

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

"And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch"

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

October 2015

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

Greetings once again in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

A text that has been vividly brought to my attention recently is found in Acts 5:29 – “*Then Peter and the other Apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men.*” So there you have it! You are now faced with the decision you have dreaded. You have avoided it and side-stepped the matter for months, possibly even years, but now it is right in front of you and it won't go away. The pressure is building – you've got to decide. Do you obey men – and keep the peace and tranquility that you and your family have enjoyed all these years – and in the process violate your conscience and deny your God – or do you stand with God and face the consequences?

You may think that it will never happen to you. At present, you cannot imagine any circumstance that could possibly arise in your life that would shake your world to that degree. In your mind, you still live in a free society where everyone enjoys freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of conscience; and in a world like that, things like that just don't happen.

Wake up! Things have changed. That world has gone!

The enemies of Christ are gaining momentum at a phenomenal rate. Absolutely everything is in their favour and they know it. They can say and do just about anything they want – and they are aggressive – and they are looking for a fight. They actively seek out folks who hold to traditional Biblical Christian values – and if you don't happen to agree with the new (im)morality, they will descend upon you and they will push and push until you are faced with the choice you thought you'd never have to make.

The Apostle Peter found himself in the valley of decision one night. Would he proudly stand with his Master or would he deny Him and hold on to his peace? We all know the answer to that question.

What about you and me? The world has changed from the world we grew up in. The enemies of Christ are out there. What will you do when you are faced with the ultimate decision? Will you go with the flow and retain your peace, or will you stand for the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness? (1 Peter 5: 8 – 11). May God be with us all.

Since our last Newsletter, the Home Secretary has announced plans for new powers to silence extremists and disrupt their activities – this will be known as Extremism Disruption Orders (EDOs) – and, on face value, seems to have some merit as we face the onslaught of ISIS and the Muslim economic migration into Europe. However, the question ‘What is an extremist?’ is paramount as you and I may well come into that category. Maybe you have never considered yourself an extremist, but in our society today those of us who oppose same-sex marriage or believe that homosexuality is wrong are already being labelled ‘extreme.’ The recent Ashers case in Northern Ireland makes it clear that even the Courts do not always uphold the rights of free speech, so please make every effort to contact your MP and express your concerns. The Bible states “*we ought to obey God rather than men*” (Acts 5:29).

We have included in this issue an excellent article by Dr. Peter Hammond (South Africa) headed **Reformation or Islamisation?** We are at war – we need to re-discover our history – we need a new Biblical Reformation. Even the Pope calls Muslims his brothers and sisters (**News Item No. 1**) and in a recent statement celebrating ‘Christian Unity’ he said “The devil knows that Christians are disciples of Christ – that they are one – that they are brothers. He doesn't care if they are Evangelicals, Lutherans, Roman Catholics or Apostolic – they are

Christians!" How important it is to stand outside the camp and obey the word of God as instructed in Galatians 5 verse 1. How important it is that we walk with God! A sermon by Thomas Boston some 300 years ago entitled **Enoch Walking With God** commences "...the generation we live in is in a declining condition...Few are now added to the Church...true godliness languishes." How descriptive it is of the days in which we live!

We thank God for Pastor James McConnell (**News Item No. 3**) who faces prosecution for comments made about Islam whilst preaching in his own Church. May we all be prepared to take our stand for the Lord, whatever the consequences.

In closing, we thank God for an encouraging time at the **Birmingham Christian Resources Exhibition** and would draw your attention to two important Public Meetings advertised in this issue – our own in Brighton (see below) and the United Protestant Council (of which we are members) in St. John's Wood, London. Please make a note of these dates in your diary – we look forward to renewing fellowship together.

Yours in His service,

Ian R. Henderson

Ian R. Henderson
(Vice-Chairman)

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CHRISTIAN WATCH

PUBLIC MEETING

to be held, God willing, at

Queen's Hotel,

1-3 King's Road, Brighton BN1 1NS

on the evening of Friday

30th OCTOBER 2015

at 7.15p.m. for 7.30p.m.

Speaker:

Pastor James Zenker

(Crown College UK)

Address:

**'The Spiritual State of the Nation –
Is there a Remedy?'**

Book Tables

Light refreshments

Collection for Christian Watch
Contact: Mr. David Lawson 07889365645

Reformation or Islamisation?

By: Dr. Peter Hammond (Frontline Fellowship, SA)

“And there arose another generation...which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which He had done...and provoked the Lord to anger.” Judges 2:10-12

The Crisis Confronting Us

Europe is in danger of falling to Islam. There is an urgent and serious need for a new Biblical Reformation and for a fresh Spiritual Revival. Only Christianity, true Biblical Christianity, can defeat radical Islam. Secular Humanism and Hedonism are no match for Islamic Jihad.

National Suicide

By rejecting Christianity, Europe is committing spiritual suicide. By embracing secular Humanism and welcoming mass Islamic immigration, Europe is committing cultural and economic suicide. By inter-marrying with Muslims and building mosques and madrassas throughout the Continent, Europe is committing demographic suicide, betraying future generations to bondage. The decline of Christianity in Europe is catastrophic.

Learning from History

History is repeating itself. As in the 15th and 16th Centuries, Europe is experiencing a renaissance of paganism and facing an aggressive Islamic expansionism that threatens faith and freedom. Those who forget the lessons of history are doomed to repeat its failures. Guilt manipulation and revisionism has neutralised Europe. We need to re-discover our history. As Karl Marx declared: “The first battlefield is the re-writing of history.”

War against God

Secularism, Humanism, Hedonism and Heathenism have gutted Europe, morally, spiritually and ethically, making it vulnerable to an Islamic takeover. As Alexander Solzhenitsyn declared, of Russia, in 1917: “We forgot God!”

Secularisation

The book of Judges tells us of “another generation” which “knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which He had done” (Judges 2:10). We now have a secular society which has rejected the pleasure of worship and replaced it with the worship of pleasure.

Building on the Sand

Europe has a new generation who have moved away from the rock certainties of Biblical Christianity to the sands of relativism, evolutionism, situational ethics, relative truth, re-incarnation, Harry Potter, The Da Vinci Code hoax, The Gospel of Judas and the occult. Like Esau, they have sold their birthright for a mess of pottage. Now young Europeans are taught: “You come from nothing, you’re going nowhere, life is meaningless!”

The Blessings of the Gospel

From the time of the Reformation, Europe became the world’s dominant industrial region. The productivity and innovations of Europe brought blessings to the whole world:

- Medical science that saved lives and extended life expectancy worldwide;
- Agricultural productivity, which increased from the wooden plough feeding one family, to the iron plough feeding 3 families, to the tractor feeding 60 families. Europe’s agricultural innovations ended famines;
- Missionaries brought the blessings of literacy, education and the Gospel of Christ to nations which had never before even had a written language;
- Representative forms of Government and the rule of law;
- The abolition of slavery and the slave trade, setting the captives free;
- Roads, railways, bridges, schools, hospitals, law courts, Churches, the Bible in hundreds of previously unwritten languages.

Blessing the Nations

All of these blessings, and much, much more, God provided through previous generations of Europeans, who were faithful to God's Word and faithful to God's work. Never, in all of history, has any Continent blessed so many millions worldwide as Europe has done, through the Reformation and the great missionary movements.

Another Generation

But now "another generation" has grown up "who know not the Lord, nor the works which He has done..." Instead of building on the solid rock of God's Word, many Europeans today are building on the sand of Humanism, Evolutionism and Hedonism.

Borrowed Blessings

Europe is living on borrowed blessings. Like a cut flower the beauty can only abide for a short time, because it is cut off from the source of its life. Soon the petals will fade and crumble and only the thorns will remain.

Catastrophic

By abandoning its Christian roots and missionary calling, Europe is cutting itself off from the very source of its blessings, freedom, productivity and prosperity.

It is of great concern to us Africans that while many millions of Africans are turning to Christ, millions of Europeans are turning their backs on Christ.

While we are rejecting heathenism and embracing Christ, Europe is rejecting Christ and embracing heathenism.

"Who changed the truth of God into a lie..." Romans 1:25

Ignorance and Immorality

"Another generation" has arisen that neither knows the Lord personally, nor even knows about their great Christian heritage and what God has done in, with and through Europe. What Alexander Solzhenitsyn said of Russia on the eve of the Communist takeover/Revolution in Russia in 1917 can be said of most of Europe today: "THEY FORGOT GOD!"

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Romans 1:21

Forsaking Knowledge

They took God's blessings for granted and did not acknowledge Him. They neglected God's Holy Word, the Bible, the very Book which has been the foundation and fountain of all their freedoms, productivity, prosperity and blessings.

Aborting Europe

- By aborting her babies, Europe is aborting her future.
- By secularising her schools, Europe is condemning her youth.
- By paganising her population, Europe is perverting her society.
- By importing millions of Muslim migrant workers and refugees, Europe is committing demographic suicide.

The Turkish Connection

Turkey, which once threatened all of Europe, is now considered for European Union membership. In 1453, when Constantinople was the greatest city in the world, the Turks massacred its entire population. When the Hagia Sophia was the greatest church building in the world, the Turks slaughtered the entire congregation, men, women and children, young and old, 12,000 victims inside the sanctuary. In 1526, the Turks conquered Budapest and looted the city. They then enslaved 200,000 Hungarian Christians and dragged them back to Turkey as slaves. Vienna itself, in the heart of Europe, was besieged by the Turks in the 16th and 17th Centuries, even as late as 1683.

Exterminating Christian Civilisation

What is today Turkey was once the Christian Byzantine Empire, the land of the Seven Churches of Revelation. The Turks invaded and overwhelmed the Christians of the Byzantine Empire and eradicated the Christians until they were a minority in their own lands. Finally, in 1915, the Turks exterminated the Christian minority, the Armenians. 1.5 million Christian Armenians were massacred by the Turks.

The Destruction of Smyrna

As recently as 1922, the last Christian city in Asia, Smyrna, was destroyed by the Turks. A city of 300,000 people wiped out. The Biblical city of Smyrna, where the Apostle John had ministered, annihilated by the Turkish army, in living memory. Now some are considering welcoming Turkey into the EU.

Eurabia

Studying the history of Islam and Europe, I am convinced that should Muslims attain a majority in any country in Europe, it would similarly oppress, persecute, eliminate and ultimately exterminate all Christian minorities within its control. Muslims are openly talking about turning Europe into Eurabia.

Claiming Europe for Islam

Muammar Gadhafi of Libya had claimed on Al Jazeera television (10 April, 2006): "We have 50 million Muslims in Europe. There are signs that Allah will grant Islam victory in Europe...within a few decades." Gadhafi pointed out that already Albania and Bosnia with Muslim majorities have entered the European Union. If Turkey is added to the EU, Europe will have another 50 million Muslims. Gadhafi exclaimed: Muhammad "superseded all previous religions. If Jesus were alive when Muhammad was sent, he would have followed him. All people must be Muslim!"

Understanding the Times

We need to re-discover our history. We need to understand the signs of the times. Europe has faced a similar threat of radical, violent, Islamic expansionism before - in the 16th Century. Europe experienced a similar renaissance of paganism before - in the 15th Century. The threat is the same. The solution is the same today as it was then. We need Reformation!

Know Your Enemy

Do you understand the threat of Islam? The reality of Sharia Law? Read *Slavery, Terrorism and Islam - the Historical Roots and Contemporary Threat* for the essential background to understand this present crisis.

The Islam Rising DVD series is also most helpful in alerting people to the very real and imminent threat of radical Islam.

Europe is Being Targeted By Islam

Recent intelligence reports include the following facts:

FRANCE: In 1945 there were 100,000 Muslims in France. Today it is officially claimed to be over 6 million (60 x increase), 10% of the population. Muslims make up 70% of France's convicted criminals in prison. Of the 1,000 Muslim neighbourhoods in France, 700 are listed as "violent", 400 "very violent". There are 1,000 mosques in France.

In France, 95% of convicted rapists are Muslims, 85% of convicted murderers are Muslims and 58% of convicted thieves are Muslims.

HOLLAND: Muslims are officially 6% of the population and very aggressive and assertive.

BELGIUM: 10% of the population. Half of all babies born in Belgium are now Muslims.

GERMANY: 2 million Muslims (Berlin has the 4th largest Turkish population in the world.)

BRITAIN: 2 million (from 82,000 – 40 years ago – x 25 increase). British counter-terrorism experts estimate that there are up to 25,000 Al-Qaeda supporters in UK. 1,000 mosques in Britain.

SWEDEN: 400,000 Muslims. Massive increase in anti-Semitic attacks on Jewish population in Sweden. Riots and no-go areas.

DENMARK: 200,000 Muslim immigrants are trying to dictate their anti-Israel, anti-American policies upon the 5 million Danes. Although Muslims are only 4% of the population, they consume over 40% of the social welfare spending. They also make up 75% of the country's convicted rapists.

ITALY: 1 million Muslims. (In Italy Muslims make up 95% of all convicted rapists and 85% of all convicted murderers.)

Note that almost every country with a Muslim majority are effectively dictatorships. Even the so-called democracies are often violently intolerant of Christian minorities.

“These are the nations which the Lord left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan...to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof...to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the Lord...” Judges 3:1-4

Foreign Subversion

The Saudi Arabian Government has financed the building of over 1,500 mosques, 210 Islamic centres, 202 colleges and 2,000 madrassas (Islamic Quranic schools) in non-Muslim countries, mostly in Europe.

Security Nightmare

Security experts estimate that 5% of the 18 million Muslims now living in Europe are radical terrorist supporters and sympathisers, representing at least 75,000 to 90,000 potential terrorists within the European Union borders. ISIS claims to have infiltrated thousands of their Jihadists into Europe with the latest wave of refugees.

Demographic Time Bomb

The average European woman has 1.5 children and the average Muslim woman in Europe has 6 to 8 children.

Rejecting God's law

By rejecting God's Law, France may soon fall under Islamic Sharia law! It started with the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572 and the vicious persecution of the French Huguenots (the Protestants); then with King Louis XIV's Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, when all Protestants were stripped of their rights and forced to flee France. Within a century, the French Revolution slaughtered tens of thousands on the guillotine. Now France faces an Islamic Revolution. By rejecting God's Law they are heading for Islamic Sharia law.

Demographic Disaster

Gene Veith of *World* notes: “Thanks to contraceptive technology, sex has become separated from child-bearing. With women pursuing careers of their own and men getting sex without the responsibility of marriage, why bother with children? For many women and men, pregnancy has become an unpleasant side effect, something to prevent with contraceptives or easily treated with a trip to the abortion clinic.”

Sterile Hedonism

Christian News from CFT quotes Allan Carlson as saying: “A pervasive hedonism...permeates the West...What's ironic, however, is that this pursuit of personal pleasure and wealth may result in economic ruin.” Veith lists some of the disastrous consequences of population decline: “Citizens are not just consumers, but producers. Having fewer people can wreak havoc on an economy, creating both a labour shortage and a shortage of buyers. A Government with a shrinking population faces a smaller military and fewer taxpayers.

Dwindling populations have always signalled cultural decline, with less creativity, energy and vitality on every level of society.”

The Future Belongs to the Fertile

“The great party of Western hedonism will not last much longer. There is an iron law in history: the future belongs to the fertile. Just as the clan-centred, child-rich Barbarian tribes of the Germans swept away the sensuous and sterile Western Roman Empire, so shall new barbarians arise.”

Cultural Suicide

By abandoning its Christian heritage, aborting its babies, embracing hedonism and perversion, demanding unlimited personal freedoms, Europe is heading towards the repression of Islamic Sharia law. By rejecting Christianity, Europe is in danger of falling under Islamic totalitarianism.

A Magnet for Muslim Migrants

The combined effects of affluence, welfare and a rapidly falling birth rate have made Western Europe a magnet for millions of impoverished Muslims from North Africa and the Middle East. With most Europeans embracing a practical atheism, or a fuzzy new age spirituality, they are incapable of comprehending, let alone effectively dealing with, radical Islam. That, in a nutshell, is the problem.

What is the Solution?

How are we as Christians to respond to this serious threat to faith and freedom in Europe? How can we be MORE THAN CONQUERORS in this crisis?

Recognising God’s Enemies and God’s Weapons and Strategy, we need to:

- *Recognise God’s enemies:* Secular Humanism and Radical Islam.
- *God’s weapons:* Bible teaching, Evangelism, Prayer – including the Imprecatory Psalms.
- *God’s Battle plan/strategy:* The Great Commission, God-fearing families and discipleship.

There are two extremes we need to guard against:

- There are those who refuse to see the crisis. They say there is NO PROBLEM!
- Then there are those who panic and say there is NO HOPE!

We must recognise the problems, honestly and soberly. Man is depraved and in rebellion to God and His Word. Sin inevitably reaps tremendous trouble. We must also recognise that God is Sovereign and Almighty, there is power in prayer, and the Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. How can any Christian say that there is “no hope!”?

We must wake up to the urgent and serious crisis. Most Churches are asleep or in apostasy. The world is rushing by on its way to Hell and yet our prayer meetings are sparsely attended and lacking in fire and fervour. Most evangelical Churches engage in very little, or no, evangelism. Missionary vision is weak and much that is done in the name of “missions” has little to do with fulfilling the Great Commission, “making disciples...teaching obedience...” To use some military terminology: Most of the Christian Army in Europe is either on AWOL (absent without leave) or conscientious objectors. The few faithful are often content to sing in the barracks instead of engaging the enemy on the battlefield.

We are called to conquest. We must not merely survive, we need to thrive. We are called to be MORE THAN CONQUERORS.

- We must conquer **fear**. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power; and of love; and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7
- We must conquer **cowardice**. “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10-11
- We must conquer **ignorance**. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Hos 4:6
- We must conquer **unbelief**. We must “overcome the world” by our faith (1 John 5:4).

WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE? *"Choose you this day whom ye will serve."* Joshua 24:15

There has never been a more urgent need for Biblical Reformation than now. Our faith, our freedoms and families are at stake.

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." 2 Chronicles 16:9

Examples of Excellence

We need the faith and courage of Martin Luther, who could stand before the assembled might of Europe and declare: "My conscience is captive to the Word of God! Here I stand. I can do no other. So help me God. Amen."

We need the courage and conviction of Ulrich Zwingli who declared: "They can kill the body – but not the soul!"

We need the doctrine and devotion of John Calvin whose motto was "promptly and sincerely in the service of my God."

We need to be more courageous, more faithful and more effective in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Those Who Fight Against God Will Lose

Humanism is self-destructive. Islam's days are numbered. Islam cannot survive freedom and the Quran cannot withstand critical academic scrutiny.

We must win our enemies to Christ. David was a conqueror because he killed Goliath. Jesus Christ was more than a conqueror because He turned Saul, the persecutor of the Church, into Paul, the great Apostle of the Church. We are called to be more than conquerors. We must understand Islam and we must evangelise Muslims.

"Every knee should bow... every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" Phil. 2:10-11

"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

Victory over Islam

As Charles Martel in "The Hammer" stopped the Muslim advance at the Battle of Tours, 732 AD, we need to rouse the Church to evangelise our Muslim neighbours and to stop the Muslim advance in Europe. As Christians liberated Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Greece from centuries of oppression by the Turks, so we need to free our neighbours from the deception of Islam and lead them to Christ.

A Vision of Victory

Let us re-discover our history and heritage. That is what this new book *"The Greatest Century of Reformation"* has been produced for. As Luther utilised the printing press to mobilise the Reformation, so we need to use DTP, the Internet, CDs, DVDs, MP3s, radio websites, social media and well-illustrated books to advance the Gospel today. Europe must be won back to Christ. Europe for Christ!

"Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause Thy face to shine; and we shall be saved." Ps. 80:7

A Clear Choice – it is either:

- GOD'S LAW or SHARIA LAW
- CHRISTIANITY or ISLAM
- REFORMATION or ISLAMISATION

Let us wake up and get back to the Bible. Fear God alone and love God wholeheartedly. Let us work and pray for Reformation and Revival. We must be more than conquerors and win our nations back to Christ.

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?" Psalm 85:6

(This article previously appeared in English Churchman – 18th & 25th September, 2015)

NEWS ITEMS

1. 'I Unite Myself': Pope Calls Muslims 'Brothers and Sisters' – by Heather Clarke, Christian News Network, 25 September, 2015

During a speech at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on 24 September, the Roman Catholic Pontiff offered prayers for his Muslim 'brothers and sisters' on the Islamic Feast of Sacrifice following word of a deadly stampede during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

"I would like to express two sentiments for my Muslim brothers and sisters," he began. "First, I send my greetings as they celebrate the Feast of Sacrifice. I would have my greeting to have been warmer. My sentiments are closeness."

"I am close to them in the face of tragedy, the tragedy they suffered in Mecca," Francis continued. "In this moment, I give assurances in their prayers. I unite myself with you all in prayer to Almighty God, all merciful."

Approximately 700 people were killed and nearly 1,000 more injured during a ritual in Saudi Arabia called "stoning the devil," during which participants throw stones at three pillars in a re-enactment of Abraham's alleged stoning of the devil to avoid temptation – according to Muslim tradition. During the ritual, the large crowds began to surge and some fell and were trampled to death.

Pope Francis who was selected as the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics in 2013, has expressed a desire for ecumenicism toward Muslims from the beginning of his tenure, issuing greetings during Muslim holy days.

"Turning to mutual respect in inter-religious relations, especially between Christians and Muslims, we are called to respect the religion of the other, its teachings, its symbols, its values," he wrote in a 2013 statement during Ramadan.

The Pontiff also met with Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), later that year and visited Turkey's Blue Mosque last November, expressing reverence during a moment of prayer observed by the nation's Grand Mufti, who led him on a tour of the Islamic facility.

Mike Gendron of 'Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries' Plano, Texas notes that harmony with Muslims is consistent with Roman Catholic doctrine. ***Abbreviated***

2. UN Human Rights Alarmed at Rise of Incitement to Religious Violence – UN News – Syria, 13 October, 2015

Senior United Nations human rights officials expressed their alarm at the rise in violent rhetoric by influential religious leaders – including calling for "holy war" against certain faiths – in relation to the situation in Syria.

The UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng and Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, Jennifer Welsh, condemned the recent call by clerics in Saudi Arabia for Sunni Muslims and their States to support a "holy war" against Shia Muslims and Christians in Syria, as well as against States and non-State armed groups perceived to support them.

"Such rhetoric can aggravate the already extremely volatile situation in Syria by drawing religiously motivated fighters to join all parties to the conflict, thus escalating the risk of violence against religious communities," said the Advisers in a statement, adding that "advocacy of religious hatred to incite or justify violence is not only morally wrong, but also prohibited under international law."

Dieng and Welsh also expressed concern at reports that Russian Orthodox clerics had referred to the Russian participation in the conflict in Syria as a “holy battle” against terrorism, as “statements of this kind can be manipulated, feed suspicion and increase polarisation of communities.” The Special Advisers also noted the response by Russian authorities, who reportedly denied that there was any religious connotation to their involvement in Syria.

They praised the organisation, Syrian Christians for Peace, for rejecting the concept of a Christian “holy war” and condemning those who invoke it.

The Special Advisers called on States to disassociate themselves from and condemn any form of advocacy of religious hatred, promote dialogue and protect and empower all those religious figures and human rights defenders who are working towards enhancing inter-religious respect and harmony.

The officials also called on religious leaders around the world to refrain from any form of advocacy of religious hatred and incitement to violence and to counter any use of such rhetoric, emphasising that “religious leaders should be messengers of peace, not of war.”

“In situations in which tensions are high, as in Syria, religious leaders should call for and foster restraint and dialogue, rather than fanning the flames of hatred,” they cautioned.

3. Pastor Persecuted for Calling Islam ‘Satanic’ Faces Trial in December for Islamophobia - by Vincent Funaro, Christian Post, 2 October, 2015

Pastor James McConnell will face a three-day trial in December for broadcasting a sermon over the Internet using a public electronics communications network where he called Islam ‘satanic’ and ‘heathen.’

The charges, which also include allegedly sending a grossly offensive message using a public electronics communications network, stem from a sermon he gave at a Belfast church in May, 2014. McConnell’s trial date was set for Thursday, 14 December at the Belfast Magistrates Court. At least 78 people showed up to support the Pastor, who believes he is standing up for his freedom of speech.

“As far as I’m concerned the Muslim issue is over,” said McConnell to supporters outside the court, according to the BBC. “The issue is the freedom of speech; the freedom of conscience; the freedom of worship and the freedom of preaching the Gospel and saying what is in your heart.”

“I hope I get my Christmas dinner,” added McConnell. “I will be there on December 14, 15 and 16. I am not running away, definitely not. I am going to stand for my Lord.”

McConnell, 78, told the Belfast Telegraph back in June that he is prepared to go to jail to protect his freedoms and has justified his comments by clarifying the context in which they were spoken.

“I have qualified my comments by those who use their religion as justification for violence. As a preacher of God, it is this interpretation of the doctrine of Islam which I am condemning,” he said.

Northern Ireland Director of the Evangelical Alliance, Peter Lynas, was alarmed by the charges brought against McConnell. “I don’t agree with all that Pastor McConnell said, but I am deeply concerned about this prosecution for allegedly sending a message that is grossly offensive,” he said. “Many Churches will be wary of what they place on the internet until this case is heard and the law is clarified. This prosecution seems to stretch the Communications Act well beyond what Parliament intended.”

Abbreviated

ENOCH WALKING WITH GOD

By: Thomas Boston (1676 – 1732)

“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him” (Genesis 5:24)

It is too evident that the generation we live in is in a declining condition, that professors are few, but real Christians fewer by far. Religion with many is turned to be the object of their ridicule and, among those that own it, to merely dry and sapless notions for the most part. Few now are added to the Church or brought over out of the Devil's camp. True godliness languishes and serious experimental religion wears out. Therefore I would press religion in the life and power of it on those that would save themselves from this untoward generation.

Here shines the brightest star in the patriarchal age, which having given light to the lower world for a time, was afterwards translated into a higher sphere and passed out of the world in as unusual a manner as he lived in it. For as men live in the world, so ordinarily they go out of it.

There is a long account here, where nothing is marked but names and numbers, men's living and dying, till we come to Enoch, whose singular piety is recorded. Observe: The life of man is for the most part a vain thing, of which, by the sleeping of some and the slumbering of others, nothing remains remarkable, but that they lived and died. But close walking with God serves another and better purpose than to cause one just to fill up room in the world for a while.

From the short history of these antediluvian [before the flood] patriarchs, we may learn one lesson that will serve us all our days, viz. that we must die, how long so-ever we live. It is reported of one, that by hearing this chapter read in the Church, he got such an impression of his own death that he turned religious, that he might die well.

But from the history of Enoch we may learn two lessons:

1. How to live well in this world.
2. The happiness that abides those in another world, who so live here, even eternal happiness of soul and body with the Lord.

In the words, there is remarked a real preaching that was given to the old world by Enoch, a life-preaching, for his conversation preached to them what religion was and what was their great duty, viz. walking with God; a removal preaching (we cannot say his death preached, for he did not die, but his passage out of this world preached), that there is another and a better life with God in another world, both for soul and body. And this is no doubt marked to show us the mercy bestowed on that generation, that the godly in it might be encouraged and the wicked left without excuse, while such a bright star shone so fair in that dark age. For it is observable, that his walking with God is twice told, once, verse 22 and here again in the text, in conjunction with his happy removal, giving us a compendious body of divinity, written for the use of that age especially (not excluding others) in this man's life and translation out of the world. So that God left not Himself without a witness in that degenerate age. They not only heard but saw in him the power of godliness and the reward of it too.

Observe: Men will not only have the best instructions and warnings they get from the world, but those they get from the examples of holy men, to answer for in the day of accounts. There are silent preachers, who yet speak home, as Noah, who “being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world” (Heb. 11:7); and the men of Nineveh, and the Queen of the South, of whom our Lord says, “The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. The Queen of the South shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon;

and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here” (Matt. 12:41,42). Examples of a holy life, if they do not lead spectators to Heaven, will drive them more deeply into destruction.

Though it is charitably thought that all the patriarchs were good men, yet surely the age wherein Enoch lived was a very degenerate and profane age. Methuselah his son died the same year the deluge came on. He lived 969 years. Enoch walked with God 300 years. So from his translation there were 669 to the deluge. Of that they got 120 years warning of the deluge, so that to that time there were but 549 years. There were none of those here mentioned but they lived more than 700 years. And God’s Spirit had been long striving with the generation before the last 120 years. So that we may well reckon that many of those who lived in Enoch’s days were of those God’s Spirit had so long striven with and that were swept away by the deluge – and, consequently, that it was a very degenerate and profane age he lived in, wherein men had come the length to talk and act boldly against the God that made them, as appears from Jude 14,15: “Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Observe: Be the times never so bad, it is men’s own fault they are bad too. Eminent holiness and intimate communion with God may be attained in the worst of times. While that generation was running to ruin, Enoch walked with God. The reasons are:

1. Because however men grow worse and worse, Heaven is still as good and bountiful as ever. “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear” (Isa. 59:1,2). God’s door still stands open, though the generation conspire to trouble it very little for supply. Our Lord will never shut His door upon His people because they are few, but it shall stand open as long as there is one that hath business in His house. “O thou that art named the house of Jacob, is the Spirit of the Lord straitened? Are these His doings? Do not My words do good to him that walketh uprightly? (Mic. 2:7).
2. Because those that mind for Heaven must row against the stream always, and if they do not, they will be called down the stream in the best of times, for, says our Lord, “From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matt. 11:12). If people will ply the throne of grace and resolutely set themselves against the epidemical disease of their day, they may keep lively in the midst of a dead crew, though with much difficulty, as our Lord observes, “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments” (Rev. 3:4).
3. The badness of the times affords matter to excite God’s people the more to their duty and close walking with God. The profaneness and formality of those they live among, and the dishonour done to God thereby, should be like oil to the flame of their holy love and zeal, as it was to David: “It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law. Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold” (Ps. 119:126,127). The prospect of what must needs be the issue of such apostasy of a generation may also quicken them, even as one is the more concerned to see to his own safety, that the rest of the family are pulling down the house about their own ears, as was the case with Noah, who, among a very wicked and abandoned people had this character: “Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Gen. 6:9).
4. *Lastly*. Because as the Lord shows Himself most concerned for the welfare of those who are most concerned for His honour, so the worse the times are, they that cleave to Him closely may expect to fare the better, as Noah also did, when the Lord said to him, “Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation” (Gen. 7:1). Moses never had a more glorious manifestation of God than

at the time when the Israelites had fallen into the idolatry of the golden calf, and God was about to destroy the whole nation, as you will find by comparing Exodus 32:10 and chapters 33 and 34.

Use 1. Learn that those who keep not up communion with God in the life and power of religion in evil times are, in God's account, joined and embarked with the generation of His wrath, and be who they will, they will smart with the rest for it, though they put not forth their hands to the notorious abominations of the times they live in. Hence is that threatening, "It shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil" (Zeph. 1:12). It is a heavy word that sets formal hypocrites and profane wretches on one and the same bottom: "As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity" (Ps. 125:5).

2. Bad example with its influence will not excuse people before the Lord. While it is no comfort to go to Hell with company, there can be no safety in following a multitude to do evil. What! Will men think that because the conspiracy against God and holiness is strong, therefore they may join in it; that because serious godliness is going over the brae [hill]. Therefore they may give it a push? But woe will be to them that given an unhallowed touch to God's wain [cart] when it is at the halting.

3. To be complaining of the evil of the times, sighing and going backward in religion, is a fruitless, unavailing complaint, neither pleasing to God, nor profitable to one's self. For at no time does religion consist in talking, but in walking with God. And that is but to condemn ourselves out of our own mouths.

4. *Lastly*. Let us be exhorted to study the power and reality of religion in these dregs of time. Let us draw the nearer to God, that we see so many going far from Him. And as we would not bring the wrath of God on ourselves, let us neither join with the profane generation, nor continue on our lees with a formal, dead-hearted generation, strangers to the power of godliness.

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AUTUMN CONFERENCE

Will be held (D.V.) on

SATURDAY, 7th NOVEMBER, 2015

Subjects:

- 1 p.m.** *Gay Evangelicals?* (Biblically Equipping Ourselves Against Compromise)
2.30 p.m. *What Should the Government Do?* (The Biblical View of the State)

Speaker:

Rev. David Silversides

(Minister of Loughbrickland Reformed Presbyterian Church)

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Report on Birmingham CRE Exhibition, 2015

On October 7th and 8th, Christian Watch exhibited on Stand P28D and P28E at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. For those of us who had never been to the NEC before, the sheer size of the whole complex was amazing.

At this event, and for the first time, we had polythene bags produced with our name and address details and the Scripture which reads: **“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come”**. Matthew 24:42. Within this bag were various booklets, tracts and Christian newspapers. Many of these bags were handed out during the exhibition free of charge and well received by the vast majority of visitors to the Stand.

Since these bags were used by many to carry literature from other exhibitors, it was encouraging to witness the Word of God being displayed throughout the hall. It was agreed by those who manned the Stand that this Birmingham venue not only produced very encouraging comments and discussions; but other organisations around us were also largely coming from a Reformed and faithful position and they encouraged and supported us. This was something of a surprise since CRE usually contains more than its fair share of those from the liberal wing of the Christian Church.

Our stand exhibits were again depicting the three Reformers - including two martyrs - Jan Huss, Martin Luther and William Tyndale and these faithful men of God provoked much useful and healthy discussion. Sadly, among many professing believers, the trend to downgrade Scripture by corruptions and modern versions still progresses apace. It was frequently pointed out that this would eventually lead to a loss of confidence in the inspired Word of God itself. What a need there is for an awe and Godly fear for the words from the lips of the Living God! Tyndale, who many from all sides and persuasions admire, declared that in translation he had never altered against his conscience one syllable of Holy Scripture. What modern translator can say that today?

The whole experience at Birmingham was a blessing to those who manned the Stand and we trust will be so too under God for many who visited us.

Every Word of God is pure: He is a shield unto those who put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar (Prov. 30: 5, 6).

“Satan has a something that comes so near the true Gospel that it is called by Paul ‘another gospel;’ and yet it is in reality no gospel at all. He deals much in half convictions and almost Christians, but does not like thorough work. He will let people talk about grace as much as they please, so long as talking will satisfy them.” John Newton

“The divine providence, which is sufficient to deliver us in our utmost extremity, is equally necessary to our preservation in the most peaceful situation.” John Newton

“When a child of God thinks he can go alone, he is nearest falling.” John Mason

“All the peace and favour of the world cannot calm a troubled heart; but where this peace is which Christ gives, all the trouble and disquiet of the world cannot disturb it.”

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