

# CHRISTIAN WATCH

Issue No. 15

A Protestant Biblical Witness

May/June 2018



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

*Mark 13:37*



**Christian Watch Annual Subscription (2018),**  
including UK postage - **£10**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

---

**30 August 2018**

Buckinghamshire County Show  
Weedon Park, Aylesbury

**4 October 2018, 7.30pm**

Christian Watch Annual Meeting, Holywell Evangelical  
Church, Halkyn Street, Holywell, CH8 7TX  
Speaker: Rev. John Thackway

**16 – 18 October 2018**

CRE International Exhibition, Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey

## **THE TWO NATURES**

A well-known missionary tells us of a poor African woman who once said to him, groaning heavily, that she had two hearts, a new and an old and they were so constantly contending, the one saying, "Come to Jesus," the other saying, "Stay away" – the one bidding her do good and the other bidding her do evil – that she knew not what to do. He read to her the seventh chapter of the Romans and showed that the Apostle felt the same things. When he came to the verse, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? She said, "Ah! Massa, that me and me know not what to do;" and when he afterwards added the words, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" and explained them, she burst into tears of grateful joy. What comforted her may well comfort all similarly tempted and sorrowing ones.

**By: Robert MacDonald**  
From: The Sower, 1883

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

## **IN THIS NEWSLETTER:**

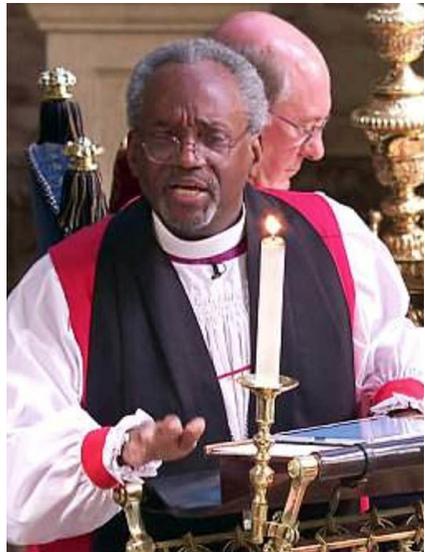
---

The Two Natures	2
Letter from the Vice-Chairman	4
This is what Evil looks like	7
The Christian Life compared to a Race	10
Strength to Fight	17
News and Current Affairs	19
A Disciple	24
Prayer	25
Report on CW Stand at the South of England Agricultural Show	26
The Best of Friends	27

*Dear Friends,*

Some months ago, I wrote that ‘dark days and tough times are nothing new to the Church of Christ.’ As I compile this letter, many subjects come to mind – LGBT, same-sex marriage, abortion, the Royal wedding, immigration, Brexit, women in the Ministry – to name but a few – and it would appear that in today’s society, the Devil is rampant. However, the Word of God is clear that we, as believers, are here “*for such a time as this*” (Esther 4:14) and we have that wonderful assurance in Deuteronomy 4:39 which states “*know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord He is God in Heaven above, and upon the earth beneath; there is none else.*”

As thousands, indeed - millions, all over the world tuned in for the wedding between Prince Harry and Megan Markle, it transpired that the event was not only compelling viewing, but it demonstrated all too clearly the decline of the Christian Church in the 21st century. Michael Curry – the Primate of the Episcopal Church of the USA – a Church rejected by the Anglican Church world-wide over the issue of gay ‘marriage’ – does not promote ‘love’ which is peaceful and tolerant, but a ‘love’ which is violent and which rejects all those who refuse to embrace LGBT clergy and LGBT ‘marriages’. In fact, both Prince Harry and Megan Markle have now been appointed Youth Ambassadors for the Commonwealth, in which capacity they intend to promote LGBT issues which overturn both family and Church structures. How long, one may ask, before a member of the Royal family walks in a ‘Gay Pride’ parade through one of our major cities? (See the News Item on Page 21).



The teaching profession is under attack. Currently, the Government is consulting on new guidelines for Ofsted, stating that 'it will be a breach of the school standards if a school curriculum suggests that same-sex marriages or civil partnerships should not be recognised as being lawful unions under civil law'. Children will be indoctrinated from a young age and teachers could easily fall foul of the law as politically-correct Whitehall bureaucrats attack supporters of traditional marriage. There was once a day when schools concentrated on the 3 Rs – once thought to be the subjects that children ought to learn.

You may have watched with abject horror and dismay the scenes in Southern Ireland recently when two-thirds of the population voted for babies to be torn to pieces limb from limb, simply because of people refusing to take responsibility for the choices they have already made. They do not seem to care that by their action it has effectively delivered a death sentence on a significant percentage of its potential population. Actions of this nature are the inevitable consequence of secularisation. As belief in God and awareness of His Word declines, so does resistance to abortion laws. The Bible makes it very plain – God considers even the deliberate abandonment of one's child as an extreme example of heartlessness (Isaiah 49:15) and does not distinguish between the value of the child in the womb and the child who has made it into the world, using exactly the same word to describe both (see Luke 1:41 & 44 and Luke 18:15). The Prime Minister has so far remained steadfast regarding Northern Ireland, but the pressure is on. It is estimated that around 100,000 people are alive in Northern Ireland today who would otherwise have been aborted had it been legal to do so. (See the article on Page 7 – This is what Evil looks like).

Brexit continues to dominate the headlines – 2 years after that notable referendum result on 23rd June, 2016 – and the Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken. I quote – 'The European Union is the greatest dream realised for human beings for the past 1500 years. The European Union ranks as the greatest achievement since the fall of the western Roman Empire in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.' So now you know! It really

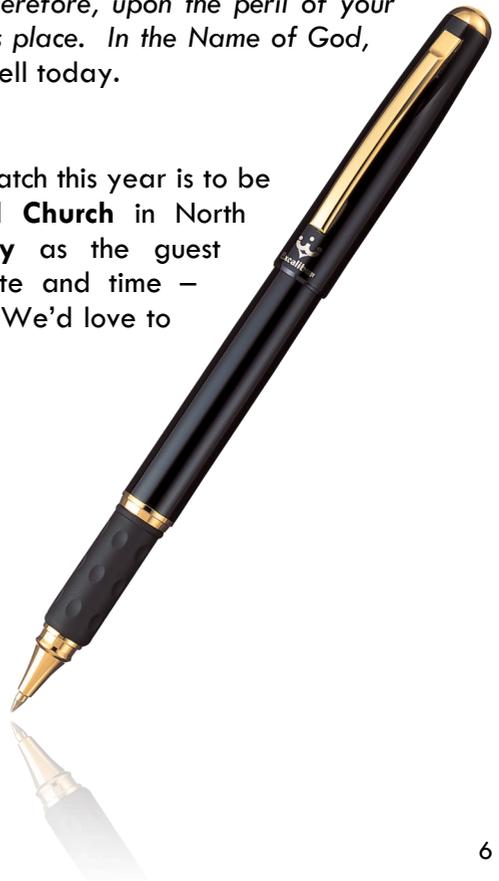
needs no comment from me. However, I will allow Oliver Cromwell to have the last word as he comments on politicians on all sides who were doing their utmost to thwart the will of the people in 1653 – *‘It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place, which you have dishonoured by your contempt of all virtue and defiled by your practice of every vice. Ye are a factious crew and enemies to all good government. Ye are a pack of mercenary wretches and would, like Esau, sell your country for a mess of pottage and, like Judas, betray your God for a few pieces of money. Is there a single virtue now remaining amongst you? Is there one vice you do not possess? Ye have no more religion than my horse. Gold is your god. Which of you have not bartered your conscience for bribes? Is there a man amongst you that has the least care for the good of the Commonwealth? Ye sordid prostitutes – have you not defiled this sacred place and turned the Lord’s temple into a den of thieves by your immoral principles and wicked practices? Ye are grown intolerably odious to the whole nation. You were deputed here by the people to get grievances redressed but are yourselves become the greatest grievance. I command you therefore, upon the peril of your lives, to depart immediately out of this place. In the Name of God, go.’* We need another Oliver Cromwell today.

**The Annual Meeting** for Christian Watch this year is to be held (DV) in **Holywell Evangelical Church** in North Wales, with **Rev. John Thackway** as the guest speaker. Make a note of the date and time – **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m.** We’d love to see you there.

Every blessing,

*Ian Henderson*

Ian R. Henderson  
(Vice-Chairman)



# THIS IS WHAT EVIL LOOKS LIKE

**By: Bill Meuhlenberg**  
CultureWatch

If you want to know what pure and unadulterated evil looks like, one can simply look at the pictures of the crowds going ecstatic on Irish streets the other day. Of course, one need not single out Ireland and their recent vote to officially sanction baby-killing. Plenty of other countries have done the same over the years but seeing the crowds on the streets cheering and celebrating and going in a frenzy when the result of the vote was announced is enough to make anyone cry – at least anyone who still has a heart. I could not help but think of a similar situation where the masses went wild, also with blood on their hands.

The crowds cheered when Jesus was publicly condemned to death. In Ireland the crowds cheered when babies were publicly condemned to death. We have the same demons behind it all. Celebrating death is always evil, the same demonic spirits are involved.

Some 2000 years ago the crowds had shouted for the release of Barabbas. Pilate had offered to let the innocent Jesus go, but the crowds insisted that the criminal Barabbas be released instead and Jesus be put to death (John 18:38-40).



It is no different to what we find in Ireland and elsewhere. The crowds said, "Give us sex – sex without responsibility, sex without consequences, sex without morality." So, they went with sex and said it will be the babies who must be put to death. Once again, a guilty sinner is favoured while the innocent are made to suffer and die. It is the same immoral and ungodly spirit of death. It is the same demonic hatred of life on display in Ireland, just as it was back in Jerusalem.

And God and life always go together, just as Satan and death always go together. Recall what we find in Proverbs 8:36: "All they that hate me [God] love death". And Jesus said much the same in John 10:10: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

With God there is life, with Satan there is death. You choose. Who are you siding with here? We expect non-Christians to run with death and destruction, but it should not be so with those who claim to be God's people. Yet here we had a supposedly Catholic-majority country siding with death and the Devil.

How do we account for this? It is simple really: these folks are NOT Christians. They cannot be. No real follower of Christ can declare black to be white and sin to be virtue.

Long ago the prophet Isaiah put it this way: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20).

There are plenty of Protestants who also are deceiving themselves. When rock stars and celebrities tell us they are Christians and they support baby-killing, you have a clear case of fake Christians running with fake news.

It may seem a bit harsh to modern ears – and to namby-pamby Christian ears – to speak of the culture of death and the demonic; but the two go together hand in hand and they both accurately describe the pro-abortion worldview and sentiment.

One simply has to look at what the pro-death camps say in public. Consider just a few diabolical banners proudly held up by pro-death demonstrators at pro-life rallies. Back in San Francisco in 2011 some pro-abortionists held up a large banner with these words: "If Mary had had an abortion we wouldn't be in this mess." Once again we see the hatred of God fully coupled with the hatred of life.

And when pure evil is embraced and championed, the mind becomes darkened. As we read in Romans 1: 21-22 - "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but

became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”

Consider a few examples of this. At another pro-life rally I attended, one pro-death protestor held up a sign with the words, “Legal abortion saves lives”. Talk about Orwellian doublespeak. Talk about believing a lie. So legal baby killing saves lives? Try telling that to all the dead babies.

Another sign proudly held up said this: “I had an abortion because I chose life.” Yes, she actually said that. This is now a case of where white has become black and the mind has turned to mush. To say such things with a straight face demonstrates both mental and moral degeneration and death.

And we even saw on the news reports pro-death marchers in Ireland carrying their toddlers with them! One Irish repeal advocate had this sign held high: “For our

daughters: YES. Repeal the 8<sup>th</sup>.” Um, which daughters? The ones who are killed, or the ones who escape the death sentence?

Today we are without question in an all-out war. It is a conflict of cosmic proportions between good and evil, between God and the Devil, between life and death, between right and wrong. There can be no sitting on the fence here. You are either in one camp or the other.

It is your choice. As God told Moses in Deuteronomy 30:19, “I call Heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”

Or as Joshua told the Israelites, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Josh. 24:15). We all must decide: will we choose God and life, or Satan and death? There is no middle ground here. As Jesus said, you are either for me or against me.



# THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMPARED TO A RACE

**By: John Newton**

*The Works of John Newton, Vol. 2*

**“So run, that ye may obtain.”**

1 Corinthians 9:24

The Scriptures teach us to derive profitable lessons from common occurrences: and since we cannot avoid seeing and hearing the vanities of those who know not God, unless we would go wholly out of the world, we may learn some instruction from them at a distance. The country of Greece, and especially the neighbourhood of Corinth, was famous for trials of skill in a variety of exercises, such as racing, wrestling, fighting, and the like. And because the children of the world are very wise in their generation and spare no pains to accomplish the point they have in view, the Apostle would stir up believers to diligence from their example; and therefore, in several places, compares the Christian life to one or other of the contests which were managed in the public games

and here, particularly to a race. In those ancient races much solemnity was observed. The ground or course was exactly marked out; those who were to run went through a strict regime and exercise beforehand; a vast concourse of people were assembled as spectators; authorised judges were appointed to award the prize, which was a crown of laurel or oak leaves, to the winner: and before they began, a herald publicly proclaimed the rules to be observed by the competitors; which, unless strictly complied with, all their pains and endeavours issued only in disappointment and shame. To each of these particulars the Apostle alludes in different parts of his writings.

Let us then briefly consider wherein the allusion holds and take notice of some things in which there is a remarkable difference.

I. That the Christian life is compared to a race may intimate to us,



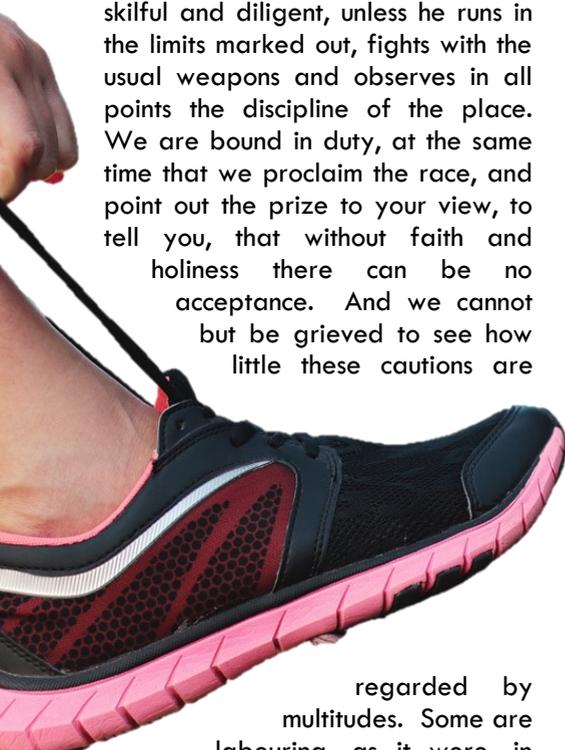
1. That it is a laborious and strenuous service and incompatible with an indolent and careless frame of spirit. Not that we can do any thing of ourselves: in this sense, "it is not of him that willeth, or of him that runneth" (Rom. 9:16). But when a believer is animated by a view of Jesus, and the prize of the high calling, to run the race set before him, he finds that it demands his utmost strength, courage and patience. A spectator may divert himself with the prospect, or the company; he may make observations upon what passes around him, and ride as softly as he pleases; but then he has no pretensions to the prize. But those who are actually candidates for it, may be easily distinguished without being pointed out: they have no leisure for amusement; their eyes are fixed and their thoughts wholly engaged, upon what they have in hand; and they exert all their powers and strain every nerve to reach the goal. How inconsistent is the conduct of many professors? They enter the lists, they inform themselves of the rules, they even presume to expect the prize, though they while away their whole lives, without once attempting to run in good earnest. Not so those who are taught and called of God: a sense of the worth of their souls, of the love of Christ, of the glory that shall be revealed, of their own weakness and of the many obstacles that withstand their progress, stirs them up to watchfulness, diligence and prayer, and excites a holy jealousy,

"lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it" (Heb. 4:1).

2. That we should still press forward and not rest in what we have received. If a man sets out in a race with the greatest speed and seems to outstrip all his antagonists; yet if he does not persevere to the end, he will be sure to lose. The Apostle alludes to a race in another place, where he says, "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark" (Phil. 3:13,14). The Greek word beautifully expresses the earnestness and energy of those who run and are determined to be first: they make no account of the ground already passed over, but exert themselves to the utmost, labour with their hands and feet and strain every joint to the utmost, as though the whole success depended upon each single step. We see too many instances of persons who begin warmly and seem to run well for a season; but they are hindered in their progress, slacken their pace first and then stop short. Take notice of the exhortation in my text, "So run, that ye may obtain:" for it will be a dreadful disappointment if you should be set aside disapproved, when others receive the prize.

II. The heralds or criers in the Christian race are the Ministers of the Gospel; and their proper name of office is expressed by the same

word. They have it in charge to invite all to run and to declare the prescribed rules: and these must be carefully attended to; for *if, or, as it might be rendered, although, a man strive, although he wrestle, and fight, and run, weary himself and excel others; yet, after all, he loses the prize, he is not crowned, unless he strive lawfully, unless he strictly conforms to the prescribed regulations: he will be judged unqualified, though in other respects skilful and diligent, unless he runs in the limits marked out, fights with the usual weapons and observes in all points the discipline of the place. We are bound in duty, at the same time that we proclaim the race, and point out the prize to your view, to tell you, that without faith and holiness there can be no acceptance. And we cannot but be grieved to see how little these cautions are*



regarded by multitudes. Some are labouring, as it were, in the fire, to establish a righteousness by their own works and refuse to believe in Christ for salvation. Others, who profess indeed to believe in Him, call themselves His people and affect to

speaking highly of His Gospel, yet eventually deny Him by their works and conversations. But unless you can alter the sure determinations of the Word of God, there must be an alteration in yourselves, or else, when you think you have attained and shall confidently demand the prize, you will hear Him say, "I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity" (Luke 13:27).

There is a circumstance in this resemblance which I would not pass over, because it is peculiar to the Christian race. The Ministers or heralds are not only to invite others, but are likewise to run themselves. To this the Apostle alludes, when he says, "lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9:27); or be disapproved of the Judge for breaking those regulations himself which he had been authorised to propound to all. We have need to preach to ourselves no less than to you and entreat your prayers for us, that we may stand perfect and complete in the whole will of God. And the caution may be proportionally extended to every one that is entrusted with any measure of gifts for the edification of the people of God. Keep close to His word; pray for His Spirit; be diligent and temperate in all things; and maintain a watchful jealousy over your own hearts: these are the means by which the Lord keeps His people from falling. But trust not to any outward talent, calling or

usefulness; for it is possible for a man to be instrumental to the good of others in families and societies and yet to come short of the Kingdom himself at last.

III. I have observed that a great concourse of spectators attended at the ancient games. The Christian, in his race and warfare, has likewise innumerable eyes upon him, a great cloud of witnesses. We are exhibited a spectacle to the world, to the whole universe – both to angels and to men (I Cor. 4:9). Though he may be placed in an obscure situation, yet his neighbours at least will observe him, to see how his profession and practice agree. Invisible beings attend him in every step; the good agents rejoice over the returning sinner; and it is probable, by God's appointment, support and refresh him in ways which are beyond our apprehension. The powers of darkness watch him with subtilty and envy and go to the utmost bounds of their commission, in their endeavours either to divert him from his course, or to make it uncomfortable to him. How should this thought both animate and humble every sincere soul? Be not discouraged, because to appearance you are almost left to serve God alone. If the veil of flesh and blood could be drawn aside, you would see you are not alone; all the host of Heaven are on your side; the glorious company that are before the Throne of God day without night, rejoicing, are engaged in your cause and drink of

the same fountain from which you are supplied. The spirits of just men made perfect, who are now all eye, all ear, all love, were once as you are, partakers of the same infirmities, sorrows and cares; and you ere long shall be as they are, clothed with light and freed from every burden. And Jesus, the Lord of angels, the King of saints, beholds your toil and conflict with complacence, and says, "Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Rev. 3:11). He is always near to succour, strengthen and to save. Rejoice, therefore, that you run not as unnoticed but rejoice with trembling. Be ashamed to think how disproportionate your efforts are to the company that behold you and to the prize that awaits you. Remember likewise other eyes are upon you; Satan envies your privileges and scorns your profession; he is every minute waiting permission to sift you as wheat; he is incessantly spreading snares for your feet and preparing his arrows against you: therefore, be not high-minded, but fear, and give all diligence so to run that you may obtain.

IV. The judge who presides at the end of the race is Jesus, the *Judge of all*. He holds forth the prize full in view to the eye of faith and shall shortly crown the conqueror with His own hand. How sweetly does the Apostle spiritualise upon this circumstance! "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course; I have kept the faith. Henceforth

there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge” (who does not decide by appearances, nor can be influenced by partiality, as is too frequent amongst men) “shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:7,8).

Thus much concerning the resemblance of the Christian life to a race, to which the Apostle alludes. I shall briefly take notice of some particulars in which the resemblance fails; and a very interesting and important difference may be observed,

1. In the reward. *The bodily exercise* employed in the games (for these the Apostle refers) *profited little*: a crown of oak or laurel, or some such bauble was their highest aim; and this the most of the competitors came short of, for though all ran, *but one received the prize*. Of little more value and, equal uncertainty, is the prize that has engaged the time and thoughts of many. *But godliness* (the whole course and conflict in which the believer is engaged) *is profitable for all things*, or in every view, having promises to support the life that now is and to crown that which is to come. He that overcometh, said the Lord, shall inherit all things. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. I will give him to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and

he shall go no more out; yea, I will grant him to sit down with me in my throne ( see Rev. 2:7; 3:12-21). The Lord will give grace here and will withhold no good thing from those who walk uprightly; and hereafter He will crown grace with glory and place His servants out of the reach of every trouble and enemy, in the Kingdom which His love has prepared for them from before the foundation of the world. “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1).

2. In races, though many run, one only can receive the prize. But, thanks be to God, it is not so in the Christian race. All who run as the Lord has appointed, shall be sure to win. No opposition can prevail against them, nor will the number of the candidates be any diminution to the happiness of each individual. The inheritance of the saints in light, like the light of the sun, is not diminished by being shared amongst many; each one possesses the whole, in the same perfection as he could do, if there was none to enjoy it but himself.

3. In the races the Apostle alludes to, none were compelled to run. The proclamation was general; but those who did not choose to engage, suffered no disadvantage. But it is not so in the race to which you are invited by the Gospel. The Lord is greatly offended with those who

slight the message and refuse to enter the lists. If you only give His Ministers a hearing and return to your farms and merchandise, forget the worth of your precious souls and suffer your thoughts to be engrossed with the cares and pleasures of this life, to the neglect of this one thing needful, the Lord will account it a contempt offered to Himself and will ere long call you before His tribunal to answer for it.

4. Those who run and did not win the prize, only lost their labour or, at the worst, were exposed to shame, but they were liable to no positive punishment. But you who are professors of the Gospel, if you come short at last, will be lost for ever. "So run, that ye may obtain." Be not content with having set out; the promise is made to perseverance. "He that endureth to the end shall be saved (Matt. 10:22); but if any draw back, or stop short, the Lord will have no pleasure in them. They will not only lose the prize but will receive a heavy and aggravated doom. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they had

known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. If you were forced to run for your lives, you would be very thoughtful about the event. But, if you are not found amongst those who come in for the prize of eternal life, you will be cast into outer darkness and sink under the curse of God for ever.

Fain therefore would I persuade you to address yourselves with earnestness to run the race set before you. Flee from approaching wrath. The wrath of God is already revealed against all unrighteousness and soon it will be poured forth upon the head of every transgressor. Though God is patient and forbearing, He is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, He will whet His glittering sword; He hath bent His bow and made it ready. He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; He hath ordained His arrows against those who shall finally disobey His great command, to receive the Gospel of His grace. It is impossible to elude His eye or to withstand His power. You are upon the brink of danger, if you are not already entered in this race: you stand upon



a precipice and Hell from beneath has opened its mouth to receive you. But a respite is still afforded; the Lord waits to be gracious; and as yet there is room. The gate of mercy is not yet shut; "turn therefore to the strong-hold, as prisoners of hope:" no longer refuse His gracious invitation, or trifle with your precious souls; seek to Jesus, that you may live; apply to Him for faith and repentance; and, in His strength and Name, prepare to run this important race. Meditate upon the glorious prize which is provided for all who run. Pardon, grace and eternal life are promised and bestowed – without money and without price. If, after so many repeated calls, you still harden your hearts and stop your ears, and determine that you will not come unto Jesus that you may have life, you must assuredly perish, without mercy and without excuse.

But, if you are desirous to run, remember the admonition in my text, "So run, that ye may obtain." Your steps must be regulated by the Word of God or you will wander wide from the good old way; you must derive your sufficiency and strength from Christ by faith and prayer or you will faint and be unable to endure to the end. We read of some that ran well for a season (Gal. 5:7) but were afterwards hindered and turned aside. Be upon your guard; for there are many that will strive to divert you from your course. Satan, the world and your own evil hearts

will combine and form various attempts to slacken your pace and to withdraw your attention from the one thing needful. Dread the thoughts of stopping short or turning back; and the more you meet with opposition, be so much the more earnest to redouble your diligence and especially to cry mightily to Him who is able to keep you from falling, to preserve you unblameable in love while here and, at last, to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

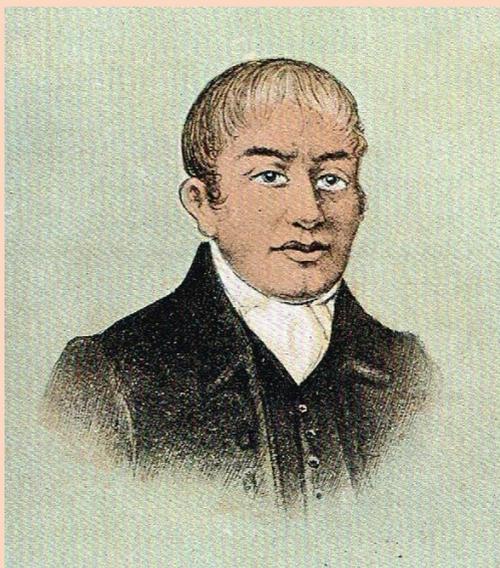
Believers, why are not we as wise in our generation as the children of the world? We see how those who are fond of a common horse-race are thinking and talking of it and preparing for it every day. Does not their diligence shame us, who are so cold, faint and dilatory in the most important and honourable concerns? Let us gird up the loins of our mind; some of you have not far to run now; you have taken many a weary step since you were first called; but the end is at hand; the period of your complete salvation is now much nearer than when you first believed (Rom. 13:11). Think of Jesus the Forerunner and the Judge; He has already entered within the veil for us; His eye is upon us; He is near to assist and waiting to receive us. May His Spirit and His example animate us to press forward to the prize of our high calling, to tread down every difficulty and to be faithful unto death, that we may receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

## STRENGTH TO FIGHT

***“In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.”***

Nehemiah 4:20

This denotes the Word of God, that instruction He sends us and the spiritual obedience we ought to pay to it - and that we shall always have enemies to contend with as long as we live. We shall never be without them. But Nehemiah said, “Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.” That is, if you possess the true fear of God, it will not be a secret religion with which you shall glide out of this world, but you shall be found in the exercise of it all the day long, and in all that you have to do; for there is no day wherein you will not be attacked by this enemy; but this is the great thing which God wants us to look to; not to the strength of our enemies or to our own weakness, but to *His great power and faithfulness*. And if



**James Bourne**

we look so to Him, though we may not find the deliverance we want exactly, we shall find a sensible support, so as not to be overcome. It is wonderful how near God often is to us, answering our prayers, whilst we think He is a great way off. This enemy will pursue us as Pharaoh did the Israelites, and we think there is no way of escape. “I shall never all my days get out of *this* perplexity and *this* trouble.” But no, it shall not be so; for the Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace.

God always takes the weak side; that little, trembling, fearing cry to Him will be sure to bring in His power. Therefore, in all that you have to do, seek above all things to sit still and see the salvation of God; not to go before Him,

but continually to commit your way to Him and watch His hand, and to let Him manage all. This trust He only can work in us. We are always in haste. With what great ease He can bring us out of our difficulties. It is astonishing how easily and by what imperceptible means and degrees, or how by one word, God can deliver us from impending troubles, and does, and will. God divides the seas before His people. I wish I could persuade you to look to Him and to His *promised* help and to encouragements in Him and not to look to your difficulties; for He will get Himself honour on these enemies. This unbelief, pride, covetousness and whatever it be, He will break it in pieces. We wonder why they follow us so pertinaciously; but God hardens them, and our only relief is in waiting on Him, for contention will not help us here. The Lord put Himself between the Israelites and the Egyptians, as He always does, in the needful position; therefore, “be not faithless, but believing.”

It is said in Deuteronomy, “Let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is He that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you” (20: 3,4). Now this promise is absolute. You dare not deny that you have the fear of God; then, if so, this is God’s presence with you. The fear of God contains such light, such power, such tenderness – all these things are tokens of God’s presence with you. Therefore, do not look at the things which are seen, but at the invisible power of God; and make up your minds that this battle will continue as long as you live, but no enemy shall stand before you, because the Lord fights for you. And “as birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem;” and you know how they fly round a thing. So is the Lord “round about His people” (Isa. 31:5; Ps. 125:2).

By: **James Bourne**

From: *Morning Readings by James Bourne*  
(November 27, 1840)

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

**John Newton**

# News and Current Affairs

## **Pope Francis's new film "The Pope: A man of his word", preaches world unity - British Church Newspaper, 25 May 2018**

A new film about Pope Francis seems destined to make a big impact, judging by the success of a trailer released two months ago.

There is no doubting the Pope's intention. His new film will continue the message from where the Pope left off two years ago with his video 'One Minute' message which went 'viral' and was watched by millions.

In that video, his message of unity was stressed with the help of four people, a Buddhist, a Jew, a Catholic and a Muslim, who each said, "I believe in love", then held hands together, each holding their respective faith emblems. Each also stated: "We are all children of God".

Dozens uploaded this video to YouTube, titling their uploads: 'Pope announces coming One World Religion', 'A One World Religion Prayer' and similar messages.

The trailer for the Pope's new film, which is the work of celebrated film director Wim Wenders, begins with these words: "No matter what divides us, His words unite us".

We are then told that, in the film, the Pope will be allowing cameras inside the Vatican: "For the first time in history, the Pope opens his doors to address the questions and issues we face – together – as a leader whose faith inspires the world".

The trailer contains a scene of the Pope opening the window of the Vatican balcony, speaking the words: 'Buona Sera', which is followed by a huge, prolonged cheer and applause from the thousands below.

The Pope explains that "No-one can serve two masters: We either serve God or we serve money", followed by the message: "In a divided world we need to listen".

In a significant image accompanying this message, we see painted on the wall the slogan 'Free Palestine', next to another which reads: 'Palestine is like the Warsaw ghetto'. The Pope appears to be courting the increasing majority

view in the world that Israel is a pariah state and that the Palestinians have a just cause.

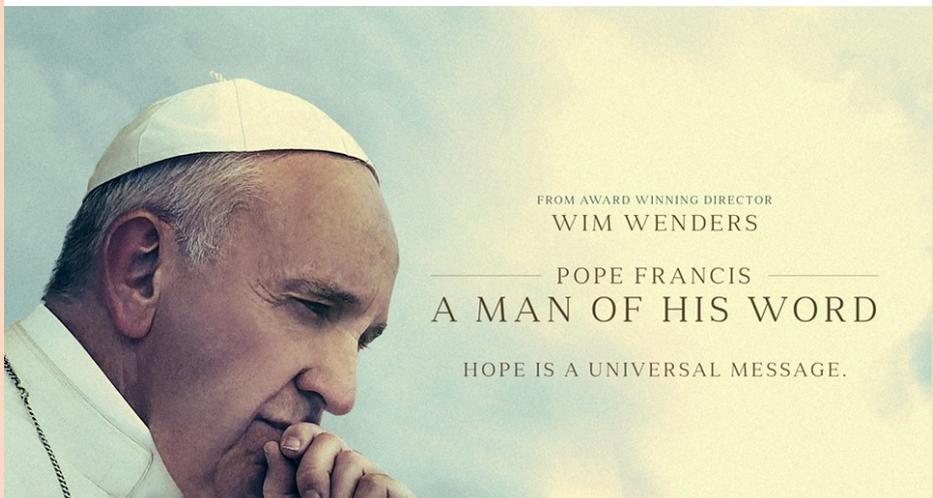
The trailer stresses the Pope's down-to-earth humanity, with film of him making and sharing jokes, but it finishes with his core message: "Differences always scare us – but they make us grow. We have so much to do – and we must do it together. Our leader has a mission – to bring us together". Millions have already watched the trailer.

The Pope's new film comes soon after the start on 11 March of the major new CNN series: "The Pope: The Most Powerful Man in History". The trailer for the Pope's new film was released two days later.

Andrew Barker, who reviewed the Pope's 96-minute film for the Cannes Film Festival, observed that "Francis' ascension was greeted in many circles with the same sort of enthusiasm as Barack Obama. Like Obama, he came into power with the aura of a reformer and a relative outsider...his arrival was cause for great optimism among many progressives".

But this optimism is not shared by Biblical Christians, who look on the CNN series and this new film as clear indications that the power of Antichrist is rapidly ascending. The YouTube Channel On Point Preparedness is clear that Pope Francis "is being put on a pedestal by the world", titling its analysis of the film: 'Armageddon is Now Definitely Here'.

*Abbreviated*



## Theresa May: 'There is lots to do on LGBT rights' - Christian Institute

Prime Minister, Theresa May, has re-affirmed the Government's commitment to promoting LGBT rights, in an article for Gay Times magazine.

Writing ahead of events celebrating homosexuality, the Prime Minister said that an "action plan" will be released this summer. Claiming that there is still "lots of do", the Prime Minister also said the UK "can be proud that we are a world leader in advancing LGBT rights". Recently, her Government announced it will launch a consultation on removing safeguards in the Gender Recognition Act in the coming weeks. The proposed changes are likely to include making it easier to change legal sex by allowing people to 'self-identify' their gender.



In her piece for Gay Times, the Prime Minister said her Government has "engaged with experts to understand better the limitations of the current system of gender recognition".

While the Government continues to push liberalisation, some transsexual people are against changing the law.

In a letter to the Guardian, 17 transsexuals said they were "deeply concerned" about the proposal to remove safeguards.

*Abbreviated*

## School bans shorts in Summer in favour of 'gender neutral' uniform policy - by Eleanor Harding , The Daily Mail - 4 June 2018

Chiltern Edge Secondary School in Oxfordshire has banned boys from wearing shorts and insists those who don't want to wear trousers must don a skirt. Leaders at the school in Sonning Common introduced a 'more formal' uniform policy at the beginning of the academic year that stipulated that the only leg wear permitted was trousers or skirts.

Following the change, parent Alastair Vince-Porteous asked staff if his son could wear tailored shorts – but the school said that they were not part of the uniform. The bemused father was then told that the uniform policy was

'gender-neutral' and boys could, of course, wear a skirt if they wished.

The move follows a trend for schools adopting gender-neutral policies to help transgender pupils feel more welcome. Many schools now say skirts and trousers can be worn by either gender. Under the Equality Act, schools have a duty to protect transgender students from discrimination.

*Abbreviated*

## **Guernsey Parliament votes against assisted dying - The Guardian – 18 May, 2018**

An attempt to legalise assisted dying in Guernsey has been defeated in the Island's Parliament after a 3-day debate.

Members of the legislature voted against a requete – similar to a Private Member's Bill – proposed by Guernsey's Chief Minister, Gavin St. Pier. A series of votes on different clauses were lost decisively. If the requete had passed, Guernsey would have become the first place in the British Isles to offer euthanasia for people with terminal illnesses.

Supporters of the requete said they were disappointed by the outcome, but believed change was inevitable.

It was opposed by Christian leaders on the island, the British Medical Association and the Guernsey Disabilities Alliance. A key Government Committee refused to back the proposal, saying it was not a priority and investigations would be a drain on resources.

*Abbreviated*



## Supreme Court Rules in favour of Christian baker Jack Phillips - Samuel Smith, Christian Today, 4 June 2018

The United States Supreme Court ruled in favour of Colorado Christian baker Jack Phillips in overwhelming fashion, saying that the State Government's hostility towards his refusal to make a same-sex wedding cake violated the U.S. Constitution.

In a 7-2 vote, the nation's High Court ruled that the State of Colorado violated the Free Exercise Clause of the first Amendment when it penalised Phillips and his Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood for violating a State discrimination law by refusing to bake a custom cake to celebrate the wedding of Dave Mullins and Charlie Craig.

"The laws and the Constitution can and, in some instances must, protect gay persons and gay couples in the exercise of their civil rights, however, religious and philosophical objections to gay marriage are protected views and, in some instances, protected forms of expression," a summary of the Court's majority opinion states."

"While it is unexceptional that Colorado law can protect gay persons in acquiring products and services on the same terms and conditions as are offered to other members of the public, the law must be applied in a manner that is neutral toward religion."

The Court reasoned that Phillips use of his artistic abilities to make a wedding cake carries a "significant First Amendment speech component and implicates his deep and sincere religious beliefs."

*Abbreviated*



# 'A DISCIPLE'

**By: J. C. Philpot**

*'Ears from Harvested Sheaves'*

*Daily Portions*

***"And when they were alone,  
He expounded all things to  
His disciples."***

Mark 4:34

What is the exact meaning of the word disciple? It means properly a learner, one who is under a teacher, whose submissive and devoted pupil he has become and from whom he receives continual instruction. Thus a disciple of Christ is one who is admitted by the Lord Jesus into His school, whom He Himself condescends personally to instruct and who therefore learns of Him to be meek and lowly of heart.

A disciple of Jesus is one who sits meekly at the Redeemer's feet, receiving into his heart the gracious words which fall from His lips. This was Mary's happy posture, whom the Lord commended for choosing the better part. Such is also the posture of all the saints of God, according to the ancient declaration, "*Yea, He loved the people; all His saints are in Thy hand; and they sat down at Thy feet, every one shall receive of Thy words*" (Deut. 33:3). But a true and sincere disciple not only listens to His Master's instruction but acts as He bids. So a disciple of

Jesus is one who copies His Master's example and is conformed to His Master's image.

A sincere disciple is also characterised by the love which he bears to His Master; so a disciple of Jesus is one who treasures up the words of Christ in his heart, ponders over His precious promises and delights in His glorious Person, love and blood.

A disciple of Jesus is one who bears some reflection to the image of His Heavenly Master; he carries it about with him wherever he goes, that men may take knowledge of him that he has been with Jesus; and, as when Moses came down from the mount, his face shone from the reflection of the Heavenly glory which had streamed upon his countenance, so does the true disciple shine before men with some sparkles of the glory of the Son of God. To have some of these Divine features stamped upon the heart, lip and life is to be a disciple of Jesus.

To be much with Jesus is to be made like unto Jesus; to sit at Jesus' feet is to drink in Jesus' words; to lean upon Jesus' breast is to feel the warm heart of Jesus pulsating with love; and to feel this pulsation, causes the heart of the disciple to beat in tender and affection unison; to look up to Jesus, is to see a face more marred than the sons of men,

yet a face beaming with Heavenly beauty, dignity and glory.

To be a disciple, then, of Jesus, is to copy His example; to do the things pleasing in His sight and to avoid the things which He abhors. To be a disciple of Jesus is to be meek as He was; humble as He was; lowly as He was; self-denying as He was; separate from the world as He was; living a life of communion with God, as He lived when He walked here below.

To take a worm of the earth and make him a disciple of Jesus is the greatest privilege God can bestow upon man. To select an obstinate, ungodly, perverse rebel and place him in the school of Christ and at the feet of Jesus is the highest favour God can bestow upon any child of the dust. How unsurpassingly great must be that kindness whereby the Lord condescends to bestow His grace on an alien and an enemy and to soften and meeken him by His Spirit and thus cause him to grow up into the image and likeness of His own dear Son. What are earthly honours and titles when compared with the favour thus conferred upon those whose foundation is in the dust? Compared with this high privilege, all earthly honours, stars and garters, titles and robes, sink into utter insignificance.

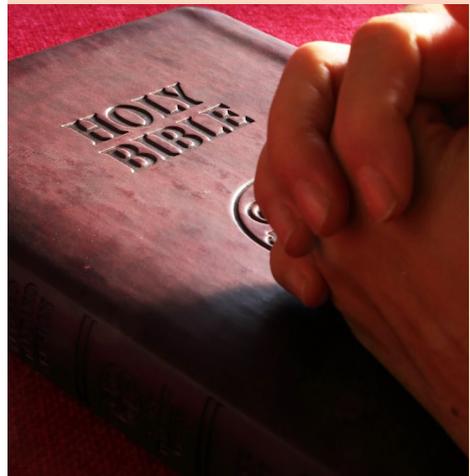
## PRAYER

Think not to appease God, or please Him, by any limited or prescribed modes or methods of thy own devising; such as exact times, places, forms and words; think not to prevail by long prayers or much speaking, as the heathens did, and the Jewish Pharisees.

“God is in Heaven, and thou upon the earth, therefore let thy words be few.”

Such fruitless labour and toil is nothing but to satisfy a legal conscience and gratify a Devil transformed into an angel of light. The Bible is our only rule. The publican’s prayer was, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” Peter’s too was, “Lord, save or I perish.” David’s prayer, in a lifeless frame, was “Quicken me according to Thy word.”

*Huntington*



## **A REPORT ON THE CHRISTIAN WATCH STAND AT THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SHOW, ARDINGLY**

We are thankful that our third year at Ardingly showground on the 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018 was the means of reaching many thousands of visitors with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the second year running, our stand was adjacent to the children's fair-ground site and so we were able again to contact many children and their parents. Apart from school visitation - which is now difficult to arrange - this is a unique opportunity to reach out to children and their parents, either with appropriate literature, or by spoken witness.

This year an operator from the fair – the carousel – made contact with us and in the several conversations I had with him, not only stated that he wholeheartedly supported us in our aims of standing for the truth of God in an ungodly age, but also appreciated our witness at the Show and promised to make contact again by telephone at a later date. Indeed, several other people came to us and expressed their dismay at the descent of society into sin and the rapid decline of faith and morals around them. Again, these expressed their thankfulness for the uncompromising witness at Ardingly.

We joined again with SMCC - Sussex Martyrs Commemoration Council - and they shared a small part of the Stand.

Not a few conversations took place with those from sects and cults, while others sadly displayed an ignorance of the Word of God – one man asking what a Bible was! On the Saturday the Show was very well attended by many families and we were able to distribute over 110 of the large TBS 10 Commandments posters, with much other Christian literature specifically intended for children.

All in all, we again felt encouraged that CW was able by means of their attendance at this 'Vanity Fair' to confront many souls with the pure Word of God, who would possibly otherwise never come into contact with it. Please pray that the distributed literature and conversations will be used to work effectually in the hearts of many and to their salvation by the grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Other attendances planned for this year are at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park, Esher on 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October (Stand **S134**) and a one-day event at the Buckinghamshire County Show in Aylesbury on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Michael Hobbis**

# THE BEST OF FRIENDS

If Jesus be your Friend,  
Then let me tell you this,  
His friendship will not end,  
You glory will not miss:  
Most faithful He will prove and kind,  
In Him a present help you'll find.

If rough the road down here,  
And galling to your feet,  
And He will but draw near,  
Your joy will be complete:  
Your happiness will be made up,  
In sitting down with Him to sup.

Communion in this waste  
With Jesus Christ thy God,  
As you to glory haste,  
As you the valley plod,  
Makes all your burdens very light,  
And everything about you right.

How many live and die,  
And no communion share:  
To them He's never nigh:  
For them He does not care:  
They have no interest in His love,  
And never raise to realms above.

Then why should He indulge  
A worthless worm like you,  
His secret love divulge,  
Reveal His Person too?  
You must confess 'tis all of grace,  
He loves and saves a rebel race.

O favour all divine!  
So sov'reign, rich and free!  
That makes His merits mine,  
Securing Heav'n for me!  
Low at Thy feet I'd prostrate lie,  
And sweetly Hallelujah cry.

**A.W, Hull, 1900**  
Zion's Witness 1922/3



A photograph of three young girls sitting on a dirt path outdoors. The girl on the left is wearing a pink floral dress, the girl in the middle is wearing a light blue floral dress, and the girl on the right is wearing a white top. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a path.

# CHRISTIAN WATCH

PO Box 6526,  
Leamington Spa, CV31 9NL

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