



# CHRISTIAN WATCH

Issue No. 12

**A Protestant Biblical Witness**

Nov/Dec 2017

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

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

*Mark 13:37*

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Dear Friends,

As we draw to the close of another year, I feel it is appropriate to comment on the state of our nation at this time. It could be said that a highly unpleasant revolution is taking place in our country. Let me just remind you of a couple of events from earlier in the year.

The Conservative M.P. for the Isle of Wight – Andrew Turner – was forced to stand down as Parliamentary candidate by the Conservative Central Office after stating that homosexuality was wrong and dangerous to society. The Labour election boss, Andrew Gwynne, said: *“There is no place for bigotry and hatred like this in modern society and no-one holding these views is fit for public office.”*

The National Union of Teachers felt emboldened at its 2017 Conference to pass a motion calling not just for more sex education, but for the active promotion of LGBT+ issues to all children, starting in nursery.

These are just two examples of many. **So exactly who are the bigots here?**

It seems to me that the elevation of LGBT+ rights to pole position over-rides the Christians’ right to free speech – and Christian believers are intimidated and bullied into towing the violently oppressive LGBT party line. We must pray that God will raise up His people to stand in the breach, as the animosity towards the Gospel in the UK gathers momentum and we face the threat of retaliation by the ‘politically correct’ Establishment. Where it can, the Establishment will take revenge on any who seek to uphold the teachings of the Bible.

In view of this we need to seriously consider some simple truths.

1. There has always been enmity toward the doctrines of the Gospel and its adherents. *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you”* (John 15:18). *“Marvel not, My brethren, if the world hate you”* (1 John 3:13). *“Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man’s sake”* (Luke 6:22).

2. It is that enmity which brought about the terrible persecution suffered by our forefathers. Whenever the Devil, the Prince of darkness, gets a stronghold on a nation, then he will seek to strangle the Gospel as Pharaoh sought to drown the Hebrew children and he will resist to the death any attempts to turn the nation to faith in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what happened in the times of “Bloody Mary” in England and the ‘killing times’ in Scotland. It is what is happening today in the United Kingdom!

Sadly, the lessons learned in those dark days of old and the fear of Popery that was engrained in the soul of this nation have begun to be expunged and forgotten under the seductive lies of ecumenical false prophets. Rome has changed, we are told, but Rome, the offspring of the Devil, cannot change. She can don a veil to hide her true

face but she cannot change her nature. Her filthiness is painted large for all to see in the innumerable cases of child molestation she has sought to conceal. The fools who believe the ecumenical lie will find this out to their cost!

3. We are seeing a return to the days when hatred of the Gospel dominates society. Today's descent into darkness started with the apostasy in the Protestant Churches. Pulpits became the fountain head of liberalism, modernism, Christ-denying and Bible-contradicting blasphemies. Where pulpits lead, Parliaments follow. Laws which were based upon the Word of God were overthrown or ignored. Immorality of every form has been endorsed and embraced throughout society. The result – increasing child abuse – disintegration of stable family relationships – tolerance for every form of wickedness. Such is the harvest of apostasy!

Of course, the full harvest has not yet ripened. Wicked men will indulge themselves in that from which they were once held back; then, when they have satisfied their appetites, they will turn their wrath on those who dare to witness against their sin. As with Stephen in the New Testament, we must display the spirit of Gospel grace – '*lay not this sin to their charge*' (Acts 7 v 54-60); which spirit was an echo of the Saviour on the cross – '*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do*' (Luke 23:34).

Let me quote from Matthew Henry in a comment he made on Psalm 12 – '*When the vilest men are exalted to places of trust and power (who, instead of putting the laws in execution against vice and injustice and punishing the wicked according to their merits, patronise and protect them, give them countenance and support their reputation by their own example), then the wicked walk on every side; they swarm in all places and go up and down seeking to deceive, debauch and destroy others; they are neither afraid nor ashamed to discover themselves; they declare their sin as Sodom and there is none to check or control them. Bad men are base men, the vilest of men, and they are so though they are ever so highly exalted in this world; but it is bad with a Kingdom when such are preferred; no marvel if wickedness then grows impudent and insolent. When the wicked rule, the people mourn.*'

How we thank God that He is still sovereign over all. May He grant a spirit of wrestling prayer amongst His people that the evil may be restrained, and the Gospel may still have free course in our nation.

We thank Him for His goodness and long suffering towards us as we come to the close of this great 500th Anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation and plead for His upholding mercy and grace in the coming year.

We wish you the compliments of the season and trust that the Lord will continue to bless you in 2018.

Yours in His service,

*Ian Henderson*

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

# Our Glorious Protestant Reformation

Public Meeting arranged by the  
**Trinitarian Bible Society (West Anglia  
Auxiliary)** and **Christian Watch**  
held at Clifton, Bedfordshire on  
Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.



Following an introduction to the Trinitarian Bible Society by Mr. Graham Hadley, Chairman of the TBS West Anglia Auxiliary and an introduction to Christian Watch by Mr. Ian Henderson, Vice-Chairman of Christian Watch, the Meeting opened with the singing of Martin Luther's hymn – *Come Holy Spirit, God and Lord*. A large congregation had gathered on this notable occasion as Mr. David Lawson (CW Committee Member) chaired the Meeting and invited Mr. Graham Chewter (TBS Deputation Speaker) to address those present.

Bible readings from Psalm 46 and Psalm 78 verses 1-11 were followed by an excellent exposition on the Protestant Reformation by Mr. Chewter who emphasised the mighty work of the Holy Spirit of God. He emphasised the need to understand the ways of God in history and to have a living faith in a living God.

The Protestant Reformation, he recalled,

was the most significant event since Pentecost. Prior to 1517, the worship of relics was prevalent, but it wasn't all darkness. Examples such as the Waldensians, John Wycliffe (the Morning Star of the Reformation who translated the Bible into English), Jerome of Prague (the means used by the Lord to save John Hus), the Renaissance (bringing a renewed interest in art and poetry), the Printing Press (Gutenberg) – all contributed to the river that flowed into the sea of the Reformation.

The Reformation began in three separate countries independently – Switzerland, Germany and England. In Switzerland, there were 13 States or Cantons that belonged to the Holy Roman Empire, but Ulrich Zwingli became a great preacher. In Germany, Martin Luther came to discover the awesome holiness of God and saw the corruptions of Rome, coming to discover that wonderful text in Romans 1 v 17 – the just shall live by faith. His 95 theses – the basis of debate amongst University students – was used by God to awaken people's concerns about matters spiritual. In England, Erasmus published the Textus Receptus – the Greek New Testament – and the first convert on reading the Greek New Testament was Thomas Bilney. William Tyndale was also converted by reading the Greek New Testament.

Mr. Chewter advised that Luther had some rough edges – the best of men are only men at best (Job 32 v 9), but John 3 v 16 was a comfort to his soul on his deathbed.

God then raised up another generation of Reformers – John Calvin and John

Knox amongst them and also the English Puritans, as well as Bishops Latimer and Ridley. Many died for their faith and Foxes Book of Martyrs recounts the cruelty of the Church of Rome during this period.

So, what is the legacy of the Protestant Reformation? The legacy was a bringing back of the people to the Word of God; education; democracy (no longer shackled to a corrupt system); the Bible's influence on poetry and music; the Protestant work ethic; legal reform and the primacy of preaching. Preach the Word! (2 Timothy 4 v 2).

The Meeting closed with a singing of Martin Luther's rousing hymn based on Psalm 46 – *A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing* – and an opportunity to enjoy fellowship and refreshments kindly provided by Clifton Chapel members.

*Praise God, from  
Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

By: Ian Henderson

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**The Address by Mr. Chewter is available  
to listen to or download on our website  
[www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk)**

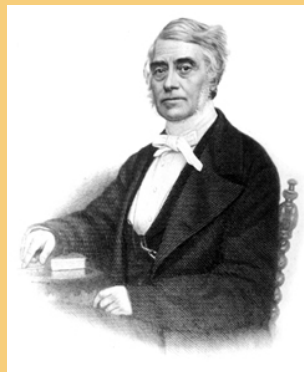
**CD copies are also available at £2  
(including P&P) from  
Christian Watch, PO Box 6526,  
Leamington Spa, CV31 9NL**

# The Reformation and 1688

*From: Sin and Salvation  
Selections from J. C. Philpot,  
Edited by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom*

We have often thought of the singular propriety of the expressions "The blessed Reformation" and "The Glorious Revolution of 1688." The Reformation was truly "blessed," as giving us an open Bible, a preached Gospel and a full deliverance from that long, dark night of Popish error which brooded over the land; and the Revolution was truly "glorious," as settling our civil and religious liberties on a firm basis, banishing tyranny from the throne and altar, and giving liberty of conscience to all; and all this without shedding one drop of human blood.

All that we are as a nation we owe, under God, to the blessed Reformation and the Glorious Revolution; and should England, misled by vile traitors in her bosom, ever prove false to the principles established by these two memorable epochs in her history, she will deserve a worse destiny than her worst enemies can imprecate against her.





# The Church is not a Safe Place

Over the past generation or two, we have seen a gradual sea-change in the types of questions or objections that people now hold regarding the Christian faith. These used to focus on things like the historicity of the resurrection, the authenticity of the New Testament text or the plausibility of miraculous claims in Scripture. Fewer people in our time are interested in denying miracles, but they will often object that Christianity is too exclusive, oppressive and intolerant or that it has an imperialist history with blood on its hands. Christianity doesn't 'virtue signal' in the right direction for modern sensibilities.

Christianity is thus deemed irrelevant, outmoded and untrue, not because there is a lack of evidence for the historical resurrection of Christ, but because Christians don't appear to advance 'tolerance,' 'equality,' 'social justice' or 'saving the planet' – reducing carbon footprints by any means, including abortion. Some Christians have felt so

overwhelmed or intimidated by the apparent force of these objections that they have either stopped witnessing to the truth of the Gospel or have been converted the other way, seeking to synthesise Christianity with the cultural religion of the age.

How is it that Christians have been caught so off-guard and flat-footed in our revolutionary times? Why has our witness been so muted and often ineffective? There are many things that could be said about this question, but one important answer is that, in general, Christian believers in the West have *lacked vigilance* and so neglected the development and defence of a *consistently Scriptural vision of reality* in the wake of our remarkable, historic success in evangelising and shaping Western cultural life. Because of this neglect, a humanistic moral narrative now dominates the public consciousness in which Christianity is often perceived as not simply untrue, but immoral.

In other words, we too readily assumed that broadly Christian norms would hold; that largely Christian categories of life and thought, established by centuries of tradition, would remain the religious pre-suppositions of society; that a robustly-developed Scriptural philosophy and cultural apologetic were *unnecessary* because Christian assumptions were now simply 'common sense' assumptions; that the task of evangelisation on our own shores was largely accomplished and the sacrifices of the past no longer necessary. Biblical laws were really 'natural laws' – surely agreed upon by all 'civilised' people – and the Christian view of life and truth, liberty and justice



— Peter Hitchens

was, in fact, an essentially neutral perspective accepted by every 'rational' state in terms of God's common grace. In short, we thought that as a culture, we had already accepted broadly Christian ideas, and so we need no longer contend for a society marked by Christian distinctives or explicitly directed by Biblical revelation. In the insightful words of Peter Hitchens:

*It was the triumph of the Christian religion that for many centuries it managed to become the unreasoning assumption of almost all, built into every spoken and written word, every song and every building. It was the disaster of the Christian religion that it assumed this triumph would last forever and out-last everything, and so it was ill- equipped to resist the challenge of a rival when it came, in this, the century of the self. The Christian religion had no idea that a new power, which I call selfism, would arise; and, having arisen, selfism has easily shouldered its rival aside. In free competition, how can a faith based upon self-restraint and patience compete with one that pardons, unconditionally and in advance, all the self-indulgences you can think of, and some you cannot? <sup>(1)</sup>*

In the face of what Hitchens here memorably calls selfism, where every man is his own god (Gen. 3:5), we have quickly capitulated, our witness dying out with a whimper. The principle here is that, once you have self-consciously abdicated the Lordship of Jesus Christ in one sphere of life, you will eventually surrender your witness to it everywhere else.

With all moral restraint cast to the wind, who can resist? First, we *gradually withdrew* further and further from faithful witness as unbelieving culture makers

began meddling in the fields of family, education, law, politics, art and every other cultural sphere. We wanted to believe that the 'neutral' status quo gave



### — Family

us a pretty good social order. Soon thereafter we began justifying our abandonment of a distinctly Christian vision for life in the world altogether and retreated into the four walls of the Church; but even there, many began claiming that surrender, synthesis or compromise with the new religious power was the better part of valour for the 'survival' of the faith – a faith that by this point had become radically altered and increasingly unrecognisable.

In a damning display of irony, it so happened that with the collapse of our Biblical witness – the various spheres of culture effectively abandoned – and the Christian's life in the world dominated by a secular vision, the Church itself soon became radically politicised, so that challenging the Christian in the pew about the issues of life that matter most has come to be considered to be offensive and unacceptable. To witness faithfully regarding beginning and end of life issues, Biblical marriage, sexuality, family, education, law, political and cultural life etc. in terms of the light of God's Word is seen by many as a violation of Church-State separation, an



invasion of privacy, or a political offence, as though the Church were a 'safe space' to escape the convicting voice of God Himself; and so, Pastors and their pulpits *bend* to what their people want to hear. But, *'has not the greatest danger always been that those charged with the duty of preaching the steep and rugged pathway persuade themselves that weakness is compassion, and that sin can be cured at a clinic, or soothed with a pill? And so, falsehood flourishes in great power, like the green bay tree.'* (2)

Compromising the Word of God in any area by bending to the desires of sinful man is never a wise or fruitful course – it can only lead to judgment and decline. The shadows have been lengthening on the Church in the West because we have been deluded into thinking that the Church is a 'safe space' from the demands and judgments of God Himself. Nothing could be further from the truth. Neither God's Church nor His world are a 'safe space' where we can be insulated from the powerful, convicting, and commanding Word of God. That word impinges on us at every turn. If we despise it, let us remember that ***'the time is come that judgment must begin at the House of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God'*** (1 Peter 4:17).

By: Joe Boot  
Wilberforce Academy Director  
*Slightly Abbreviated*

Article on the Christian Concern website,  
**[www.christianconcern.com](http://www.christianconcern.com)**

<sup>1</sup>Peter Hitchens, 'The Fantasy of Addiction,' *First Things*, last modified February, 2017, <https://firstthings.com/article/2017/02/the-fantasy-of-addiction>.

<sup>2</sup>Hitchens, 'The Fantasy of Addiction.'

## Kensit Memorial Trust Resolution – passed at the Trust AGM:

"This meeting gives thanks to Almighty God for the Protestant Reformation and the Gospel benefits we still enjoy because of it. Acknowledging the general lack of interest in, and concern for, Biblical Protestantism in our day, this Meeting calls on the historic Protestant Churches of our United Kingdom to learn again our common legacy in the Gospel of grace to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to oppose the unbiblical and compromised nature of the Ecumenical Movement."

(The Kensit Memorial Trust was established in honour of John Kensit, who, in 1889 founded the Protestant Truth Society.)



# The unspeakable evil of promoting 'Transgender Ideology in Schools'

Here is how one newspaper reported a recent controversy about this appalling issue.

*"A Christian family is preparing to sue their son's Church of England school after boys were allowed to come to class wearing dresses.*

*Nigel Rowe, 44, and his wife Sally, 42, removed their six-year-old son from the unnamed school after a male classmate was allowed to attend the primary school in a dress.*

*They intend to educate him at home on the Isle of Wight alongside his eight-year-old brother. The older boy was pulled from the same school - which has a uniform - a year ago, when a boy in his class also started wearing dresses.*

*The couple are going to mount a legal challenge against the school, arguing it has not respected their rights to raise their children in line with Biblical values. One option open to the couple is a judicial review at the High Court, which could have wide-reaching implications for schools' responsibilities to transgender pupils.*

*Mr Rowe told The Sunday Times: 'A child aged six would sometimes come to school as a girl or sometimes come to school as a boy.*

*We believe it is wrong to encourage very young children to embrace transgenderism; boys are boys and girls are girls. Our concerns were raised when our son came back home from school*

*saying he was confused as to why and how a boy was now a girl. We believe it is wrong to encourage very young children to embrace transgenderism; boys are boys and girls are girls."*

— Daily Telegraph, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**1. Here is an evil** which the most devout Bible believer, embracing the truth of the Holy Scriptures regarding the world's decline into wickedness in the last days, did not conceive of as possible!

Yes, we are clearly warned of the increase of sin as this age draws to a close, with the judgment of God following upon it at Christ's return; but no Christian could, I believe, imagine such wickedness as we see today breaking forth!

Yes, the Saviour's words clearly warned us of great depravity manifesting itself before His return and we have long believed them. "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from Heaven, and destroyed *them* all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:28-30).

But what is happening today was beyond our understanding of what His words meant! Society is sinking further than any of us could really have envisaged.



**2. What further iniquities** lie beneath the surface of the heart and mind of our society? The happenings of today, accepted by legislators and the general public alike, were utterly unknown, unthought of, in my generation's youth! Yet we have moved into this most dreadful maelstrom of degeneracy and that so quickly. The havoc the world has looked upon in the path of the hurricanes that wreaked havoc in the Caribbean islands and the US southern coast is a picture, in a small measure, of the moral carnage that is sweeping over our land today. What a dreadful aftermath of pain and suffering will follow society's welcoming of these 'winds of change'!

**3. What is especially appalling** is that this depravity involves children.

The 'gender confusion' that people speak of is, I believe, the invention of perverted adults who have their own wicked agenda to pursue. Children will be the victims of this 'second level' of child abuse!

We have heard of those African terrorist gangs of the Boko Haram of Nigeria, who took captive young girls and subjected them to unspeakable abuse. Surely their crimes were almost minor in comparison to the parents engaged in these acts here in the United Kingdom?

God's terrible judgment fell upon the Israelites who abused their children in the fires of Molech. "And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane My Holy Name" (Leviticus 20:3). The judgment here threatened fell upon those guilty of such crimes against the innocent children. "And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through *the fire* unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin. And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the King of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence" (Jeremiah 32:35-36).

I cannot but believe that a similar display of God's wrath and judgment will befall our land because of such iniquity being permitted and encouraged.

**4. Reaction to the protest of the parents** mentioned in the above newspaper article sends a further chill to the heart of the Christian.



Here is the headline from an article in the “Daily Mail” of September 16th, 2017. *“Labelled bigots for protecting our child’s innocence: Upset by their son’s confusion when a six-year-old classmate changed gender, they took him out of school. Little did they know the hatred it would unleash.”*



The “Daily Mail” is not a newspaper I would commend because of its tendency to publish indecent articles but, in this case, it has highlighted the dreadful reaction from high and low to the stand taken by these parents.

Part of the article read: *“To witness the vilification of Christian parents Nigel and Sally Rowe this week, you’d have thought they’d not just broken each and every one of the Ten Commandments, but hurled Moses’ stone tablet from the silenced bell tower of Big Ben as well.”*

Take the BBC’s Victoria Derbyshire show, during which their religious ideals were said to be ‘as extremist as people like ISIS’; or This Morning’s Phillip Schofield, who hectoring them: ‘You are the ones with the problem.’

Their problem? To voice concern about their six-year-old son’s ‘confusion’ when a classmate began turning up to his Church of England Primary School asking to be treated as a girl one day

and a boy the next, which flew in the face of the family’s Christian beliefs.

The school responded with a letter defending its approach on pupils ‘exploring their gender’ and warning how ‘incredibly seriously’ it would take any ‘transphobic behaviour’, such as the failure ‘to use [the pupil’s] adopted name or using gender inappropriate pronouns’.

This is where society is heading. The writer of this “Daily Mail” article, one Rebecca Hardy, does not really voice the views of society. It may well be true that the majority of people would have little sympathy for those promoting this ‘gender confusion’, but they are not concerned enough to voice any protest or engage in any form of support for the protesting parents. That is because they count other things more important, having little or no idea of the immorality involved in such developments, because this United Kingdom is largely bereft of the teaching of the Bible. Even where it is preached, sadly, the fear of an adverse reaction to bold Biblical preaching keeps all too many preachers largely silent or, at the best, evasive and prevaricating in their comments.

Oh, this ought not to be so!

Hear God’s command to His prophets as He addressed Isaiah. “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1).

How sad when a nation is blighted as was Israel in former times. “His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they

cannot bark; sleeping, lying down,  
loving to slumber” (Isaiah 56:10).

What a clamour of protests the pulpits  
of Bible-believing Churches should be  
making, but where is that noise?

“I have preached righteousness in the  
great congregation: lo, I have not  
refrained my lips, O LORD, thou  
knowest” (Psalm 40:9).

May the words of the Psalmist be the  
testimony of more and more of God’s  
servants in the face of the rising tide of  
Hell’s impurities!

By: Rev. Ivan Foster  
Minister (Retired) of Kilskeery Free  
Presbyterian Church of Ulster

16th September, 2017



— Nigel and Sally Rowe

“

So God created man  
in His own image, in  
the image of God  
created He him; male  
and female created  
He them.

— Genesis 1:27

”



# Be Strong in the Lord, and in the Power of His Might

Dear Sir,

There is always an alternative with God. Every man should be challenging today's culture according to the gifts he has received.

Lord, what wouldst Thou have me to do?

I don't believe it is our responsibility to second guess the Almighty. Our responsibility is to be faithful and to obey. Duties are ours, events are the Lord's – as dear Samuel Rutherford once said.

We are in a climate and culture of overwhelming rejection of God. It is too easy to stand back and say: "We can do nothing! It wouldn't work!" We excuse ourselves because we can't see God in this picture! There is no point in martyring ourselves when the time and circumstances are not conducive. We will keep our powder dry until...until!!!

I refute every attempt to downplay the Christian's part in the darkest of days. If not now, when?

How can we possibly know that God will not turn a nation through the raising up of one man filled with the Holy Spirit, if we don't lay everything at His feet and try.

Many may fall and be trampled into the ground but that is only another reason why many should try, not an excuse to give up. God may advance some whilst others will be the stepping stones upon which they will walk. So be it. Who will say to the most High, "What doest Thou?" Let us willingly give our back to

the smiters if it will further His cause and His Kingdom.

Hath He not said: "Gird up thy loins... Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might...The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits...Scatter thou the people that delight in war...The King's business required haste...Occupy till I come... Fear not, neither be afraid...Stir up the gift of God which is in you...God has not given us a spirit of fear...I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

"As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me; as my strength was then, even so is my strength now for war, both to go out and to come in. Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for they heardst in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be that the Lord will be with me, then shall I be able to drive them out as the Lord said" (Joshua 14:11-12).

Our gifts vary greatly – thankfully; but we are not excused by our much or our little. All is part of God's great plan and must be incorporated into the whole. The withholding of any one part may be the difference between God giving good success or utter failure. God values every single one of His people and has given them gifts according to the need and the times. Now He says again – 'Where art thou, Adam?'

“Caleb...to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon and to his children because **he hath wholly followed the Lord**” (Deut. 1:36).

Quote: A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of Government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilisations from the beginning of history has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

From bondage to spiritual faith  
Faith to great courage  
Courage to liberty  
Liberty to abundance  
Abundance to complacency  
Complacency to selfishness  
Selfishness to apathy  
Apathy to dependency  
Dependency back again to bondage.  
End quote. ([https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Alexander\\_Fraser\\_Tytler](https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Alexander_Fraser_Tytler))

I fear we are in the apathy/dependency/bondage stage once again.

“Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the King's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether

holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the Kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:13-14).

Man says: “Whither shall we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to Heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there” (Deut. 1:28).

God says: “The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan! Let us be up and doing.”

God has never in the history of the world required men to look to the world for deliverance rather than to Him because our expectations are so low and our faith so weak. Is anything too hard for the Lord?

“And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do” (Acts 9:6).

If we are Christ's we have nothing to lose as we are already inheritors of all. All that can be taken from us we should already count as dung.

Do you know this God of whom I speak? He never changes. He has given His only begotten Son for us – He requires all from us.

This is my God. Is He yours?

Letter by: Susan Wallace (CW Member)  
First appeared in English Churchman  
27 October/3 November issue.

**The Mass** – By Dr. Napier Malcolm, Editor, British Church Newspaper  
- ‘In our opinion’ section, 10 November, 2017

We read that the Archbishop of Canterbury attended a Mass conducted by Cardinal Nichols in Westminster Roman Catholic Cathedral but was not, of course, allowed to partake. With tears in his eyes he blames the Reformation and says the problem is lack of love.

We would like to know how often the Cardinal has tried to take Communion in the Church of England. It is not the Reformation but Rome that is responsible for the barrier.

The English Reformers rightly said:

*“The offering of Christ once made is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction, for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin, but that alone. Wherefore the sacrifices of Masses, in the which it was commonly said, that the Priest did offer Christ for the quick and the dead, to have remission of pain or guilt, were blasphemous fables, and dangerous deceits.”* (Article XXXI)



The Protestant Lord's Supper and the Roman Mass are utterly irreconcilable. The gap is nothing to do with love. Welby should go over to Rome if he is so desirous of taking part in the Mass, pretending to make Christ, repeating Christ's once for all sacrifice, bowing down to worship wafers and wine, giving to them the honour due only to God and saving his soul by religious good works.

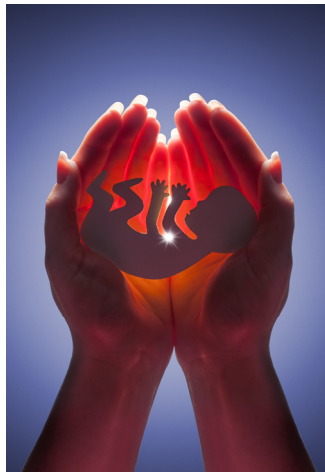
The language of the Reformers was not too strong. It was a warning to the people. Love is not just saying the nice things people want to hear. “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful” Proverbs 27:6.

## **The God of Judgement** – Comment by Rev. D.W.B. Somerset in Free Presbyterian Magazine, October, 2017

The people of God are often impatient for judgement. In Revelation, the martyrs are seen crying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, doest Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (6:10). The Lord, on the other hand is patient. He is “long suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). Nevertheless, He does judge, though His judgments may be long delayed.

We may not live to see the judgments on the present generation of ungodly leaders in Britain, but there is a former generation passing into eternity whose works are finally catching up with them. The generation that endorsed Lady Chatterley’s Lover and subsequent obscene publications, that abolished the death penalty for murder and that legalised abortion and homosexuality, is being gradually summoned into the presence of God. Many have died already but others are still alive. They have lived to see the resulting flood of obscenity, the most flagrant terrorists and murderers escaping their deserts, the millions of abortions and the ordination and marriage of homosexuals.

Perhaps some of them have realised the error of what they did, while others have brazenly hardened their consciences. Along with their other sins, they will be confronted in eternity with this: that they chose to support these evils, not in the debauched society of the present day but in the relatively sober and church-going society of 50 or 60 years ago, with all the light that was still shining at that stage. They sowed the wind and they will now reap the whirlwind, if eternity finds them without Christ. (Hos. 8:7).



“Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the  
LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him.  
— Deuteronomy 8:6

”

## **First Christian-Confucian Dialogue**

British Church Newspaper, 10 November, 2017

The World Council of Churches has initiated the first ever Christian-Confucian dialogue.

Dr. Rajkumar who helped to organise the dialogue in South Korea on 27-31 October, said, "I am confident that what we undertook was an important step. As the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu reminds us 'the journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step'. In many ways, therefore, we took those first steps to a future that I am confident holds in it the promise of peace and partnership for a better world ....a world in which members of different religious communities will discover that religions are not fortresses to be defended but are well-springs for the flourishing of all life."



Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, sent his greetings on this historic occasion. He added: "We are convinced that things can be changed because Confucius and Jesus as well as their true followers have done so in the course of human history. Today, it is up to us to re-discover our respective spiritual treasures in order to bring a new hope to our world."

## **Vatican City - Married Priests – The Week, 4 November, 2017**

In a controversial move likely to outrage traditionalists, Pope Francis has floated the idea of allowing married men in the Amazon region of Brazil to become priests – overturning centuries of Roman Catholic doctrine.

According to Italian media, citing Vatican sources, the Pontiff has requested that a debate on the issue





be put on to the Agenda of a Synod in Rome in 2019, opening up the issue for a global Synod due to be held in Australia in 2020. A partial lifting of the requirement for priestly celibacy has been suggested by a Brazilian Cardinal, Claudio Hummes, who has warned that a desperate shortage of priests in the Amazon has resulted in Catholicism being displaced by Evangelical and pagan groups. Francis said earlier this year that the Church should consider allowing married priests in specific circumstances.

### **Church of Sweden Tells Clergy to Use Gender-Neutral Pronouns for God** By Stoyan Zaimov, Christian Post Reporter – 24 November, 2017

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden has told clergy that they need to start using gender-neutral language when referring to God and avoid masculine terms such as ‘He’ and ‘Lord’.

The Associated Press reported on Friday that the guidance was issued in an update to the Church’s handbook that deals with terms of language, liturgy, hymns and other aspects.

Archbishop Antje Jackelen, who heads the former State Church explained that there had been internal discussions for clergy to start using more inclusive language as far back as 1986. “Theologically, we know that God is beyond our gender determinations, God is not human,” Jackelen asserted.



— **Archbishop Antje Jackelen**

Critics, such as Christer Pahlmblad, an associate theology professor at Sweden’s Lund University, told Denmark’s Kristeligt Dagblad newspaper, however, that such a direction will “undermine the doctrine of the Trinity and the community with other Christian Churches.”

*Abbreviated*

“

Help, Lord; for the Godly man ceaseth; for the faithful  
fail among the children of men. - Psalm 12:1

”

# “Set your affection on things above.”

If we are, indeed, believers in Christ and partakers of the power of His resurrection, we are bound by obligation and required by our rule, to set our affections on the things that are above, not on the things on the earth. He has called us out of the world and cautioned us against conformity to its spirit.

While we are in the world, it is our duty, privilege and honour to manifest that grace which has delivered us from the love of it. Christians must indeed eat and drink and may buy and sell, as other people do; but the principles, motives and ends of their conduct are entirely different. They are to adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour and do all for His glory. By His wisdom and providence, He places them in different situations, that the power and sufficiency of His grace may appear under a great variety of outward circumstance... Whether they are rich or poor, bond or free, they are so by His appointment; with which if they cheerfully comply, they shall, in due time, be sensible that He chooses better for them, than they could have chosen for themselves.

The language of faith, when in exercise, will not be, ‘What is most conducive to my temporal ease and prosperity?’ but ‘What will give me the fairest opportunity of glorifying Him, who has bought me with His blood and called me out of darkness into His marvellous light? Too much of my time has already been wasted: how shall I improve the little uncertain remainder for His service?

I am too short-sighted to judge for myself, but He has thus far determined it. I am where He has placed me; and the calling in which His mercy found me, (if it be a lawful one,) is that in which, for the present, I am to abide, as the best for me. When it ceases to be so, I may depend upon Him to appoint me another. But, till then, I desire to be contented with such things as I have and to be thankful for them.

He knows my frame, my feelings, my wants and my trials; He permits, yea, invites me to cast all my care upon Him; He assures me that He careth for me and, therefore, I only wish to do or to suffer according to His will today and to leave the concerns of tomorrow in His hands. While I live, may I live for Him; and when I die, may I go to Him! May His grace be sufficient for me and all shall be well.

From: **Jewels from John Newton**  
Daily Readings from the  
Works of John Newton

Selected by **Miller Ferrie** - *On Covetousness*



# C.R.E. Exhibition at Sandown in Esher

After two years at ExCel in Docklands, East London, the Christian Resources Exhibition returned to Sandown in Esher in October, 2017. We were privileged to have the opportunity to proclaim the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in literature, Bible distribution, childrens' colouring books and Calendars for 2018 as well as displaying and distributing 10 Commandment posters and many other items of interest, relevant to the days in which we live. There was undoubtedly a greater hunger and thirst for the Word of God than we have experienced previously, and we give God all the glory.



The Christian Watch stall was also significantly busier than in previous years, enjoying continuous enquiries throughout the three days and we enjoyed many spiritual conversations. It was felt that we were an influence for good to those who engaged with us as many Christians today have real concerns as to the direction the Churches are going in and it was good to have the opportunity to encourage each other.

Our stall joined forces with the Sussex Martyrs Commemoration Council (a Council that looks after Martyrs' Memorials throughout Sussex) and who have produced a roll of honour of those who suffered martyrdom for their faith and the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 banners were on display at the rear of the stall depicting John Hus, Martin Luther and William Tyndale and we give God thanks for the glorious Protestant Reformation and the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Church door at Wittenberg on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1517, which changed the course of world history.

The Lord was with us – watching over us – and we count it a privilege to stand for Him in the public arena.

**“Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross.”**

By Marcus Brockes (CW Committee Member)

# Christ's Incarnation

Christ became incarnate or, which is the same thing, became man, to put Himself in a capacity for working out our redemption. For though Christ as God was infinitely sufficient for the work, yet to His being in an immediate capacity for it, it was needful that He should not only be God, but man. If Christ had remained only in the Divine nature, He would not have been in a capacity to have obtained our salvation; not from any imperfection of the Divine nature, but by reason of its absolute and infinite perfection: for Christ, merely as God, was not capable either of that obedience or suffering that was needful.

The Divine nature is not capable of *suffering*; for it is infinitely above all suffering; neither is it capable of *obedience* to that law which was given to man. It is as impossible that One, who is only God, should obey the law that was given to man, as it is that He should suffer man's punishment.

And it was necessary not only that Christ should take upon Him a *created* nature, but that He should take upon Him *our* nature. *It would not have sufficed for Christ to have become an angel and to have obeyed and suffered in the angelic nature.* But it was necessary that He should become a *man*, upon three accounts:

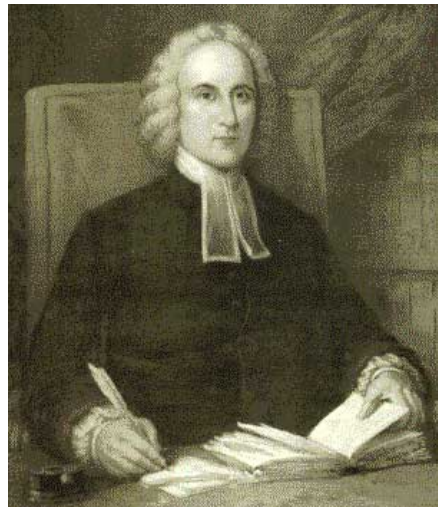
**1. *It was needful in order to answer the law, that the very nature to which the law was given, should obey it.*** Man's law could not be answered but by being obeyed by man. God insisted upon it that the law which He had given to man shall be honoured and fulfilled by the nature of man, otherwise the law could

not be answered for men. The words, "Thou shalt not eat thereof," etc., were spoken to the race of mankind, to the human nature; and therefore, the human nature must fulfil them.

**2. *It was needful to answer the law that the nature that sinned should die.*** These words, "Thou shalt surely die," respect the human nature. The same nature to which the command was given was that to which the threatening was directed.

**3. *God saw meet that the same world which was the stage of man's fall and ruin should also be the stage of his redemption.*** We read often of His coming into the world to save sinners and of God's sending Him into the world for this purpose. It was needful that He should come into this sinful, miserable, undone world in order to restore and save it. For man's recovery, it was needful that He should come down to man, to man's proper habitation, and that He should tabernacle with us: **"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."**

From: Jonathan Edwards (1703—1758)



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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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Please note our new PO Box number:

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### **EXTRACT FROM A YEAR END CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE EDITOR 'THE SOWER' MAGAZINE 1883**

Dear Friends,

Another year is fast closing upon us, and, as it dies away, may we who know the Lord's mercy, sing, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us"? Notwithstanding all our sins of omission and commission, our heart-backslidings and unfruitfulness, He has verified His word of promise, "As thy days so shall thy strength be." May His faithfulness and love in times past be so remembered by us that our hearts may be softened and humbled before Him, while, as penitents, we confess our sins, and pray for pardoning grace and for closer communion with Jesus, our living Head. Is not the feeling of many a heart among those who read our pages well expressed in the words of the poet, "Oh, could I know and love Him more"? The Lord grant that this desire may burn still stronger in each breast, and grant that we may be favoured with more constant fellowship with the Son of God, as we travel through this sinful world, till we shall leave all that hinders and troubles us below, and rise to dwell with Him whom now we, unseen, love and adore, in the home He has gone to prepare.

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





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