunate to live in a democracy where we are free to attend church, live out our faith and discuss our religious beliefs openly – but who among us makes the most of that opportunity?

While millions of Christians live in fear of persecution, it seems our greatest threat is our own passivity when it comes to our faith. The cross separates us from the world and we should not be ashamed of that fact.

When our brothers and sisters in Christ risk death by the simple act of attending a church service, surely we can be bolder. I am not suggesting alienating the people around us by becoming overnight zealots but in living out our faith through our actions. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

We can be bolder about our faith in simple, yet effective ways:

- **Talk about church:** Tell colleagues and friends you'll be at church on Sunday when they ask about your weekend plans. Several of my friends have accompanied me out of pure curiosity over what gets me out of bed before 9 a.m. on a Sunday. Without exception, they have all been pleasantly surprised – and some have even returned.
- **Be Christ-like:** Go the extra mile for people, at work and in your personal life. Let others see you are the kind of person others can trust. Genuine care for others is difficult to find in today's world. When they ask about your life, don't hesitate to be open about what sustains you through difficult times.
- **Be an ambassador for God:** Our world is crying out for spiritual connection. Follow-up, show you care, walk alongside those who are suffering.

- Stop judging others: We are commanded not to judge yet Christians can sometimes be the first to judge others and this reflects poorly on our faith. Christianity is about love, not judgement.
- Get involved: Help out with food-banks, volunteer to work with the homeless. Christmas is a difficult time for many, yet hospitality is one of the great traditions of the Christian faith. How many of us would open up our homes to a stranger or colleague we didn't know very well?

Undoubtedly there will still be those who respond with ridicule but why should we be afraid of ridicule? The Apostle Peter urges us to stand '...stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world' (I Peter 5:9).

In our case, thankfully, we are not remotely sharing in the same kind of sufferings of our brethren throughout the world. Let us keep that in mind during these turbulent times and be a witness for Christ in all we do.

Will you be bolder in your faith?

Christians Worldwide Observe International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

By: Heather Clark: Christian News Network

Christians worldwide observed the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on 3rd November by joining together to intercede for those who daily suffer for their faith in Jesus Christ.

The organisation, Gospel for Asia (GFA), reports that 14,000 people around the world are martyred each year for their faith, but believes that actual figures could be higher.

"Jesus promised His Church that there would be persecution and tribulations," said President of GFA, KP Yohannan. "Tens of thousands of believers, missionaries and Pastors are experiencing the reality of persecution on a daily basis. Yet they recognise the honour it is to suffer for His sake. May the Lord lead us with His burden to intercede for these brothers and sisters."

The organisation notes that just last month, an elder for a church in Nepal was killed while praying for the sick, and the month before, Christians who were worshipping at their Church in Pakistan fled for their lives as suicide bombers left 81 dead and 140 injured.

In a video presentation compiled for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, a number of Christians around the world shared their stories of facing persecution for their faith. One of the stories was from a woman named Florence from Nigeria.

"I am a Christian. That is why you are here to attack me," she remembered stating to one of a number of Muslim men, who ended up killing three boys in her home.

"He said, 'Yes, we've been telling you people to convert to Islam, but you people refuse. So, the only thing is to get rid of all of you and inherit all that you have.'"

"If you women say that you will not convert to Islam and marry us, then we'll kill all of you," Florence recalled the man stating, "You and your children and your daughters."

Pastor Allocious of Sri Lanka said that Buddhists burned his Church to the ground to prevent him sharing the Gospel in the country.

“When I entered the village, all I saw was that the Church had been burned,” he stated. “This is a Buddhist country, so because of that, you can’t preach the Word of the Lord.”

A separate video presentation by GFA also told the story of two Christians who were imprisoned for sharing their faith. One of the men, Pastor Ugyen of China, spent three years behind bars for showing a movie on the life of Christ to the public.

“It is very difficult to share the Gospel in my nation,” he said. “If they find out that I am sharing about Jesus Christ, the authorities can take severe and harsh action for sharing the Gospel.” But he said that although it was difficult to be separated from his family for three years, he realised that Jesus faced worse persecution from those who rejected Him. “Jesus had to go through beatings, humiliation and death,” he stated. “My suffering is nothing compared to what our Saviour went through.”

Jerry Dykstra of Open Doors USA, an organisation that often reports on worldwide persecution, stated that the Middle East is especially in need of prayer during this time.

“When we take a look at what is happening in the Middle East – places such as Syria, Iraq and Egypt – regarding the persecution of Christians by Muslim fanatics, we in the West need to get down on our knees in prayer,” he said. “We cannot be silent; we cannot stick our heads in the sand.”

Dykstra stated that the Middle East is predominantly Muslim, which often makes it difficult to live as a Christian.

“At stake is the future of Christians in the Middle East and North Africa,” he said.

“According to the Pew Forum, Christians now only make up 4% of the Middle Eastern inhabitants. A century ago it was 20%. The Pew report also says just 0.6% - fewer than 13 million – of the world’s 2.2 billion Christians live in the Middle East and North Africa. The region is 93% Muslim.”

In this year’s ‘World Watch,’ compiled by Open Doors USA, the top 10 most dangerous places to live as a Christian were largely Middle Eastern nations – with the exception of the first. North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Maldives, Mali, Iran, Yemen and Eritrea were the most dangerous locations in order of severity, followed by Syria, Sudan, Nigeria and Pakistan.

“To understand what it means to take up our cross and follow Christ, we must walk in His footsteps,” GFA’s Yohannan said.

“Join Christians around the world in spending time praying and fasting in tears over a map of the world where our fellow believers are suffering for their faith.”

MEMORABLE QUOTES OF EMINENT SAINTS PRIOR TO THEIR DEATH

“But alas! these my golden expectations have been like South Sea Dreams. I have lived hitherto a poor sinner, and I believe I shall die one. Have I, then, gained nothing? Yes, I have gained that which I once would rather have been without! Such accumulated proof of the deceitfulness and desperate wickedness of my heart, as I hope by the Lord’s blessing has, in some measure, taught me to know what I mean when I say, Behold, I am vile...I was ashamed of myself, when I began to seek it. I am more ashamed now.” [John Newton]

“Our God is the God from whom cometh salvation: God is the Lord by whom we escape death.” [Martin Luther]

“It is a great mercy that I have no manner of fear or dread of death. I could, if God please, lay my head back and die without terror this afternoon.” [Isaac Watts]

“I know I am dying, but my death-bed is a bed of roses. I have no thorns planted upon my dying pillow, Heaven is already begun!” [John Pawson]

“Lord Jesus, I am weary in Thy work, but not of Thy work. If I have not yet finished my course, let me go and speak for Thee once more in the fields, seal the truth, and come home to die.” [George Whitefield]

“Live in Christ, die in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death.” [John Knox]

When John Owen, the great Puritan, lay on his deathbed his Secretary wrote (in his name) to a friend, “I am still in the land of the living.” “Stop,” said Owen. “Change that to say, I am yet in the land of the dying, but I hope soon to be in the land of the living.” [John Owen]

“I am going to Him whom my soul loveth, or rather who has loved me with an everlasting love, which is the sole ground of all my consolation.” [John Owen]

“I am so weak. I can’t read my Bible. I can’t even pray. I can only lie still in God’s arms like a little child and trust.” [Hudson Taylor]

“My learning does not help me now; neither does my Dogmatics; faith alone saves me.” [Herman Bavink - Dutch Reformed Theologian and Churchman]

“Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out...Father of Heaven, receive my soul! [Hugh Latimer – 16 October, 1555 – burned at the stake for the Gospel].

From: Mike Jeshurun’s Blog

“He shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:6

Are you in perplexity? At a loss which way to take, or what to do? Does providence baffle all your schemes, and leave you in confusion and trouble? The Lord is teaching you the lesson which He taught his prophet Jeremiah, who said, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” You must go to the Lord for wisdom, as well as for grace; and look to Him for direction, as well as salvation. He has marked out your path, but you cannot see the lines; go to Him in childlike simplicity and ask Him to throw light upon it, and then it will be all plain. Seek His direction before every movement. Beseech Him to go with you in every enterprise. “In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.” “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” He will be very gracious unto you at the voice of your cry; when He shall hear, He will answer you. Consult His Word, seek His blessing, honour His love, keep His company, aim at His glory, and He shall direct your paths. He only can direct you aright, and He has promised that He will.

Commit to Him thy doubtful way,
Rest on His care, and trust His hand;
His goodness shall thy path display,
And soon a prosperous end command.

Evening Portion November 22, ‘Daily Remembrancer’, by Pastor James Smith

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