

# CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

**"And what I say unto you**

**I say unto all, Watch"**

**Mark 13:37**

**NEWSLETTER**

May/June 2015

May/June 2015

## **To all Christian Watch Members**

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the glorious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Many apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter, but various problems beyond our control have caused delays. However, we thank our creator God for the glorious weather He is providing for us – with the long hours of daylight and shorter nights. *“The day is Thine, the night also is Thine; Thou hast prepared the light and the sun. Thou hast set all the borders of the earth; Thou hast made summer and winter.”* Psalm 74 v 16-17.

As you are well aware, the 2015 General Election is now history, but with some very unexpected results. The majority of the pollsters were way off the mark and the election of the Conservative Party with an overall majority took most of us by surprise. However, your MP has now been elected and, whether elated or deflated, it is your responsibility to let him/her know your views on the major issues of the day. There are over 180 new MPs now at Westminster, so it is a unique opportunity to highlight issues of concern – especially for first-time MPs as they settle into their role and determine their priorities. So what are the major issues? Obviously, different people will hold different viewpoints but some that come to mind are as follows (in no particular order):-

- The European Union
- Same-sex ‘Marriage’
- The Persecuted Church (both at home and abroad)
- Islam
- Freedom from Tyranny
- Ecumenical Trend in the Churches/Women Bishops etc.

All of these – and more besides – need our prayers – and we should let our MP know where we stand and how we expect him/her to vote. Members of Parliament **DO** take note of their constituents’ views and today there are many forms of communication available to us to make contact with them.

**The European Union** - The Government – in its Manifesto – promised a referendum before 2017 and already there are signs that the Conservative Party may be split on the European issue. The Prime Minister has stated that re-negotiation means that sufficient reform has been secured to allow a YES vote recommendation, but others in the Party do not agree that the Government should make any recommendation. Some news reports are indicating that any Minister who campaigns to leave the European Union will be sacked. A quote from David Davis, MP reads as follows: *“This is a once in a lifetime, history-changing event and yet the only people who will not have the freedom to vote are Ministers in the Government.”*

Another 50 MPs, notably former Cabinet Ministers Owen Patterson and John Redwood – have formed the CfB (Conservatives for Britain) – to keep the pressure on ahead of the popular vote. It must also be remembered, of course, that nearly 4 million people voted for UKIP too at the General Election and so we can all play our part in restoring our country’s independence and sovereignty.

**Same-sex ‘Marriage** - The court case brought by the Northern Ireland Equality Commission against Asher’s Bakery for refusing to make a cake with a pro-gay ‘marriage’ slogan has ended in victory for the homosexual activist Gareth Lee and damages have been awarded of £500. An appeal has been lodged.

The British Government (under the previous Coalition Administration led by David Cameron) legalised same-sex 'marriage' in spite of the massive campaign waged against such abomination and, interestingly enough, since March 2014, only 1400 sodomite couples have 'married' – about 0.3% of the sodomite population. In comparison, 39% of the British people are married. The following quotes are of interest. Theresa May (Home Secretary) – “As a country we have come a long way...as a Party, my own Party, the Conservatives have come a long way. We now have more openly gay MPs and openly gay Ministers than ever before... there is much still to do...and we will go further. We are committed to taking action to tear down these barriers.” Nicky Morgan (Secretary of State for Education and a professing Christian) – “the contribution of LGBT people...incredible role models...some of the proudest achievements of the Government...still a lot of work to be done...we need to make more progress.” We have much to pray for.

**The Persecuted Church (at home and abroad)** - Many National Governments throughout the world discriminate against Christians, particularly those who have converted from Islam. However, we are now seeing open-air preachers arrested in our own country for allegedly homophobic comments and an ever-increasing number of people in secular employment falling foul of equality legislation. Please pray that the number of MPs already involved in the issue of religious freedom will increase and that our new Government will make religious freedom at home and abroad a priority and take the lead in addressing the issue internationally.

**Islam / Freedom from Tyranny /the Ecumenical Trend in the Churches/ Women Bishops etc.** – there is much to pray for. “The prayer of the upright is His delight” Proverbs 15 v 8.

In our Newsletter this issue, we have included a brief **CW Post-Election Comment** followed by an **Election Reflection – Pursuing Power: the Divine Dimension** where Dr. Alan C. Clifford has outlined the challenge and comfort of Psalm 2. **Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out** by David Wilkerson emphasises the characteristics of 'middle ground' Christians – a stubborn refusal to wholly follow the Lord. If you have removed yourself from God's ordained place of victory, unity and spiritual power, be sure your sin will find you out. **News Items** refer to the British Consulates throughout the world who are “performing homosexual marriages” against the wishes of the countries that uphold the traditional definition of marriage; the Gospel Magazine Annual Resolution 2015 and the slaughter by ISIS in the Syrian city of Palmyra. **The Godly Man's Picture** – a lover of the Word – is an encouraging meditation by Thomas Watson. Also included is a **Report on the CRE Exhibition** at the ExCel Exhibition Centre in London.

In closing, may I thank you all for your prayers. Please continue to pray – particularly for the 10 Commandment Project. Junior and Middle schools have been contacted in two Counties – Bedfordshire and East Sussex – and we are about to commence in another two Counties – Kent and Cornwall. Some encouraging responses have been received and we thank the Lord for this opportunity to witness to the younger generation in our nation.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of a recent publication by CW member, Pastor Peter Simpson – **How God Rescued A Nation - The lessons of 1940 from a Biblical viewpoint.** Please accept this with our compliments. “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 14 v 34.

Yours in His service,

*Ian R. Henderson*

Ian R. Henderson,  
Vice-Chairman

**Management Committee**

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

# CW POST ELECTION COMMENT

We now have the Government ordained by the Lord for our sinful nation for the next 5 years. Although there is much to be thankful for, there are many areas of concern, particularly to Bible-believing Christians, as the Conservative Party's election promises include so many policies contrary to Scripture. For example:

**LGBT** – The Government promise to do still more to champion LGBT people. In addition they plan to issue post-facto pardons to men convicted of sodomy and gross indecency.

**Free Speech/ Hate Law** – They have promised to extend the laws to cover hate crimes, including transgender identity and to outlaw groups that foment hate. Plans are also being made for Extremism Disruptive Orders (EDO's).

**Sex Education** - The Conservatives have promised to support the homo-sexualisation of sex education and have, in the previous Government, appointed a Stonewall adviser to the Education Secretary.

**Abortion** – The Government have said they would support lowering the 24-week. Personally David Cameron is against a ban on sex-selective abortion but supports human hybrid embryos.

**British Values & Education** – It appears that 'British Values' are now pink laws to support LGBTism. These are enforced by Equality and Sexual Orientation Regulations and Equality Act 2010.

How we need the Lord to strengthen His people to stand up and oppose the evil legislation which is already in force and that which is proposed. May His people be much in prayer that the powers of darkness may be overturned.

The following article by Dr. Alan Clifford of Norwich Reformed Church was a Bible study at a Prayer Meeting on the evening of the election. We are including it for your encouragement.

## ELECTION REFLECTION PURSUING POWER: THE DIVINE DIMENSION

### “HONOUR GOD'S SON!”

#### The Challenge & Comfort of Psalm 2

1. Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
2. The Kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His Anointed, saying,
3. Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
4. He that sitteth in the Heavens shall laugh: The LORD shall have them in derision.
5. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure.
6. Yet have I set My King upon My holy hill of Zion.
7. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee.
8. Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession.

9. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
10. Be wise now therefore, O ye Kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
11. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
12. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.

Despite the constant stream of disturbing national and international news, we rise above the chaos when we recall the Sovereignty of God. This anchor for our faith is powerfully expressed in the second Psalm. It is simply God's call to all people to recognise and submit to the Messiah. It is thus a call to His people to receive Christ, a truth the Lord Jesus also highlights in the New Testament: '... all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him' (John 5: 23).

**Vs. 1-3** The Psalm must first be seen as a statement about King David, God's anointed King of Israel. At the same time, its ultimate message is a prophecy about the Messiah, 'King Jesus'. While David's appointment by God was resisted by King Saul, the 'shepherd King' was harassed by the Philistines and others during his reign, including his rebellious son Absalom (see 2 Samuel 5: 17-25; 15: 1-12).

The Psalm makes clear that opposition to David meant opposition to God. All who waged war against David were therefore God's enemies. Their refusal to submit to David's divinely-appointed authority was wild and stubborn rejection of all that was holy, just and good. Refusal to bow to our Lord Jesus Christ is therefore to be seen in the same terms. This is confirmed by the early Church's appeal to this Psalm when they prayed for boldness in the face of persecution (see Acts 4: 23-31). In our multi-faith age, not to proclaim this Gospel to the whole world is to betray Christ and deny the Gospel. As John Calvin says, 'Let this be held as a settled point, that all who do not submit themselves to the authority of Christ make war against God.' While the Messiah was to be known as 'the Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9: 6), the holiness and purity of His reign always arouses hostility in unholy hearts. Thus we should never be surprised at the opposition of unbelievers when others are humbled and subdued by God's grace.

**Vs. 4-6** We are now reminded of God's power over all His enemies. In this extraordinary passage, we see that He has a sense of humour, albeit very different from the trivial humour often pleaded for in today's compromised church. Recalling the saying 'He who laughs last, laughs longest', we learn that God laughs at all who ridicule Him and His truth. Arrogance against God can only end in disaster. Of course, while history records vivid examples of God's triumph over His enemies, His people often suffer cruel persecution. At such times, we should never imagine that God is powerless. Truly, Messiah Jesus reigns at all times, even when His servants are called to suffer for His sake. However, God will have the 'last laugh' when Christ returns to judge the world. The King on Zion's hill is reigning (v. 6)!

**Vs. 7-9** We are now reminded of the Divine decree that made David the King of Israel. There is an indirect reference to David's conquest of Jerusalem (see 2 Samuel 5: 1-10), when he was set on God's 'holy hill of Zion'. Again, despite his many victories, David was an imperfect King over a limited Kingdom. The Psalm now points forward to Christ's reign over the whole world.

*First*, Christ's glory and honour are declared. He is the only-begotten of the Father, a truth we are familiar with in the New Testament (see John 1: 14-18).

The words 'this day' seem to conflict with the truth that Christ had been the Son of God from all eternity. Did He only become 'the begotten Son' at a point in time? No. The words 'this day' have a parallel with the day of David's 'coronation'. Just as he was declared as God's King of Zion, so—according to the Apostle Paul (see Acts 13: 33; Romans 1: 4)—Christ was 'declared' or confirmed as God's Son by His resurrection from the dead. However, He was always the 'only-begotten', even before His birth in Bethlehem! All this implies the truth of the Trinity, for which evidence is scattered all through the Bible.

*Second*, the Psalm then depicts God the Father inviting God the Son to claim the entire world as His Kingdom (vs. 8-9). Of course, this was not to be a violent military campaign. The Messiah's methods would not be those of David. Christ would come as the 'suffering servant' (see Isaiah 53; Philippians 2: 5-11). He was to wear the crown of suffering before taking the crown of glory. Thereafter, through the preaching of the Gospel by His servants, Christ was to set up His gracious Kingdom in minds and hearts (Luke 17: 21; Roman 14: 17). The 'sword of the Spirit' rather than the 'sword of steel' would be His weapon (see Ephesians 6: 12).

And thus it has proved to be for two thousand years! The Church has spread into all nations, and is continuing to grow! We are also reminded here (v. 9) that all will submit to Christ's majesty. Some will be sweetly subdued by His grace, others will be crushed by His power. Many examples of this may be cited from history. Empires rise and fall. In the 16th century, while many rejoiced in salvation through Reformation Gospel preaching, God destroyed Catholic Spain's Armada in 1588. Hitler's Reich is no more. The 'Anglo-US' corrupt cultural 'empire' is now crumbling. Whether we like it or not, 'every knee shall bow' to Christ, and 'every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father' (Philippians 2: 10-11). This awesome teaching is a warning to all who deny the royal Deity of Christ, whether Jews or Muslims, secularists or satanists, evolutionists or hedonists.

**Vs. 10-12** The Psalm concludes with a call to submit to God and to embrace Christ. He is 'King of Kings' and 'Judge of judges'. Rulers who expect others to respect them have every reason to fear the wrath of the Son of God if they refuse to submit to Him. **Governments (and those who vote for them), Judges and Educators, should be ashamed to pursue policies that oppose the divinely-ordained ethical norms of the Bible. Promoting so-called 'same-sex marriage' and being slow to prosecute paedophiles—especially 'high profile' cases—are instances of direct rebellion against Christ.** Authentic Christians—as opposed to compromising ones—should be vocal in such matters, as Richard Baxter reminds us:

"We are hindered by a base, man-pleasing disposition. We are so desirous to keep in credit and favour with men, that it makes us most unreasonably neglect our own duty...It is common to be hindered by our sinful bashfulness. When we should shame men out of their sins, we are ourselves ashamed of our duties. May not these sinners condemn us, when they blush not to swear, be drunk, or neglect the worship of God; and we blush to tell them of it, and persuade them from it?"

Even true believers (unlike Judas Iscariot) who 'kiss the Son' and rejoice in His love should tremble at His power. Thus worship requires both joy and reverence and faith should be seen in loyal obedience. As Jesus showed righteous anger on earth (see Mark 3: 5; John 2: 13-17), He will deal with His enemies with ruthless severity when He returns (see 2 Thessalonians 1: 7-9)! Jesus is only 'meek and mild' to those who worship, trust, love and obey Him!

If we feel overwhelmed with the 'terror of the Lord' (2 Corinthians 5: 10), note the Psalmist's encouraging conclusion: 'Blessed are all they who put their trust in Him.' Thus John Calvin writes: 'Having discoursed concerning the terrible judgement which hangs over the unbelieving, he now encourages God's faithful and devout servants to entertain good hope by setting forth the sweetness of His grace.' So may we be enabled to put our trust in Christ with a loving and obedient faith. Then we have nothing to fear in time or eternity.

**Dr Alan C. Clifford**

---

**"Great is the mystery, truly great,  
That Hell's designs should Hell defeat;  
But here eternal wisdom shines,  
For Satan works what God designs."**

*John Kent*

# BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT

**By: David Wilkerson (March 1987)**

This is one of the most misunderstood statements in all God's Word (Numbers 32:23). Moses is speaking of one particular sin - that being a stubborn refusal to wholly follow the Lord. There are many sins that go unexposed here on earth and will be revealed only at the Judgement. Paul said, "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my Gospel" (Romans 2:16). The Greek word used here for secrets is "*that which is hidden, concealed, covered up.*" The adulterer may hide his sin until Judgement Day. The thief may cover up his crimes and not get caught in this life. Wicked hearts, evil thoughts may remain unexposed before men. Hypocrisy may be hidden for years under a pretence of piety. But the sin of half-heartedness will always find you out here and now! For the sake of this message I have called it 'middle ground'. God commanded Israel: "Ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein" (Deuteronomy 11:31). Their inheritance was on the other side of Jordan. It was over Jordan where God would choose a place to set up His tabernacle and that was Shiloh. There the Ark of the Covenant would rest, a symbol of the Lord's presence among them. Two crossings were necessary! Crossing the Red Sea was a type of leaving the world and all its idols and lust behind - a clear type of conversion. The second crossing was the Jordan, which represents dying to self and going on into the fullness of Christ. Jordan in Hebrew means, "*going down, subdued, laid low.*" Actually it represents death. Death to all that is unlike Christ - all ambition, idolatry, self.

## **The Jordan was a Stream of Death**

Between the two crossings was the territory of Gilead and Jazer which bordered the Jordan and the Land of Fullness. This is middle ground, a place of half surrender and it was totally indefensible. It was a most dangerous place to live, surrounded by heathen enemies and it speaks of falling short of God's ultimate place and purpose for His children.

Two and a half tribes - Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh - felt most comfortable with this middle ground. They said, in essence, "This is as far as we go! This suits our lifestyle just fine! We've come a long way; we're tired; give us Gilead Jazer. Let the rest go on. We are going to settle here!" "For we will not inherit with them on yonder side of Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward" (Numbers 32:19). "Let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan" (Numbers 32:5).

This is not simply a history lesson about the struggles of Israel. These lessons "serve unto the example and shadow of Heavenly things" (Hebrews 8:5). Paul said, "these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted" (1 Corinthians 10:6). "Now all these things happened unto them for examples; and they are for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Corinthians 10:11). In other words, this is history with a voice speaking to us.

This example of settling for middle ground speaks clearly to the luke-warmness and compromise in the Church today. God is showing us, in this tragic story, the terrible consequences of partial obedience. We see them in the first stages of starting out right; then just when death to everything of this world stares them in the face, they recoil. Adaptability became their way of life.

The Scriptures show us vividly how their sin of settling on middle ground found them out. You will see these two and a half tribes eventually being overcome by the enemy; you will see them returning to idolatry and ending up more wicked than when in Egypt.

## Characteristics of Those on Middle Ground

Those who live on middle ground share certain characteristics. The characteristics of these two and a half tribes can also be found today in those who refuse to pulverise their idols and die to the world. Their Hebrew names expose them!

Reuben means *a son who sees*. He was Jacob's firstborn, but he lost his birthright because he was driven by lust. He went into his father's concubine and Jacob, in his dying hour, said of him: "Reuben thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defilest thou it: thou went up to my couch" (Genesis 49:4). Jacob described his son Reuben as one "unstable as water, thou shalt not excel" (Genesis 49:4).

Moses recognised these same weaknesses. His final prayer for Reuben was "Let Reuben live, and not die" (Deuteronomy 33:6). Moses was speaking prophetically, hoping and praying that the worldly spirit in this tribe would not one day bring them to ruin. Reuben had eyes only for this world, its lusts, its things, its pleasures. He was unstable because his heart was always divided and this spirit was passed on to his posterity. Here was an entire tribe attached to the world and bent on having their own way.

Gad means *fortune – troop* - or, soldiers of fortune – mercenaries! Moses said of Gad, "He provided the first part for himself" (Deuteronomy 33:21). This tribe was outwardly obedient "executing the justice of the Lord," but the over-riding characteristic was self-interest. Gad was consumed with his own problems – the need to make it! Gad's philosophy was "I'll fight with the Lord's army; I'll be obedient and do everything God expects of me. But first ... I've got to get a stake in life. I need to get myself and family set up ... then I'll be free to give and do more for the Lord."

Here is the Christian who thinks – God expects me to take care of my family first – I've got to pay the bills. As soon as I see some daylight, get ahead a little, I'll give the Lord more time. Rebellion is the root of this kind of attitude. There is no burning desire to please only the Lord, to do His will absolutely and only. The Gad tribe is pre-occupied with self-will, self-improvement, self-interests.

Manasseh means *to forget – to neglect*. This was Joseph's first-born son and he should have received the birthright; but even in his childhood there was a trait developing and Jacob saw it in the Spirit. Manasseh would one day forget the ways of his father and neglect the commandments of the Lord. "And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it. His father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it and he set Ephraim before Manasseh" (Genesis 48:14, 17, 19-20).

How close to God Israel (Jacob) must have been and how clearly directed by the Holy Spirit he was. He foresaw the coming of a spirit of division to this posterity. It was to become a tribe only half consecrated to the fullness of God.

Ironically, this tribe carried with them a constant reminder to go all the way with God. They carried Joseph's casket, with his bones, to be buried beyond Jordan. "And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry my bones from hence" (Genesis 50:25). "And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him" (Exodus 13:19).

For years that casket reminded Manasseh – "Go all the way with God – cross the Jordan – into fullness." The bones go in but half of Manasseh does not!

Consider these combined traits of middle ground Christians: unstable as water in spiritual convictions; never excelling in the things of God; lukewarm, weak with lust; ruled by selfish needs; neglecting the Word; not taking the Lord's commandments seriously; making their own choices instead of trusting God; forgetting His past blessings and dealings; unwilling to let go

of certain idols; justifying their own decisions; not willing to die to all that would seduce them back to the middle ground!

### **Middle Ground Christians Become Stubborn and Self-willed**

Middle ground people develop a very stubborn self-will, one that even a Moses can't change! They said "This is a land for cattle, and thy servants have cattle" (Numbers 32: 1, 4). God's will, God's Word, was not even considered. They looked at those green pastures, at their herds of cattle, and said "This is ours! We go no further!"

Moses was indignant. "Ye are risen up in your father's stead, an increase of sinful men, to augment yet the fierce anger of the Lord toward Israel" (Numbers 32:14).

Their answer, "You just don't understand!" What they were actually saying was this. "We love the fellowship; we are not going back to our old sins. We plan to walk in obedience to the Lord; we will stand with you and fight the Devil, but we don't want to live like that. We have our own ideas about serving God." Moses could reprove them as hard as he chose as long as he did not try to change their minds. "We will pass over armed before the Lord into the land of Canaan, that the possession of our inheritance on this side Jordan may be ours"(Num: 32:32).

They were saying, "We still want to walk with you but we have decided to do things our way." You see that same spirit today among those who refuse the way of the Cross. "I don't criticise Christians who want to live like saints, giving up things, living so strict, denying themselves - but that is just not for me. I'm just as good, I may not show it, or act it, but I'm no sinner. I've got my own ideas about holiness and walking with God."

They were putting career ahead of Christ, family ahead of God. "We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones. Our little ones shall dwell in the fenced cities because of the inhabitants of the land" (Numbers 32:16, 17). "Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our cattle, shall be there in the cities of Gilead" (Numbers 32:26).

Should they be commended for providing so well for their children and wives? No! They were keeping their families on middle ground, robbing them of their true inheritance. They should have taken them all over Jordan. That was where the spiritual authority was under Joshua, who was led by the captain of the Lord's hosts. It was over Jordan where the Ark was, representing the presence of the Lord. They should have been there to see the walls of Jericho fall. They should have tasted the grapes of Eshcol, the honey of the land. They should have been taken on into the fullness of the Lord.

These misguided middle ground fathers thought that love, protection and no privations would hold their children and family together. So they built high fences to keep them secure, gave them all they needed and assured them they were loved. But they under-estimated their danger. Here is the great tragedy of those who won't go all the way with God. They destroy their loved ones, grandparents, mates, children. Jesus warned, "ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in, ye hindered" (Luke 11:52). Here is where their sin found them out! Love was not enough. Over-protecting them from the enemy was not enough. Having all they needed was not enough. They doomed their families by settling on middle ground. Middle ground people are the first to be judged. These defenceless people were over-run by the enemy. "In those days the Lord began to cut Israel short; and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel; from Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites" (2 Kings 10:32, 33). Their children became idol worshippers. Their wives were prostituted and became heathen in all their ways. All spiritual desire was lost and they became morally and physically devastated.

Let me warn parents to cross the Jordan and be crucified to this world and all its things. If you refuse to go on in God and instead permit compromise in your life or home, settling down on some middle ground of luke-warmness, you will live to see the day your sin will be visited upon your family.

You will lose God's anointing in your own life and the Devil will plunder your household. Your children and family will fall into the temptations of the world. You will have sorrow upon sorrow, trouble upon trouble, because you settled on unholy ground.

### **Giving up the Presence of God**

Those who settle on middle ground give up the presence of God for a mere confession of faith. The battles were now over and "the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which He swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein" (Joshua 21:43). It was time for the two and a half tribes to go back to where their heart was.

We come now to one of the saddest episodes of this story. "And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel out of Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go unto the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession" (Joshua 22:9).

Here is the cause of all division going back to middle ground. Who caused this division? Not those who went on with God; not those who followed the Ark of His presence; not those who obeyed God wholly. It was caused by those who were "sensual, separating themselves, having not the Spirit" (Jude 19). Division is caused by those "who went out from us because they were not with us." Paul said, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." Worldliness causes the division. Those going back cause it. All present day division is caused by those who refuse to hold to Christ the Head; by those who turn away from the demands of the cross, who reject the self-denial and obedience of the narrow way.

Those who settle for middle ground must build an altar to contrived unity – called Ed! And when they came unto the borders of Jordan they "built there by Jordan, a great altar to see to...at the passage of the children of Israel...and called the altar Ed: for it shall be a witness between us that the Lord is God" (Joshua 22:10,11,34). This altar represented their cry for unity. It was a positive confession from the whole class of middle ground Christians seeking to keep their identity with those who were already walking in unity on God's side of the Jordan.

What doctrinal and spiritual confusion it caused. What division it created almost ending in a full scale war among God's people. All created by middle ground Christians. All Israel gathered at Shiloh "to go up to war against them" (Joshua 22:12). Eleazar, the Priest, with ten princes, approached the altar of contrived unity. They said to the middle ground people, "If the land of your possession be unclean, then pass ye over unto the land of the possession of the Lord, wherein the Lord's tabernacle dwelleth, and take possession among us: but rebel not against the Lord, nor rebel against us" (Joshua 22:19).

The message was clear. "If you fear there is division among us, come back over Jordan. We are united. God's presence unites us. Come into the fullness and dwell with us in peace, but why another altar? Why Ed? There is only one altar of unity - the tabernacle of His holiness."

Beloved, those who move on into the blessed fullness and holiness of Christ know nothing of division. There are no Baptists or Assemblies of God or schism in His Holy presence. No middle wall, no barriers. All is Christ and His holiness.

They needed visible proof of unity with God's chosen. It was an altar built by fear – fear of not being part of God's movement. There was a sense in them that they were going to be left out of the Lord's eternal purpose for His people. We have "done it for fear of this thing...In time to come your children might speak unto our children, saying...What have ye to do with the Lord God of Israel? Ye have no part in the Lord" (Joshua 22:24,27).

What a sad commentary! They must have foreseen a time coming when the only evidence left that God was with them, or that they were united with Him, was a pile of stones - a mere confession. Their children could see the altar Ed and confess "By this I know I am one of them."

Wherever there is departure from God's plan, wherever men settle for the earthly and sensual, wherever Christians are no longer in one place, in one accord, in the upper room of separation with Christ, there is contrived unity – there is empty, stone-cold confession.

If you are among believers who are going on “wholly set on the Lord”, you will feel left out if you are on middle ground. You will accuse others of being “holier than thou!” You will accuse them of being cliquish. You can try as you will to be one of them but it won't work. You are the cause! You removed yourself from God's ordained place of victory, unity and spiritual power.

### **Caleb Went On Into Fullness**

Caleb is our type of one who goes all the way! His name means *forcible – fortitude!* Joshua was a type of Christ. Caleb was inseparable from Joshua, representing one who continually walks with the Lord. Caleb had been over Jordan with the spies. While there the Holy Spirit drew him to Hebron - “the place of death.” With awe he climbed that hallowed mountain and faith flooded his soul. Abraham and Sarah were buried here, as were Isaac and Jacob and the patriarchs. Years later, David's Kingdom would begin here. Caleb prized that hallowed place. From that time on he wanted Hebron for his possession. It was said of him that he “wholly followed the Lord” (Numbers 14:24). He never wavered to the very end.

Solomon wavered in his later years and “he went not fully after the Lord.” But at 85 years of age Caleb could testify: “As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out and to come in” (Joshua 14:11). At 85 he waged his greatest battle. “Now therefore give me this mountain (Hebron)” (Joshua 14:12). “And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance” (Joshua 14:13). “Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb ...because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel” (Joshua 14:14).

The message is glorious! It is this: It is not enough to have died to sin, to have entered fullness sometime in the past. The need is to grow in the Lord to the end - to keep your spiritual power and strength to not waver – to “wholly follow the Lord” even in old age. It should be an ever-increasing faith.

Hebron, Caleb's inheritance, means a *company associated*. With what? With death! Not only the death in Jordan to sin but living in a place of death. Living with a company who are associated with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. “Give me this mountain” he had asked. In other words “Give me this walk of death to self.” It was here Abraham had built an altar to sacrifice his son. It is here that Caleb and his tribe will live, constantly associated with that altar of living sacrifice. Caleb's wholeheartedness for the Lord produced a holy fire for God in his children. While the children of the two and a half tribes turn away and embrace the world and its idolatry, Caleb's family is growing stronger in the Lord.

Caleb had challenged “He that smiteth Kir-jath-se-pher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife” (Joshua 15:16). Othniel took it and married Caleb's daughter. He went on in the Lord and became the first Judge in Israel. But Caleb's daughter had the fiery zeal of her father. The land was not enough; she wanted “springs of water.” She jumps off her donkey and boldly makes her request known “Give me a blessing; for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And he gave her the upper springs, and the nether (lower) springs” (Joshua 15:19).

Every believer should know what the springs of water mean. She wanted the very fountains of living water! No dry ground for her. No barren wasteland of spiritual famine. She would have a well-watered place in the Lord. I want to see that in all my children and grandchildren, that determined going after the things of God - that zeal, that thirst for His Word.

### **Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out**

The sin of slothfulness and half-heartedness will surely find you out even in this lifetime. Enemies will arise and harass on all sides – there will not be strength or discernment to deal with overpowering onslaughts of Satan. There will be a loss of joy and peace with God.

Spiritual life will degenerate day by day. The presence of the Lord will be lost and hopelessness will set in. How much better, how much safer to go on with those who want the Lord's fullness. God's desire is that all His people should enter a place of rest, joy and peace in the Holy Ghost. That requires following Him "with all the heart, all the strength." **Amen**

## **NEWS ITEMS**

### **1. British Consulate to Perform Same-sex 'Weddings' in 24 Nations that uphold marriage – [www.lifesitenews.com](http://www.lifesitenews.com) by Thaddeus Baklinsi, 18 May, 2015**

The British Government is performing homosexual "marriages" at the British consulates in 24 countries that preserve the traditional definition of marriage, even though none of those ceremonies will be legally recognised in the nations in question.

The Consular Marriages and Marriages under Foreign Law Order 2014, which went into effect 3 June last year, means that British Consulates in the following nations will perform same-sex "marriages" as long as one of the partners is a British citizen: Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Serbia and Vietnam.

A Government Press Release notes that "this list of countries is limited, because British Missions are only able to provide a same sex 'marriage' service in countries where it is not possible for British nationals to have such a marriage under local law and where the local authorities have given permission for the Missions to conduct consular marriages of same-sex couples."

British consulates in three of those two dozen countries – Australia, China and the Dominican Republic – have already conducted same-sex "marriages" under the new law. However, none of these marriages are legally recognised in the listed countries.

A spokesman for Australian Attorney-General, George Brandis, said at the time that the Government had "informed the British High Commission that it has no objections to officers from the British High Commission solemnising same-sex marriages on consular grounds....if at least one person of the marrying couple is a British national," but emphasised that these "marriages" would not be recognised as valid marriages in Australia.

While mainland China has acquiesced to the British directive, the special administrative region of Hong Kong flatly refused to allow the same-sex "marriage" anywhere on its territory.

"Unfortunately, the Hong Kong Government has raised an objection to the solemnisation of same-sex marriages in Hong Kong," a spokeswoman at the British consulate told the South China Morning Post.

Hong Kong decriminalised homosexuality in 1991 while it was still a British protectorate, but it gives no legal recognition to homosexual couples.

### **2. The Gospel Magazine Annual Resolution, 2015 - submitted by Philip Lievesley, Secretary and Treasurer**

*"This Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Gospel Magazine Trust, meeting at 15 Grange Court, Cambridge on Saturday, 25 April, 2015, notes with humble thanks to Almighty God the approaching five-hundredth anniversary of the European Reformation, and calls upon the historic reformed Church of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales to remember the Protestantism of that Reformation and to return to the doctrine and practices of their historic Confessions and Articles, in the confident expectation that the Lord will honour them that honour Him."*

### **3. ISIS Slaughters and Mutilates 400, Mostly Women and Children in Syrian City of Palmyra** - By Stoyan Zaimov, Christian Post Reporter, 25 May, 2015

Terror group ISIS has executed at least 400 people, mostly women and children, in the city of Palmyra since it was captured last week, Syrian State television has said. Hundreds of others have been captured and face a similar fate, according to a human rights agency.

According to 'The Independent' who quoted the State news agency, "The terrorists have killed more than 400 people ...and mutilated their bodies, under the pretext that they co-operated with the Government and did not follow orders."

The capture of Palmyra made headlines because of its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site, largely for its well-preserved Roman era ruins.

Tim Muret, a communications officer at Open Doors, a Christian organisation serving the persecuted Church, told The Christian Post last week that the real story is the kidnappings, killings and destruction of villages that ISIS is carrying out. "These too have historical significance, and many of the villages are Christian," Muret said. "What you see in the news is really just the tip of the iceberg."

The terror group, which has now seized over half of Syria's territory, also recently captured the key Iraqi city of Ramadi, its most significant victory since the US began airstrike operations against the jihadists last year.

President Barack Obama has insisted that despite the recent losses, ISIS is not winning the war in the region, but admitted that the conflict will be a "multi-year campaign." **Abbreviated**

---

## **A Godly Man is a Lover of the Word**

**By Thomas Watson**

***"Oh, how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day."*** Psalm 119:97

A Godly man shows his love to the written Word by diligently *reading* it. The noble Bereans 'sought the Scriptures daily' (Acts 17:11). The Word shows what is truth and what is error. It is the field where the pearl of price is hidden. How we should dig for this pearl!

He shows his love by frequently *meditating* on it. He has not only a few transient thoughts, but he leaves his mind steeping in the Scriptures. He delights in the Word. "Thy Words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart' (Jer. 15:16). Never did a man take such delight in a dish that he loved as the prophet did in the Word.

The Godly man *prefers* the Word above things most precious: food, riches and worldly honour. King Edward VI, on the day of his coronation when presented with three swords signifying that he was Monarch of three Kingdoms, said, 'There is still one sword missing.' On being asked what that was, he answered, 'The Holy Bible, which is the "Sword of the Spirit" and is to be preferred before these ensigns of royalty.'

Do we love the written Word? What sums of money the martyrs gave for a few leaves of the Bible! But alas, how can they who are seldom conversant with the Scriptures say they love them?

*The Godly Man's Picture*

# Report on CRE Exhibition

By: Michael Hobbis



The annual CRE exhibition found Christian Watch at a new venue this year. Previously located at Sandown Park, we were now at the ExCel Exhibition Centre in London Docklands.

We will quickly pass over the new logistical problems in setting up our stand in ExCel, but suffice it to say, while we could leisurely unload from our vehicles at Sandown close to the Stand area, in this new location in London we were given just 15 minutes to unload and transport all our materials across the Exhibition – quite some way from the parking area – with the threat of financial penalties if we overstayed. The same conditions applied at the end of the show.

However, on a somewhat more positive note; once ensconced on our Stand, we were blessed with many opportunities to speak to visitors – although sadly not quite so many as is usual at Sandown.

Our theme of this year's witness was **separation from false teachers and their doctrines**, but promoting '**unity in the truth**'; as opposed to '**unity at the expense of truth**'. The excellent booklet "*They have forgotten...*" by Ruth Palgrave was distributed freely and taken by many visitors. To support our witness there were pictorial banner displays of Jan Huss, Martin Luther and William Tyndale, with quotes and information, together with the Scripture text from 2 Cor. 6:17; 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.'

These three Reformers which were depicted aroused a large amount of interest and were the catalyst for many useful conversations, particularly concerning Tyndale and Luther. Providentially B.V. Henry has, we were told, just written a book on these very same three Reformers and suggestions were made that perhaps we may wish to publish and distribute this work.

Some new members joined us and the contacts made will, we trust, by the grace of God, cause some to examine their own spiritual stand for Christ and His Truth and their position as regards

the claims of Holy Scripture, in a day when many are forsaking the right path for a way of compromise with error.

Personally, I was surprised at how many visitors were unclear concerning the foundations of the Bible and the use of unsound versions of Holy Scripture. The excellency of the old King James Bible was explained and the shaky foundations upon which virtually all modern translations pointed out, but most seemed either uncaring or ignorant of these matters upon which they rest their hopes for eternity. There really is a need for sound bibliology and the superiority of the Authorised Bible to be taught in the churches.

Christian Watch has also been represented at the Royal Cornwall Show in Wadebridge 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> of June and then, God willing, at the Ardingly South of England Show 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> of June. We pray that the Word of the Lord will have free course and our God be glorified in all things.

We do praise Him for His great kindness in giving these opportunities to make known the truth of the Gospel and to serve Christ our Captain. 'For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever, Praise ye the Lord' Psalm 117.

---

## **Letter from School in Nigeria**

Dear David Crowter,

Greetings to you in the blessed Name of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We apologise for not communicating with you for some period of time. We have been having elections in our nation which has caused political crisis, particularly in our State. During that period people have been killed, properties destroyed and people injured. People in our State looked after their own personal interests and not the interests of the people.

Life is so difficult with us, but we thank God that we have entered His gate with thanksgiving and His court with praise. We give thanks to Him and praise His Name, Amen. We also thank you and our beloved brothers in the UK for remembering us in their daily prayer (our only hope and refuge is knowing and believing that the Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven is in complete control of our every circumstance). Let brotherly love continue.

The school is still in progress but we are facing difficulties with our teachers in financial aspects and the supply of school materials, but we thank God that in the beginning of the year, Mr. Ise Friday Udoubia visited us and donated some school materials and said he would try to continue to support us. We, the Christian Watch Group in Nigeria, advised him to keep praying and look to God. He is able to do all things.

This year on 'Children's Day' there was fasting and prayer to dedicate the nation to God that He will take control of the new Government because when a righteous man rules the nation, his people will rejoice. We pray that things will change for the better.

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and sustain you. I wish you the Lord's blessing,

**Esseme A. Akpan**

---

**"To do the Lord's will, and enjoy His lovely presence, is heaven upon earth."**

***William Gadsby***

**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](mailto:info@christianwatch.org.uk) (New)

**[www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk)**

## **Christian Watch Resources (Orders)**

P O Box 2113, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY

**Email:** [jean@christianwatch.org.uk](mailto:jean@christianwatch.org.uk) (New)

**[www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk)**

### **How to Support Christian Watch**

#### **Join as a member**

[www.christianwatch.org.uk/register](http://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](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk/donate) or send cheques (payable to Christian Watch) by post to Christian Watch Resources, PO 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](mailto:info@christianwatch.org.uk) **Web:** [www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk)

**Registered Charity No. 1095108**