

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

January 2014

January, 2014

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

We are preserved by our merciful Lord God to the commencement of another year and we would acknowledge His goodness for the many helps given and the supply of our every need in the year that is now passed. We are told by the Lord that our passage through this life is like a journey through a wilderness, as was the experience of the children of Israel after they were delivered by the Lord from Egyptian bondage. The world in which we live, by nature, captivates our affections and consequently pre-occupies the majority of our time and considerations, and therefore we are in bondage to the things of this life. The Lord, in the parable recorded in the 12th chapter of Luke, identifies many of these pre-occupations and in verse 31 says, *“But rather seek ye the Kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* We cannot sufficiently express the importance of having faith to commit all our needs and concerns unto the Lord, who said in Jeremiah 32 : 27, *“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”* This world we are living in – and, more particularly, so many of the nations which have been wonderfully favoured in the past - are now increasingly rejecting the Lord’s commandments and exhortations. This applies particularly to the United Kingdom where sodomy is now openly practiced and promoted, contributing to the breakdown of the laws of marriage. The Lord has said, *“Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?”* Jeremiah 5:9

We include a particularly relevant sermon preached by the late Pastor J. K. Popham, at Galeed Chapel, Brighton in 1932 entitled **A CALL TO NATIONAL REPENTANCE**. Initially, the importance of self- examination and personal repentance is emphasised, followed by details of our national departure from the Lord’s Word and commandments. What a wonderful favour and blessing it was when we had a King who knew the importance of prayer and therefore appointed a national day of prayer. We consider that with the Lord’s blessing and support, it would be nationally helpful and beneficial for copies of this sermon to be sent to as many of our leaders as possible, including Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords. We shall be pleased to supply you with as many copies of the sermon as you require for your personal distribution and only request you to make a financial contribution towards our costs of printing and postage. We plan to send copies to HM Queen Elizabeth and the Prime Minister. Please join us in prayer that the Lord will bless our endeavours to promote His Word and to reverse the tide of evil which is presently engulfing our nation.

We include another very serious article that also requires your attention and action. It is entitled, **Evolution: The introduction of the systematic indoctrination of children aged 8 and upwards**, by one of our Members, Mr. Tony Bennett, M.A. The further decline in the moral and Biblical standards of our nation are identified in this article, in which is revealed the British Government’s plans that will require children of eight years old and upwards to be taught that which is completely false and contrary to the clear teaching of the Word of God. The importance of us actively opposing such a vile and wicked practice cannot be over-emphasised and therefore we should do all we can, by either personal contact or other means of communication, to condemn that which is evil and to convey that which is Biblical. We are presently planning what we trust, with the Lord’s blessing, will be a project specifically designed to instruct children and young people concerning the enormous benefits of adhering to the commandments and exhortations of our God. We hope, God willing, to announce further details in our February Newsletter.

Because so many people, who profess to hold the Christian faith, are not active in an endeavour to defend it - in spite of increasing world-wide opposition - we are advised that persecution is increasing. The extent of this, we understand, was not generally known until the organisation WorldWatch Monitor sent out information, on the 6th December last. We include their article entitled **UK PARLIAMENT IS TOLD CHRISTIANITY IS 'MOST PERSECUTED RELIGION'**. In a recent debate in the House of Commons, it was stated that, on average, one Christian person is killed around the world every eleven minutes. We do not know what is before us in terms of persecution but, if and when it does occur, may we be given grace to stand firm for our profession.

We include a very encouraging Prayer Meeting address by Pastor B. A. Ramsbottom of Bethel Chapel, Luton, under the title **NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD**. This address emphasises the total and complete authority of our God over the whole of His creation and the importance of us having a gracious trust and confidence in Him that will enable us to take all our cares, our needs and concerns to the Lord in prayer. What an infinite favour we have, if we can rely upon One who is able and willing to do for us all He sees we have need of.

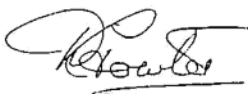
One of our lady Members has drafted out some tracts, the purpose of which is to provide spiritual material for people to distribute to the public. She herself has serious health problems and is housebound, but she feels it important to do all she can in the Lord's service and to promote the Christian message. If any of our Members are interested in obtaining any of these draft tracts, please advise us so that we can put you in contact with the person concerned.

There appears to be a world-wide endeavour to neutralise the influence of specific religions. The religious attitude of many in authority in the world today is that religion must not hinder the development and progress of the godless strategy they determine. For example, we are informed that a school in Oklahoma, USA removed all plaques from classroom walls that contained the Ten Commandments, thereby taking a neutral religious position. There is no doubt that Satan is doing all he can to defeat real religion, which emphasises to us all the importance of standing firm and earnestly contending for a religion which is completely based upon the Holy Word of God.

Finally, we thank you for your prayerful and financial support and we would remind those who have not as yet renewed their Membership subscription that we need your assistance as we go forth into another year to contend for the Word of God.

We wish you the Lord's blessing and His help and guidance in all your endeavours to promote that which is right and in accordance with the Lord's revealed will.

Yours in the Lord's service.



David Crowter

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES ON THE BACK COVER

Management Committee

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

A CALL TO NATIONAL REPENTANCE

(Re-printed from *The Gospel Standard*, September 1982)

Sermon preached by J. K. Popham at Galeed Chapel, Brighton, on January 3rd, 1932, the day appointed by King George V for national prayer. How many of the solemn things said on that occasion are even more needful today!

Our King wishes that today prayer be made for the nation. As a loyal Protestant congregation we obey. We have grievously sinned in departing from the living God and His pure worship and holy Gospel. Prayer, therefore, to be acceptable must be accompanied with confession. May we thus pray. For my text I will read:

Text: "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord" (Lam. 3:40).

There was one particularly solemn word in the chapter I read just now (Jer. 13): "Be not proud." May the Lord grant that individually we may not be proud. I suppose with regard to England, there never was a nation that more needed to heed that word, "Be not proud." We are deeply humbled now. One of the saddest things to myself that I read in the daily Press is what many leading men, so called, are saying. "We will get through, we will hold on." No recognition of God. I am sorry that Parliament has made no recognition of God in this case. I am glad the King recognises Him. But what becomes us is in the text, "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord."

Israel had turned away from Him. The beginning of all evil is turning away from God. You who do not know Him and do not fear Him, if grace prevent not, will prove the truth of that; the beginning of all evil is turning away from God. Go back to Adam. Happy he was in the happiest imaginable position; but he turned away from Him who had placed him in that position. The result to himself personally was to be driven out of Eden; and to his posterity, to us personally, driven away from happiness, because we went away from God. Search this. You will say that you never turned away from God. "Be not proud." The Pharisee was proud – he strutted up into the temple to pray, and boldly boasted; but God took no favourable notice of him. "Be not proud," and do not say, "What have we done?" Do not say, "What has England done to deserve all this that has come, and more (one would fear) that is coming?"

I know England has been favoured, and speaking naturally, we may well feel proud that we are English people. I am proud naturally to be an Englishman. England has been greatly honoured; she has done much good. And there are two or three things which I long have believed will stand her in good stead, as God is a God of judgment, and deals with men and with nations according to their deeds. One is this: that since the Reformation, that blessed Reformation that God gave to us, we have never persecuted the Jews. Abraham's seed has never been oppressed by us. And the second thing is, the very high privilege that God has given to us to scatter by innumerable millions His Holy Scriptures. We have thus far been a nation honoured to honour Him in that great particular. May that be continued to us. We have need of the word, "Let us search and try our ways."

Shall we begin at the bottom, that is to say, shall we begin with ourselves? I think that would be the best thing. Shall I begin with the pulpit? You might think, if I were to tell you what passes between God and myself night and day (often in the night), that I was exaggerating. There is great reason for the pulpit to be searched. Let the church of God take heed to this.

Has the Minister always sought God's honour? Has he been diligent in seeking the good of his hearers? Has he laboured for them night and day, that they may be brought to God, and matches be made between Christ and souls? Has he sought to pull down human nature, to trample that beast under his foot in the pulpit? Has he sought always to encourage the life of God, wherever it might be in any poor creature?

Let the hearers search themselves, and “be not proud.” How have you come? Have many tears dropped on the pavements as you have trodden them to come? Have many sighs risen up from your oppressed hearts to God that He would bless you? That He would open your hearts to the Word? That you might not reject it, even though it pleased you not? Have your ears been open to reproof? Have you received reproof, reproof unintended personally, yet appointed by God? Have you rejected such reproof? Or have you been enabled to humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God?

Let us divide ourselves as to families. How have we lived? How has the husband behaved? How has the wife conducted herself? How have the children walked? How have the masters ruled? How have the servants obeyed? Has God been feared and obeyed in all these relations? Has He been first in them? “Let us search and try our ways.” Is there not a blight on your blessings and do you seek the reason? Is there affliction in the church? Does it humble you? Is there affliction in your families? Does it exercise you? Does it bring you before the Lord to enquire why? Not to enquire fretfully why, but to enquire humbly, feeling sin, guilt?

Now I would for a moment we should just exclude ourselves from all men, and examine ourselves as it becomes us, and prostrate ourselves before Almighty God omniscient; believing that not only our outward lives, but our inward lives, the very thought of our minds and the imaginations of the thoughts of our hearts, our idle words and foolish speeches, and jesting which is not convenient, are evil. Let us look at these things. I must be personal, though I am not intending any one person in the congregation; yet these things must be personal to you. Who would dare in this congregation to stand up and say, “Lord, Thou knowest I am an innocent person?” If then we be guilty; if by searching we find out imperfections; if some sins are on the skirts of garments, so that anyone may read them; and yet if deeper and deeper there be things in our hearts which God may never allow a neighbour to know – if we see these things, may we be enabled to humble ourselves.

Now let us rise, and go to the highest rank, to our King and our Queen. It would be good, in my opinion, if one were raised up to say to them, “Humble yourselves, sit down; your principalities shall come down, even the crown of your glory.” What other nation in the world has been favoured as we have been? And the King has partaken of the benefits of God. The Lord knows that I am an intensely loyal subject, and desire not to say any improper or seemingly disloyal word; it is common knowledge that what is forbidden to royalty has been done by royalty in this nation. That is to say, friendship has been made with the Pope; and not one but many have said that therefore the crown has been forfeited. It is an evil thing to make friendship with the enemy of God and man. God will deal with that. We must leave that, but God will deal with it. O! it would be becoming the King and Queen to humble themselves and to sit down. Look at the solemn threatening: “Shall not My soul be avenged on such a nation as this?” the King representing and influencing it.

Take the nobility of the land. Very few of them comparatively, as far as we know by the Press of their public lives, may be said to set a good example to us.

Let us search the religious teachers and teaching, and what have we? There are few colleges in England that own openly, and steadfastly acknowledge the inspiration of Scripture, Holy Scripture. Modernism has invaded the colleges, and this inspired Book is criticised; and students of the Bible have discovered by their learning and the “assured results” of their scholarship that this Book is not entirely inspired. Where were these men when God mysteriously possessed and inspired a writer of one part of Holy Scripture to write profane history, what parts to write and how to express those parts; or when God would express to man His decrees, and took possession of a man of God and, whilst not in the least affecting or destroying his personality and idiosyncrasy, but using them, made him an infallible pen to write Divine decrees and mysteries? I have long held the opinion, and have expressed it, that *very much of the profanity that mars England today is the immediate result of Modernist teaching.*

If any of you in this congregation should be left to reject the Scriptures as uninspired, then there will be let loose your passions in some form, and no restraint from them will be upon you; because if this Book, which we proclaim to be inspired of God, be not inspired, and you

receive that infidel statement, why should you respect it as sacred and binding? If God has not given it by inspiration, what claim has He on you for your respect and obedience to it? Profanity results from denying the Scriptures. It is in the national church where you would hardly expect it. In the great bodies of Non-conformists it prevails; and where young men are trained to be Ministers, they are not required to pass any test with regard to Scripture doctrine.

Now this of course is out of my usual way, but we have to search out why this nation is under God's heavy hand of displeasure and judgment. There is plenty of gold in the world, but it is locked up chiefly by two nations. Plenty of food, but there is not enough money to purchase it for all. Plenty of clothing, but there is not the wherewith to purchase it. Why? Answer, "God is angry with the wicked every day." And His judgments are ripening.

Let this, then, be part of your business and mine, to "search and try our ways." Let us examine ourselves, and examine the nation as far as we know its conduct; and we shall find that the word I have quoted has marvellous application. Would that it were applied: "Be not proud." "Only acknowledge thine iniquity;" only confess that nationally we have turned away from God; that personally we have turned away from God; that every station and every relation in life is more or less tainted by sin, tainted in the root, even in fallen nature; and in all the branches of our national life.

We are influenced by example; everyone is under some kind of influence. No creature is independent of all others; everyone has some influence over another. Mind your friendships, young people; be careful of your friendships, be careful of your books. I often think of a very old friend of mine, who has been in Heaven nearly fifty years. When he was offered the loan of a book, which he heard was erroneous, he said, "Thank you, I won't try how much poison I can take without killing myself." Be careful of your reading. Be careful of your friendships. Watch your actions. Remember God sees every action of your heart, every action of your mind, every word of your tongue, every thought and every wish. It is a very serious thing to be a creature; very solemn and awful to be a sinner; and may the Lord grant that we may be diligent in this prescribed word, this prescribed obligation, "Let us search and try our ways."

If we are to "search and try our ways," there must be a standard. You cannot try anything without a standard. To try what seems to be gold, you must have a standard. Now what is our standard? The Bible. What is the standard for a creature as such? That he should "love God with all his heart, and all his mind and all his soul and all his strength, and his neighbour as himself" – the two first great commandments. Not one person in this congregation is exempt from that standard. It is your duty, it is my duty, as God's creatures, to obey Him in that awful, solemn, exacting claim. It is His claim on us. O sinner, how do you stand here, when you try your ways by that word? Do you love God? Do you serve Him with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, all your strength? Do you love your neighbour as yourself? This is the standard. What is the standard for my neighbour with regard to myself and my conduct to him? To do to him as I would he should do to me. Judge righteous judgment. Bad habits are not easily broken off. If now you have contracted the bad habit of judging without knowing both sides of the question, then you have sinned, and you will find it very hard to break that habit; only pray that it may be broken for you.

What is the standard for sinners who have broken the law, who have been convinced of their having broken the law; who know there is no escape from the wrath to come by the law? Sinner, what is your standard? "Search and try." It is this: when a sinner is convinced, and says, "What shall I do to be saved?" – says the Scripture, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Now search. How many Christians are there in this congregation?

This nation will be found guilty by the one standard – the inspired Bible. It was the Word of God in the hand of the Spirit by which the Reformation came, by which the nation grew in righteousness, strength and importance. Time was when we could say to the Pope that his evil deeds in some particulars must cease; and they ceased. God was with us. We honoured His Word, and He honoured us. But now we have dishonoured Him, and are more and more dishonouring Him. We have rejected His Word, and what wisdom is in us? The further we go from our only Defence, our Help, the more will He afflict us.

But we will now look at the second part of the text: "And turn again to the Lord." Allow me to repeat what I just now said; "The beginning of evil is turning away from God." Here I say, "The beginning of wisdom and righteousness is turning again to Him."

There may be a national turning again to Him. Reformation principles should be taken up and practised. Friendship with the Pope of Rome and the apostate Church should be broken. The holy, inspired and inerrant Scripture should be restored to its proper place and honoured, and false Modernist teachers should have neither hearers nor readers. Then Arminianism would lose its attraction. A proper observance and keeping of the Lord's Day would gladden the people of God. The morals of the nation would speedily improve, and beautiful chastity would adorn many homes now torn and desolated by the breach of the most sacred vows.

The Church of God would be revived. The famine of the Word, which is now being experienced in many places, would cease out of the land of promise, and the reproach of famine would be removed. Israel's Glory would appear, even the Lord Jesus. What hearings there would be, as with authority true Ministers would preach "the unsearchable riches of Christ!" Then would be the promised sweet mourning for the pierced Saviour, looked upon by the eye of faith; also a walking, as Divinely led, by the rivers of water in a straight way, while the voice of the Bridegroom and the voice of the Bride would be heard. This gracious turning would be marked by sincere confession and forsaking of sin. You cannot sin wilfully if you have grace.

Then this turning to the Lord is to worship Him. Idolatry was the cause of Israel's defeats and captivities and their shame. Truly to worship God is to worship in spirit and in truth. The names of idols are cast out by the Lord. "God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Where is He worshipped? In His own house, His tabernacle, which is with men. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." So when we turn again to the Lord by the grace of the Spirit, we worship God in Christ as in first love. There is an infinite depth in that word which we commonly use when we conclude the service: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost." There is a depth unfathomable to ourselves also in Christ's word; "If ye shall ask anything in My Name, I will do it." Do you worship God in Christ when you attempt to pray? Is He set before you again? Does the Gospel shine as formerly, as the glorious Gospel of Christ, so as that when you kneel before Him, or when you are walking or working, or on your beds, your hearts kneel before Him, and plead, "For Christ's sake?"

To turn again to Him is to ask Him to revive, to renew, to forgive. "Forgive us our trespasses; forgive this turning away from Thee of which we have been guilty, and are now convinced." To turn to Him is to turn to the atonement of Jesus Christ. "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

"The blood of Christ, a precious blood,
Cleanseth from all sin – doubt it not –
And reconciles the soul to God,
From every folly, every fault."

This turning again is to seek that God's hand should be upon the Man of His right hand, upon the Son of Man whom He made strong for Himself; that the wasted vineyard might be restored (Psa. 80).

When Jerusalem was in captivity, she remembered her Sabbaths; she had despised them, now she remembered them; but she fled before the pursuer without strength. She was in a sad condition, and she said, "The Lord has done it. He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out. He hath made my chain heavy." Do you feel that - that your chain is made heavy, that you cannot escape the condition into which you are brought? "Be not proud." Humble yourself, sit down; sit down until God shall lift you up. If He has put you in the dust, do not attempt to get out of it by any means of your own. All escape from an evil condition that is not made by God is a worse evil and captivity. It is only getting into something worse.

To turn again to the Lord is to turn to the Holy Ghost; and many a time you may say to Him, "O Thou Divine Spirit, I rejected Thy influences, Thy touches, Thy checks on my conscience; and I gave way to sin. I turned from the Heavenly counsel, I hardened my heart against Thy fear, and rebelled and vexed Thee, and Thou hast fought against me in my conscience. But O, now mercifully return to me, and cause me to return to God." Let us return again to God.

To turn again to Him is to be sorry for our sin. David said, "I said, I will be sorry for my sin." Every child of God, brought by the Spirit rightly to the throne of grace, is really sorry for his sin. It is to turn to the simple worship of God; away from the many devices that men make; but to turn in simplicity with nakedness of your sin, the shame of your sin, the grief for your sin, all which God works; and then you ask Him that He would take away those evils, guilt and shame and the weakness and the pain, and heal you by the blood of Christ. "Heal me, O Lord, for I have sinned. My bones are vexed, for I have sinned."

This is one of the blessed privileges and blessings we get by prayer. Approach the throne of grace. There Jesus sits upon the throne; there He is to welcome sinners. And the bread which they, being hungry, ask of Him, is His own flesh. He gives them this bread to eat. He gives them to see the love that sent Him, the love that brought Him, the curse that overtook Him, the death that He died, the life that He now lives at the right hand of God, ever to intercede for His people. They get a sight of Him. It is not a fancy; it is not a notion in the head; it is not a doctrine dry and hard in the judgment. It is a real, living truth in their souls, the effect of which may to their sense quickly pass away, but never wholly. It will be revived by the Spirit in the memory from time to time.

One day you may be before God sensible of your guiltiness, when there may come to you a sight of the infinite value of the death of Christ. That sight you will never totally forget, if once you have it – the infinite value of the death of Christ. I heard two voices in my heart the other day. I was with one voice confessing my sins and my sinfulness; and in a moment the other voice was this – of the worth of Christ, the death of Christ, the infinite worth of His precious blood. Peace comes that way. And this is obtained by prayer: "I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them." It is in the covenant, it is an absolute truth – the infinite value of the death of Christ. Says God to His people "You need this, ask Me for it; you will die without it, ask Me for it, come and pray for it; I will be inquired of. It is already provided for you; now come and receive it." This is a good Gospel; therefore pray for it.

Another sweet mercy attending prayer is this, that the Lord causes His voice to be heard. We heard it "in the secret place of thunder," the law; and now we hear it occasionally in the everlasting Gospel. When you ask Him to let you know that He loves you, He may let that word fall that has fallen on thousands of hearts: "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love"; or He may bring it to you as it is said in John's Gospel: "Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end." And this kiss comes from Heaven. You can say, "I did not fetch it, it came; I had an open hand, I had a hungry heart, I had a needy soul, I had a bad case; and with them I went to the Lord, and He graciously spoke to me." This is what God does to His people when they pray. "I will be inquired of. It is a mercy that they need, a mercy that I have eternally in My covenant of grace provided for them; and I will answer when they call on Me." When you pray earnestly, out of real need, for the revelation of Jesus Christ to you, you will receive it one day.

"Sudden He stands confessed; we look, and all is light."

This is different from general ideas of Christ and of knowing Him as light is different from darkness. It is a living thing, a true experience that the Holy Ghost gives as "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge" of Christ; whereby the soul sees Him, feels Him, embraces Him, closes with Him, receives Him fully as the Lord his Righteousness, as the Redeemer, as the ever-living Intercessor. The sinner receives a revealed Christ. It is a true experience. Perhaps comparatively few today have received it, for this is a grievously dark day with us, and the church of God manifests it by her leanness and her ignorance of "the secret of the Lord." But when by the Holy Ghost some pray, then they are heard. You will be sure to receive it if you are led to go for it.

“Christ has blessings to impart,
 Grace to save thee from thy fears.
 O the love that fills His heart!
 Sinner, wipe away thy tears.”

This is what comes in answer to prayer – full deliverance.

When the Lord’s people are in tribulation, then they pray. He said by Moses, “When thou art in tribulation...if thou turn to the Lord,” He will remember His covenant, and He will come and bless you, restore you. So His people find it. When you are in trouble, in tribulation that makes you pray, “Lord, help me to bear it, sanctify it to me; whatever I miss in this affliction, do not let me miss the sanctification of it to my soul,” it is a good thing. There is such a blessing as sanctified affliction, a being bettered by the cross. It will enable you to say, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn Thy statutes.” “Before I was afflicted I went astray.” So it is a good thing.

Now let me just say a word in conclusion: that is, it will be a mercy if ascending prayer today enters into the ear of the Lord God of Sabaoth, if this nation should be heard by Him. And if He will not take away all the judgments that are threatening, that the portentous, black clouds may not entirely empty themselves upon us, that there might at least be a mitigation, a moderation – it will be a great matter. *Only do not expect more than there is prayer for.* I put it so: as prayer is, so will come returns. If prayer be formal, without heart, there will be no returns; but if it be sincere, and by the Holy Ghost, attended with confession and forsaking, then answers, returns will come; for God is a Hearer of prayer.

In persons, in churches, in nations, He is the Hearer of prayer. Many a poor church has been revived when God has stirred up one or two to seek His face. Cyrus was moved to proclaim liberty to the captives, to go to Jerusalem and build a house; and then there were two or three particular men raised up to be leaders in the reformation and in the return. They were men of prayer. Who knows if the Lord will return, and leave a blessing behind Him? May the Ministers of the Lord weep between the porch and the altar, and cry, “Spare Thy people, O Lord, and give not Thine heritage to reproach.”

May the Lord hear us, and accept us in this our offering up of prayer before Him and to Him, seeing that we have grievously sinned against Him. **Amen.**

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| <p>1. See, gracious God, before Thy throne
 Thy mourning people bend;
 ‘Tis on thy sovereign grace alone
 Our humble hopes depend.</p> | <p>5. How changed, alas are truths divine,
 For error, guilt and shame!
 What impious numbers, bold in sin,
 Disgrace the Christian name!</p> |
| <p>2. Tremendous judgments from Thy hand
 Thy dreadful power display;
 Yet mercy spares this guilty land,
 And still we live to pray.</p> | <p>6. Regardless of Thy smile or frown,
 Their pleasures they require;
 And sink with gay indifference down
 To everlasting fire.</p> |
| <p>3. Great God! and why is Britain spared?
 Ungrateful as we are;
 O make Thy awful warnings heard,
 While mercy cries, Forbear!</p> | <p>7. O turn us, turn us, mighty Lord,
 By Thy resistless grace;
 Then shall our hearts obey Thy word,
 And humbly seek Thy face;</p> |
| <p>4. What numerous crimes increasing rise
 Through this apostate isle!
 What land as favoured of the skies,
 And yet what land so vile!</p> | <p>8. Then, should insulting foes invade,
 We shall not sink in fear;
 Secure of never-failing aid,
 If God, our God, is near.</p> |

Anne Steele

Evolution: The introduction of the systematic indoctrination of children aged 8 and upwards

By: Tony Bennett M.A.

This article is intended as a call to action and to prayer. It's about the coming compulsory indoctrination of British children aged 8 and upwards into accepting a falsehood; namely the theory of evolution.

As a long-standing member of Christian Watch, I was kindly allowed (at very short notice) to address our Annual Meeting at Luton last year on this subject. I'm now able to expand on what I said there.

The simple reason for this article is that from September this year (2014), the Government will make it compulsory for children in Year 4 (aged 8) and upwards to be taught that we evolved - from worms, from amoeba, from cells.

As Christian believers, we have one precious privilege (along with many others); namely, that through the grace of God, we have been enabled to know the truth. The truth about our Lord Jesus Christ; the truth that He created the earth and all creatures and life within it. We also know that the Scriptures, which tell us about Him, are reliable and true - historically and literally, wherever they speak about real events. We know from Genesis Chapter 1 - and from many other places in the Scriptures - that God created the world and the universe in six literal days and that we did not evolve over hundreds of millions of years.

Sadly, the laws of God are treated contemptuously by today's Governments. Homosexuals are allowed to 'marry'; our national observance of the Lord's Day has long since passed and Christians are sometimes denied jobs because the State cannot accommodate our refusal, in certain instances, to act contrary to God's commandments.

THE ROLE OF TEACHERS

As yet, people are not yet required to believe that the accounts of Christ's life, death and resurrection in the Bible are false. But here, surely, we have something fairly similar, and very sinister.

Three of the functions of teachers are

- (a) to teach the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic,
- (b) to tell children about true things in the world around them - and
- (c) to teach them to think.

If teachers purport to tell their children the truth about anything - geography, history, science etc. - then the children they teach are meant to acquire, absorb and regurgitate the truths they are told.

As Christians, how can we possibly sit by in our armchairs and allow children to be taught such a deliberate lie? - and be **required to believe this lie**? Imagine the plight of a child brought up in a Christian home, grounded in the Bible and the scientific truths about origins, being marked in an exam where he/she has to repeat in an exam paper things about the supposed evolutionary origins of created things when the child knows this to be untrue.

Up to now, the theory of evolution has only been introduced at Year 10 (age 14). Now, on page 119 of Education Minister Michael Gove's recent consultation document on the teaching of evolution, we find that 8-year-olds "...should be taught to...recognise that living things have

changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the earth millions of years ago”.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FOSSILS

Let's pause and think about what the trillions of fossils in the earth tell us.

First, how does a fossil ever form? Only by instantaneous burial, and being deprived of oxygen. That way, the process of petrification begins - a relatively rapid process of dead animals and plants turning to stone. Creatures that die in the usual way either disintegrate rapidly, or are eaten. The vast quantity of fossils is evidence either of a catastrophic flood, or a series of catastrophic floods. It is most certainly fully consistent with the Bible's account of the year-long, global, Noah's Flood (New Testament references: Matthew 24 v 37; Luke 17 v 26; Hebrews 11 v 7; 1 Peter 3 v 20; 2 Peter 2 v 5).

Fossils certainly provide information about living things - but not to support the theory of evolution. Let's take, for example, a fossil creature found in the lowest sedimentary rocks on the earth, called the 'Cambrian Period' - the trilobite.

Trilobites lived on the ocean floor, their delicate shells, arranged in three lobes, having to withstand thousands of feet of ocean pressure. They had dozens of pairs of tiny feet, for crawling along the sandy ocean floor. But most spectacular of all, their eyes consisted of hundreds of interlocking hexagonal lenses, capable of seeing in the near absolute darkness of the ocean bottom.

Is there any fossil evidence of what trilobites were before they became these highly specialised creatures? None whatsoever.

We have, in effect, two rival explanations for the appearance of trilobites, in their billions, as fossils in the 'Cambrian' rocks.

Either they were wonderfully designed by our Creator, especially for life on the ocean floor, and were buried in their billions in the early days and weeks of Noah's Flood. Let's call that 'Explanation 1'; or they evolved from a series of creatures, from one-celled beings, step by step over eons, into trilobites, without leaving a single trace in the record of sedimentary rocks. Let's call that 'Explanation 2'.

From September this year, unless an almighty protest is raised by us Christians, Explanation 2 will be taught as a fact, whilst even to put forward Explanation 1 as a possible alternative would not be allowed, and might well be ridiculed.

Scientific proofs of a recent, special, 6-day creation by God, followed later by a one-year flood which has left us thousands of feet of sedimentary rocks in which trillions of fossils are buried, are numerous. They can't be dealt with in this short article.

As for the so-called 'science' of radiometric dating, it is so riven through with flaws that it cannot be used to establish the long ages that evolutionists claim (except for the limited use of radiocarbon dating over the past few thousand years only).

Eight-year-olds will be required to accept (see above) that 'living things have changed over time'. Yet throughout the fossil record, there is not one single example of one species of plant or animal transforming itself into another. Every single so-called link is 'missing'. What we do see is the genetic capacity for variation that God built into the original 'kinds'. But that variation is within the strict limits that God built in to His designs of the DNA which coded for each separate 'kind' of animal or plant. There is no way that any creature or plant can add on lots of extra DNA to transform itself into something quite different.

WHAT WE CAN DO

So what can we do about it? I took two steps last year. I set up a petition on the Prime Minister's website calling for both theories of origins to be discussed side by side in the classroom. It opposed the policy of indoctrinating young children with only one side of the argument. I hope, together with other Christians, to promote a similar one later this year.

Second, I wrote a long letter to Michael Gove carefully setting out all the arguments against indoctrinating 8-year-olds with the theory of evolution. It attracted a swift reply, basically suggesting that because the majority of scientists believe the theory, it must now be taught as a fact. ***I would like you all to see both letters. Please e-mail me at ajsbenett@btinternet.com or 'phone me on 01279 635789 or 07835 716537 and I'll be pleased to send you a copy.***

Our fellow-Christians in the U.S. are much more active than we are in campaigning for both explanations of origins to be taught side by side. In many U.S. schools, both theories are taught. Pupils are allowed to decide which theory has the superior evidence - the way education and science should proceed. It may seem surprising, but despite the overwhelming, relentless promotion of the theory of evolution for over 150 years, opinion polls show that nearly a half of people in both the U.S. and Britain are not persuaded that we have evolved over billions of years.

The simplest thing we can do, I think, is to courteously ask our MPs to forward our concerns to Michael Gove. This will not work if only a few do it. We **all** need to do it. And we need to get our fellow-Christians who are not Christian Watch members to do the same. You could for example simply send your MP a copy of my letter, telling her/him that you support it and do not want the Government to go ahead with the compulsory indoctrination of evolution into eight-year-old minds.

In Christian Watch's October newsletter was an article by Shaun Willcock, entitled: 'Contending for the Faith: Against the Heresies of our Times', specifically naming the theory of evolution as one of eight great modern heresies.

David Crowter in the last newsletter (Nov/Dec) included an article titled: 'Why UK Christians should be bolder with their faith'.

Here is a current issue on which, surely, the Lord desires that we stir ourselves.

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UK PARLIAMENT IS TOLD CHRISTIANITY IS 'MOST PERSECUTED RELIGION'

By WorldWatch Monitor – 6 December, 2013

The plight of Christians around the world was discussed in a three-hour debate at the Houses of Parliament in London. Members of the House of Commons were told that the persecution of Christians is increasing, that one Christian is killed around every 11 minutes around the world, and that Christianity is the 'most persecuted religion globally'.

A long list of countries in which life as a Christian is most difficult was discussed, including Syria, North Korea, Eritrea, Nigeria, Iraq and Egypt.

MP Jim Shannon said the persecution of Christians is 'the biggest story in the world that has never been told'. He said that although the right to freedom of thought, conscience and

religion is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, there are many countries in which these rights are not given. Shannon alleged that 200 million Christians will be persecuted for their faith this year, while he said that 500 million live in 'dangerous neighbourhoods'.

He added that in Syria Christians are 'caught between opposing sides in the conflict' and mentioned the 'specific targeting' of Christian-dominated locations, such as Sadad and Maaloula.

MP Sammy Wilson said that, in Syria, '50,000 Christians have been cleared from the city of Homs', while in Sudan two million Christians were killed by the regime over a 30-year period.

He added, 'Within the last month, hundreds of people, from Nigeria to Eritrea to Kazakhstan to China, have been arrested and put in prison simply because of their faith, and when they go into prison they are denied due process. They are denied access to lawyers.

They are sometimes even denied knowledge of the charges facing them. They can languish in prison for a long time and in horrible conditions... This is not only happening in Muslim countries. From Morocco to Pakistan, Christians in Muslim countries are under threat, but it happens elsewhere too.'

The recent comments of Baroness Warsi at a lecture in Washington were echoed, including her assertion that 'the parts of the world where Christianity first spread is now seeing large sections of the Christian community leaving, and those that are remaining feeling persecuted'.

MP Nigel Dodds said that the 'persecution of Christians is not new', but that it is 'staggering' how many Christians are killed today.

In Iraq, he noted the words of Canon Andrew White, who had said that Christians are 'frightened even to walk to church because they might come under attack. All the churches are targets... We used to have 1.5 million Christians, now we have probably only 200,000 left... There are more Iraqi Christians in Chicago than there are here'.

Sir Edward Leigh said the remaining number of Christians in Iraq was likely to be closer to 600,000, but that this was still a shocking figure and that 'things have become much worse since the invasion'.

MP Rehman Chishti said, 'I come from a Muslim background, and my father was an Imam...I know it is absolutely right and proper to have a debate on the subject'. He called the persecution 'completely and utterly unacceptable' and 'a very sad state of affairs'.

He also quoted his 'good friend' the former Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali. 'He told me that the persecution of Christians was taking place in more than 130 of the 190 countries in the world at the moment'.

During the debate, the oppression experienced by Christians in China and Malaysia was also highlighted and outlined.

MP David Rutley raised the issue of the sizeable Christian community in China, and asked about the potential establishment of a deeper inter-faith dialogue to engage the Chinese Authorities with Christian groups.

Meanwhile, a UK-based organisation has claimed that the number of countries posing an extreme risk to the human rights of their populations has risen by 70 per cent in the past five years.

Risk analysis company, Maplecroft, (which researched 197 countries for its annual Human Rights Risk Atlas 2014), says that since 2008 the number has risen steeply from 20 to 34, predominantly comprised of countries in the Middle East and Africa.

Syria tops the list, followed by Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

A Prayer Meeting address by Pastor B. A. Ramsbottom, Bethel Chapel, Luton

Please read Jeremiah 31: 1-23

The emphasis is the absolute sovereignty of God. He does as He pleases. He says, "I will work, and who shall let it?" "He doeth according to His will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?" The great, infinite, almighty, omnipotent, most high God. Now this is the emphasis, and this was a time of dreadful crisis in Israel, for the Chaldeans had overthrown the land. The people were being punished for their sins. They were in bondage and darkness and captivity. We know what it is in these days to have times of distress in England.

Amidst it all, the Lord gives a most strange command to His prophet Jeremiah. He tells him that there is a field down in Anathoth and Jeremiah must buy it from his cousin Hanameel, and he must go through everything that was needful legally. There had to be the weighing of the money, the subscribing of the evidence, the sealing of it, the witness, the sealed evidences and the open evidences – all this had to be done. Now the strange point about it was that Anathoth was in the hand of the enemy; the Chaldeans had overthrown it and they possessed it. Whatever was the point of Jeremiah buying a field there? And whatever was the point of making such a sacrifice and paying such an amount for it? And whatever was the point of all this legal procedure, the evidence of the purchase, the sealed evidence and the open evidence? What was the point of it, because this field, this town of Anathoth, no longer belonged to the Jews? It was gone, and it seemed it was gone for ever, yet the Lord gave him this strange command, and He did not explain it.

If the Lord gives you a strange command, obey it. God is not bound to explain it to you.

"Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will."

"Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it." So Jeremiah did exactly as he was told. The seventeen shekels of silver were weighed and the transaction took place in the presence of the witnesses, and there were the evidences of the purchase, the sealed and the open evidences, and they were hidden in an earthen vessel that they might be kept for many days. Then the Lord explained,

"God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain."

You may have some very strange things, mysterious things.

"Still pray, for God will all explain,
Nor shalt thou seek His face in vain."

The explanation was this: that the time would surely come in Israel when once again land would be bought and sold, when the legal evidences would be required, when that field down in Anathoth would be freed from the hand of the enemy. That is why the Lord gave this strange commandment. He does not do anything by accident or mistake or without purpose.

It seemed such an impossible thing that Anathoth and the field should ever be possessed and all this legal procedure a waste of time, and then the Lord puts it like this. This is the summary and the substance of it all: "I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for Me?" Is it too hard for Me to drive out the Chaldeans? Is it too hard for Me to restore peace and prosperity in Zion? Is it too hard for Me to set that field down in Anathoth free that you might possess it? "Is there any thing too hard for Me?"

Now in every time of need, nationally or personally, may you hear the Lord speak. He tells us who He is. "Behold, I am the Lord." Then He proclaims His complete, His absolute sovereignty: "The God of *all flesh*" – not just His people. The hearts of all men are in His hand. "The king's heart," the heart of the most mighty, "is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will."

"His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour."

He declares His absolute sovereignty. "The God of all flesh." All creatures obey His command, whether they are ravens, or lions, or cruel men, ungodly men, Pharaoh, Nero, or whether they are His own people. "I am the Lord, the God of all flesh." And on this, His declaration of who He is and His absolute sovereignty, He casts down this challenge: "Is there any thing too hard for Me?"

It touches everything. Is there any prayer that I cannot answer? Is there any soul that I cannot save? Is there any heart that I cannot soften? Is there any grief that I cannot assuage? Is there any trouble that I cannot sanctify? Is there any crooked thing that I cannot make straight? Is there any cross that I cannot make easy? Is there any mysterious providence that I cannot explain? Is there any door that I cannot open? Is there any thing too hard for Me? Anything in grace, anything in providence, anything concerning the body, anything in the soul, anything in the church of God, anything in your circumstances, *anything*? O what a word is this! And this is the summary of it all: "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for Me?"

From: **Saturday Evening Meditations**

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II Chronicles 15:7

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