

CHRISTIAN WATCH

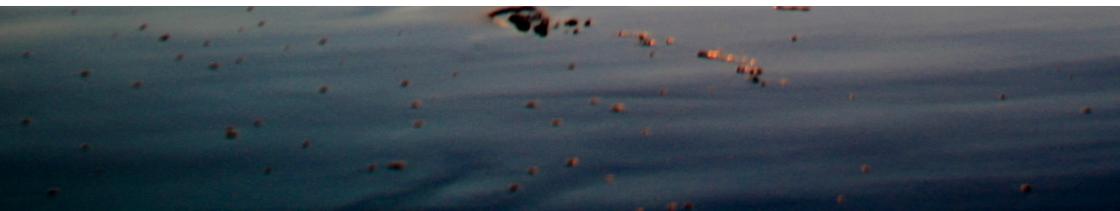
Issue No. 22

A Protestant Biblical Witness

Jul/Aug 2019



'And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.'
Mark 13:37



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

29 August, 2019

Bucks County Show, Weedon Park, Aylesbury

15 – 17 October, 2019

CRE International Exhibition, Sandown Park,
Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ

16 November, 2019

Christian Watch Annual Meeting
Stranger's Rest Evangelical Church
131 The Highway, London, E1W 2BP

A DOXOLOGY

William Huntington, S.S.

Praise the Lord, ye saints in light,
Praise my God both day and night;
Praise Him for your life and breath,
Praise my Christ both Heaven and earth;
Praise Him for a spiritual ear,
Praise Him for His godly fear;
Praise Him for His humiliation,
Praise Him in His exaltation;
Praise Him in all the hymns you sing;
Praise Him, your Prophet, Priest and King;
Let every tongue in every head
Praise the Judge of quick and dead;
Praise the Lord from pole to pole;
Praise Him who saved my helpless soul;
Praise the Lord from coast to coast;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(Letter 2, "Gleanings of the Vintage")

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

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Christian Watch, greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We have a new leader of the Conservative Party; we have a new leader of the Liberal Democrats; we have a new leader of the European Union; we have a new Prime Minister and, although it hardly matters, we have a new leader of the Independent Group for Change in Westminster. Change and decay are all around us, but there is a wonderful verse in the Scriptures that gives us tremendous comfort and assurance – “*Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and for ever*” (Hebrews 13:8). What a blessing this is for God’s people!

In the days in which we live, it is all too easy to feel like Elijah. You may feel all alone. You may be so lonely that, like Elijah, you could wish for death so that you could be in the presence of the Lord; but remember this – God has reserved unto Himself ‘seven thousand’, who have not bowed to the image of Baal. At this present time, just as in Elijah’s day and, indeed, just as in every age, there is a remnant according to the election of grace. You may not know who or where they are; they may be far distant from you, but they are out there – and often just as lonely as you but seeking to be faithful to their Lord in the midst of this perverse and crooked generation. As terrible as the times are – as wicked – as spiritually desolate – the Lord Jesus Christ is still building His church upon the earth (Matt. 16:18). He still has His remnant – and He always will.

A recent Report on the persecution of Christians has estimated that one in three people suffer from religious persecution. The persecution of Christians in parts of the world is at near ‘genocide’ levels and Christianity is ‘at risk of disappearing’ in some areas. How disturbing, greatly disturbing, are such facts? Evidence apparently shows not only the geographical spread of anti-Christian persecution, but also its increasing severity. However, the promise of the Lord is to never leave or forsake us and He abides faithful to His Word. No matter the persecution, no matter the genocide, God will always preserve His trusted remnant. Down through the Dark and Middle Ages, when the Church was so badly persecuted, small groups survived to preserve the truth. The role call of faith recorded for us in Hebrews 11 also comes to mind. True saints may be few in number, but God is mindful of them, no matter their circumstances. May you be given the strength to stand for Him in the area the Lord has placed you – remember, you are here “*for such a time as this*” (Esther 4:14).

I mentioned at the beginning of my letter that the European Union had a new leader.

In fact, there are a series of new leaders. Let me introduce four of them to you.

EU Commission President: Ursula von der Leyen, a 'failed' German Defence Minister, voted the second most unpopular German politician in a recent *Der Spiegel* poll. Her Defence Department is under investigation for corrupt Defence contracts. Apparently, 60% of their planes cannot fly; 100% of their submarines cannot take to sea and in a recent NATO exercise, the German soldiers used broomsticks instead of guns.

EU Foreign Policy Chief: Josep Borrell, a Spanish socialist politician, who has been a cheer-leader for repression in Catalonia. He was fined 34,000 dollars for insider trading whilst a member of the Board of a company called Abengoa, a multi-national conglomerate in energy, transportation and telecoms. A socialist and a corporatist – guilty of fraud – thought to be just the man to be the EU's Foreign Policy chief.

President of the European Council: Charles Michel – a 'failed' Belgian Prime Minister. He resigned when his 'free movement of people' law could not be passed. As a result, his coalition Government collapsed. Now he is rewarded with a top EU job.

EU Budget Head: Christine Lagarde, former French Finance Minister, found guilty of negligence in a Euro 400m French scandal, whose predictions that the UK economy would collapse proved to be wildly inaccurate.

And just in case you think this stench of corruption and failure is too much for you and you protest by burning the EU flag, German lawmakers are proposing that the penalty for burning the flag should be 3 years in prison.

It has always been a mystery to me that the British Government has been able to commit hundreds of billions of pounds to the EU over the years when report after report by its own auditors has revealed massive fraud. According to the European Court of Auditors in January, 2019 the EU lost 8.8bn Euros in fraud between 2002 and 2016. In 2017, another 391m Euros were lost! **BREXIT cannot come soon enough!**

May God have mercy upon us as a nation.

Yours in His service,

Ian Henderson

Ian R. Henderson
(Chairman)

‘SIGNS OF THE TIMES’

By: J.C. Ryle

CW Comment:

The following article by J. C. Ryle speaks of events in his time. Over a hundred and fifty years have passed since then – how important it is for us therefore to discern the ‘signs of the times’ in our day as we see the tumultuous events taking place in our country and worldwide.

Luke 12: 54-56

54. And He [Jesus] said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.

55. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass.

56. Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

This passage teaches us *the duty of noticing the signs of the times*. The Jews in our Lord’s day neglected this duty. They shut their eyes against events occurring in their own day of the most significant character. They refused to see that prophecies were being fulfilled around them which were bound up with the coming of Messiah and that Messiah Himself must be in the midst of them. The sceptre had departed from Judah and the lawgiver from between his feet. The seventy weeks of Daniel were fulfilled (Gen. 49:10, Dan. 9:24). The ministry of John the Baptist had excited attention from one end of the land to the other. The miracles of Christ were great, undeniable and notorious; but still the eyes of the Jews were blinded. They still obstinately refused to believe that Jesus was the Christ and hence they drew from our Lord the question - *“How is it that you do not discern this time?”*

It becomes the servants of God, in every age, to observe the public events of their own day and to compare them with the predictions of unfulfilled prophecy. There is nothing commendable in an ignorant indifference to contemporary history. The true Christian should rather watch the career of Governments and nations with a jealous watchfulness and hail with gladness the slightest indication of the day of the Lord being at hand. The Christian who cannot see the hand of God in history and does not believe in the gradual movement of all Kingdoms towards the final subjection of all things to Christ, is as blind as the Jews.

Have we no signs of the times to observe? The question is soon answered. The history of the last seventy years is full of events which demand the prayerful attention of every servant of Christ. The things that have happened within these seventy years ought to send us to our watch towers and raise in us great searchings of heart. The rise and progress of a missionary spirit among all Protestant Churches – the wide-spread interest felt about the Jews – evident decay of the Mahometan power – the shaking of all the Kingdoms of Europe by the French Revolution – the extraordinary spread of knowledge and education – the marvellous revival of Romanism – the steady growth of the most subtle forms of infidelity – all these are facts which cannot be denied and facts which ought to speak loudly to every well-informed Christian. Surely, they deserve to be called signs of our times.

Let us remember the words of our Lord in the passage before us and not err after the manner of the Jews. Let us not be blind and deaf and insensible to all that God is doing, both in the Church and in the world. The things of which we have just been reminded are surely not without meaning. They have not come on the earth by chance or by accident, but by the appointment of God. We ought not to doubt that they are a call to watchfulness and to preparation for the day of God. May we all have an ear to hear and a heart to understand! May we not sleep as do many but watch and discern our time! It is a solemn saying in the Book of Revelation: *“If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee”* (Rev. 3:3).

From: *Expository thoughts on Luke, Volume 2*



THE MATTER OF HOMOSEXUALITY, LESBIANISM, SAME-SEX MARRIAGE ETC.

By: **Bob Burton** (Australia)

Preliminary Thoughts:

This matter has become so important in our modern society that committed Christians should all possess a working knowledge of what the Holy Scriptures have to say about it. And those committed Christians will, of course, depend on what the Holy Scriptures have to say as a basis for their understanding. There are three important guidelines which must be the basis for any Christian belief and Christian doctrine. They are:

1. Human laws and human systems simply do not work. Our Lord has informed us that ***'The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God'*** (1 Cor. 3:19); so, it is useless to base our actions and our attitudes on worldly ideas. Besides, Paul has warned us ***"Be not conformed to this world [systems]"*** (Romans 12:2).

2. The only guide to absolute truth is the Holy Scripture. No other system of law or governance will work. We see that in almost every country in the world today, even in the Western Democracies, that human laws are all declining, and society is descending into failure and chaos. The writer of Proverbs explains this problem: ***"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"*** (Prov. 16.25).

3. One of the greatest problems facing Christians who seek to understand important issues today is the almost total emphasis on the New Testament in most Christian Churches. Whenever an important social or religious issue arises, preachers will dive into their own understanding of the New Testament without referring to the Old Testament as a basis for the truth. In the Gospel as recorded by Matthew, Jesus pointed to the foundation truths written by the Prophets and He warned us: ***"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the Prophets [what the Prophets have written]: I am come to fulfil"*** (Matt. 5:17). So, trying to explain important issues using only quotes from the New Testament might be compared to attempting to build a new house by starting on the roof before putting down the foundations and erecting the walls.

There are some vital and relevant Scriptures that are so important that we should always have them in the back of our minds when we are considering important issues:

"I am the Lord, I change not" (Mal. 3:6). So, what is true in the Old Testament is surely true in the New.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Ps. 19:7). In the Hebrew, the term 'converting or restoring the soul' means 'turning the soul back to Almighty

God'. So, obedience to His laws turns our souls back to God.

Most Christians know that Jesus commanded us: ***"If ye love Me, keep My commandments"*** (John 14:15). Could anything be clearer?

"Be ye Holy for I am Holy" (1 Peter 1:16). That is a commandment!

And the writer of 1 John informs us: ***"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous"*** (1 John 5:3). [i.e. keeping His commandments is not burdensome!]

And also: ***"And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments"*** (1 John 2:3).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus also gave us further direction: ***"For verily I say unto you, till Heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled"*** (Matt. 5:18). So, the law of Almighty God is surely in operation today, as it was when handed down by Moses and the Holy Prophets and fulfilled by Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Redeemer.

The Law in Respect of Same-Sex Acts:

Our Lord's attitude to same-sex acts is

clearly set out in the Holy Scriptures. The Divine Law given to Moses to pass on to his people is:

"If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them" (Lev. 20:13).

We should note that the term 'abomination' as used in the Authorised translation is #8441 in Strong's Concordance. It is written as ***"Tôw 'êbâh"*** in the original Hebrew and it has the meaning of ***'something disgusting'***, especially as in a disgusting custom such as idolatry. It can be argued strongly the 'something disgusting' is probably not a strong enough translation, since the penalty for a same-sex act, as given by Almighty God, is execution. Although the executioners among His people were absolved from guilt of any sin when they executed people caught in a same-sex situation [***"their blood shall be upon them"***], they were given extra protection when such offenders were to be stoned to death in ancient Israel. For example, any Israelite who gave his/her children to the heathen god, Molech, was to be stoned to death (Lev. 20:2) as were any wizards or those dabbling in the occult (Lev.



20:27). The act of stoning a sinful person to death, under the law of God, meant that the person's death was brought about by a number of people and not by any individual and thus any individual could not be identified as the executioner.

The Example of the Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah:

The distressing story of these sinful cities and some smaller cities around them is given as an example to us in Genesis 18:20 – 19:25. Sodom and Gomorrah were centres of homosexual activity. When two angels visited Lot, Abraham's nephew, who was living in the city of Sodom, the menfolk of Sodom surrounded Lot's house and demanded that the angels come out and have sex with them. Lot begged them not to act wickedly and even offered to send out his two virgin daughters in the place of the angels, but the men of Sodom refused that offer and attempted to gain entry to Lot's home by breaking down the door. Lot and his family, however, were saved by the angels who struck the men of Sodom with blindness before arranging Lot's immediate family's escape from the city.

We should note that Abraham petitioned Almighty God on behalf of the people of Sodom. He was very concerned that righteous people would be destroyed along with the unrighteous. Unfortunately, although the Almighty was prepared to spare the city if there were as few as ten God-fearing people in it, those ten righteous people could not be found, so the Lord rained fire and brimstone from Heaven upon Sodom, its sister city Gomorrah and some smaller cities around them, totally destroying them.

Indeed, the very location of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah remained unknown to the world for over 3,800 years. Nowadays, it is reported that the exact location of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is known and it is possible to join daily tours to their sites – where tourists can dig up pieces of sulphur, the modern name for brimstone.

Israel Folau's Stand:

Israel Folau, who is one of the finest Rugby Union players in the world and also a devout Christian, has come out against modern sinful behaviour and has preached against it. He has strongly urged his fellow Australians to repent of such sinful acts as drunkenness, homosexuality, adultery, lying, fornicating, thievery, atheism and idolatry. He has suggested that such sinners must repent, or face being sent to Hell.

As a result of his stance against sin, Folau's lucrative contract was torn up by the hierarchy of the Australian Rugby Union and he has been savagely attacked in the media and the court system by LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning] leaders, not only here in Australia, but around the world.

Folau has not preached anything new; he has simply re-iterated what Bible writers and devout Christian preachers have been teaching for almost 2,000 years. The Epistle of Jude, which may have been written by a relative of Jesus sometime near the end of the first century A.D., has this as a warning:

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal

fire' (Jude 1:7).

Whilst Mr. Folau has had to suffer sustained condemnation, rejection and abuse (including some from famous Rugby Union players) both in the media and by prominent people all over the world, there has been an encouraging upside to the whole controversy. The whole matter has been referred to the High Court of Australia which has been asked to rule on whether his dismissal contravenes Australia's Fair Work Laws as well as the important concept of free speech.

And there is another pleasing development. Many, many Australians whom we may describe as 'Passive Christians' since they are not actively attending Churches or being involved in Christian activities, are undergoing a resurgence of their faith and are openly supporting Mr. Folau and what he stands for.

The Emergence of the HIV or AIDS Virus:

The latter part of the 20th century - especially from 1981 onwards - saw the rapid spread of the immune-deficiency virus often referred to as AIDS or HIV, principally among homosexual males in Central Africa, New York, Haiti, San Francisco and parts of Japan. Some researchers believe that this deadly virus originated among primates in Central Africa before somehow making a

transition to humans, but nobody has yet established the exact origin of the virus nor how that transition took place; and no-one has yet explained why it principally occurs in the homosexual community. Many committed Christians believe that it is a punishment imposed by Almighty God.

HIV (human immune-deficiency virus) is a fatal virus that attacks a person's immune system. The immune system becomes weaker, making it harder for the body to fight off serious infections and some kinds of cancers. If left untreated, a person with HIV will only survive for about three years. Deaths from HIV in the USA appeared to peak in 1995 by which time some 50,000 individuals, including some very famous people, had succumbed to it. Even at this time, July, 2019, no effective vaccine has so far been developed to immunise a person against HIV/AIDS.

Since the HIV pandemic exploded around the world, thinking Christians have been considering whether it may be the result of a truth that Paul recorded for us in his Epistle to the Romans. He had this to say:

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and



receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet” (Romans 1:26-27).

Every Christian, and indeed every person, should understand that breaking the laws of Almighty God has consequences.

Paul recognised this as he penned an important Epistle to the true believers at Corinth:

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Certainly, no true believer among Christians would dare to argue with Paul as he recorded the above verses under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

A Very Sad Quest:

Genes are chromosomes containing the recipe for making a living thing. They are found in almost every cell’s nucleus and are made from strands of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). Segments of DNA called ‘genes’ are the ingredients. Each gene adds a specific protein to the recipe. **Proteins build, regulate and maintain our human bodies.** For instance, they build bones; enable muscles to move, control digestion and keep your heart beating; and, of course, they determine our sexual activity.

Evidence is currently coming to light that certain supporters of same-sex activity in the medical profession are working hard in an attempt to prove that humans are born with an arrangement of their **genes** that causes them to become susceptible to

same-sex activity. Were researchers able to identify such **genes**, same-sex adherents would then be able to claim that they were born that way and that it would be impossible for them to change their sexual orientation.

Such researchers are doomed to disappointment in their sad quest. In the New Testament, the Gospel of John informs us that everything was created by Christ (John 1:3). Christ also, as part of His perfect creation, made **The Law of God** which the Psalmist tells us is perfect (Psalm 19:7). Now, as we have already suggested from Leviticus 20:13, and later from what Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, **we know that same-sex activity is an abomination to Almighty God; so it is impossible to even consider that Christ, during His work of creation, would create a person [formed in the image of Almighty God (Genesis 1:27)] that was an abomination to Him.**

And there is a wonderful promise that must be recognised by all Christians and which is given to us in Luke’s Gospel which assures us that for true Christians **“...with God nothing shall be impossible”** (Luke 1:37).

So same-sex adherents may change and become normal if they truly believe in Christ! I repeat, they can escape from any thought relating to homosexuality if they truly believe in Christ!

Important Warnings in Holy Scripture:

The Prophet Amos has given us a very important Scripture to retain in the back of our minds. It relates to warnings given to us from Almighty God:

“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7).

So Almighty God will not act decisively unless He has given us a direct warning first.

As we have already shown, the Patriarch Abraham knew beforehand exactly what was going to happen to the doomed cities around Sodom and Gomorrah. That is why he attempted to intervene on their behalf and save them from total annihilation. In the same way, there are some vital warnings that should be understood by everyone in our present generation.

Some important warnings for every sinner to heed are:

‘For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul’ (Mark 8:36).

And Matthew has some equally chilling words of warning for those who sin, including, of course, those who engage in same-sex activities. At some time, very likely in the near future:

‘The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity’ (Matthew 13:41).

And, unlike Abraham, we are unlikely to know the exact hour:

‘Therefore be ye also ready ... Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not’ (Matthew 24:44 & Luke 12:40).

Clearly, those involved in same-sex relationships are living on borrowed time!

And Peter has a further solemn reminder to us:

‘For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their

prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil’ (1 Peter 3:12).

Concluding Thoughts:

As committed Christians we should always be in a position to help and to advise those who are caught up in the sins relating to homosexuality, lesbianism, same-sex marriages and the like. Thankfully, and as we would expect, our Lord has left us with some very clear Scriptural guidance. In the Book of Acts, Peter was addressing the sins of the people around him, in this case the crucifixion of Jesus, the Saviour of the World. The people were convicted of their great sin:

‘Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’’ (Acts 2:37).

Speaking under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Peter had this answer for them:

‘... Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost’ (Acts 2:38). [Emphasis Added]

And Peter has some very sound advice to us when we are faced with the problem of counselling unbelievers:

‘But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear’ (1 Peter 3:15).

Clearly, when we - as committed Christians - are dealing with people involved in same-sex activities, we must know our Scripture. We must genuinely strive to support them and we must treat them with great Christian love and compassion.

A LOOK AT THE GODLY AND THE UNGODLY

A sermon on **Psalm 1** by the **Rev. Stephen Holland**

Psalm 1

1. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
 2. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.
 3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
 4. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.
 5. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
 6. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.
-

Our present culture ever sees mankind as equal; and that must express itself in everyday life – be that in education, business or religion. We acknowledge the dignity and worth of all human beings; and that must always be so. But does God look down from Heaven and see all as being the same? Does He view all as belonging to Himself and in a common covenant? Or does God look at some as His blessed children, while others as cursed children? In both Old and New Testaments, we find God favouring some while judging others. This Psalm shows the division that exists between all beings and reveals them as godly and ungodly. What makes a person godly has all to do with God's own graces at work in a person's heart. While the ungodly are simply those who behave and act according to their own sinful nature.

1. The blessedness of the godly

From the very beginning of creation (Gen. 1:28) God is said to have blessed mankind. His one desire was to bless what He had created and made. God did not create man in order to curse him. God rejoices in His creation and pronounced it all to be very good. Only after the act of wilful disobedience was it said that God brought a curse (Gen. 3:14-19) upon the earth and all that He had created. Yet in God's mercy and grace He provided a means by which that curse could be lifted and, instead of the curse comes the blessing. That blessing, though, belongs only to those resting in, and belonging to, Jesus Christ.

That separation is seen in the believer's walk. The Christian life is compared to a

walk: “walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called” (Eph. 4:1). That walk begins with a negative: “Blessed is the man that walketh not” (v.1). It is something we do not do. As with all walks in life it involves progress. We begin with the first step and then continue taking further steps; but the one thing that will distinguish the child of God from the one who is not a child of God is the direction of their walk – which way are they going? You will note the walk, standing and sitting of the godly. We are not to learn the ways of the ungodly, copy their habits and eventually adopt their beliefs. The company we keep and behaviour we exhibit will reveal whether we are God’s children or not.

2. The life of the godly

While the description of the godly is seen in something they do not do, like following the way and lifestyle of the wicked (or ungodly), there is something else that distinguishes them; and that is something they do. They are those that saturate themselves with the Word of God – the Holy Bible. They do not do that out of mere duty, habit, or under duress. It is, in fact, something they delight in (v.2). Just as the godly delight in the company of other godly people, more than in the company of the ungodly, they also delight in the Scriptures that God has breathed out. One cannot ever claim to love Jesus Christ and despise His written Word. We despise His Word when we either neglect to read it or when we fail to follow its commands and teachings.

We live in very unstable and uncertain times, yet always remember that this has always been the case. Our present day is no different to other days in past human history. The godly, in this unstable world, is likened to a “tree planted by the rivers of water” (v.3). He is not like that withered tree that has little or no life in it. The child of God has been given that water of life. In John’s Gospel (7:37-39) water is used for the Holy Spirit. Every child of God has the Holy Spirit in them and that Holy Spirit gives life and produces holiness of life. The Christian is to be a fruit-bearer and no fruit is produced without water. If we are not producing the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22), then maybe its because there is no root in us.

3. The way of the ungodly

The godly in Christ Jesus are likened to a tree – strong, permanent, beautiful, useful, fruitful. The ungodly are quite different. They are likened to “chaff which the wind driveth away” (v.4). The ungodly are those who pay little or no heed to God’s Word. They often see it as irrelevant, outdated, boring, useless and belonging to a different age. Not only do they despise God’s Word by disbelief, they despise its very teaching. Its laws and commands are not a delight to them. They see such laws as restrictive – even a hindrance to one’s own complete and full development. They love neither holiness of life nor character.

The ungodly, those not belonging to Jesus Christ and so still under God's wrath and judgment, are not standing on any solid foundation. They may hope and trust in the latest man-made philosophy, but it will eventually change and be replaced by another man-made belief. The man of God, the woman of God, must not follow or be taken up with the latest fad that comes along. It will not stand the judgment of God. All falsehoods will collapse when faced with the eternal truths of Almighty God.

4. The destruction of the ungodly

A judgment to come is often overlooked today, even by the professed church of God. Yet Scripture warns of a coming day of reckoning – a day of accountability. The only ones who will stand in that final judgment are the godly. Let it be clear, such people are never made godly in their own strength and works. Salvation, and so escaping the wrath to come, is never by the means or efforts of self, but by complete trust and belief in Jesus Christ. This is good news for those godly who are trusting in Christ alone and showing fruit of that trust and walking after God's way. The Lord *"knoweth the way of the righteous"* (v.6). That word *"knoweth"* means more than intellectual knowledge. It means to love, care and choose.

What is to be the final outcome of the ungodly? God will gather in His people at the great harvest. He will gather in His wheat and He will gather in the chaff. There is a *"fearful looking for of judgment"* (Heb. 10:27). The Book of Revelation paints for us the picture of such a harvest of the reaping of the ungodly and also of the godly (Rev. 14:14:20). There will be no escaping of such a day. The ungodly are said to *"perish"* (v.6). Sin, and its deceiving way, always leads to death. Life, now and in eternity, is found truly in and through Jesus Christ.

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REPORT ON THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SHOW AT ARDINGLY

By: **Michael Hobbis**, CW Committee Member

The South of England Agricultural Show this year was held from the 6th - 8th June. As usual, Christian Watch took a stand near to the fairground section. We choose this position each year, since not only is it next to a busy thoroughfare, but it is an area where there are many families with young children. This year was no exception and we had the opportunity to contact quite a good number of youngsters with Gospel literature.

Sadly, the attitude of apathy which is now prevalent in society at large was reflected in the response of many adults. While many took the good literature we offered, conversations were few and far between. We were, however, refreshed by several Christians, some with families, who encouraged us in the work and gave their support to David Ansell, Marcus Brookes and myself, who were manning the stand.

The Lord directed us into some, may we say, quality contacts. One example was on the Friday evening, quite late, towards the close of the Show for that day. I was considering closing the tent, as others around were also doing, but felt compelled to stay a little longer. Just before finally going home, a young woman, who seemed to be thankful that we were still there, very enthusiastically started searching through the booklets on our table. She said how pleased she was that we were at the Show and that, while she knew she was saved, she had lost all the joy of her salvation. What could I suggest to help her as she had been praying earnestly and sought unto God.

Providentially, a few days previously, I had been reading a brief article by Francis Ridley Havergal on this very subject and so related to her what I had read. This seemed to be of benefit to her and she bought several books before going on her way happily. Let us pray that she is restored to full joy in the Lord. Often, we become jaded and formal in our faith and need to remember how we first came to the Lord and the joy we felt, which is a means of refreshing and enlivening us again. *"Where is the blessedness I knew, when first I saw the Lord? Where is the soul refreshing view of Jesus and His Word...?"* Unbelief and formality creep into our hearts sometimes...so subtly and deaden us.

Other quality conversations took place, some with non-Christians, and while infrequent, we were thankful for them.

Our next opportunity at an exhibition is at the Bucks County Show (with the Protestant Alliance) on 29th August, GW, and we have a stand booked at Sandown Park CRE from October 15th - 17th. We look forward to seeing some of you at these events.

News and Current Affairs

William should think before he rejects his Grand-mother's solemn oath
Rev. Peter Simpson, Pastor, Penn Free Methodist Church - 30 June, 2019

The Duke of Cambridge recently visited the Albert Kennedy Trust, a London-based charity which endeavours to help homeless LGBT young people.

During the visit, Prince William stated that if any of his own children were homosexual, that would be "absolutely fine" by him. He declared, "I support whatever decision they make, but it does worry me from a parent's point of view how many barriers, hateful words, persecution and discrimination that might come."

Here we notice that the Prince has immediately embraced as unquestionable the primary assertion of the gay rights movement, namely that homosexual people are inevitably victims in society and are subjected to hatred and persecution. The victimhood tactic, of course, is historically the most effective way of advancing fashionable liberal causes.

It is surely strange, however, to keep on using it, when big business, public bodies, the media, supermarket chains, the police, the armed forces and not least the politicians are constantly queueing up to tell us how pro-LGBT they all are.

Yes, of course there are unpleasant characters out there who may be verbally aggressive towards homosexual people and a lesser number who may actually engage in violence. There are, however, laws in place under which they can and should be prosecuted. Such thuggish and deplorable individuals



would doubtless act the same way towards any range of people they felt they could bully or who dared to upset them or get in their way.

The plain fact, however, is that in the UK all things LGBT are now mainstream and very establishment and, to keep on claiming victimhood and persecuted status, increasingly comes across as a ploy to deflect genuine moral concerns and to shut down reasonable debate. Nor does the victimhood tactic accord with the stark reality that it is Christians daring to question the LGBT agenda who are the ones being publicly victimised and even losing their employment.

I would like courteously to challenge Prince William as a Christian Pastor. The Biblical teaching on homosexuality is unequivocal. What the Prince has just stated, in effect, is that he will support his children if they choose to defy God's moral law and providence, either by embracing the homosexual lifestyle or by seeking to change the gender which God has assigned to them. He is therefore dismissing as invalid the views of those who hold the Bible to be the Word of God.

It should be added that the Duke is also publicly rejecting as meaningless archaism his Grandmother's solemn promise in 1953 as our Head of State "to the utmost of her power to maintain the laws of God".

I, therefore, respectfully submit that the Duke's recent comments represent nothing less than a public repudiation of the Christian Scriptures and of the God-ordained family unit and are accordingly deeply to be regretted; and, lest anyone should be in any doubt, I uphold God's moral law in respect of homosexuality precisely because I love my homosexual neighbour and seek the best for him.

Letter to All Members of Parliament — by Pastor Les Potter

The Upper Room Christian Fellowship at Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, July, 2019

Dear...

I would like to remind you, if you have forgotten, or to inform you if you do not know, that you are God's Minister and, as such, you are called and ordained to govern this land according to His Word and subject to His will. You have been given authority to govern and you will be held accountable by God for the way that you have used that God-given authority.

The Bible tells us - the electorate - to respect and honour you. "*For he is the minister of God to thee for good...Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour*" (Romans 13:4-7).

Unfortunately, you are all so far from doing God's will that all the people have lost the honour and respect that is due to your office because of your despicable behaviour – hence the result in the recent elections.

This is not what we want. We want Ministers that we can look up to and respect, men of integrity and honour. The Good News is that, if you will repent of your ungodly behaviour, God will forgive you and restore you to the righteous position that He desires, nay demands, for you. May I suggest the following prayer as the start of your personal (and collective) repentance?

“Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and seek your direction and guidance. We know your Word says, “Woe to those who call evil good,” but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values. We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your Word and call it pluralism. We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism. We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.

We have exploited the poor and called it ‘The Lottery’. We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation. We have rewarded laziness and called it Social Security. We have killed our unborn children and called it choice.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building esteem. We have abused power and called it political correctness. We have coveted our neighbour’s possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have encouraged debt and called it prosperity.

All this we have done which is contrary to your Will and we ask that you will forgive us for our sins and have mercy on us. Give us your wisdom and show us how to govern our nation in righteousness in the future. Amen.”

Finally, I exhort you, as our elected leaders and God's Ministers, to *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”* Proverbs 3:5 (KJV).

Yours, prayerfully and sincerely,

Les W. Potter



U.S. – Freedom March for ‘ex-gays’

British Church Newspaper, 21 June, 2019

On 25 May, the second ‘Freedom March’ took place in Washington D.C., with around 200 people taking part. The event highlights stories by those ‘freed’ from homosexual addiction – mostly born-again Christians – and is therefore a major challenge to those who insist that people are ‘born that way’. Last year’s march attracted 60 participants.

The 200-strong crowd marched around the Washington Monument and the White House, often bursting into singing: “The Lion of the tribe of Judah is roaring, He’s roaring to set the captives free”.

Freedom March organiser, Jeffrey McCall, explained to CBN News: “I started the Freedom March because I felt all these stories of people that have left LGBTQ lifestyles needed to be heard.” Addicted to the homosexual lifestyle for 15 years and then trans-gendering as ‘Scarlet’ for a while, he says he ‘hit rock bottom’ and was converted after hearing sermons by Pastor Jentezen Franklin. He added: “Freedom March has built a close-knit family of overcomers and brought light to this topic.”

Angel Colon said: “The process of change was not easy, but change is possible in Christ.” His fellow marcher, Luis Ruiz, said: “It wasn’t a ‘gay to straight’ thing. It was a ‘lost to saved’ thing.”

A prominent campaigner for the ‘right to change’ from a homosexual to a ‘straight’ lifestyle, Brian Wheelock, told how his conversion changed him from someone steeped deep in the homosexual lifestyle to his subsequent happy marriage. The couple now have three children. He said: “Years ago, I’d have been standing over there, having an argument with somebody that this is the way I was born and nobody’s gonna change that, because this is who I am.” He said he felt “God was telling me, ‘Brian this is not my best for you, I have better for you’.”

The homosexual magazine LGBTQ Nation denounced the march, claiming it was “about conversion therapy, which doesn’t work.” Wheelock countered - “Conversion therapy had nothing to do with my freedom from the homosexual life and I don’t promote it. I didn’t pray in the name of Jesus that He would make me straight. I prayed I would die to myself and become a follower of Jesus Christ; and God is faithful to that.”



Christian Campaigner says death penalty is Biblical

By Heather Preston, Premier, 26 July, 2019

The United States has re-instated capital punishment for the first time in nearly two decades, after Attorney General, William Barr, directed the Federal Bureau of Prisons to schedule the executions of five death-row inmates.

Mr Barr announced in a statement that the death penalty would be implemented in order to bring justice to the families of victims and that the five death-row inmates have all been convicted of murder. In some cases, the individuals have also been convicted of the torture or rape of children and the elderly.

Rev. Mark Mullins from the Campaign Group, Christian Watch, advocates for the death penalty. Speaking to Premier he said he believes it is a Biblical principle: *"I believe Scripturally it is justified."*

"I support it because it's in Genesis chapter nine. At the same time we were given the rainbow as a promise by God that He would not visit the same flood judgment on the nations of the world, He imposed a death penalty."

"The Law of proportionality – an eye for an eye, tooth for tooth, a life for life. I believe that in justice and in other areas of the law we impose the lex talionis, proportionate punishment for the crime."

When asked how capital punishment can be justified within the Christian teachings of forgiveness and redemption, he said that the State has been given the authority to take life by God and argued that many Christians would participate in a just war without any moral conflict.

"What is the difference between a just war where life is taken and imposing the death penalty when somebody is found guilty of taking another person's life deliberately? I suggest there is no difference."

He went on to say that the Justice System safeguards individuals from taking personal justice into their own hands.

"The danger is if you remove the right of the State to take life, following the judicial process, what you are going to encourage is a shoot to kill policy."

The capital punishment debate re-surfaced in the UK following Boris Johnson's recent appointment of Priti Patel as Home Secretary – an M.P. who publicly advocated for the death penalty in 2011.

Don't be Discouraged

Editorial, English Churchman Newspaper, 5, 12 July, 2019

We keep hearing from friends who are deeply concerned about the low state of the church in our nation and the need for national repentance. However, this concern is evidence that the Lord is already at work in the hearts of His people.

At our little prayer meeting recently, we were drawing close to the Lord and we believe that we continue with such a desire and a sense of God's active grace outside our meetings also.

Furthermore, there are thousands of us scattered around the country and around the world. Of course, there are a vast number of heretics and apostates too, but the Bible is plain that there will be wolves arising in the church. Keep on. Don't be discouraged.

While it appears that Atheism and Islam are taking over, we should remember that their schemes are merely devices to challenge the church, not to destroy us. They can never defeat the promises of God in Christ to make His purposes complete.

We live in times of national apostasy. In such times, the various segments of society conspire together. *"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed"*. Each evildoer confirms each other in their sin as if their default sin is the truth.

This includes the widespread predominance of national sins when a nation is consumed by particular forms of grievous ungodliness. It is hard to exactly define national sin today, but it certainly includes arrogance, pride, adultery, idolatry, covetousness and impatience.

Yet while national sins have led millions astray to destruction, they have never destroyed the true church and never will.

Humanists UK recently invited us to attend their Conference. We replied along the following lines:

We are sorry we are unable to attend your Conference or to send a reporter. We are sure it would be very interesting.

In 1970 Joan Bakewell (one of the speakers at the Conference) interviewed a preacher, Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones. He died a few years later but remains a very great influence on Bible preaching evangelical Christians today. Here is the interview:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-vbydx95tVQ>

We don't think anything has changed since that time, except that the fruit of the 1960s anarchy has borne fruit, only proving what Dr Lloyd-Jones says.

Several thoughts, if we may.

First, atheists needn't be worried about the threat of the Church of England giving "Christian" education (one of the concerns of the Conference). The C of E is virtually as evolutionist LGBT as yourselves!

Second, what concerns us is that while the idealism of atheism all sounds fair and equitable, by definition atheism can have no direction. The track record of atheism isn't very happy in Russia and China etc.

However, if God is real, as evidenced by the Church, which came after the Resurrection and fulfilling of the Old Testament history and prophecy, then atheism is not only the height of foolishness, but the consequences of this increasing godlessness in our society will be disastrous. We are already seeing this in the breakdown of society; but the most serious thing is that if God is real and is being rejected, then millions of people are being robbed of blessing.

My experience isn't of being brought up as a Christian and turning away from God but rather the reverse of trying everything in the world and wondering why the amazing Gospel of Jesus Christ was kept hidden from me in supposedly "Christian" Britain until I was 31 years old. It was largely because the Church of England, which I had often attended, has been to a very large extent neglecting the Christian message of salvation, just as much as the Gospel is absent from schools, Government, TV and radio etc. It really is hard to imagine what "more" is left for atheists to do!

However, rather than ending on a gloomy note, the good news is that Jesus Christ said that He will build His church and nothing can stop it. The unfaithfulness of Archbishops and the Anti-Christ Popes cannot stop it. Atheism can't stop it. Making religion illegal couldn't stop Christ in China as persecution there has led to massive church growth – as it always has. The evil dictator in North Korea can't stop Jesus either, despite his cruelty.

The harder atheism pushes against Christ in the UK, the stronger the church will get. Hypocrite churches will fall away, and genuine churches will grow instead.

*There is joy in Heaven when an atheist or a Muslim or a homosexual or a Roman Catholic or any sinner repents. Let us not be discouraged. Rather, let us continue to repent ourselves and to believe the Gospel and to draw as near to the Lord as we possibly can. He is at work in us. **"Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might"** (Eph. 6:10).*



“Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth Thou art the Son of God.” (Matt. 14:33)

By: J.C. Philpot; From: Through Baca's Vale Daily Words

What a beauty and blessedness there is in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, when viewed by the spiritual eye!

Our reasoning minds, it is true, may be deeply stumbled at the doctrine of an incarnate God. My own mind, I know, has sometimes been driven almost to its wits' end by this great mystery of deity and humanity combined in the Person of Christ, for it so surpasses all human comprehension and is so removed beyond the grasp of all our reasoning faculties. It is not, indeed, contrary to reason, for there is nothing in it impossible or self-contradictory; but it is beyond and above the reach of human thought and tangible apprehension. But when we are led to consider what would be the most certain and most fearful consequences unless the Lord Jesus Christ were what He declares He is, God as well as man, we are compelled, from the very necessity of the case, to cast ourselves with all the weight of our sins and sorrows upon an incarnate God, as the shipwrecked sailor gladly casts himself upon the rock in the ocean as the only refuge from the devouring sea.

When we feel what sinners we are, and have been, look down into the depths of the fall and see in some feeble and faint measure what sin is in the sight of a holy and pure God, what can save us from despair unless we see the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ investing His work upon the cross and His obedience with a merit that shall suffice to justify our guilty souls, wash away our aggravated iniquities, blot out our fearful crimes and make us fit to appear in the presence of a righteous God? Thus, we are sometimes absolutely compelled to throw ourselves on the deity of Christ, as ready to perish, because in such a divine Saviour, in such precious blood, we see a refuge and we see elsewhere no other. We then feel that if the deity of Christ be taken away, the Church of God is lost.

Where can you find pardon? Where justification? Where reconciliation to God? where atoning blood, if there is no Saviour who merited as God and suffered as man? We might as well leap into Hell at once with all our sins upon our head, as a sailor might spring over the prow of a burning ship into the boiling waves, to meet death instead of waiting for it, unless we believe by a living faith in the deity of the Son of God.

But sometimes we are sweetly led into this glorious truth, not merely driven by sheer necessity, but blessedly drawn into this great mystery of godliness, when Christ is revealed to our souls by the power of God. Then, seeing light in God's light, we view the deity of Christ investing every thought, word and act of His suffering humanity with unspeakable merit. Then we see how this glorious fact of deity and humanity in the Person of Immanuel satisfies every want, puts away every sin, heals every wound, wipes away every tear and sweetly brings the soul to repose on the bosom of God.

Sometimes, therefore, from necessity driven by storms of guilt and waves of temptation and sometimes sweetly drawn by the leadings and teachings of the Holy Ghost, we lay hold of the hope set before us in the essential deity and suffering humanity of the Son of God, knowing that there is a refuge in Him from sin, death, Hell and despair.

“O Lord, revive Thy work.”
(Habakkuk 3:2)

By: **James Smith;**
From: **Daily Remembrancer**

No one can revive the Lord's work but Himself. He began it. He must carry it on. He will complete it; but He does so by means; and one of the means He employs is prayer. He convinces us that we need a revival. He stirs us up to seek it. He makes us sensible of our insufficiency. He may perhaps keep us waiting at His throne for a time. The delay may cause us pain and perplexity. If sanctified, it will make us more earnest for the blessing; and then we shall cry out with one of old, "*Wilt Thou not revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?*" When the Lord revives His work, He strengthens our faith, invigorates our hope, inflames our love, deepens our humility, animates our zeal and stirs us up to seek the promotion of His cause. Then prayer becomes pleasant, praise sweet, ordinances profitable, the Sabbath a delight and the sanctuary amiable. The Church resembles a lovely garden, in which we walk with peculiar satisfaction; the gospel is a feast, most suitable and costly; and we look forward to Heaven as to our country and our home. The Lord revives His work in us by His Spirit, by His providence and by His holy ordinances. His power is unlimited. His grace is omnipotent. His mercy is free. Let nothing satisfy us but a revival.

*O! for His all-reviving grace,
The quickening power divine,
The deadness from my soul to chase,
That I may rise and shine.*



LOVE OF CHRIST IMMEASURABLE

(John 3:16; Ephesians 3:19)

Hymn by William Gadsby

High beyond imagination
Is the love of God to man;
Far too deep for human reason;
Fathom that it never can;
 Love Eternal
Richly dwells in Christ the Lamb.

Love like Jesus' none can measure,
Nor can its dimensions know;
'Tis a boundless, endless river,
And its waters freely flow.
 O ye thirsty,
Come and taste its streams below.

Jesus loved, and loves for ever;
Zion on His heart does dwell;
He will never, never, never
Leave His Church a prey to Hell.
 All is settled,
And my soul approves it well.



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