



# CHRISTIAN WATCH

Issue No. 10

A Protestant Biblical Witness

Jul/Aug 2017

# GOD IS IN CONTROL

**'And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.'**

*Mark 13:37*

<b>IN THIS NEWSLETTER:</b>	<b>Page</b>
Letter from the Vice-Chairman	1
A General Election Prayer Meeting Address By: Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom	3
Why do the 5 Solas Matter Today? - Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster publication – Part 2	7
Satan's Devices – Dr. G. D. Doudney	11
“Fight the good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12) By: J. C. Ryle – Part 2	12
“Let your light so shine before men...” (Matthew 5:16) From: Jewels from John Newton	16
News and Current Affairs	18
Report of Outreach at the Ardingly Agricultural Show By: Michael Hobbis	21
Confession and Prayer for Church and Nation - Hymn by Anne Steele	24

---

July, 2017

Dear Friends,

Since our last Newsletter, the General Election has taken place and the pollsters have once again been left with *'egg on their faces'*. The landslide victory forecast for Theresa May and the Conservative Party simply did not materialise and the media, pundits etc. have been in turmoil – denouncing the DUP for its “dinosaur” policies which, in reality, are policies which millions of English, Scottish and Welsh electors also adhere to. So, who are the DUP?

In 1966, the Protestant Unionist Party was formed in Northern Ireland by the late Rev. Ian R.K. Paisley (former patron of Christian Watch) to be a public voice against the growing threat of the Republican Civil Rights Association (the IRA - with a crooked 'I'). As the threat became reality, the Protestant Unionist Party became the Democratic Unionist Party in 1971 and, as a result, were able to appeal to a wider cross-section of the Ulster electorate. As time progressed, the DUP became the majority Unionist voice in Northern Ireland, with elected representatives at all levels of Government – local Councils, Stormont Assembly, Westminster Parliament and the European Parliament. The DUP are a forthright Party of predominantly Christian men and women who uphold patriotic values and undoubtedly possess a strong virtuous moral compass, something which, alas, over recent decades, seems to have deserted the Conservative Party (particularly in relation to their Scottish leadership). It is to be hoped, therefore, that closer contact with the DUP will not only strengthen patriotic resolve within the Conservative Party ranks, but will also cause the Party to revert to its traditional stance in upholding decency and morality.

The most important aspect at the moment is to form a functioning Government which will work for the whole of the United Kingdom and the agreement made with the DUP will enable this to happen. For the first time since the Party was formed, these politicians in Northern Ireland will be at the forefront of British politics, regularly consulted on the big issues of the day. Please pray for them that they will remain steadfast and true in this position of responsibility that has been thrust upon them.

In recent times, Islamic terrorist atrocities have also been in the news – with appalling attacks in both London and Manchester – and, whilst the police and security forces are stretched to the limit, politicians of all the main Parties mouth mere platitudes and

refuse to recognise Islam as the threat it really is to the security of our nation. A quote from Enoch Powell, M.P. in 1968 comes to mind – “*our immigration policies amount to ‘building our own funeral pyre’.*” Thankfully, the Lord is in control and is sovereign over all, but we, as Christians, have a responsibility to share our faith with others in this secular age in which we live. As the family, the Church and the nation are being attacked mercilessly by destructive elements in our midst, a recent opinion poll has thrown up some alarming facts:

**48%** of us are just too scared to talk about our faith to non-Christians. **42%** of us do not feel very well equipped to share our faith and do not know what to say. **85%** believe that our multi-faith environment means that people are uneasy about stating that the Lord Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** and **87%** recognise that most Christians in Britain today lack confidence in talking about their personal testimony.

We must pray that in this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the great Protestant Reformation, the Lord will see fit to send another revival that will bring our once great nation to its knees seeking repentance.

In our current Newsletter, we have included **A General Election Prayer Meeting Address** by Mr. B.A. Ramsbottom (Luton). Although the Election has taken place, this message remains relevant and despite the wickedness of the people in the days recorded in the Book of Chronicles, we are told that ‘*the Lord turned His wrath from them*’. The second instalment of **Why do the 5 Solas Matter Today** by the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster covers Christ alone and the Glory of God alone. There is only **ONE** way to Heaven and we must glorify God by trusting in Him. **Fight the Good Fight of Faith** by J.C. Ryle continues to show how Christians are involved in a battle, but our weapons are not carnal, but spiritual. Various **News and Current Affairs** items are followed by a report on the **CW Outreach at Ardingly Agricultural Show** in June.

A date for your diary – a 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting will take place, GW, at Clifton Strict Baptist Chapel on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October as we remember the Protestant Reformation. Please see the advert on page 23 and make every effort to attend.

May God continue to have mercy on us as a nation.

Yours in His service,

**Ian R. Henderson** (Vice-Chairman)

# **A General Election Prayer Meeting Address**

**By: Mr B. A Ramsbottom**

at Bethel Chapel, Luton on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2017,  
the day of the General Election

---

## **Reading: 2 Chronicles 12**

It does not need me, beloved friends, to speak at any length concerning the dreadful state of our country. We have forsaken the Lord and we have forsaken any reverence for Holy Scripture or for the Lord's holy day. And the Lord says, "What wisdom is in them?" So, there is the dreadful immorality which appears on every hand, things which were once abhorred, now being taken for granted, even by people who profess themselves to be Christians. The latest outrage in Britain is that, late this afternoon, it was announced that the Episcopal Church of Scotland (which is the equivalent of our State Church, the Church of England, in Scotland) has agreed to permit same-sex marriages.

Also, thinking of the state of our country, apart from the evil and iniquity which abound – and we are part of the nation – and the lack of repentance, there are the dreadful outrages, there is the terrorism that there has been recently. How solemn after that terrible massacre in Manchester that they had a special concert on the Lord's Day – the opposite of what we should expect – and the girl given great honour because she was badly wounded in the outrage at Manchester and yet she could go to this dreadful gathering of Sabbath desecration. What from our point of view



seems to make it worse: this is the city of William Gadsby, and close to where William Gadsby preached.

I could not help but think of that wonderful occasion when there was a vast gathering in Manchester, which was supposed to be the most unruly city in Britain, and no-one could control this gathering. The Member of Parliament stood up, and they shouted him down. Someone else managed to say a word or two. But Gadsby stood up before this unruly crowd. He was greeted with cheers and then with silence. He started by holding up his Bible before the vast gathering and said, "You will know if I speak, it will be the Word of God." He spoke for three-quarters of an hour and was only interrupted by constant applause and cheering. When he asked whether he was being too long, there were shouts of "please go on!" That was England and not an extremely long time ago; but "how are the mighty fallen!"

I think one thing when election times come which trouble many people: just how to pray and what to pray for and what to say. Over the years, we have sometimes heard prayers about Godly people being returned to Parliament. Now we must be realistic. We cannot think that tomorrow we will hear of a few hundred Godly people elected to the House of Commons. It would be nice if we heard of one or two. When we pray for the Government, we tend to put it generally, that there might be people with wisdom, but it does not seem that there is going to be a lot of godliness and grace in the Government. Now even when I was young it concerned me just how to pray, and all these things, people praying for things that seem impossible, unless there is an outpouring of the Spirit from Heaven.

This chapter I have read to you is an unusual chapter and a remarkable chapter. To me it does seem to touch on some of these things and our present condition and our attitude, and our prayers. The chapter begins, "And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the Kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him." Now isn't that a very simple, clear picture of England today – he, the leader, forsaking the law of the Lord and all Israel with him! So, it is not surprising we have the terrorism. It is not surprising there are troubles.

"And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of King Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem." Now this is the Holy Spirit's comment: "because they had transgressed against the Lord." We hear of so many things happening, many of



them terrible things, reports in the papers, all kinds of reasons given in the papers, all kinds of comments given in the papers; but there is an invisible hand in Heaven that writes, “because they had transgressed against the Lord.” In this dreadful state in which they were, they were granted some relief and they were granted “some deliverance.” There was a prophet that denounced their sin. We could do with more prophets like this.

So you find that even amongst these wicked people, there was an outward quieting and there was an outward humbling, and there was outward prayer, and the Lord answered it. Now surely that is our hope today and tomorrow in our



country – despite our sins, despite our deserving the Lord’s judgment – in answer to a few humble prayers.

“The word of the Lord came...saying... therefore I will not destroy them.” Now this is interesting: “I will grant them *some deliverance*.” Now whatever we find or do not find tomorrow, through the mercy of God may we prove this, according to His own good pleasure: “I will grant them *some deliverance*.” So, may we be able to pray that whatever happens, it might be for the honour and glory of God and it might be in mercy for the good of the Lord’s people. “I will grant them *some deliverance*; and My wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem.”

But the Lord put a *nevertheless*, because people cannot sin lightly. “Nevertheless.” There were many things they were going to know which they did not wish to know, many things they would have to bear they did not wish to bear; but at the end we read this, despite the wickedness of the King and the wickedness of the people, the Lord turned His wrath from them. “He would not destroy him altogether.” And then again a very interesting word: “and also in Judah *things went well*.” Now all was according to God’s will, according to His purpose. Now whatever happens or does not happen, may the Lord fulfil this for us tomorrow: *in England* “things went well.”

If you have a margin, it puts it like this: “And yet in Judah *there were good things.*” Well, in England there are not just some bad things; there are a lot of bad things, a lot of God-dishonouring things; but through the mercy of God, despite our unworthiness and sin, in answer to our prayers, may we find tomorrow that there might be some “good things” – what they might be, leaving to the Lord’s wisdom; but it will be a blessing if the Lord answers us in this: He grants “some deliverance,” and that there are things that do go well, and even at the end of the day, we might be really thankful to the Lord that there are some good things.

---

**CW Note:** *Election result – a ‘hung’ Parliament! To sustain her majority, the Prime Minister has had to speak with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) – consisting generally of men and women who love the Lord; who maintain Godly principles and who profess the Christian faith. Surely this is an answer to the prayers of God’s people!*

---

Prayer hath brought the souls of some, when departed, back into their bodies again (1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4: 32-37). It engages the Almighty on the side of the suppliant and establishes an alliance with God. It has stopped the bottles of Heaven for three years and six months, and opened them again at the expiration of that term (James 5: 17,18). Yea, it hath brought a miraculous plenty into the house of a poor widow, while destruction and famine were reigning all around in universal triumph (1 Kings 17: 8-16). “All things are possible to him that believeth.” And, “All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing ye shall receive.” Prayer hath brought health to the sick, hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb, eyes to the blind, life to the dead, salvation to the lost; and hath even driven the Devil himself from the hearts of many, and brought the God of Heaven to dwell in his room.

**Huntington**



# ***Why do the 5 Solas Matter Today?***

(Part 2)

Reproduced with permission by:  
**The Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster**

(Part 1 detailed the first three Solas – Scripture Alone, Grace Alone and Faith Alone)

## **4. CHRIST ALONE**

*Our view of Jesus Christ is paramount because it is the hub that holds the other ‘Solas’ together; it is the hinge they swing on; it is the strong foundation they stand on. Our personal view and understanding of Christ influences every part and aspect of our lives.*



---

### **Who is Jesus?**

Some people do not believe that Jesus existed. Others believe He was a real person, but only the son of Mary and Joseph, or a Roman soldier. They may view Him as a good man, or even a great man, but not the ‘God-man’. Others correctly believe that Jesus is the eternal and virgin born Son of God, but wrongly conclude He is beyond knowing personally. However, the Reformers re-discovered the great truth that sinners can come to know Jesus Christ personally.

To understand who Jesus is, it may be helpful to consider His life in two parts; firstly, His humiliation – His birth to His death – and secondly, His exaltation – everything from His resurrection onwards.

### **The Only Way**

In this age of ‘inclusivism’ the Bible declares that Jesus Christ is not a way to Heaven nor the best way to Heaven but the **Only** way.

*“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).*

### **Jesus' Humiliation**

Jesus humbled Himself throughout His entire life on earth. He was subject to the law which He kept perfectly. He was afflicted with the miseries of this life, temptations of Satan, and bitter hostility from sinners. He did all this in order to keep the law of God perfectly.

#### **- Humbled in Life**

The following quotation from A. A. Hodge helps us grasp who Jesus is and what He did:

*“Jesus of Nazareth was a true man, possessing all the essential properties of humanity, conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance...He was absolutely without sin...He was no less very God, the eternal Son of the Father...That nevertheless this God and this Man is one single Person...That this personality is the eternal Person of the Divine Son, who in time took a union with Himself...That although one Person, the Divine and the human natures in Christ are not mixed or confounded in one, but remain two pure and distinct natures, Divine and human, constituting one Person forever.”*  
(A.A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith*, p.138)

#### **- Humbled in Death**

Jesus was also humbled *in death*. He was betrayed by one of His twelve disciples, Judas; He was forsaken by His other disciples; He was scorned and rejected by the world; He was condemned by Pilate and by His Jewish persecutors. He alone bore God's wrath for sin, voluntarily laying down His life as an offering to cover sin; He endured the painful, shameful and cursed death of the cross (Philippians 2:5-8); He was buried, continuing in the state of death and under the power of death for three days.

### **The Exaltation of Christ**

The exaltation of Christ is demonstrated by His resurrection from the dead. He rose from the dead by His own power and was seen by many people after His resurrection. He arose in the same

body that had been nailed to the cross and He is no longer subject to death (Revelation 1:18). Forty days after His resurrection, He ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11). He is sitting at the right hand of the Father in a position of honour and authority (Psalm 110:1). He will come again in great power and glory to judge the world in righteousness.

## 5. THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE

*The previous four solas logically lead us to 'Sola deo Gloria' or the Glory of God Alone! Psalm 19:1 reminds us that God displays His glory in creation: "The Heavens declare the glory of God."*



*Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, the Christian should reflect the glory of God. This should be the desire, objective and purpose of a Christian.*

---

### **Our Declaration in Life – The Glory of God Alone**

Those who are justified by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, will give evidence of this by a life of holiness (Ephesians 2:8-10). The believer's 'good works' are the evidence of a sinner's acceptance before God and *not* the cause. How we live expresses what we have become in Christ.

James Buchanan highlights the theological division between 'actual' and 'declarative' justification:

*"...good works being the effect and evidence of faith, and, as such, the sign and tokens of justification..."* He shows us that good works "...cannot form any part of the ground on which faith relies, or on which justification depends. Nor can they come in, as an intervening cause or condition, between faith and justification, for they follow after faith, whereas every believer is justified as soon as he is united to Christ. They are the works of believing and justified men; and no works can be acceptable to God while men remain in a state of unbelief and enmity."

(James Buchanan, *The Doctrine of Justification*, p.358)

It is very important to understand that we live a certain way because we are a Christian, but this does not make us a Christian or keep us a Christian.

### **Our Duty in Life – The Glory of God Alone**

How do we glorify God in our lives? We glorify God by trusting in Him. Abraham was strong in faith which gave glory to God (Romans 4:20). We glorify God by keeping the atoning work of Christ central in our life and witness. In Galatians 6:14, Paul states: *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* We also glorify God by dealing with others in a Christ-like manner. Romans 15:7 commands us to receive others as Christ received us, *“...to the glory of God”*.

In ‘*A Body of Divinity*’, Thomas Watson deals with the question, “What is the chief end of man?” We are reminded that God is glorious in His very being, and that we are to give all glory to Him:

*“...we aim purely at His glory, preferring God’s glory above all other things. We glorify God by an ingenious confession of sin, by believing, by being tender of His glory, by fruitfulness, by being contented in the state in which Providence has placed us, by working out our own salvation, by living to God, by walking cheerfully, by standing up for His truth, by praising Him, by being zealous for His Name, when we have an eye to God in our natural and in our civil actions, by labouring to draw others to God; by seeking to convert others, and so make them instruments of glorifying God. We glorify God in a high degree when we suffer for God, and seal the Gospel with our blood, when we give God the glory of all that we do, by a holy life.”*

This entire chapter is worthy of our study.  
(Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pp 10-18)

### **Something for Everyone**

Before the Reformation, it was believed that the only way to serve God was by taking Holy Orders and removing yourself from the normal world. People with ‘ordinary’ jobs were viewed as second-class citizens and this led to a two-tier system of clergy and laity. The Reformation changed this. It was accepted that all work and activity that was not sinful could and should be done to

the glory of God – whether a plough boy or dish-washer, a shelf stacker or barista, a managing director, or consultant surgeon.

God calls people to different roles, situations and seasons in life, so that He can be glorified in all places, at all times. Since it is God's eternal purpose that His people live to praise His glory (Ephesians 1:6), it is therefore the Christian's responsibility in life to do all to the glory of God. Remember, *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* (1 Corinthians 10:31). Let us therefore purposefully live to the glory of God in our lives!

---

## **Satan's Devices**

The Lord's dear people cannot be too much upon their guard against the devices of Satan. He is an arch, cunning fiend, always upon the look-out to deceive and drag the unwary into bondage. As to outward, flagrant sin, he cares not one straw about dragging them – that is, the living children of God – into that, for he knows well that such temptations will meet with a most determined resistance from the new-creature life in God's children. His arts are, therefore, more generally brought to bear upon those points in the natural character of the Lord's people which Satan finds to be the most susceptible to his deep-laid plots. Pride, covetousness, worldly fame, devotion to the arts or the sciences, devotion to those who bind themselves about the heart and entwine themselves in the affections – all these Satan uses most successfully to bring those who are seeking after the Lord - if haply they may find Him - into terrible bondage.

***Dr. G. D. Doudney***

---

# ***“Fight the good fight of faith.”***

(I Timothy 6:12) - Part 2

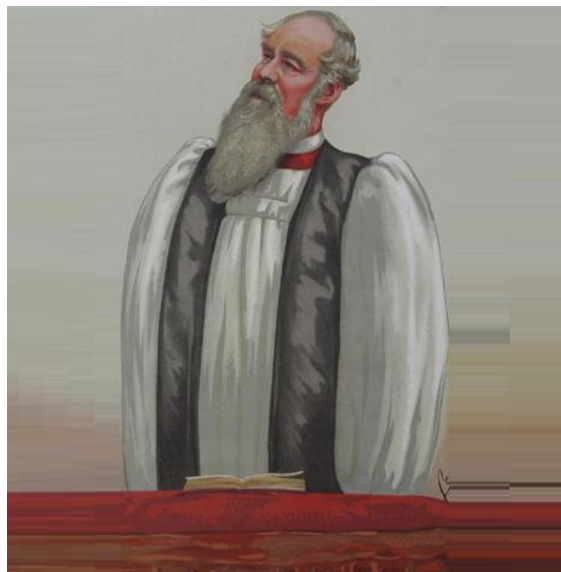
By: **J. C. Ryle**

Extract from '***A Call to Holiness***', chapter 4 'The Fight'

*(Part 1 reminded us that true Christianity is 'a fight' against the flesh, the world and the Devil. Part 2 shows how Christians are to fight.)*

## ***True Christianity is the fight of faith***

In this respect, the Christian warfare is utterly unlike the conflicts of this world. It does not depend on the strong arm, the quick eye, or the swift foot. It is not waged with carnal weapons, but with spiritual. Faith is the hinge on which victory turns. Success depends entirely on believing.



**J.C. Ryle**

*A general faith in the truth of God's written Word* is the primary foundation of the Christian soldier's character. He is what he is, does what he does, thinks as he thinks, acts as he acts, hopes as he hopes, behaves as he behaves, for one simple reason – he believes certain propositions revealed and laid down in Holy Scripture. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6).

A religion without doctrine or dogma is a thing which many are fond of talking of in the present day. It sounds very fine at first; it looks very pretty at a distance; but the moment we sit down to examine and consider it, we shall find it a simple impossibility. We might as well talk of a body without bones and sinews. No man will ever be anything or do anything in religion, unless he

believes *something*. Even those who profess to hold the miserable and uncomfortable views of the Deists are obliged to confess that they believe something. With all their bitter sneers against dogmatic theology and Christian credulity, as they call it, they themselves have a kind of faith.

As for true Christians, faith is the very backbone of their spiritual existence. No-one ever fights earnestly against the world, the flesh and the Devil, unless he has engraven on his heart certain great principles which he believes. What they are he may hardly know, and may certainly not be able to define or write down; but there they are and, consciously or unconsciously, they form the roots of his religion. Wherever you see a man, whether rich or poor, learned or unlearned, wrestling manfully with sin and trying to overcome it, you will be sure there are certain great principles which that man believes. The poet who wrote the famous lines

“For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight,  
He can't be wrong whose life is in the right”

was a clever man, but a poor divine. There is no such thing as right living without faith and believing.

*A special faith in our Lord Jesus Christ's person, work and office* is the life, heart and mainspring of the Christian soldier's character.

He sees by faith an unseen Saviour, who loved him, gave Himself for him, paid his debts for him, bore his sins, carried his transgressions, rose again for him and appears in Heaven for him as his Advocate at the right hand of God. He sees Jesus and clings to Him. Seeing this Saviour and trusting in Him, he feels peace and hope and willingly does battle against the foes of his soul.

He sees his own many sins – his weak heart, a tempting world, a busy Devil; and if he looked only at them he might well despair; but he sees also a mighty Saviour, an interceding Saviour, a sympathising Saviour – His blood, His righteousness, His everlasting priesthood – and he believes that all this is his own. He sees Jesus and casts his whole weight on Him. Seeing Him he cheerfully fights on with a full confidence that he will prove “more than conqueror through Him that loved him” (Rom. 8:37).

*Habitual lively faith in Christ's presence and readiness to help* is the secret of the Christian soldier fighting successfully.



It must never be forgotten that faith admits of degrees. All men do not believe alike and even the same person has his ebbs and flows of faith and believes more heartily at one time than another. According to the degree of his faith the Christian fights well or ill, wins victories, or suffers occasional repulses, comes off triumphant or loses a battle. He that has most faith will always be the happiest and most comfortable soldier. Nothing makes the anxieties of warfare sit so lightly on a man as the assurance of Christ's love and continual protection. Nothing enables him to bear the fatigue of watching, struggling and wrestling against sin, like the indwelling confidence that Christ is on his side and success is sure. It is the "shield of faith" which quenches all the fiery darts of the wicked one. It is the man who can say "I know whom I have believed" – who can say in time of suffering, "I am not ashamed." He who wrote those glowing words "we faint not" – "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" – was the man who wrote with the same pen "we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." It is the man who said, "I live by the faith of the Son of God," who said in the same Epistle, "the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." It is the man who said, "to me to live is Christ" who said, in the same Epistle, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." "I can do all things through Christ." The more faith the more victory! The more faith the more inward peace! (Eph. 6:16; 2 Tim.1:12; 2 Cor. 4:17,18; Gal 2:20; 6:14; Phil. 1:21; 4:11,13)

I think it impossible to over-rate the value and importance of faith. Well may the Apostle Peter call it "precious" (2 Pet. 1:1). Time would fail me if I tried to recount a hundredth part of the victories which by faith Christian soldiers have obtained.

Let us take down our Bibles and read with attention the eleventh chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews. Let us mark the long list of worthies whose names are thus recorded, from Abel down to Moses, even before Christ was born of the Virgin Mary and brought life and immortality into the full light of the Gospel. Let us note well what battles they won against the world, the flesh and the Devil - and then let us remember that *believing* did it all. These men looked forward to the promised Messiah. They saw Him that is invisible. "By faith the elders obtained a good report" (Heb. 11:2-27).

Let us turn to the pages of early Church history. Let us see how the primitive Christians held fast their religion even unto death and were not shaken by the fiercest persecutions of heathen Emperors. For centuries, there were never wanting men like Polycarp and Ignatius, who were ready to die rather than deny Christ. Fines and prisons and torture and fire and sword were unable to crush the spirit of the noble army of martyrs. The whole power of imperial Rome, the mistress of the world, proved unable to stamp out the religion which began with a few fishermen and publicans in Palestine! And let us remember that *believing* in an unseen Jesus was the Church's strength. They won their victory by faith.

Let us examine the story of the Protestant Reformation. Let us study the lives of its leading champions – Wycliffe, and Huss, and Luther, and Ridley, and Latimer, and Hooper. Let us mark how these gallant soldiers of Christ stood firm against a host of adversaries and were ready to die for their principles. What battles they fought! What controversies they maintained! What contradiction they endured! What tenacity of purpose they exhibited against a world in arms! And then let us remember that *believing* in an unseen Jesus was the secret of their strength. They overcame by faith.

Let us consider the men who have made the greatest marks in Church history in the last hundred years. Let us observe how men like Wesley, and Whitfield, and Venn, and Romaine, stood alone in their day and generation and revived English religion in the face of opposition from men high in office and in the face of slander, ridicule and persecution from nine-tenths of professing Christians in our land. Let us observe how men like William Wilberforce, and Havelock, and Hedley Vicars, have witnessed for Christ in the most difficult positions and displayed a banner for Christ even at the regimental mess-table, or on the floor of the House of Commons. Let us mark how these noble witnesses never flinched to the end and won the respect even of their worst adversaries; and then let us remember that *believing* in an unseen Christ is the key to all their characters. By faith they lived and walked and stood and overcame.

Would anyone live the life of a Christian soldier? Let him pray for faith. It is the gift of God; and a gift which those who ask shall never ask for in vain. You must believe before you do. If men do nothing in religion, it is because they do not believe. Faith is the first step toward Heaven.

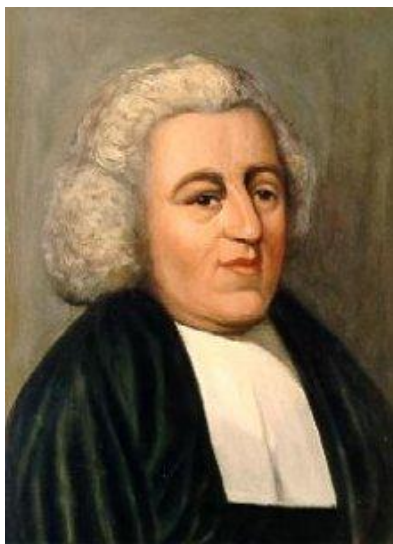
Would anyone fight the fight of a Christian soldier successfully and prosperously? Let him pray for a continual increase of faith. Let him abide in Christ, get closer to Christ, tighten his hold on Christ every day that he lives. Let his daily prayer be that of the disciples – “Lord increase my faith” (Luke 17:5). Watch jealously over your faith, if you have any. It is the citadel of the Christian character, on which the safety of the whole fortress depends. It is the point which Satan loves to assail. All lies at his mercy if faith is overthrown. Here, if we love life, we must especially stand on our guard.

(We hope to continue with the third part of this sermon on ‘*True Christianity is a good fight*’ in our next Newsletter, G.W.)

---

***“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”*** Matthew 5:16

The people of the world are not proper judges of spiritual experiences, but they can judge tolerably right of tempers and actions. Pray therefore for wisdom and grace, to make your light so shine before men, that they, seeing your good works, may glorify your Father who is in Heaven. This is the great design and proper effect of the Gospel, when rightly understood. For as it is the grace of God alone which bringeth salvation, so this grace not only enlightens the understanding, but purifies the heart, regulates the conduct, works by love and overcomes the world. It effectually teaches and enforces (what the best schemes of morality and philosophy have always failed in) the denial of all ungodliness and worldly lusts; and by the motives it displays, and the



**John Newton**

strength it communicates, enables the true Christian to adorn his character in every relation and to fill up the whole circle of duty as it respects himself, his neighbour, and the God with whom he has to do. It teaches to live soberly, righteously and Godly; to avoid whatsoever is contrary to the purity of the Gospel; to practise moderation in the use even of lawful things; and to do unto others as we would they should do unto us. It teaches the rich to be humble and bountiful, the poor to be thankful and resigned. It teaches superiors to be kind, inferiors to be faithful. Husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and servants, magistrates and people, all are instructed by this grace to a conduct answerable to their high calling and to the common relation they stand to Him who has loved them and washed them from their sins in His blood. For the morality of the Gospel has a nobler spring and a more extensive scope than the ties of social life. Their sobriety and righteousness are not substituted in the place of vital goodness, but are the fruits derived from it. The grace of God teaches them to live Godly, to delight in Him, to obey Him, to do everything for His sake, as under His eye and to be continually governed by a sense of His unspeakable love manifested in His Son.

From: **Jewels from John Newton**

Daily Readings from the Works of John Newton

– Selected by **Miller Ferrie**

*Believers Cautioned Against Misconduct in Their Profession*

---

We are to so know Christ as to live to Him in the strength of His grace and unto the praise of His glory. “If ye know these things,” saith He, “happy are ye if ye do them.” It is our privilege to know them – a great privilege – but it is our blessedness to do them. When men content themselves with the notion of spiritual things, without endeavouring to express their power and efficacy in the practical conformity of their minds and souls unto them, it proves their ruin. That Word which is preached to us ought to dwell in us. See what it is to learn Christ in a due manner (Eph. 4: 20-24). There is a miserable profession, where some preach without application and others hear without practice.

**Dr. J. Owen**

**Two Christianities and the future of this country** – Editorial  
Comment by Dr. Napier Malcolm, Hon. Editor, British Church News-  
paper, 7 July, 2017

We are told that the Prime Minister has gone to pray with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We earnestly hope that the Lord will hear Mrs. May's prayers in accordance with His will. We ourselves pray for her too. "O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come" Psalm 65:2.

Nevertheless there is a problem.

There are two kinds of Christianity in this country: two contradictory religions both claiming to be real Christianity.



**Theresa May and Justin Welby**

The Christianity of Christ and the Bible is distinguished by three cardinal doctrines: that the Holy Spirit inspired every word of the original Scriptures (*verbal inspiration*); that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (*substitutionary atonement*); and that the Son of God did not come to abolish God's laws but fulfil them (*Biblical morality*).

The alternative Christianity rejects those parts of the Bible which are not consistent with the world's values. It sides with the world against the Bible in matters such as marriage, abortion, evolution, worship of other gods, ritualism and salvation by works.

The Queen's speech omits much we hoped for but it finds space to declare war on extremists and it is now apparent that extremists means, in practice, Bible Christians. We are clearly to be the main targets. Government is afraid of Islam.

The real conflict in this country today is not Conservatives versus Labour. It is political correctness, sold as 'British Values' backed by all three mainland political parties versus the religion of the Bible.

Under God, the future of our country depends on the outcome of this conflict, much as the history of the last 500 years was settled in the fires of Marian persecution.

Unless one reads the detailed records of the savage burnings in the time of Bloody Mary Tudor it is hard to conceive of the martyrs courage. Bishop Hooper of Gloucester and Nicholas Ridley both were in the fire for about three quarters of an hour before dying. One woman in the Channel Islands gave birth to a child in the flames. Bystanders fished out the baby but the authorities threw it back. As a result, the island is said to have become Protestant overnight.

Wylie in his History of Protestantism notes, "This fierce tempest drove away from it [that is, from the Protestant cause] a cloud of adherents who had weakened it by their flatteries, and disgraced it by their immoral lives," adding, "The steadfast faith of a single martyr brings more strength to a cause like Protestantism than any number of lukewarm adherents".

We must stand. Just as the courage of the Marian martyrs set the course for the country and much of the world for half a millennium, so the outcome of this battle with political correctness will decide the future of our country, under God.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" Luke 12:32.

## **Church of England suggests offering transgender Christians re-christenings** – MailOnline, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

The Church of England yesterday suggested it will offer transgender Christians 're-christenings' with their new names.

Vicars cannot re-baptise those who have changed sex but could use existing 'services of welcome' to announce a new name before God, the most senior official said.

The advice is likely to be endorsed next month by the Church's



**The General Synod**

Parliament, the General Synod.

It will ease pressure on the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, from liberals who want to see the Church's conservative rules on sex and marriage swept away; but it is likely to provide a furious backlash among some traditionalists.

**Abbreviated**

**BMA abortion vote displays 'shocking disrespect for human life'** - Christian Concern 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

The British Medical Association's vote in favour of decriminalising abortion displays a *"shocking disrespect for human life"*, says Andrea Williams, CEO of Christian Concern.

Today's vote at the BMA's annual meeting means that the organisation will adopt a radical pro-abortion stance as its official policy and will lobby the Government to remove all legal restrictions on abortion.

Commenting after the vote, Andrea Williams said:

*"This debate and vote had no public mandate. Recent polling shows that only 1% of women want to legalise abortion up to birth. 70% of women want the current limit of 24 weeks to be lowered and 91% desire an explicit ban on 'gender-abortion'."*

*"A tiny minority of activists have imposed their extreme abortion agenda on the BMA and as a result have severely damaged the institution's reputation. "*

*"The mark of a civilised society is how it treats the most vulnerable. Rather than protecting preborn children in their mothers' wombs, the BMA has chosen to be complicity in their destruction. Those who are tasked with healing the sick have voted to kill the healthy. When our doctors display such a shocking disrespect for human life, we know we are a society in crisis."*





# **Report on the Outreach at Ardingly Agricultural Show**

held at the South of England Showground  
on 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

In writing these reports about our presence at the Exhibitions, it is always essential to remember that our main aim is one of witness to our God and Saviour and to present the Gospel to as many as possible. Living, as we do, in a time when Biblical truth is largely trodden underfoot and the true Gospel distorted, not to say even despised, then the need for faithfully contending for the faith is even more necessary in our day. Therefore, the more of the population we can reach with the Word, based on personal testimony, is to be sought for. Well, we certainly seemed to achieve in a large measure this aim at Ardingly this year. Our stand was, happily due to a last minute (providential) re-arrangement, situated on a busy thoroughfare, almost opposite the entrance to a fairground where many with their children were headed. Consequently, we were able to offer a goodly amount of Christian literature to the passer-by; children's books quickly ran out.

While some rejected the offer, quite a number responded politely and, even others, enthusiastically. Long conversations were had with a variety of people, some quite bizarre; such as a traditionally dressed Sikh woman who was amazed by some of the things she was told were in the Scriptures. She was quite astounded that God had, as is recorded in Genesis, sent a mist to water the earth. After a lengthy discussion, having arrived seemingly full of her own false knowledge with which to put us right, she left quite challenged and thoughtful. Prayers, I hope, will be made for this very confused and mystically inclined lady.

Another useful conversation was held with the man from the next Stand who stated he was not very religious. However, after some time of explaining that religion does not save, but Christ alone with faith in Him, he went away to his Stand thoughtful and, I believe, challenged.

Many contacts, such as those above, were made by Marcus Brockes, David Ansell and myself during this Exhibition. Due to the addition of David with us this year, Marcus and I, who are both feeling the effects of age, could have some time off. The spirit is willing, but the legs become weak.

All in all, we came away tired as usual, but happy in the knowledge that we, poor unprofitable servants, had been given again the opportunity to witness for Jesus, our Lord and King. How soon do we waver and fail Him!

**Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord (Isa. 43: 10).**

*Michael Hobbis*



---

Growing years have not made us grow more in a good opinion of self, or the goodness of the creature. If we have grown in anything, it is in a sense of the suitability, blessedness, grace and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*J. C. Philpot*

**Advance notice (God willing):**

**Christian Watch and Trinitarian Bible Society West Anglia Auxiliary**

# *Our Glorious Reformation*

An address by **Graham Chewter** (TBS Deputation Speaker)  
with hymns by **Martin Luther**. Separate activities for children  
up to age 12 by **Daniel Sayers**.

Book table

Reformation commemorative

Bibles on sale

Light refreshments

Crèche

Clifton Chapel, Broad Street, Clifton  
Bedfordshire, SG17 5RJ

2.30 pm | **Saturday 28th October**



## Confession and Prayer for Church and Nation

See, gracious God, before Thy throne,  
Thy mourning people bend;  
'Tis on Thy sovereign grace alone  
Our humble hopes depend.

Tremendous judgments from Thy hand  
Thy dreadful power display;  
Yet mercy spares this guilty land,  
And still we live to pray.

Great God! And why is Britain spared?  
Ungrateful as we are;  
O make Thy awful warnings heard,  
While mercy cries, Forbear!

What numerous crimes increasing rise  
Through this apostate isle!  
What land as favoured of the skies,  
And yet what land so vile!

How changed, alas, are truths divine,  
For error, guilt and shame!  
What impious numbers, hold in sin,  
Disgrace the Christian name!

Regardless of Thy smile or frown,  
Their pleasures they require;  
And sink with gay indifference down  
To everlasting fire.

O turn us, turn us, mighty Lord,  
By Thy resistless grace;  
Then shall our hearts obey Thy word,  
And humbly seek Thy face;

Then, should insulting foes invade,  
We shall not sink in fear;  
Secure of never-failing aid,  
If God, our God, is near.

*Anne Steele*

**Christian Watch Annual Subscription (2017),**  
including UK postage - £10

**Dates for your diary:**

**Our Glorious Reformation**

An address by **Mr. Graham Chewter**

Clifton Chapel, Broad Street, Clifton, Beds., SG17 5R

**Saturday, 28 October at 2.30 pm**

(See Notice on Page 23)

**Christian Resources Exhibition**

Sandown Park, Portsmouth Road, Esher, KT10 9AJ

**17 – 19 October, 2017**

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



# CHRISTIAN WATCH

PO Box 2113  
Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY

[info@christianwatch.org.uk](mailto:info@christianwatch.org.uk)  
[www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk)