

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

September 2012

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To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

By the merciful dealings of our God, we are spared to once again greet you in the Blessed Name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We sincerely hope you have been favoured to experience those providential and spiritual blessings the Lord alone can provide.

On a personal point, I have had to endure much pain in my hip and knee on my right leg and whilst various treatments provided by my doctor have been helpful, a hospital x-ray has revealed that surgery is necessary on both joints. We are told in Scripture that the Lord does not afflict willingly (*Lamentations 3:33*), but the important point is that it be sanctified for our spiritual benefit. I expect to have the first operation within the next six weeks and would value being remembered in your prayers.

It is in times of trial and affliction that we need to know our religion is God-given and therefore based upon His Holy Word. We find, by self-examination, that we have many failings and come very far short of that gracious standard we desire and, indeed, long for. However, if we can honestly say with the hymn writer, E. Mote, and before the Lord, "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness", it is a sure foundation upon which to build our hope for a place in Heaven when we die. We include an article by the late E. R. Gosling entitled **OUR RELIGION – IS IT TRUE RELIGION**, which we trust will be of help and comfort to all those who read it.

On the subject of real and false religion, we include an extract from an autobiography entitled **CONVENT LIFE UNVEILED** by a dear young woman, Edith O'Gorman - together with comments by Shaun Willcock, Bible Based Ministries, on the true and only way of salvation. Edith O'Gorman was wonderfully delivered from a false religion. The Lord searches the hearts and minds of those He has ordained for an eternal life in glory with Him. David prayed that the Lord would search him in Psalm 139 v 23 & 24 - "*Search me, O God and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*" It is a sad and solemn situation if we are allowed to be content with a form of religion, however correct it may appear, and never feel the need to be searched by the Lord to remove the dross we accumulate.

On a similar theme, we include a short address by the late Charles Spurgeon entitled "**Be Ye Separate**", in which he emphasises the importance of those who profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, leading a life which is evidently separate from the ungodly in the world; a life which conveys to those with whom we associate, in the general affairs of life, that we have been with Jesus and have learned of Him.

Most, if not all, of our Members will be aware of the sad situation that has developed as a result of the Duchess of Cambridge being secretly photographed whilst she was sunbathing half-naked in what she thought was a secluded place in France. Whilst we condemn the act of the photographer, we also must convey our complete disapproval of the way the Duchess exposed herself, thus allowing the present situation to develop. We include an accurate summary of the situation with an explanation of the background to it by Dr. Alan C. Clifford entitled **THE TRIALS OF THE TOPLESS DUCHESS**. We are particularly concerned for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, because of the grief this situation must have caused her.

It has been laid upon the heart and mind of Michael Hobbs, our National Co-ordinator, to prepare an article which we include, based upon the text "**...if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect**" (Matthew 24 v 24). We trust the message will be helpful in alerting all who read it of the need to be observant with regard to the events and developments currently taking place in the world and which were prophesied to occur in the last days and

prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth. Satan is very active in his endeavour to deceive the very elect, but it is a wonderful mercy that there is a God in Heaven who is totally supreme in His ability to protect His people and to deliver them from the snares and temptations of the Devil. Prayer is a most important ingredient in the life of a true Christian and the Lord, who knows our many weaknesses and failings, says "*Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass*" (Psalm 37 v 5).

We include a brief report on our campaign, '**Who is on the Lord's side?**' by Michael Hobbis. We are thankful for those of our Members who are actively involved with us in this project and we trust others, who have time available, will be willing to join with us in serving the Lord in this important campaign. There is so much that needs to be done in an endeavour to stay the increasing tide of evil which is flooding into our nation. The Lord promises to honour those who honour Him by opposing that which is condemned by Him in His Holy Word.

We include a poem sent to us by one of our Members, which we were pleased to read, and trust it may prove helpful. Its title, **The Lonely Olive Mill**, is based upon Matthew 26 v 36. The verses progressively identify the route by which many of the Lord's people have to travel, before they finally enter into the Heavenly Kingdom above. We are told, "*We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God*" (Acts 14 v 22). It is not a way we by nature would choose, but the Lord enables His people, by the grace He gives them, to "*Choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season*" (Hebrews 11 v 25).

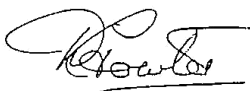
A number of our Members have expressed an interest in current developments in Israel, with many thousands of Jews returning to that country from all over the world. For the benefit of those who wish to keep updated on this important subject, we have located a quarterly Newspaper entitled, **ISRAEL & CHRISTIANS TODAY**, details of which, and how to order it, we include.

Finally, we include details of our **CHRISTIAN WATCH ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING** which this year is scheduled to be held, God willing, at **Holywell Evangelical Church, Holywell, Flintshire**, on the evening of Friday, 5th **October**. We are particularly grateful to the Pastor of this Church, **Rev. John Thackway**, who has kindly agreed to give the main address on this occasion.

We again wish you the Lord's blessing and all needful help in the pathway of life in which the Lord has determined for you. There are many times when doubts and fears arise with regard to the future and our self-examination so often causes us to question our readiness for eternity, towards which we are rapidly hastening. The hymn writer, Ann Steel quoted,

"Eternity, tremendous sound!
To guilty souls a dreadful wound,
But O, if Christ and heaven be mine,
How sweet the accents, how divine."

I remain, yours, in the Lord's service.



David Crowter

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OUR RELIGION – IS IT TRUE RELIGION?

By **E. R. Gosling** (in a pamphlet published by
the late Sidney Norton, 1968)

Who began our religion? Did we begin it ourselves or did God begin it? Did it begin with the solemn conviction of sin,

**‘And if my soul were sent to Hell,
Thy righteous Law approves it well!**

(Watts)

Did it begin with a conviction that only mercy could reach such a depraved case? Have we felt the terrors of a broken Law? Was there a fleeing from the wrath to come? And is our peace (if we possess it) received through an application of the precious blood of Christ to the conscience? Do we possess a Holy Ghost religion? My reader, it is the writer’s solemn conviction that if we are altogether strangers to such an experience we are still among them that ‘sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.’ At best we have but a name to live but are dead.

**True religion’s more than notion;
Something must be known and felt.**

(Hart)

Have we an experience of God’s dealing with our souls? Can we say with the psalmist, ‘Come, ye that fear the Lord, and I will tell you what He hath done for my soul’?

I see nothing in Holy Writ about offers of salvation to all and sundry and no appeals to men to let Christ into their hearts. No appeal was made to Saul of Tarsus, the Philippian Jailor, the Ethiopian eunuch, and yet I have heard preachers say words to the effect that Christ is knocking at the doors of their hearers’ hearts, willing to save them, but the latch is on the inside and He cannot enter unless they open the door. It is written in the Acts of the Apostles that the Lord opened Lydia’s heart to attend to the Apostle’s preaching (Acts 16:14); nor can we doubt that He also opened the hearts of the Gentiles who besought Paul to preach to them, and upon his compliance we read that ‘as many as were ordained to eternal life believed’ (Acts 13:48); and this is in accord with the whole tenor of Scripture.”

CONVENT LIFE UNVEILED

*Extracts from the Testimony of Former Roman Catholic Nun
Edith O’Gorman*

“Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.....” (not the priest or the Virgin Mary.) **Psalm 124:7,8.**

The first of October, 1862, was my last day at home. The last day spent in the society of my dear parents, my little brothers and sisters, my beloved associates – the last day of happiness for weary, weary years of desolation. I cannot recall that day without the deepest emotion. Oh, why did I first break up the family circle? Why did I impose upon myself such a living death? Why did I not listen to the voice of my heart and of reason? But, alas, it is too late now to

repine, the fiat hath gone forth and can never be revoked. I must take the final farewell of the home circle. All are there. But in a few moments one will be absent, never again to take her accustomed place among them. I kneel at my father's knee to receive his blessing ere I leave him forever. Tremblingly and in broken accents he prays to God to bless his child, while the hot tears dropping like rain upon my bowed head as I listened to his prayers convulsed me with an unspeakable grief.

Once again I leaned upon my idolised mother's breast and listened to the throbbing of that loving and faithful heart bursting with sorrow as she clasped to her embrace, for the last time, her first-born child. Dear heart, where I had so often been pillowed and soothed in childhood and where girlhood's griefs had so often been assuaged - shall I never rest there again? Farewell, my darling mother! Were I being conveyed from you to be buried beneath the earth I could not be more literally dead than I must henceforth be to you and to the world. Farewell, my little brothers and sisters, I will no longer humour your childish fancies nor lull you to sleep with your accustomed lullabies. Farewell, every dear and familiar object, my eyes must rest upon you for the last time. Farewell, my beloved associates and bosom friends, we will no longer share each others' joys and griefs. Farewell, to all the loved ones, and oh, forgive me if I ever wilfully occasioned you annoyance or pain. Father, mother, brothers, sisters, forgive all my faults and pray for me. All are in sobs and tears.

I at last tore myself from my mother's embrace, and the last object my eyes rested upon that never-to-be-forgotten night was the beautiful loving eyes of my grief-stricken mother looking after me so full of sorrow and tenderness. Ah! mother, dear mother. Better a thousand times for you and for me could you have seen me conveyed to the grave, than to the wrongs and sufferings that awaited me in the living tomb of the convent. The tie is broken. The knot is severed. I am with you no longer. Farewell home, happiness, mother - all of earth, farewell!

On the 2nd October 1862, at 11 a.m., I beheld for the first time this establishment, this whited sepulchre so fair and beautiful without, but within full of corruption. I was unusually depressed in spirits as I approached that convent prison (The House of Death) in which I was thenceforth to be entombed and shut out from the beautiful world. The outward aspect of nature seemed to pity me; the heavens were clouded and the wind sighed through the trees with the voice of a human mourner. Had death stripped me of every friend or relative on earth, I could not have felt more bereft, lonely, desolate and grief-stricken than I did that gloomy autumn morning, when I stood in the solitude of the convent grounds - my heart and soul with a vague uncertainty concerning the unnatural discipline enforced within its walls. I knew ere I entered that I must leave my own will, judgment, reason, and liberty outside of the convent doors, and subject myself blindly to the guidance of superiors. I was tempted to turn back from the slavery, hardships, deprivations and austerities of that unnatural life to the liberty, love, warmth and protection of my father's home; but I had gone too far. I had put my hands to the plough, and if I should turn back, I would not be fit for the Kingdom of Heaven. I approached the main entrance and rang the bell. A sad pensive-looking sister answered my summons at the door and ushered me into a spacious and elegantly furnished parlour, where I was received by Mother Exavier, who in a most gracious and affectionate manner welcomed me to her "abode of peace" (The House of Death). She expressed herself highly pleased with the refinement of my appearance and manners, telling me that her prayer had been answered in the Lord sending me to her, as she was very much in need of educated and accomplished sisters. She portrayed in the most glowing manner the blessed advantages of my holy vocation which called me away from the noisy, sinful world to the safe and peaceful haven of a religious life in a convent; assuring me I would receive a hundred-fold of Heavenly gifts if I would remain faithful to my vocation and forget my country and my father's house. All those, said she, that enter our holy order must not only consider that they quit father, mother, kindred, friends, and whatsoever they possess in the world, but must believe that Jesus Christ addresses them in these words: "He that hates not father, mother, brothers, sisters, yea and himself, cannot be my disciple."

Oh, blind votaries of a benighted faith! The only sacrifice our merciful Saviour requires is a contrite and humble heart, which His true disciples give Him without severing the golden links wrought by God Himself, which cannot be broken with impunity, nor cast aside, nor torn

asunder, without becoming a chain or iron pressing upon the bleeding heart, stifling every pure and spontaneous desire, crushing every lawful and noble affection and leaving the heart and soul a dry, barren, desolate waste, incapable of producing aught save a diseased and noxious vegetation. Conventualism is a system calculated to destroy the brightest intellect and talent and root out of the heart every beautiful tender feeling.

One day I was commanded to scrub, with a brush and sand, on my knees, the large study hall. Such work was new to me. Nevertheless, I performed my task in the best manner I knew how. It took me a long time to complete it. When my task was nearly finished, the novice mistress appeared and in a furious manner chided me for my laziness, snatched the brush from me with such violence as to tear the skin from the palm of my hand; at the same time throwing a pail of water over the hall, thereby compelling me to re-scrub the hall in less time than I had scrubbed it before. The task was rendered next to unbearable by the pain of my hands, which were torn and bleeding. This is a small specimen of the trials which awaited me; it was but the beginning of sorrows. On another occasion, I was obliged to wash all the pots and kettles, and scour all the knives and forks in the establishment. My hands, which were very soft and white, began to look soiled and dirty. Having remarked in my simplicity to Sister Margaret, the housekeeper, "Indeed, Sister, I am now ashamed of my hands," she sharply returned, "Well then, I'll be after making ye more ashamed of 'em." She called me out into another room where a sister was whitewashing the walls and commanded me to put my hands down into a pot of hot lime. I hesitated a moment, thinking certainly she could not mean it. "None of yer airs now, but do as I bid thee, or I'll tell the mother on ye." I put my hands down in the hot lime and she held them there some minutes. For several weeks my hands were in a most pitiable condition. The skin would crack and bleed at every movement, causing me to suffer excruciating pain, and yet I was forced to wash and hang out clothes in the frost and cold of December, the skin from my bleeding hands often peeling off and adhering to the frozen garments.

I was one day appointed to wait on the table in the young ladies' refectory, and while there I conversed a few moments with a young lady from Providence, who recognised me. Sister Cleophas, the refectorian, overheard me, and the result was my subjection to a public humiliation before the community, being obliged to throw myself prostrate on the threshold of the community room, to be walked over as a door mat by the other sisters.

Truly convent life is a hell upon earth. The methods of penance and cruel tortures inflicted within those walls of hell cannot be put in print. The law would not allow it.

(Mrs. O'Gorman told of how, at one time for breaking silence, she was forced to dig worms in the back yard of the convent and eat them. At another time she was made to take a dead mouse from a trap and eat it. Another time, she was made to wash the Mother Superior's dirty feet and then drink the water. Priest Walch tried one time to force her to drink intoxicants and rob her of her virtue; she fought the beast off and at last made her escape from this "House of Death and Gate of Hell" to freedom.)

Edith O'Gorman was "consecrated" as a nun in St. Elizabeth's convent, Madison, N.J., October 1862. She was afterwards Superior in St. Joseph's Convent, Hudson, N.J. She spent six years in these Romish prisons. She made her escape on 31 January, 1868 – "to save my honour, dearer to me than life, without money, and in the nun's dress." She was converted to Christ and baptised in a Baptist church in New York City in 1869. She then began to testify against the nunnery system, giving her first lecture in sight of the convent from which she had escaped. She travelled and lectured in many parts of Europe, America, South Africa and Canada. She lectured in Rome where her husband had once been secretary to the Pope of Rome, Leo. She was the instrument in God's hands of rescuing thousands of deceived Roman Catholics, and many girls were saved from that living tomb, the convent. More than one hundred attempts were made on her life by the thugs of Rome. Once in London, a bullet was fired through the coach she was riding in and passed through her bonnet without harming her. She wrote her autobiography, *Convent Life Unveiled*.

THE GOSPEL

The Gospel means the glad tidings, or good news; and truly, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is “good tidings of great joy” (Luke 2:10), the greatest news ever heard on earth: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15). And “He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him” (Hebrews 7:25).

All men and women are sinners, and sin is a terrible thing; it is the transgression of the perfect and holy law of God, and it has separated all mankind from God. Those who die in their sins suffer the torments of eternal fire. Jesus said, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13,14). The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is that strait gate, and narrow way, that leads to life! “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” Jesus said; “no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

If you, then, are asking, “What must I do to be saved from my sins?” Here is the answer: “Repent”! (Acts 2:38); and, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). Forsake your sin, repent of it, turn from it, and believe, with all your heart, in Jesus Christ! To believe in Him is *to cast yourself upon Him, by faith, for salvation*. He is the Son of the living God, holy, harmless, undefiled, sinless, the *only* Lord and Saviour. He died on a cross, He was crucified, not for His own sins – for He had none of His own – but for the sins of His chosen people, those given to Him by His Heavenly Father to save, paying the penalty for sin in *their* place, shedding His blood to redeem them. And, after dying in their place, the wrath of God being poured out upon Him, having satisfied the justice of God and having put away the sins of those He died for by the sacrifice of Himself, He rose from the dead, victorious over death, sin, and Satan; and He gives eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him. *Eternal life cannot be earned, and it cannot be bought; it is the gift of God through Jesus Christ the Lord*. He alone is the One who can save the soul and set the spiritual captive free! Forsake your sin, forsake the false religion of Rome and all other false religion, turn to the Lord by faith, and be saved!

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“Be ye separate”

2 Corinthians 6:17

The Christian, while in the world, is not to be of the world. He should be distinguished from it in the great object of his life. To him, “to live” should be “Christ.” Whether he eats, or drinks, or whatever he does, he should do all to God’s glory. You may lay up treasure; but lay it up in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, where thieves break not through nor steal. You may strive to be rich; but be it your ambition to be “rich in faith” and good works. You may have pleasure; but when you are merry, sing psalms and make melody in your hearts to the Lord. In your spirit, as well as in your aim, you should differ from the world. Waiting humbly before God, always conscious of His presence, delighting in communion with Him, and seeking to know His will, you will prove that you are of Heavenly race. And you should be separate from the world in your actions. If a thing be right, though you lose by it, it must be done; if it be wrong, though you would gain by it, you must scorn the sin for your Master’s sake. You must have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Walk worthy of your high calling and dignity. Remember, O Christian, that thou art a son of the King of kings. Therefore, keep thyself unspotted from the world. Soil

not the fingers which are soon to sweep celestial strings; let not these eyes become the windows of lust which are soon to see the King in His beauty – let not those feet be defiled in miry places, which are soon to walk the golden streets – let not those hearts be filled with pride and bitterness which are ere long to be filled with Heaven, and to overflow with ecstatic joy.

Then rise my soul! and soar away,
Above the thoughtless crowd;
Above the pleasures of the gay,
And splendours of the proud;
Up where eternal beauties bloom,
And pleasures all divine;
Where wealth, that never can consume,
And endless glories shine.

Charles Spurgeon

THE TRIALS OF THE TOPLESS DUCHESS

By Dr. Alan C. Clifford

What a sickening fiasco! French, Irish, Italians and now others are cashing in on the hapless Duchess.

But are the British entirely without blame because we refuse to publish the pictures? No. Because this whole incident is but a symptom of our Europe-wide immoral, immodest culture; a culture where promiscuity, pornography and perversion flow unchecked. Indeed, our entire entertainment industry thrives on adulterous sex in particular and a mocking disregard for the Ten Commandments in general.

Of course, the money-making motive is behind all this. 'Filthy lucre' is the apt expression. Not that there is anything filthy about feminine beauty. But the beauty of a man's wife should be for his eyes alone. The kind of decadence that ignores such privacy merely fuels public male lust and should be disallowed and even criminalised. Rightly did the Apostle Peter sum up the vice of our visual age. We are a society with 'eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin' (2 Pet. 2: 14).

Is the refusal of the British Press to publish (so far), evidence of a residual Puritanism? I certainly hope so. One would like to ask these hypocritical editors and their equally-hypocritical male readers this question: would they like topless pictures of their wives, sisters, mothers, etc. available for all the world to see? And have they spared a thought for Prince William's feelings in all this shameless publicity?

For those who see a relevant connection, I am not making any concessions to Islamic culture at this point; behind the seemingly-modest burkha barrier is a variety of sexual irregularities. No, I am appealing to the kind of Judeo-Christian values which once prevailed in great measure throughout Western society; values which preserved and protected the purity and beauty of married life and at the same time created a context of innocence and modesty in which to raise happy and virtuous children. Such are the desperate needs of our sex-obsessed society.

Unless we return to our roots, the lusts of the jungle will be our ruin!

“...if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Matthew 24: 24b

Very few today in the Church seriously subscribe to the view that God holds the monopoly over all aspects of His written revelation to mankind. One only has to consider the current indifferent and laissez-faire attitude in which many Bible colleges and even reformed ministers regard the novel versions of Scripture.

Is it then to be wondered at, that many should not see their signs, and none have a clear prophetic view of the times and seasons, when such things are tolerated, and even encouraged, in the Church? Do we consider that God is such a one as us? The One who declared that He has magnified His Word above all His name - that is above His works of creation and all other ways by which He is known. See Ps. 138: 2.

Jesus (O Logos) was concerned that we should observe the signs of the times, and rebuked the Pharisees for regarding the weather portents, yet being blind to His Divine Person. It is an unwavering confidence in God's Word and a love for it that will keep us from being deceived. Without this loving confidence, we may have an intellectual form of Christianity, but without the substance. It is only true faith with a love of Scriptural purity which can declare: “Thy Word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.” Ps. 119: 140.

The latter part of the well known text in Matthew 24 in our title is from a discourse given by our Saviour to the disciples in response to their enquiry concerning the recent prophesy by the Lord of the destruction of the temple buildings, and the signs of His coming, and of the end of the world.

These separate events are dealt with by the Lord Jesus Christ at the same time. In common with many other prophetic utterances they deal with events to be fulfilled shortly and those at a later date, and show firstly the **type**: the destruction of Jerusalem together with the temple (which as a matter of historical record came to pass in AD 70) and, secondly, the **anti-type**: the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. Sadly, so many people conflate these several events as being one and the same thing.

The Times

The children of Issachar in their understanding of the times performed their own special service to God and His elect at the time of Israel's need in the days of King David, and we too are obliged to show to our generation that which God has revealed to us by His Word in these last days.

Let us also observe here that the disciples asked for the **signs** of the times of these events, and not merely the chronological time when they should occur. The Christian observes and delights in the providence of God in the times of this age, as He turns the King's heart, whithersoever He will. Prov 21:1. He says to Kings and Princes: “I girded thee; though thou hast not known me” (Isa. 45:5).

The return of Christ Jesus with ten thousands of His saints in glory and the end of all things when time itself shall be no more, and when the final curtain is drawn over the history of the world, are those subjects which incite not only the intense interest of the Christian believers as they eagerly await their Bridegroom's appearance right through the lattice at last, S of S 2:9; but also the vain curiosity of the men of this world. For the purposes of this article, I would deliberately avoid references to the various extant

millennium theories, lest minds be distracted. It is but one aspect of these signs of the times that I would bring to the fore here in these last days.

The Last Days

Plainly, the last days are specified by the New Testament writers, as the time from the ascension of Christ until His return. Quite obviously too, over two thousand years on from when Christ rose up into Heaven from the Mount called Olivet, we are in this age considerably closer to the last day itself; viz. the Day of the Lord prophesied from Enoch, the seventh from Adam, and throughout the Holy Scriptures. So, in God's words to Adam after his fall from a state of innocence, we may read implicitly of the final conflagration to come. Virtually from the beginning of time itself, until now, the earth and all in it has been under a death sentence because of sin. The problem of sin for the elect of God was dealt with by Christ in His redemptive work; but the just punishment of man's rebellion and the final fire in which the ungodly and all sin and its works will be burnt up, is still to come.

The Sign of Deception

If any sign stands out pre-eminently as typifying the last days it is one of **deception**. In Scripture after Scripture relating to the end times, we are warned against being deceived. Our Lord Himself here in Matthew warns the disciples against being deceived. Before He begins to explain what must come to pass, He straightway exclaims: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My Name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (verses 4 and 5). This age, that you and I find ourselves in, is an age of deception.

By the words in parenthesis in 24, "...if *it were* possible," Jesus shows just how deceptive these days are to be.

Some may object here that these words were spoken in relation to a particular time to come - the great tribulation - Jacob's trouble, which is also prophesied throughout the Old and New Testaments. Indeed, this is no doubt the case. However, Paul writing to Timothy says of the last days: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim 3: 13).

We see that this deception is a developing manifestation, growing worse and worse. Like a deadly virus permeating the whole of society; it is that which is to grow and infect all men, specifically the Christian Church, until it reaches epidemic proportions: "For *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (2 Thess. 2: 3). These are not matters of personal interpretation, but according to the Word of God.

In the world, we may have lately observed the glorification of man in both sets of Olympic Games; at no time was God given the glory but rather in the final tableau of the Paralympics the face of a pagan god was displayed. In true Corinthian style, the outpouring of man-worship, emotion and self-congratulation, devoid of the fear of God, was fearsome to behold by those who do know their God. But we are to speak not principally of the men of the world here, who have their portion in this life: but rather the elect of God. But I mention this simply to show the fetid atmosphere of sin that now prevails, and how the deceiver of mankind has blinded the eyes of men. So much so, that Christians have almost been carried away with these blasphemous events in the arena, all in the name of 'sport'.

The Security of the Elect

In these last dangerous times, if *it were* possible, even the elect shall be deceived. Blessed be God, it is not possible. Why? Because Christ's voice is the voice of the Divine Shepherd; and My sheep, says the Lord, hear My voice. By means of the Scripture of Truth applied by the Holy Ghost the warnings are given. "Take heed"; "Behold, I have told you before" (Matt 24); "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction *that causeth* to err from the words of knowledge" (Prov. 19: 27). "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20: 31).

It is for the elect to watch and to heed the warnings given. By these means does the Lord guide and guard His sheep and they shall never perish. With the hypocrite and the unbeliever, it is not so. Confident of their own powers of intellect, rationality and even religious thought, they will be deceived, believe the lie, and perish.

So, too, the antinomian or hyper-Calvinist who declare that since the elect can never perish; then they shall sit at ease in Zion. So: "He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray" (Prov. 5: 23).

Let us then examine from Scripture in these last days - and surely wise men on all sides will concur that they are the last - how by the tender warnings of God the Holy Ghost we shall not be led away by the error/deception of the wicked, and not be seduced by them.

The Enemy Within

Note again "...if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect" Matthew (24: 24b). In the previous verse, Christ had been warning us of false Christs and false prophets. **They** shall deceive - **they** refers to those false prophets who pretend to a form of godliness and true religion. These are **they** of whom Paul warned in Acts 20: 30; "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Similarly, John says: "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." Followed by: "They went out from us..." 1 John 2: 18 and 19. So we see that word '**they**' again. Deceivers within are our chief danger. The persecuting world, while terrible, is easy to spot. The enemy within is far more dangerous.

Wolves Who Adopt the Sheep's Clothing

Jesus tells us: "For many shall come in My name saying, I am Christ, and deceive many." And again: "And many false prophets shall arise."

Why does Satan choose to deceive the Church through professing Christians? The answer is that this method is proven to be successful and God Himself assures us that this is the means by which Satan and his demons shall prevail.

In the first book of Kings chapter 22 we have revealed unto us by Micaiah the prophet how that Ahab was deceived unto his own destruction. Ahab had rejected the truth as spoken to him by the prophet, even though he seems to have some knowledge that what had been spoken to him was true; verse 16-18. Then the prophet shows Ahab, and us, the Lord upon His throne with all assembled before Him, asking: "Who shall persuade Ahab that he may go up and fall at Ramoth Gilead?" One comes forth and offers to be a lying spirit in the mouth of his prophets. The Lord God replies: "Thou

shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so" (verse 22).

It is by the religious counterfeit that men are most easily deceived - because they will not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved. See 2 Thess 2.

Sheep Who Adopt Wolves Clothing

Today in our midst there have probably never been so many 'evangelicals' who with their mouths profess adherence to Christ and the Gospel; yet who in heart know Him not. Yet the most dangerous are those who seem to be greatly used in the proclamation of the Gospel and achieve a name as a great preacher; yet turn aside and arise at the last, embrace error, and lead many away after them. Sound familiar? It is mirrored in Acts 20: 30. We can think of J.I. Packer; Steve Chalke; Billy Graham and others who have turned aside to error and drawn many away after them.

Currently, Affinity is an organisation which has under its umbrella a loose grouping of 1300 evangelical churches; of every shade of colour; and by affiliation through the Church of England are linked to that apostate organisation the World Council of Churches, which is a vast conglomerate of different religious persuasions - from pagans to Pentecostals. It is difficult to overstate the wicked evil perpetrated by the WCC, and its connected bodies such as the NCC and Christian Solidarity Worldwide, in its corruption of true religion, and its undermining of sound doctrine.

Yet Affinity is full of those theologians who profess an undying love to the Gospel as it was re-discovered at the Reformation; yet quite happily will affiliate with those who in works and words deny it. So too, Protestant organisations, which once upheld the truth and were valiant for it in the earth, have been compromised by associating with those who support these apostate bodies.

If ever the cry "Who is on the Lord's side?" should be raised; it is now.

A Godly brother, Mr. Frank Harris, who is a member of the Bible League Committee, this year in Plymouth, gave an excellent account of the differences between the Old Evangelicalism and the New Evangelicalism. Without quoting him here - for it is hoped to produce a booklet containing the substance of his subject - his view in his concluding remarks was that the root cause of the drift from the sound faith of the old evangelicalism to the new vapid evangelicalism, was the despite that has been done to the Word of God, and the loss of confidence in it.

Dear reader, you and I live today in the midst of a battle - a battle for the Word of God. If we are not to be deceived, we need an unswerving confidence that the Bible which we hold in our hands is the authentic Holy Oracle of the Living God - His voice to us as if He spoke now from the very throne of Heaven. It is written - not it was written. Not a hotchpotch of manuscripts, which may have been collated, verified, and translated by some fallible scholar, but a providentially preserved Scripture in our own language of Holy verity.

The Authorised Bible of 1611 is that Book that God has provided for Great Britain and her dominions and for you and me now. Anything - anything that undermines the truth of Holy Scripture, whether by pretended friend or foe, is to be fled from, as Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife.

Many of the versions now question the truth of Scripture on almost every page, so if there are notes or sentiments anywhere on the page that suggest that all is not well with

any part of the 'Bible' you hold in your hand, then take heed to these providential warnings and discard this deceptive article at once. For any comment on a page that includes the words: "*Some manuscripts do not have*"...is the voice of one who sinuously slid forward with "Yea, hath God said?" and "What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?" (Isa. 36: 4).

However, like Peter, we need that revelation from above to our hearts from our Heavenly Father that this is His Holy inviolable truth. Abraham, Josiah, the Thessalonians and all the saints had this inward certainty of Jehovah's excellent Word. See Prov. 22: 17-21.

Make no mistake - without this faith in God's Word, whatever hope you may hold is vain, and will leave you open to that great deception spreading across the earth.

The man of sin is one indwelt by Satan. Satan the father of lies is one who goes out to deceive the whole earth. Whoever the man of sin may be - and there are many opinions - you and I cannot combat his deception alone. We must have a love of the Truth in our hearts and recall those words in 1 John 2: 20; "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." And look unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Amen.

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

After various journeyings to Liverpool and Devon/Cornwall, the past few weeks have been spent somewhat more quietly. On August 18th, the Horsham/Chichester contact group leaders Steven Black and David Heyes and I held an open-air witness for Christian Watch in the centre of Horsham. Many listened to the preaching - and while there were some complaints from the shop opposite - the persecution was very mild and limited to heckling. We plan to hold a similar meeting at West Street, Horsham on the 22nd September.

It is also intended to add podcasts to the website and the above brethren are to be involved in this too. There are really so many opportunities for other members in all areas to form and work with Local Contact groups and I am very happy to visit an area where there are enquiries to do this.

Many members, it seems, feel that they are already committed to work in their own churches. However, these contact groups are for all true evangelical believers to be a means of helping Christian Watch in its national aim to take the Gospel together to a wider section of society; and also to join together in building up again the walls of truth, which have been broken down by the enemy; and also in standing out against all manifestations of the moral and spiritual collapse, which is now running on in leaps and bounds in this once-favoured land.

The campaign is now in a re-grouping and planning stage and I hope to visit new areas of the UK very soon. Since travel arrangements are to be made in the next week, do please contact me if your church would like to hear about, and help with, the campaign.

Call me, Michael Hobbis, any time on 07702 431584

The Lonely Olive Mill

Matthew 26:36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

Gethsemane - oil-press, the name of an olive-yard at the foot of the Mount of Olives...

There's a peaceful vale in a sunny land
Where the hills keep guard around,
And the soft breeze stirs the olive trees
And the grass that clothes the ground.

And in the hush and solitude
Where even the birds are still,
There stands untended and alone
An ancient olive mill.

Through the long bright day the mill wheel turns
And the fruit is crushed by the stone
And quietly drips the fragrant oil
In silence and alone.

But somewhere out in the circling hills,
Unseen, unheard, unknown,
The Master of the olive mill
Is mindful of his own.

So many hours the wheel must turn,
And stone on stone must grind,
And then he will come to his olive mill,
His need of oil to find.

He knows how heavy the weight must be,
How long to let it lie,
Ere he can gather the precious oil
And throw the refuse by.

O child of God, are you being crushed
'Neath trial, pain or woe?
No eye to pity, no ear to hear,
No voice to whisper low?

Alone in your Gethsemane,
Christ watches with you there.
He will not suffer one ounce of weight
More than your strength can bear.

He chasteneth but to purify;
He crusheth but to raise;
In love He worketh His blessed will
To His glory's endless praise.

In our affliction, afflicted still
He leaveth us not alone;
He will not forget, He will not forsake,
He is mindful of his own.

Annie Johnson Flint

[altered]

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:11

CHRISTIAN WATCH

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

to be held, God willing, at

Holywell Evangelical Church

Halkyn Road, Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 7TX

Friday evening, 5th OCTOBER, 2012 at 7.30pm

Speaker:

Rev. John Thackway

Address:

‘The Tower of Babel – A Picture of Today’

Book tables, collection and light refreshments

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