

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2014

March/April, 2014

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Christian Watch, may I again bring you greetings in our Saviour's Name. Our Chairman, David Crowter, has now been discharged from hospital and is presently recuperating at home. Please continue to remember him and his dear wife in your prayers as they rely upon the Lord at this difficult time. David much appreciates your prayers thus far and rejoices in the Lord's goodness towards him.

Although you may not yet think so, Spring has officially arrived – bringing with it lighter nights and the prospect of longer hours of sunshine. God's Word tells us that “to every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven” (Eccl. 3 v 1) and then proceeds to expound the many and varied times that we experience in our lives. We are also exhorted (2 Tim. 4 v 2) to be “instant in season, out of season” because the time will come when false teachers abound and apostasy – turning away the ears from the truth (spiritual deafness) - will be apparent.

When Men Depart From the Faith by Rev. John Greer outlines for us the very real dangers of apostasy – and the departure in and essence of apostasy – before exhorting us to recognise real apostasy and to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” In these days in which we live, such a message is so relevant as we look around us and see many Churches that have turned their backs on the simple old-fashioned Gospel truths as taught by our forefathers.

We have included an article for your interest from the Israel and Christians Today newspaper entitled **Give Thanks to the Lord** by Andrew Tucker. The modern State of Israel raises many questions that need to be confronted and we need to come to a better understanding of such issues.

Since 1967, and the passing of the Abortion Act, thousands – indeed, millions – of innocent babies have had their lives cruelly terminated at the hands of those who are supposedly trained to save lives. This article from Peter Saunders' blog (Lifesitenews.com) outlines how **David Cameron Presides Over Largest Liberalisation of Abortion Practice Since 1967 Abortion Act**. From two doctors making the required health assessments, it now appears that no doctor at all is necessary to see the patient and this article explains how the widespread abuse of the Abortion Act has developed. It makes for grim reading. The Bible tells us that children are an heritage of the Lord (Psalm 127 v 3) and to suffer little children to come unto me (the Lord Jesus) (Matt. 19 v 14) – how we need to pray that our nation will turn from its sin and turn back to God.

The four **News Items** included also make disturbing reading.

Nigel Farage's comments regarding Christian marriage seems to be at odds with those of his Party and are contrary to the views held by many who have transferred their allegiance to UKIP. One must really ask why it was deemed even necessary to agree to an interview with PinkNews.

North Korea, the Muslim Brotherhood, Nigeria – all indicate very real threats to the Christian way of life and one wonders how much longer it will be before our own freedoms in this country are eroded.

With Islam seemingly on the rise, it is easy to overlook the onward march of the Church of Rome. A timely reminder from Shaun Willcock that **Rome Still Kills Protestants Whenever She Can Get Away With It** and **Burning Bibles** from the Reformer magazine gives a brief history on how men have tried to destroy the Word of God down through the ages – but FAILED. God is Sovereign – the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

We close with **The Simple Doctrine of Christ** by Dr. J. C. Ryle – and are exhorted to neither add nor take away from the Word of God as laid down in the Scriptures. If we do, apostasy comes in – a departure from the simple doctrine and rule of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We say with the prophet Habakkuk – O Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years.....in wrath remember mercy. Are we preparing for revival?

If we would have God with us, we must agree with Him as to the necessity of the conversion of precious souls; we must be agreed as to the means to be used – the preaching of Christ; we must consecrate our lives afresh unto the Lord. If there is anything to be done, be it to be a door-keeper in the House of the Lord, here am I; we must be agreed that we are utterly helpless, so that we look to Him alone; we must be agreed to put away all those things that offend our God – is there pride in me? Am I slothful? Am I guilty of worldliness? Do I have an angry spirit? Is there any lust in me?

Lord, make me fit to be the means of glorifying Thee.

Yours in the Saviour's Name,

Ian R. Henderson

Ian R. Henderson,
Vice-Chairman

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)

When Men Depart from the Faith

By Rev. John Greer,

*Minister of Ballymena Free Presbyterian Church and Moderator of the
Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster*

In his first Epistle to Timothy, the Apostle Paul says, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith" (I Timothy 4:1). These words of Paul to Timothy are a clear, infallible, and enduring warning for the Church of Jesus Christ; a solemn caution about an awful departure from the faith. This abandoning of the faith, foretold by Paul, is something of which the Church needs continually to be reminded. Not only does Paul emphasise the importance of this subject by the word "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly [or explicitly]," but he actually ties the effectiveness of Timothy's ministry to whether he keeps it before the Lord's people: "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ" (verse 6).

Paul also assures Timothy that this departure from the faith would come "in the latter times." That is not only a reference to the time when the second coming of Christ draws near, but it includes those seasons of apostasy that have occurred right from the apostolic age until now. It is essential, therefore, that we note this prophecy and heed its warning about apostasy, for it certainly warns us of apostasy in our own day.

The departure in apostasy

The English term *apostasy* never occurs in the Authorised Version. But the Greek word from which it is derived does. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3 Paul writes that Christ will not return until there is an *apostasia*, a falling away or a defection. That same idea is expressed in I Timothy 4:1 except that Paul uses the word *depart*. Basically, we may define apostasy as "departure from" - in the sense of abandoning something that was formerly espoused. The translation "shall depart from" is the rendering of one word in the Greek original, a word used fifteen times in the New Testament. Looking at how it is used will shed light on what we are being warned about.

The word is usually translated "depart" or "depart from". In Acts 22:29 Luke writes, "Straightway they departed from him." When the Authorities realised that Paul was a Roman citizen and that they had no right to punish or torture him, they departed from him at once - in the sense that they wanted nothing more to do with him. So the word *depart* carries the thought of a complete severing of association and connection. Consider also Luke 13:27: "depart from me...ye workers of iniquity." This is a solemn reference to Judgment Day. On that awful day, sinners will be commanded by Christ to depart from Him into eternal punishment. Thus, the usage of the word signifies a complete separation between two parties.

Therefore, to depart - to apostatize from the faith - is to separate completely from what was formerly believed. The original word is also rendered "depart" in Luke 2:37, where it is said that Anna "departed not from the temple, but served God." Used with the negative, the meaning is that Anna did not abandon the things of God. But where there is apostasy there will be a forsaking of the temple of God and the Gospel.

In one instance the word is translated "to fall away" (Luke 8:13). This is part of the parable of the sower where the seed falls on stony ground, typifying the kind of hearer that eventually falls away. Christ shows that the reason they fall away is that they "have no root, which for a while believe." "No root" means that there is no life because there is no connection to Christ, the vital source of life. Therefore, while professions have been made, they are empty ones and when the testing period comes, such professors fall away. This is a description of apostasy on a personal level and clearly assists us in defining the nature of spiritual apostasy. In I Timothy 6:3-5 the word is also translated "to withdraw." Here the word is used in the sense of the

believer withdrawing from those who do not teach the word of Christ but rather promote error of many kinds. The believer is to withdraw himself completely from this kind of teaching. Thus apostasy includes the departure from what was formerly believed. But to get to the heart of the matter, what is apostasy really all about?

The essence of apostasy

As we note the context of Paul's warning to Timothy, we discover that the very essence of apostasy is defection from Christ Himself. The opening word of the text, *now*, is important. It may also be read "but": "*But* the Spirit speaketh expressly, that ...some shall depart from the faith." The language indicates an obvious connection with the close of chapter 3 where the Apostle writes that Christ's Church is "the pillar and ground of the truth" (verse 15), since its duty is to uphold the truth. The truth in view is found in verse 16. Immediately following on the heels of the declaration of the truth that is to be upheld by the Church, there is this prophetic warning of apostasy. Therefore, *apostasy is defection from the truth God told His people to uphold*. It is a departure from "the faith" which in verse 16 refers to God's revelation of the way of salvation enshrined in the Scriptures of truth. The vital point in all of this is that the grand theme of "the truth" or "the faith" is the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider more fully chapter 3 verse 16, one of the most remarkable statements in the New Testament of what the faith is and the telling description of true apostasy. Paul shows that Christ is the theme and substance of the faith. His incarnation is declared in the phrase, "God was manifest in the flesh." How full it is of the Gospel of Christ: His virgin birth, His person as the God-man, His life of perfect obedience, His humiliation and death, the atonement He made for sin. God's vindication of Christ's life and death is revealed when Paul writes that He was "justified in [by] the Spirit." The word *justified* here has the sense of vindication. The Holy Spirit vindicated Christ by raising Him from the dead (Romans 1:3,4). That He was "seen of angels" speaks of Christ's adoration as the holy angels are seen in Scripture to gaze with adoration on Christ's work (1 Peter 1:12). Paul also writes of the Lord's proclamation for He was "preached unto the Gentiles." It reads literally, "proclaimed among the nations", and refers to God's programme of evangelisation in this world. That He was "believed on in the world" signifies that He would be accepted by those among whom He was preached. Sinners from every nation began to worship Him as their Saviour and Lord as had been predicted (Genesis 12:3). Paul ends with Christ's triumphant exaltation since He was "received up into glory," indicating His exalted position from where He reigns over all.

Recognising real apostasy

Understanding the nature of true apostasy is vital. First, it teaches us to be careful who or what we brand as being marked by apostasy. The failure to grasp the Bible's definition of apostasy has resulted in charging men and Movements with the sin of apostasy when, in fact, they were not apostate at all. Second, it underlines the truly Biblical grounds for - and extent of - ecclesiastical separation. Scripture commands us to separate from visible churches, Movements and men when they depart from Christ and to separate from Christian Churches, Movements and men when they co-operate and fellowship with apostasy. If our understanding and consequent practice of ecclesiastical separation is not firmly fixed on the Scripture's view of apostasy, we will end up causing unnecessary division in the body of Christ and harming the very cause we seek to advance.

Finally, when we are brought face to face with true apostasy we see why we must despise it, expose it, and "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude v 3), while striving to protect the unity of the true Church in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3).

Weaker gifts, rooted in a gracious heart, will grow by using; but nothing grows without a root. *Flavel*

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

By Andrew Tucker, International Editor of 'Christians for Israel'

“O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His Name; make known His deeds among the people” (Psalm 105 v 1).

The return of the Jewish people to the land of their forefathers since the mid-19th century; the birth of the modern State of Israel and its survival in the midst of enemies – all of this constitute one of the greatest events of the modern world. Not much more than a hundred years ago, the world dismissed Hertzl’s Zionist vision of a Jewish homeland as unrealistic. And yet today, not only has the Jewish homeland been established, but Israel has become a modern, multicultural and democratic State with one of the most dynamic economies in the world.

The “renaissance” (or rebirth) of the Jewish people presents the Church with a huge challenge. As long as Jerusalem was under control of Gentile powers and the Jews were scattered all over the world, the Church could comfortably maintain a theology in which the Church is seen as the “new Israel” and exclusive inheritor of all the wonderful promises in the Old Testament and the Jews as the recipients of the wrath of God – all the judgments of the Old Testament – for rejecting Christ. The result was two thousand years of persecution, forced conversions and oppression of the Jewish people, culminating in the horrors of the Shoah in the midst of Christian Europe.

But all of a sudden the Jews started to come home in their hundreds and thousands. The questions arose: do the Jews still have a valid claim to being “God’s people?” Is the promised literal return of the twelve tribes of Jacob becoming reality? Could modern Israel have something to do with the “mystery of Israel” that the Apostle Paul refers to in Romans 11? If God still has a covenant purpose with them, what does that mean for our calling as a redeemed people baptised into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

The Jewish Apostles believed that God would one day “restore again the Kingdom to Israel” (Acts 1:6) and, ever since, there have always been Christians who have held on to the belief that while God is calling a – mainly Gentile – election out of the nations, God would one day restore His ancient people to the land, as He has promised in the Old Testament. The events of the early 1800’s – following the upheavals of the French Revolution – sparked in Europe (and beyond) a renewed interest in the prophetic Scriptures. Over the last century, many theologians in all Church traditions have sought to grapple honestly with these questions. Today, many Bible scholars continue to seek to understand the Biblical significance of the phenomenon of modern Israel. There are no simple answers. The whole matter is complicated by the political complexity of Arab/Israeli conflict and the Middle East generally. But we cannot ignore these issues.

Of course, one possibility is simply to say that modern Israel has no special Biblical significance. The Jews may deserve our sympathy, but their place as “God’s people” is finished and they simply need to believe in Jesus and become Christians like all other people. They have no special entitlement to God’s favour and are certainly not entitled to use their special position to take land from others or oppress the Palestinians.

The modern restoration of Israel provides compelling evidence that God is fulfilling His word. We appreciate that this raises many confronting – and for some uncomfortable – theological questions. We acknowledge that Israel and the Jewish people are not perfect (nor are we). But we need to take Paul’s warning to the Gentile Christians in Rome seriously: “boast notBe not highminded, but fear” (see Romans 11).

The goal of this newspaper (*Israel & Christians Today* - [www. c4Israel.org](http://www.c4Israel.org)) is therefore to help Christians to take God’s word seriously and study current events in the world in the context of the Bible. While we must be cautious not to draw over-hasty conclusions, Jesus Himself warned us to discern the signs of the times (Matthew 24). Together, we need to come to a better understanding of all these issues, so that we can be prepared for His coming. *Abbreviated.*

David Cameron Presides Over Largest Liberalisation of Abortion Practice Since 1967 Abortion Act

Peter Saunders' Blog, www.lifesitenews.com, 13 March, 2014

Prime Minister David Cameron has presided over the largest liberalisation of abortion practice since the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967.

Under his leadership, former Health Minister, Andrew Lansley, working closely with abortion providers and senior figures at the Department of Health, has managed to smuggle in what is in effect a nurse-led abortion service without the issue ever being discussed in Parliament and without the knowledge of most of his own party colleagues.

This is how he managed it.

When the Abortion Act was passed in 1967, it was intended to allow abortion only in a limited set of circumstances. Under the Act, an abortion could only be performed by a 'registered medical practitioner' (i.e. a doctor) and only when two registered medical practitioners were of the opinion, 'formed in good faith', that certain conditions applied.

About 98% of all abortions are currently performed on grounds 'that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman or any existing children of her family'.

The two certifying doctors are required to carry out this balancing of medical risk and it is implicit in the legislation that they would *meet with the woman* to make an assessment about whether these medical conditions applied. How otherwise could they carry out their statutory duties 'in good faith'?

The Labour Government understood this principle. Their 'Procedures for the approval of independent sector places for the termination of pregnancy', issued in 1999, were crystal clear:

*'Under the Abortion Act 1967, pregnancies are terminated to protect health. Other than in an emergency to save a woman's life, **medical practitioners must give their opinions on the reasons under the Act for the termination following consultation with the woman.**' (emphasis mine).*

In other words, **both doctors were** obliged actually **to see** the woman in making this health assessment.

But Andrew Lansley, who was Shadow Health Secretary at the time, did not like this arrangement. So, in May, 2008, during the passage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, he advocated abolition of the two doctor rule in his Second reading speech. He later backed off in the face of some adverse publicity and an amendment aimed at dispensing with the two doctors was never debated or voted upon.

However, four years later, as Secretary of State for Health in the Coalition Government, he saw the opportunity effectively to dispense with the two doctor requirement *by stealth*.

So, in July, 2012, without consultation and without informing Parliament, he secretly issued new interim abortion procedures to independent abortion providers which effectively dispensed with the two doctor requirement.

On 9 July, 2012, in answer to a Parliamentary question, Junior Health Minister, Anne Milton, hinted at Lansley's new reading of the Abortion Act. 'There is *no requirement* that both doctors must see and examine the woman', she said.

So under Lansley's new arrangements, it was no longer necessary for two doctors to see and examine the woman. One apparently would do (that being the natural reading of 'not both').

Lansley was replaced as Health Secretary by Jeremy Hunt on 4 September that year. But his 'Interim procedures' were not put on the gov.uk website until 3 January, 2013; almost six months after abortion clinics had been issued with them.

Again there was no public announcement. In fact, the existence of these 'Interim procedures' was not even mentioned in Parliament for another two months, when they were first referred to by Health Minister, Anna Soubry, in an oral answer to Fiona Bruce on 5 March.

But the 'Interim procedures' reveal how Lansley had even further re-interpreted the law:

'We consider it good practice that one of the two certifying doctors has seen the woman, though this is not a legal requirement.'

So now it was not even necessary for *either* doctor to see the patient. It is simply 'good practice' for one to do so.

This statement from the Interim procedures was repeated word for word in the 'Revised procedures' put out for consultation by the Department of Health in November, 2013. But in these we also had the following curious additional statement:

'Members of a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) can play a role in seeking information from the woman.'

So, under Lansley's direction, the requirement that two doctors consult with the woman has been dispensed with in a stepwise fashion. Now the whole process can be carried out by nurses or other members of a multi-disciplinary team who conceivably might even be clerical figures with no medical or nursing training at all.

Two doctors will still add their signatures (without ever seeing the woman), but their involvement has been reduced to that of a perfunctory nod, effectively ticking a box.

It is perhaps no surprise that we are now seeing such widespread abuse of the Abortion Act in the form of sex selective abortions, illegal pre-signing of forms and over 185,000 abortions a year authorised on spurious mental health grounds. When Cabinet Ministers, together with Civil Servants, are allowed to re-write laws, without reference to proper democratic procedures, this is exactly what we should expect.

Things had arguably slipped enough with unregulated doctors at the helm. But now that doctors are effectively side-lined, we can expect very quickly to see the slide to a publicly funded, nurse-led, private abortion service where 'willing providers' like BPAS and MSI cut costs and fight for their market share.

And this is exactly what we are seeing. Private abortion providers furnished with tax payers' money have already grown their market share to 60% of all abortions. The revised procedures are also gunning for nurses to perform abortion procedures and for the second stage of medical (drug induced) abortions to be carried out at home; two further 're-interpretations' of the Act.

So how do women feel about this effective re-writing of State law by a Conservative Cabinet Minister?

Actually they overwhelmingly oppose moves to allow doctors to approve abortions without seeing patients face-to-face. A poll of more than 2,000 people carried out by ComRes and published in the Telegraph on 7 March, found that 89 per cent agreed that 'a woman requesting an abortion should always be seen in person by a qualified doctor'. While 85 per cent of men polled agreed with the statement, support among women was 92 per cent.

I don't think I have ever heard of an opinion poll generating a one-sided result of quite this magnitude.

Furthermore, just over three quarters of those polled also thought that women's health could be put at risk unless doctors signing authorisation forms had seen the patient, with 73 percent of men agreeing but 78 per cent of women.

Again this is hardly surprising. Abortion is a procedure with contra-indications and complications which women seeking fully informed consent have a right to know about – from a doctor.

The consultation around the revised abortion procedures has now closed and the Department of Health is just about to release the new guidance for both private abortion clinics and doctors.

At that point Lansley's new interpretation of the Abortion Act – that no doctor need see a woman before authorising an abortion – will be set in stone, without Parliament ever having debated it and with most Government MPs not even being aware that it has happened right under their noses.

David Cameron is already deeply unpopular with many social conservatives, and this re-writing of abortion procedures under his leadership will not endear him further to them. Did Cameron know what Lansley was doing and approve it? Or did Lansley sneak this measure through without his leader's knowledge? Was Cameron collaborating or being deceived? These are very serious questions.

I suspect also that there are many other MPs in the Tory party and elsewhere who, whilst not necessarily having socially conservative views on abortion, will nonetheless be deeply concerned that a Cabinet Minister can effectively re-write statute law on such a key issue, in such a clandestine, and, quite possibly, even illegal, way.

I would not be surprised, as the scale of this operation gets out, that we might be seeing MPs buried by bulging Parliamentary postbags from angry constituents. Then I expect that these same MPs will start asking some very pertinent Parliamentary questions which even David Cameron might find difficult to answer.

CHRIST ONLY

By James Bourne

(Morning Readings, 16 May, 1841)

I Timothy 4:1: ***Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils***".

Surely we do live in awful days ourselves and have need to take heed that we depart not from the faith and from that doctrine we have been instructed in. We are not aware of the danger. Professors are so full of holiness and such all cry, "The Word of God – does not the Word of God say so and so? Therefore must we not be good and must we not pray and read the Bible?" And thus we are led away from Christ, who is our All, our Wisdom, to consult in all things. The Word of God says that publicans and harlots enter the Kingdom before such (Matt. 21:31). And how shall we be preserved from these errors? In no other way than by cleaving to Jesus Christ. He is our Rock. If we are found simply seeking after Him, and Him only, no error shall entangle us.

NEWS ITEMS

1. Nigel Farage: UKIP would strip Christian weddings of legal status. The Telegraph – 18 March, 2014 (www.telegraph.co.uk)

Nigel Farage, the UKIP leader, has said that the traditional Christian wedding ceremony should be stripped of its legal status.

Mr. Farage suggested that couples who want to wed in Church should have to undertake two ceremonies; one recognised by the State and one a religious ceremony. He also said he would not abolish same-sex marriage, despite having campaigned forcefully against the Bill before it came into law.

His call for French-style reforms of the marriage system came after similar proposals by Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat Justice Minister.

In an interview with PinkNews, Mr. Farage urged gay, lesbian and transgender people to join his Party.

He said: “We propose an augmentation of the civil partnership awarding it equal status to marriage and enabling it to be available to all. We would rather the legal and religious endorsements of wedlock are separate.”

He also said that UKIP could oppose foreign aid to countries which have poor records on human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. However, he defended a former UKIP Councillor who said the Government’s decision to legalise gay marriage was to blame for the floods.

He said that while his comments were “certainly eccentric and to many unpalatable,” they were the opinions of an individual Councillor, not the UKIP Party.

Despite Mr. Farage’s comments, the website still sets out the reasons for its opposition to gay marriage. It states: “We believe that the Government must not take this step too far and risk the grave harm of undermining the rights of Churches and faiths to decide for themselves who they will and will not marry.”

“There is, apart from a small but noisy minority within the gay community, no strong demand for this.”

Michael Fabricant, the Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party, said he “questioned the motives” of Mr. Farage as he was so “bitterly opposed” to same-sex marriage just months ago. Are they just jumping on the bandwagon now all the fuss has passed? I do wonder what the military-blazered, cravat-wearing average UKIP supporter will think of this new change of policy.”

Lib. Dem. peer, Baroness Barker, told PinkNews she was “unconvinced” of the move and asked whether UKIP will stick to its new commitment on this issue.

She said: “Whatever Nigel Farage now says, UKIP appear to have gained significant support by appealing to prejudice on many levels, particularly against immigrants and against same-sex marriage. When LGBT people were fighting for equality, the silence from UKIP was deafening. This change of tune is unconvincing and we cannot trust them to safeguard our rights when the going gets tough.”

2. N. Korea's Kim Jong Un elected with '100 percent' approval after ordering execution of 33 people – Leonard Blair, Christian Post Reporter (10 March, 2014)

Supreme Leader of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, who reportedly ordered the execution of 33 people for contact with a South Korean missionary, was elected to the highest legislative body of his country with unanimous support of the electorate. He was the only one on the ballot and no-one voted against him, according to State media.

Associated Press reported that Kim John Un won unanimous approval from his District which also had 100 per cent voter turnout.

“This is an expression of all the service personnel and people’s absolute support and profound trust in supreme leader Kim Jong Un as they single-mindedly remain loyal to him,” the State-run Korean Central News Agency said.

Described as more of a political ritual compared to Western standards, North Koreans approved the new roster of Deputies for the Supreme People’s Assembly, the country’s legislature. The election is held normally every five years. This was the first election since the death of Kim’s father, Kim Jong II, in 2011.

Kim Jong Un, according to a report in *The Chosunilbo*, recently ordered the execution of 33 people for converting to Christianity and receiving money from South Korean Baptist missionary Kim Jung Wook to start 500 underground Churches. The converts were accused of trying to overthrow the regime in North Korea through the establishment of the underground Churches.

Experts say Kim Jong Un intended to make a harsh example out of the converts as part of ramped up efforts to reinforce his country’s “juche” or self-reliance doctrine and keep out capitalistic practices and beliefs.

3. The Muslim Brotherhood's London Office – Intercessors for Britain Prayer Bulletin – March/April, 2014

According to a report in the *Daily Telegraph*, the Muslim Brotherhood has opened an office in Cricklewood, London. It is run by relations of two of Mohammed Morsi’s arrested aides. As the Brotherhood is linked to HAMAS, which is regarded as a terrorist organisation, and seeks a worldwide caliphate, we regard this as a serious threat to our nation.

- *Pray that the Government may expel these supporters.*

4. Nigerian American Christians Call for Help as Boko Haram Attacks Intensify - Stoyan Zaimov, Christian Post Reporter (13 March, 2014)

The Christian Association of Nigerian-Americans is calling on the Federal Government for help as thousands of Nigerians flee the country to escape attacks by Islamic terrorist organisation Boko Haram.

CANAN shared in a statement its concerns that ‘the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Governments of the affected States are not doing enough to cater for the refugee situation that has been created by the Boko Haram situation.’

Over 4,000 Nigerians reportedly fled from Nigeria in the past four weeks, while close to 57,000 people in total have left because of Boko Haram’s attacks since May, 2013. A UN refugee agency has expressed its concern at the humanitarian impact of continuing violence in north-eastern Nigeria and revealed that newly arrived refugees in Niger have spoken out against the

atrocities being committed by terrorists in the islands and shores of Lake Chad in North-east Nigeria's Borno State.

One Nigerian woman recounted how corpses were strewn 'through houses and floating in the water' and that people fleeing the region were so afraid that they no longer went back to bury their dead or search for missing relatives.

The UN reported that more than 470,000 have been displaced from the north-eastern States of Yobe, Adamawa and Borno inside Nigeria, while refugees have also been arriving in Cameroon and Chad.

Nigerians, in particular Christians, have been the target of continuous attacks by the Islamic militant group for over four years. Boko Haram has bombed and gunned down Churches, congregations, schools and Government buildings, openly declaring its mission to drive out Christians and all those opposed to it from the country and to establish Islamic rule.

Despite Government efforts to fight back against this threat, reports have noted that Boko Haram continues carrying out deadly attacks. Nigerian forces and Islamic militants have waged a number of large-scale battles, with one clash in Yobe in October, 2013 leaving 128 people dead and another attack in Borno earlier in March resulting in 150 casualties.

'Boko Haram is making nonsense of the claim of the Nigerian Government to be in charge of the situation and we want the Federal Government to re-double its security effort to contain the situation again,' said CANAN Executive Director Pastor Laolu Akande.

Another note of concern has been the reported low morale of the Nigerian soldiers battling Boko Haram and CANAN has challenged the Nigerian Military High Command to address the situation and provide better welfare packages.

Rome Still Kills Protestants Whenever She Can Get Away With It

By Shaun Willcock

"And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (Rev. 17:6)

The Roman Catholic institution, today, makes use of the ecumenical and the interfaith movements to get her way; far more than she does of open and bloody persecution. Yes, she still causes wars and revolutions, which result in the deaths of tens of thousands, even millions; the massacre in Rwanda and the massacres of Serbians by Roman Catholic Croatians are two recent examples. But when it comes to dealing with Protestants, she usually prefers to subtly undermine and to infiltrate today. She prefers the honeypot approach to the rack and the sword. For this is, after all, the 21st century and Rome is supposed to have changed. The Great Whore now wears a smile on her blood-stained face and lovingly refers to Protestants – most of the time at any rate – as "separated brethren". She clucks soothingly like a mother hen, calling her chickens to gather under her wing; and gullible foolish "Protestants" all over the world are falling over themselves in their rush to do just that. She joins hands with Protestants; speaks of "love" and "unity in Christ" and "healing the divisions of the past"; of being "one in the Spirit" and "part of the same family". The days of the Roman Catholic Crusades, the Papal Inquisition and other Roman Catholic horrors of the past seem so far off nowdon't they?

But the truth is, whenever and wherever she thinks she can get away with it, she still, today, resorts to those time-tested and sorely-missed methods she so enthusiastically made use of in past centuries. For she remains the same old Harlot she ever was, and ever will be; the blood

of Protestants still dribbles from the corners of her mouth, even though that mouth is now smiling and speaking flattering and soothing words to them.

In Central and South America, where Roman Catholicism is immensely strong, persecution of Protestants has been going on for decades, particularly in Mexico.

In fanatically Roman Catholic Mexico, Protestants are being violently persecuted by Roman Catholics. In the Mexican State of Chiapas, these Roman Catholics are known as “traditionalists,” because they blend their Romanism with ancient pagan Mayan beliefs. But this is something Papists have always done, and continue to do, all over the world. Rome calls it “inculturation” and it is actively encouraged.

Town bosses, known as caciques, seek to keep evangelical Protestants out of their villages. Bibles are confiscated and burnt; Church buildings are destroyed; some Protestants have been jailed and others expelled from villages, either for evangelising or for refusing to participate in pagan festivals and others have been killed.

BURNING BIBLES

From ‘The Reformer’ Magazine

On many occasions, people have tried to destroy the Bible by burning it. The first time we hear of the Bible being burned is in the Old Testament in the days of Jehoiakim, King of Judah.

Jeremiah, the prophet, had preached in Jerusalem for over twenty years. He told the people that if they did not turn from their evil ways unto the Lord, that they would be judged; a great army from the north (the Babylonians) would come and destroy their city. Jeremiah had to hide to avoid being arrested.

Jeremiah called a scribe named Baruch and asked him to write the message God had given him on a scroll (a sheet that rolls at both ends) and then read that message to all the people who were gathered at the temple door on their special fast day.

All the people listened intently to the reading and one man ran to tell all the nobles of the city about the message he had heard read. Baruch was asked to come and read the message to them. When he finished, they told Baruch to hide himself so that he could not be arrested.

The nobles then decided to read the message to King Jehoiakim. The King was sitting in his winter house and a fire was burning to keep him warm. The King listened to how God had said He would punish the King and all the people for their sins if they did not repent and turn from evil. Then Jehoiakim suddenly grabbed the scroll and cut it in pieces with a sharp knife and threw the leaves of the scroll into the fire.

Only three men present pleaded with the King not to burn the scroll, but he would not listen. Not only did the King burn the portion of the Bible, but he ordered Baruch and Jeremiah to be arrested. However the Lord protected them and they were not found.

This did not destroy the Bible. Not at all! God commanded Jeremiah to write the same warnings in another scroll and the things that Jeremiah had warned soon came to pass; the great King of Babylon came and captured Jerusalem, the people were taken captives and wicked King Jehoiakim was killed.

There is another story of the burning of Bibles which took place in England in 1527. William Tyndale completed his translation of the Bible in 1526. He had been forced to flee to Antwerp, Belgium. There he found a printer and the Bibles were smuggled into England by ship. Bibles were hidden among all kinds of goods. People eagerly bought the Bibles and began to read them.

Soon the Bishops in England discovered the Bibles. They were enraged to find that ordinary people were reading the Bible, which was forbidden at that time.

Some Bibles were burned and those who had them were thrown into prison. All booksellers were called and warned not to sell Bibles. The Church Leaders condemned the Bible as a great heresy and claimed that they had found three thousand errors in it.

But still Bibles were smuggled into England and people risked imprisonment to have a copy of the Word of God.

Soon the Bishop sent a man to Antwerp and Frankfurt to seize all the copies of the Bibles and to destroy the printing press, but he found that there were thousands of copies available.

At that time, Tyndale had no money to print his more correct edition of the Bible. However, in England, Archbishop Warham thought of a plan to get rid of the Bibles. He asked all the other Bishops to help him buy all the Bibles and New Testaments from booksellers and other places in England. This cost a considerable sum of money.

Then the Archbishop made a great fire and burnt them all, believing that he had rid the land of Bibles. But God had other plans. All the money used to buy Bibles to burn supplied Tyndale with the money he needed to print more and better Bibles. So the Word of God spread more and more. God's Word will stand forever and will never be completely destroyed by evil men.

THE SIMPLE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

By the late Dr. J. C. Ryle, Lord Bishop of Liverpool

If we love our souls and would keep them in a healthy state, we must endeavour to adhere closely to the simple doctrine of Christ in every jot, tittle and particular. Once add to it or take away anything from it and you risk spoiling the Divine medicine and may even turn it into poison. Let your ruling principle be: "No other doctrine but that of Christ; nothing less and nothing more!" Lay firm hold on that principle and never let it go.

1. Let us settle this principle firmly in our minds, that there is no way of peace but the simple way marked out by Christ. True rest of conscience and inward peace of soul will never come from anything but direct faith in Christ Himself and His finished work. Peace by auricular confession or bodily asceticism, or incessant reception of the Lord's Supper, is a delusion and a snare. It is only by coming straight to Jesus Himself, labouring and heavy laden and by believing, trusting communion with Him, that souls find rest. In this matter, let us stand fast in "the simplicity that is in Christ".

2. Let us settle next in our minds that there is no other priest who can be in any way a mediator between oneself and God but Jesus Christ. The priesthood is Christ's peculiar office and it is one which He has never deputed to another.

3. Let us settle next in our minds that there is no sacrifice for sin except the one sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. Listen not for a moment to those who tell you that there is any sacrifice in the Lord's Supper, any repetition of Christ's offering on the cross, or any oblation of His body and blood, under the form of consecrated bread and wine. The one sacrifice for sins which Christ offered was a perfect and complete sacrifice and it is nothing short of blasphemy to attempt to repeat it. "By one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

4. Let us settle in our minds that there are no other means of grace in the Church which have any binding authority, excepting those well-known and simple ones which Christ and the Apostles have sanctioned. Let us regard with a jealous suspicion all ceremonies and forms of

man's invention, when they are invested with such exaggerated importance as to thrust into the background God's own appointments. It is the invariable tendency of man's inventions to supersede God's ordinances. Let us beware of making the Word of God of none effect by human devices.

5. Let us settle it in our minds that no teaching about the sacraments is sound which gives them a power of which Christ says nothing. Let us beware of admitting that either baptism or the Lord's Supper can confer grace *ex opera operato* – that is by their mere outward administration, independently of the state of heart of those who receive them. Let us remember that the only proof that baptised people and communicants have grace is the exhibition of grace in their lives and not the mere reception of the sacraments.

6. Let us settle in our minds that no teaching about the Holy Ghost is safe which cannot be reconciled with the simple teaching of Christ. Let us not listen to those who assert that the Holy Ghost actually dwells in all baptised people, without exception, by virtue of their baptism, and that this grace within such people only needs to be "stirred up". The simple teaching of our Lord is that He dwells only in those who are His believing disciples and that the world neither knows, nor sees, nor can receive the Holy Spirit (John 14:17). His indwelling is the special privilege of Christ's people and where He is He will be seen. On this point also let us stand fast in the simplicity that is in Christ".

Finally, the simple doctrine and rule of Christ – nothing added, nothing taken away, nothing substituted – this is the mark at which we ought to aim. This is the point from which departure ought to be dreaded. Above all, we must beware of asserting anything to be needful to salvation of which Christ has said nothing at all. I only see one answer to such questions as these. We must beware of anything which has even the appearance of departure from the "simplicity that is in Christ".

The plain truth is that we cannot sufficiently exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as the great Head of the Church and the Lord of all ordinances, no less than as the Saviour of sinners. I take it we all fail here. We do not realise how high and great and glorious a King the Son of God is and what undivided loyalty we owe to One who has not deputed any of His offices or given His glory to another.

(Copy of the original leaflet issued by The Protestant Truth Society)

Verse based on Psalm 147

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Praise ye the Lord, 'tis good to raise
Our hearts and voices in His praise:
His nature and His works invite
To make this duty our delight. | 4. He makes the grass the hills adorn,
And clothes the smiling fields with corn;
The beasts with food His hands supply,
And the young ravens when they cry. |
| 2. He formed the stars, those heavenly flames,
He counts their numbers, calls their names;
His wisdom's vast, and knows no bound,
A deep where all our thoughts are drowned. | 5. What is the creature's skill or force?
The sprightly man, or warlike horse?
The piercing wit, the active limb?
All are too mean delights for Him. |
| 3. Sing to the Lord, exalt Him high,
Who spreads His clouds along the sky;
Then He prepares the fruitful rain,
Nor lets the drops descend in vain. | 6. But saints are lovely in His sight,
He views His children with delight;
He sees their hope, He knows their fear,
He looks, and loves His image there. |

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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

CHRISTIAN WATCH

Head Office

P O Box 2113, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY

Email: info@christianwatch.org.uk (New)

www.ChristianWatch.org.uk

Christian Watch Resources (Orders)

P O Box 2113, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY

Email: jean@christianwatch.org.uk (New)

www.christianwatch.org.uk

How to Support Christian Watch

Join as a member

www.christianwatch.org.uk/register or contact either of the above addresses for membership forms or for more details.

Donate

www.christianwatch.org.uk/donate or send cheques (payable to Christian Watch) by post to Christian Watch Resources, P O Box 2113, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY

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

Published by:

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

Email: info@christianwatch.org.uk **Web:** www.christianwatch.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1095108