

# SCOTTISH PROTESTANT VIEW

FREE

CELEBRATING THE 450th ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE REFORMATION IN SCOTLAND

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## THE REFORMATION WAS NO TRAGEDY

In the light of the Pope's remarks in the article below, I want, as an evangelical protestant, to remind the Pope that the Reformation of 1560 was no tragedy and by God's grace, I along with Zion Baptist Church will be taking the opportunity in September D.V. to confront him with our message.

I recall the final words of the saintly Patrick Hamilton. "How long shall darkness overwhelm this realm? And how long wilt thou suffer the tyranny of these men? The flames of Rome's tyranny would yet

scorch George Wishart and Walter Mill plus another five who were burned in Edinburgh, but Patrick Hamilton's prayer was to be answered. 1560 was to witness a great protestation and separation.

Scotland was to receive great light through the Word of God being preached and its personal study. The crucial doctrinal issues of the Reformation were summed up in the 'slogan' By grace alone, by Christ alone, to God's glory alone. Thank God for the Reformation.

By Mr Jack Bell Editor

### Sectarianism 'has continued to rear its head in recent times' and Reformation was a tragedy, Benedict tells bishops

TOM PETERKIN

SCOTLAND is a country plagued by sectarianism and struggling with a rising "tide of secularism", the Pope has declared, in an address to the country's Catholic bishops in Rome.

He ended months of speculation when he confirmed he was to visit Scotland later this year.

But in remarks that contrast with those of John Paul II, the last pope to visit Scotland, Benedict XVI attacked proposed new laws, and said the country was battling with sectarianism as a result of a "great rupture" with its Catholic past.

The Pope urged his Scottish bishops to "grapple firmly with the challenges presented by the increasing tide of secularism in your country".

He also used his speech to condemn

euthanasia - comments widely interpreted as a criticism of Margo MacDonald's attempt to pass an assisted suicide bill at Holyrood.

"Support for euthanasia strikes at the very heart of the Christian understanding of the dignity of human life," the Pope said.

He also drew attention to Scotland's Protestant-Catholic religious divide when he looked back to the Reformation of 1560.

"The Church in your country, like many in Northern Europe, has suffered the tragedy of division," he said. "It is sobering to recall the great rupture with Scotland's Catholic past that occurred 450 years ago."

He acknowledged that progress had been made to close the divide but stressed that sectarianism remained a Scottish problem.

"I give thanks to God for the progress that

has been made in healing the wounds that were the legacy of that period, especially the sectarianism that has continued to rear its head even in recent times," he said.

*Extract from The Scotsman February 2010*

### Reformation Reminders

We ought to remember the Protestant Reformation for many reasons. Here are some of them:

1. It gave us the Bible in English, and the freedom to read it
2. It stressed that everyone had direct access to Christ without the mediation of any other person
3. It introduced true Christian worship that all could understand and ended the medieval services which were just

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# German Jesuit sex abuse charges ‘tip of iceberg’

A German bishop has described as “shocking and disastrous” recent new allegations of sexual abuse by clergy at an elite Roman Catholic school run by the Jesuits.

So far, three priests are accused of systematic sexual abuse.

At the centre of the allegations is Canisius College in Berlin. On 28 January, the college said there had been systematic abuse of pupils by three Jesuit priests in the 1970s and 1980s. So far, 40 cases are known, with new victims coming forward each day, after the Jesuit leadership urged them to do so.

The priests who now stand accused have also worked at Jesuit-run secondary schools in Hamburg, Bonn and the Black Forest, and in parishes in Lower Saxony. Therefore, the Rev. Klaus Mertes, the current director of Canisius College, told Germany’s *Der Spiegel* magazine that he

expected the current allegations to be the “tip of the iceberg”.

On 8 February, the director of Aloisius College in Bonn, the Rev. Theo Schneider, resigned after accusations that he knew about the abuse.

The bishop of Trier, Stephan Ackermann, chairperson of the German Catholic Justice and Peace Committee, is in step with other high-ranking German Catholic clergy, who last weekend in church services repented and asked for forgiveness for the many incidents of sexual abuse by their clergy and lay people.

“When a Catholic priest, representing an institution with such high moral notions, commits sexual abuse, this leads to a breach that cannot be rectified,” Provost Martin Tenge, the regional deacon of the Diocese of Hanover, told his congregation in a Sunday service in the Hanoverian Basilica.

In all Sunday services in the Diocese of Hanover, a statement from the diocesan bishop, Norbert Trelle, was read out in which he promised to get to the root of the problem. “The whole institution is at fault because it imparted a mentality of, ‘Please do not talk about it,’” Tenge wrote.

*Der Spiegel* ran the sex scandal as its cover story on 8 February under the headline, “The hypocrites: the Catholic Church and sex”. The magazine said it had conducted a survey the preceding week, and found that close to 100 clergy and lay people had been suspected of sexual abuse in Germany’s 27 Catholic dioceses since 1995.

The Roman Catholic Church in Austria, the United States, Australia, the Philippines and Ireland has faced similar allegations regarding sexual abuse by church officials in recent times. [ENI]

*British Church Newspaper*

## THE CHURCH OF ROME AND SCRIPTURE

The Church of Rome recognises the Scriptures, together with the Apocrypha, as the Word of God. In Paragraph 105 the Catechism says, “The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. For Holy Mother Church, relying on the faith of the apostolic age, accepts as sacred and canonical the books of the Old and New Testament, whole and entire, with all their parts, on the grounds that, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author and have been handed on as such to the Church herself”.

Unfortunately this statement has already been qualified by Par 80-82, “As a result the Church to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, ‘does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the Holy Scriptures alone. *Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honoured with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence*’” (my italics).

Again in Par 119, “...all that has been said about the manner of interpreting Scripture is ultimately subject to the judgement of the Church, which exercises the divinely conferred commission and ministry of watching over and interpreting the Word of God”. This merely confirms what the Council of Trent wrote in 1546 in the Fourth Session, “...no one relying on his own judgement, shall in matters of faith and morals pertaining to the edification of Christian doctrine, distorting the Holy Scriptures in accordance with his own conceptions, presumed to interpret them contrary to the sense which holy mother Church, to whom it belongs to judge their true sense and interpretation, has held and holds...”

Pope John Paul II ratified this in 1995 in his encyclical letter *Ut Unum Sint* (that they may be one), when he said, “the relationship between Sacred Scripture, as the highest authority in matters of faith, and Sacred Tradition, is indispensable to the interpretation of the Word of God”.

## THE EVANGELICAL AND SCRIPTURE

As Evangelicals we have no higher authority than the Word of God.

The Scriptures themselves claim that they contain sufficient information to bring sinners from their lost state into a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, to feed them spiritually, ensuring that they will grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and will instruct them in God’s plan for regeneration, justification, sanctification and glorification.

*Ps 119:130*, “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

*John 20:31*, “But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

*Rom 10:17*, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

*2 Tim 3:16,17*, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

*Heb 4:12*, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

*1 Pet 2:2*, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

These verses show us that Scripture is sufficient in itself and needs no additions such as “Oral and Church Traditions”, and is the complete guide for the sinner seeking redemption and sanctification.

*An Examination of Contemporary Roman Catholicism*

*continued from page 1*

mysterious performances.

4. It showed that God's way of salvation was by grace through faith alone, and not by any efforts of man.

5. It ended the religious ignorance and superstition of the Middle Ages.

6. It made a definite contribution to the establishment of our national character.

7. It reminds us that we must be on guard today against every effort to re-introduce unscriptural doctrine and worship.

8. It challenges us to stand firm in the faith of Christ, no matter what effort is made to alter our convictions.

9. It shows us that God is able to work in amazing ways for the extension of His Kingdom.

10. It was brought about by men working under the spirit of God who were willing to die that we might know the liberty of the gospel.

On reflection we will observe that the first reason quoted above was the root of them all as Psalm 119 verse 130 gives it: "the entrance of Thy words giveth light."

*The Protestant, Challenge,  
Jan-Feb, 1995.*

# Pope praises the Edinburgh Conference 1910 - 2010

Edinburgh 2010 is a coalition of world Christian churches and mission organisations inspired by the memory of the Edinburgh 1910 World Missionary Conference which is regarded as the birthplace of the modern ecumenical movement.

## 'NEW PERSPECTIVES'

A five-day international, multi-denominational summit will take place from 2-6 June in Edinburgh, "where it is hoped new perspectives for Christian mission in the 21st century will emerge".

Among the 20 members of the Edinburgh 2010 Council are the World Evangelical Alliance, the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the World Baptist Alliance and the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

## THE POPE

The Pope closed the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 25 January, in Rome, with Vespers. In his homily he emphasised that everyone is called to seek "full communion between all of the

disciples of Christ".

During the Week Pope Benedict spoke of the centenary of the World Missionary Conference, held in Edinburgh in 1910.

The goal of the gathering between representatives from mostly Protestant churches was to work towards unity and to define a shared approach to spreading the Good News.

Pope Benedict said "A century later, the intuition of those brave pioneers is still relevant, in a world marked by religious indifference, and even by a growing aversion to the Christian faith."

## PRAYER AND DIALOGUE

He said that differences between the Christian churches remain but he added that "hopefully they can be overcome through prayer and dialogue".

Looking forward to the centenary celebrations of the Edinburgh Conference in June in Scotland, the Pope concluded by calling for "a new, intense, work of evangelization, not only among people who have never known the Gospel, but also among people for whom Christianity is part of their history.

*British Church Newspaper*

# THE AUDACITY OF ROMANISM

In the eyes of the World, both Political and Religious, the Roman Catholic Church is the guardian of all morality. Today, Presidents, Prime Ministers as well as Royalty, are all willing to bow and acknowledge the supreme piety of the Papacy, through its figurehead, the Pope.

## ARROGANCE:

Everywhere he goes, the Pope is feted as the visible Head of Christendom. He receives the red carpet treatment. Even the poor countries which he visits, they have to spend millions, just to have him in their country for a few days.

Whatever the Pope brings to each Nation that he visits, he takes more away when he leaves. It is always degrading to see human beings, bowing and kissing his hand and he accepts it all, because he believes that he is the Vicar of Christ on Earth.

Rome proclaims that she is still the one and only true Church. She is the Church

Founded by Christ on Peter. She and she alone, has the full knowledge and revelation of God's divine truth.

## RUTHLESS:

However Scripture and History proves otherwise. The Church of Rome today is the same Church, that invented the "Holy Inquisition," the mode, of punishment which was going to become a model for some of the world's greatest dictators.

Scripture, with its God given authority, clearly reveals that the Papacy is not the religion of Christ; but rather that of anti-christ. Rome has reversed everything that Christ has taught. What Christ said was spiritual, Rome has made visible. While Christ abandoned earthly cities, Rome has built her own "Eternal City".

Rome is the system that has perverted the Gospel and on so many occasions, prevented it from being preached. Rome has claimed to be the Mother of the Bible.

Yet as Monica Farreil used to say; "If this is true, Rome is the only Mother that has burned her own children."

## HERETICAL:

While Rome continues to be what she is; while Rome persists in her claims; while Rome preaches that Gospel which denies the heart of the Christian Faith. While Rome propagates, works instead of Faith, sacraments instead of Grace, the Church instead of the Lord Jesus Christ. While all this is happening we cannot do any other but what Luther said over 480 years ago, "My conscience is captive to the Word of God. Prove to me out of the Word of God that I am wrong, God help I can do no other". Rome failed, by her word or her manipulating of the Scriptures, to prove Luther wrong, may we too stand where he stood on the indestructible rock of God's Holy Word.

S.M,

*Ulster Bulwark Nov/Dec.1995*

# From Letters of Samuel Rutherford

68/MR ROBERT CAMPBELL

## Steadfastness in protest against Prelacy and Popery

[Undated: Rutherford died on the 20 March 1661, shortly after this letter was written]

Reverend and dear Brother:

You know that this is a time in which all men almost seek their own things and not the things of Jesus Christ. You are alone, as a beacon on the top of a mountain. But faint not; Christ is a numerous multitude himself, yea, millions. Though all the nations were convened against him round about, yet doubt not but he will, at last, arise for the cry of the poor and needy.

For me, I am now near to eternity; and for ten thousand worlds I dare not venture to pass from the protestation against the corruptions of the time, nor go along with the shameless apostasy of the many silent and dumb watchmen of Scotland. But I think it my last duty to enter a protestation in heaven before the righteous judge, against the practical and legal breach of the Covenant, and all oaths imposed on the consciences of the Lord's people, and all popish, superstitious, and idolatrous

mandates of men. Know that the overthrow of the sworn Reformation, the introducing of popery and the mystery of iniquity, is now set on foot in the three kingdoms; and whosoever would keep their garments clean are under that command, 'Touch not, taste not, handle not'.

The Lord calleth you, dear brother, to be still 'steadfast, unmoveable, and abounding in the work of the Lord'. Our royal kingly Master is upon his journey, and will come, and will not tarry. And blessed is the servant who shall be found watching when he cometh. Fear not men, for the lord is your light and salvation. It is true, it is somewhat sad and comfortless that ye are you alone. But so it was with our precious Master; nor are you alone, for the Father is with you. It is possible that I shall not be an eyewitness to it in the flesh, but I believe he cometh quickly who will remove our darkness, and shine gloriously in the Isle of Britain, as a crowned King, either in a formally sworn covenant, or in his own glorious way; which I leave to the determination of his infinite wisdom and goodness. And this is the hope and confidence of a dying man who is longing and fainting for the



Samuel Rutherford

salvation of God.

Beware of die ensnaring bonds and obligations, by any hand-writ or otherwise, to give unlimited obedience to my authority, but only in the Lord. For all innocent self defence (which is according to the Covenant, the Word of God, and the laudable example of the Reformed Churches) is now intended to be utterly subverted and condemned. And what is taken from Christ, as the flower of his prerogative-royal, is now put upon the head of a mortal power; which must be that great idol of indignation that provoketh the eyes of his glory.

Dear brother, let us mind the rich promises that are made to those that overcome, knowing that those that endure to the end shall be saved.

## Anti-Pope protests planned

The National Secular Society has announced a "large-scale campaign" to protest against Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Britain in September.

NSS president Terry Sanderson said he is seeking to bring together gay groups, feminist groups, family planning organisations, pro-choice groups and victim support groups to join the campaign. Similar demonstrations were held when Pope John Paul II visited Britain in 1982.

Sanderson stated, "The taxpayer in this country is going to be faced with a bill of some £20 million for the visit of the Pope. A visit in which he has already indicated, he will attack equal rights and promote discrimination.

"If the Catholic Church wishes its leader to come here, it should pay for the visit itself. I am sure many others feel the same resentment as we do at the NSS at fund-ing the presence of someone who wishes to impose a reactionary agenda of social change on us."

(VirtueOnline)

## THE REFORMERS AND ROME

**Martin Luther:** '... the papacy is of a truth the kingdom of Babylon, yea, of very Antichrist! For who is this 'man of sin' and the 'son of perdition' but he that with his doctrines and his laws increases sins and the perdition of souls in the Church, while he sits in the Church as if he were God? All this the papal tyranny has more than fulfilled, these many centuries; it has extinguished faith, obscured the sacraments and oppressed the Gospel; but its own laws, which are not only impious and sacrilegious, but even barbarous and foolish, it has enjoined and multiplied world without end.'

**John Calvin:** to some we seem slanderous and petulant when we call the Roman Pontiff 'Antichrist'; but those who so perceive not that they are bringing a charge of intemperance against Paul, after whom we speak ...

Seeing then it is certain that the Roman Pontiff has impudently transferred to himself the most peculiar properties of God and Christ, there cannot be a doubt that he is the leader and standard bearer of an impious and abominable kingdom.

**John Knox:** 'as for your Roman Church ... I no more doubt that it is the synagogue of Satan, and the head thereof called the Pope, to be the man of sin, of whom the apostles speaketh than I doubt that Jesus Christ suffered by the procurement of the visible Church of Jerusalem.'

**ALL ARTICLES IN THIS MAGAZINE REPRODUCED AS EVIDENCE**

# TRUTH'S DEFENDERS VINDICATED

**JOHN KENNEDY.**

In times such as ours it is easy to seem a bigot, if one keeps a firm hold of truth, and is careful to have the seal of Heaven on his hope. No Christian can be true and faithful now-a-days on whose brow the world shall not brand the name of bigot. But let him bear it. It is a mark of honour, though intended to be a brand of shame. It proves him to be an associate of the men of whom the world was not worthy, but who, under the world's lash, did more for the world's good than all besides. The world ever suffers by the men it honours. The men of mercy to it are the men it hates. Ah, these old Covenanters of our native land were stern bigots in their day. It was well for Scotland that they were. They could part with their lives, but they could not sell the truth. They would yield all for conscience, but they would yield nought to despots. They could bear to suffer and to die, but they were afraid to sin. It was this bigotry which won its liberty for their native land. The legacy bequeathed to it by these men of faith, whose only home was oft the mountain cavern, and to whom the snow was oft the only winding-sheet which wrapped their bodies when they had given their lives for Christ, was a richer boon than all ever given to it by the kings who occupied its throne, and by all men of title and of wealth who owned its acres. Oh yes, they were bigots these, in the judgment of scoffing sceptics and of ruthless persecutors, and not all the piles they could kindle could burn their bigotry out of them.

And these were stern bigots, too, according to the world's estimate, who headed the

crusade against Antichrist, when, at the era of the Reformation, a fire from Heaven had kindled in their hearts the love of truth. It was by unflinching resolution, induced by living faith, these men over-came in the times of stern trial in which they unfurled their banner in the name of God. A plaint Melancthon would have bartered the gospel for peace—the stern courage of a Luther was needed to prevent the sacrifice. In every age, from the beginning, when the cause of truth emerged triumphant from the din and dust of controversy, the victory was won by a band of bigots who were sworn to its defence.

There is need now of the men whom the world calls bigots. Men of grasp less firm and of love less fervent will do little for the cause of truth and for the best interests of humanity. Other men than these will even barter their own eternal prospects for the honour which comes from men and for the ease which is won by compromise. How many such as these there are, even in the Churches, and even there in the van, who boast of a charity which is indiscriminate in its regards, of a sentiment that refuses the form which the truth imposes, and who have learned from the worldling his scorn of all seriousness, his contempt for all scrupulousness of conscience, and his sneers at the religion which is sustained by intercourse with Heaven! These have their followers. A widespread movement has begun away from vital religion, fixed beliefs, and holy living. The Churches are moving with the current. The time may be fast approaching when the one alternative shall be living faith or open scepticism.

A tide which few seem careful to resist is bearing us on to such a crisis. How the result may tell on Churches, communities, and individuals we cannot forecast, nor can we attempt to conjecture without sadness of feeling. But an assured victory is the destiny of the cause of truth. Till the hour of its triumph shall come, all who have linked their interests to the chariot of the gospel shall find themselves a diminishing band as they advance, their loneliness of feeling deepening as former friendships wane into neglect, coldness is changed into scorn, and contempt passes into bitter enmity; and they can follow the cause of truth only amidst the scoffs of unbelievers and the shafts of persecutors.

But let no lover of the truth—let none whose eye ever rested on the hope of the gospel—turn craven-hearted back from trial. To fall in the cause of truth is but to rise in the kingdom of glory. To be trampled under foot till crushed dead by the heel of persecution is but to have the prison broken open, that the ransomed spirit may pass from bondage to a throne. And in his saddest hour let not the sufferer for truth refuse the joy which glimpses of prophetic light bring to his heart as they break through the clouds of present trial. His King shall triumph in His cause on earth, and His friends shall share His glory. All nations shall touch His sceptre. The old strongholds of unbelief shall be levelled in the dust. Iniquity shall hide its face ashamed. Truth, as revealed from Heaven, shall receive universal homage, and be glorious in the halo of its blissful triumphs before the eyes of all.

## *The Banner of Truth*

*Dr. Kennedy was pastor of Dingwall Free Church congregation from 1844 until his death in 1884 at the age of 65. He was a renowned and powerful preacher whose services were in much demand by congregations throughout the Highlands and in other parts of Scotland.*

*He was also a staunch defender of the Reformed Faith who was, as his friend C.H. Spurgeon described him, 'true as steel and firm as a rock'.*

# John Bradford —

the martyr who dared to die for scripture

Nigel T. Faithfull

**2010 marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Bradford. The reading of *Five English Reformers* by J.C. Ryle about 45 years ago created in me a saving conviction of sin and repentance. The fourth martyr described in that book was John Bradford.**

**J**ohn Bradford was born in 1510 at Manchester and attended Manchester Grammar School. Little other information is available about him until he was about 34 years of age, when he undertook administrative duties for Sir John Harington, vice-treasurer of King Henry VIII's army in France, and was appointed paymaster at the siege of Montreuil.

## Repentance

Henry VIII died in January 1547, and in April Bradford left Boulogne and commenced legal studies at the Inner Temple. This was a momentous period in his life. His friend and fellow-student Thomas Sampson (c. 1517-1589) was a means of leading him to Christ.

Bradford experienced conviction of sin following the fiery preaching of Hugh Latimer, and evidenced repentance by selling his valuables (he loved rings, chains, brooches and jewellery) to relieve the poor and sick.

Foxe records that from then on 'he gave himself wholly to the study of the Holy Scriptures'. To further this aim, Bradford applied to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, gaining admission in 1548. Sampson also became a Fellow of Pembroke College that year, then Dean of Chichester (1552) and later Dean of Christchurch, Oxford (1561). Remarkably, Bradford was awarded an MA the following year in 1549, and next month became a Fellow of Pembroke College and tutor to John Whitgift, who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1583.

During this period Bradford kept a journal, daily recording sins noted in others and mourning the same faults in himself. Seeing any good in others which he personally lacked, he would crave God's mercy to amend.

Bradford thought he needed further study, but Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, ordained him deacon on 10 August 1550, also making him one of his own chaplains.

## Preacher

The following August Bradford was made prebend in St Paul's Cathedral, and in December became one of six chaplains to the Protestant King Edward VI. They were Bill, Bradford, Grindal, Harley, Knox and Perne.

These were to itinerate, preaching in the remotest parts of the kingdom for the instruction of the ignorant in right religion to God and obedience to the king. Two chaplains remained with the king while the other four itinerated.

Bradford covered Lancashire and Cheshire, where crowds flocked to hear him. He preached against sin and proclaimed the imminent judgement of God. Sampson records: 'He used in the morning to go to the common prayer in the



John Bradford

college where he was, and after that he used to make some prayer with his pupils in his chamber ... he then repaired to his own exercise in prayer by himself, as one that had not yet prayed to his own mind'.

When in company, he 'used to fall often into a sudden and deep meditation, in which he would sit with fixed countenance and spirit moved, yet speaking nothing a good space. And sometimes in this silent sitting, plenty of tears would trickle down his cheeks. Sometimes he would sit in it, and come out of it, with a smiling countenance'.

Thus he communed with his God, either repenting of some perceived inward sin, or rejoicing in some grace.

## Reproof

This holy walk gave Bradford a boldness in rebuking blatant sin in others. For, in all companies where he did come, he would freely reprove any sin and misbehaviour which appeared in any person, especially swearers, filthy talkers, and popish praters.

'Such never departed out of his company unreprieved. And this he did with such a divine grace and Christian majesty, that ever he stopped the mouths of the gainsayers. For he spake with power, and yet so sweetly, that they might see their evil to be evil, and hurtful to them, and understand that

it was good indeed to the which he laboured to draw them in God'.

On 19 July 1553, the Catholic half-sister of Edward VI became Queen Mary I, and soon was well earning her later sobriquet of 'Bloody Mary' sending almost 300 Protestants to be burned at the stake. She reigned until 17 November 1558, when she was replaced by her half-sister Elizabeth I. Sampson fled for his life to Strasbourg in 1554, but Bradford chose to remain in England.

On 13 August 1553, the Catholic Gilbert Bourne was preaching at London's St Paul's Cross against the late Edward VI's reformations, when the crowd became angry at his attack on the dead king. He had no sooner called for Bradford to protect him, when a man threw a dagger at Bourne, grazing Bradford's sleeve.

One man called out, 'You save him that will help to burn you!' Bradford later risked his life preaching to the people against seditious uprisings. But instead of being thanked by the authorities, was accused of preaching without authority!

### Arrest

Even though Bradford saved Bourne's life, Bourne did not support Bradford after the latter's arrest. Bradford appeared before the Council in the Tower of London charged with preaching seditious sermons.

While there, he shared a cell with Cranmer, Larimer and Ridley (there was overcrowding due to Wyatt's rebellion). They prayed and read Scripture together, but found no evidence of more than a spiritual presence of Christ in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper, nor that the mass was a sacrifice for sins.

In March 1554 Bradford was moved for ten months to the King's Bench prison at Southwark. Inmates there included Robert Ferrar (Bishop of St David's), Rowland Taylor (Vicar of Hadleigh, who considered the mass 'spiritual whoredom'), and John Philpot (Archdeacon of Winchester, who denied the 'real presence' in the mass). Bradford's testimony on arrival at the King's Bench caused Ferrar to retract a recent capitulation to taking the mass.

Like Paul at Rome, Bradford was allowed some freedom, writing many letters and articles. He sought to unite Calvinistic theologians against the Arminians. He commented, 'The effects of salvation they so mingle and confound with the cause ... more hurt will come by them, than ever came by the papists, inasmuch as their life com-mendeth them to the world more than the papists'.

Bradford stressed sound scriptural doctrine, which could refute the claims of papal supremacy and the mass — 'the horriblest and most detestable device that ever the devil brought out by man'.

'I trust you ... will see that our doctrine is true, and therefore dare and desire to abide the light and all men's looking on. 'Us ... they may burn ... but our cause, religion and doctrine, which we confess, they shall never be able to vanquish, and put away'.

### Final prayer

He wrote in support of the persecuted. *A very godly prayer of one standing at the stake ready to be burnt for Christ's gospel's sake.*

Most of his time was spent praying and studying on his knees, visiting and exhorting the common thieves, and distributing alms. He was allowed out to visit the sick.

Refusing to recant, Bradford was committed to Newgate on 30 June 1555 for execution by burning at Smithfield the following day. He divided his remaining clothes between a friend and a servant, and asked his brother-in-law to commend him to his mother.

Shortly before his burning he wrote to his mother: 'Never so merry and glad was I, as I now should be, if I could get you to be merry with me...' His final prayer was: 'O England, England, repent thee of thy sins! Beware of idolatry, beware of the false antichrists, take heed they do not deceive you'. Turning to John Leaf, a young man who suffered with him, he said: 'Be of good comfort, brother, for we shall have a merry supper with the Lord this night'. Then, embracing the reeds used for burning, he quoted: 'Strait is the way, and narrow is the gate that leads to eternal salvation, and few there be that find it'.

This tall, slender man with an auburn beard left the world a far poorer place than when he ministered in it, yet he bequeathed a memorable legacy. We earnestly need to give the same bold witness to God's truth as John Bradford did in his day.

### Sources

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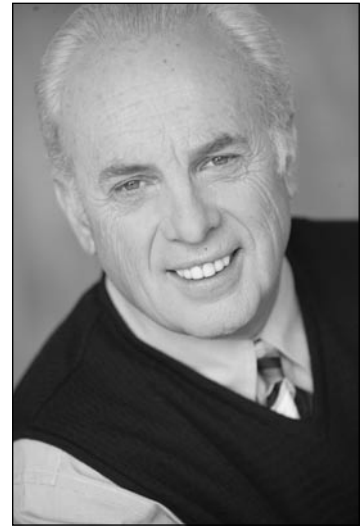
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# God's Plan for the Gay Agenda



John MacArthur

## John MacArthur

If you've been watching the headlines over the past six months, you may have noticed the incredible surge of interest in affirming homosexuality. Whether it's at the heart of a religious scandal, political corruption, radical legislation, or the redefinition of marriage, homosexual interests have come to characterize America. That's an indication of the success of the gay agenda. But sadly, when people refuse to acknowledge the sinfulness of homosexuality—calling evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20)—they do so at the expense of many souls, perhaps even their own.

How should you respond to the success of the gay agenda? Should you accept the recent trend toward tolerance? Or should you side with those who exclude homosexuals and decry the sin? The Bible calls for a balance between what some people think are two opposing reactions—condemnation and compassion. Really, the two together are essential elements of biblical love, and that's something the homosexual desperately needs.

Homosexual advocates have been remarkably effective in selling their warped interpretations of passages in Scripture that address homosexuality. When you ask a homosexual what the Bible says about homosexuality—and many of them know—they have digested an interpretation that is not only warped, but also completely irrational. Pro-homosexual arguments from the Bible are nothing but smokescreens—as you come close, you see right through them.

**God's condemnation of homosexuality is abundantly clear—He opposes it in every age.**

- In the patriarchs (Genesis 19:1-28)

- In the Law of Moses (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13)
- In the Prophets (Ezekiel 16:46-50)
- In the New Testament (Romans 1:18-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Jude 7-8)

Why does God condemn homosexuality? Because it overturns God's fundamental design for human relationships—a design that pictures the complementary relationship between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33).

Why, then, have homosexual interpretations of Scripture been so successful at persuading so many? Simple: people want to be convinced. Since the Bible is so clear about the issue, sinners have had to defy reason and embrace error to quiet their accusing consciences (Romans 2:14-16). As Jesus said, "Men loved the darkness rather than the Light, [because] their deeds were evil" (John 3:19-20).

As a Christian, you must not compromise what the Bible says about homosexuality—ever. No matter how much you desire to be compassionate to the homosexual, your first sympathies belong to the Lord and to the exaltation of His righteousness. Homosexuals stand in defiant rebellion against the will of their Creator who from the beginning "made them male and female" (Matthew 19:4).

Don't allow yourself to be intimidated by homosexual advocates and their futile reasoning—their arguments are without substance. Homosexuals, and those who advocate that sin, are fundamentally committed to overturning the lordship of Christ in this world. But their rebellion is useless, for the Holy Spirit says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not

be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; cf. Galatians 5:19-21).

**So, what is God's response to the homosexual agenda? Certain and final judgment. To claim anything else is to compromise the truth of God and deceive those who are perishing.**

As you interact with homosexuals and their sympathizers, you must affirm the Bible's condemnation. You are not trying to bring damnation on the head of homosexuals, you are trying to bring conviction so that they can turn from that sin and embrace the only hope of salvation for all of us sinners—and that's through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Homosexuals need salvation. They don't need healing—homosexuality is not a disease. They don't need therapy—homosexuality is not a psychological condition. Homosexuals need forgiveness, because homosexuality is a sin.

I don't know how it happened, but a few decades ago someone branded homosexuals with the worst misnomer—"gay." Gay used to mean happy, but I can assure you, homosexuals are not happy people. They habitually seek happiness by following after destructive pleasures. There is a reason Romans 1:26 calls homosexual desire a "degrading passion." It is a lust that destroys the physical body, ruins relationships, and brings perpetual suffering to the soul—and its ultimate end is death (Romans 7:5). Homosexuals are experiencing the judgment of God (Romans 1:24, 26, 28), and thus they are very, very sad.

*continued on page 9*

*continued from page 8*

First Corinthians 6 is very clear about the eternal consequence for those who practice homosexuality—but there's good news. No matter what the sin is, whether homosexuality or anything else, God has provided forgiveness, salvation, and the hope of eternal life to those who repent and embrace the gospel. Right after identifying homosexuals as those who "will not inherit the kingdom of God," Paul said, "Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11).

God's plan for many homosexuals is

salvation. There were former homosexuals in the Corinthian church back in Paul's day, just as there are many former homosexuals today in my church and in faithful churches around the country. Do they still struggle with homosexual temptation? Sure they do. What Christian doesn't struggle with the sins of their former life? Even the great apostle Paul acknowledges that fight (Romans 7:14-25). But former homosexuals sit in biblical churches throughout the country praising their Savior, along with former fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, thieves, coveters, drunkards, revilers, and swindlers. Remember, such were some of you too.

What should be your response to the homosexual agenda? Make it a biblical response—confront it with the truth of Scripture that condemns homosexuality and promises eternal damnation for all who practice it. What should be your response to the homosexual? Make it a gospel response—confront him with the truth of Scripture that condemns him as a sinner, and point him to the hope of salvation through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Stay faithful to the Lord as you respond to homosexuality by honoring His Word, and leave the results to Him.

*Grace to You*

# Jesus was a clever gay man, says Elton

## Elton: Courting controversy

From **Annette Witheridge** in New York

SIR ELTON John has described Jesus as a gay man in an interview with a U.S. magazine.

The singer made the controversial remark while talking about lesbians trying to survive in the Middle East.

'I think Jesus was a compassionate, super-intelligent gay man who understood human problems,' he told *Parade* magazine. 'On the cross, he forgave the people who crucified him. Jesus wanted us to be loving and forgiving. I don't know what makes people so cruel. Try being a gay woman in the Middle East - you're as good as dead.'

His comments are certain to cause an outcry in the U.S. where the Beatles were among the first to feel the full fury of religious indignation after John Lennon made his infamous quip in March 1966 that 'Christianity will go', that his band was 'more popular than Jesus now'.

An American teen magazine called *Datebook* reprinted his quote and the Bible Belt erupted.

There were mass burnings of Beatles records, radio stations stopped playing their songs and some concert venues cancelled

performances.

Sir Elton's claim came in an interview, to be published on Sunday, about his drug-taking past and failed relationships with men.

'Just about every relationship I ever had was involved with drugs. It never works,'



**Elton John**

he said. 'But I longed to be with someone, good or bad, otherwise I didn't feel fulfilled. I'd lost the plot.'

He said that until meeting filmmaker David Furnish - they entered a civil partnership in 2005 -he always picked 'toy boys' without jobs.

'I'd always choose someone younger. I wanted to smother them with love,' the 62-year-old said. 'I'd take them around the world, try to educate them.'

One after another they got a Cartier watch, a Versace outfit, maybe a sports car. They didn't have jobs. They were reliant on me. I did this repeatedly.

'In six months they were bored and hated my guts because I'd taken their lives and self-worth away. I hadn't intended to.'

Sir Elton revealed that he did not lose his virginity until he was 23 and visiting the U.S. for the first time as an up and coming star.

He said: 'I loved America. There were no restraints. It was like coming out of a cocoon very late and suddenly becoming this butterfly.'

He also talked about the death of Lennon, along with those of Princess Diana, designer Gianni Versace and Michael Jackson.

'Two of them shot outside their houses,' he said. 'None of this would have happened if they hadn't been famous. Fame attracts lunatics. I never had a bodyguard ever until Gianni died.'

'I don't like celebrity any more.'

*Daily Mail*

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

When I read such blasphemy I am reminded of God's Word - Romans 3:13,14 and 18. "Their throat is an open sepulchre, with their tongues they have used deceit, the poison asps is under their lips. Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. There is no fear of God before their eyes"

# SPIRITUAL IMPRESSIONS OF INDIA

**In February of this year I had the privilege of visiting Grace Children's Home in Visakpatnam, South India. A number of spiritual impressions were made, which I pray will always remain with me.**

When I initially arrived at the orphanage, the first impression made on me was the humility of the staff. The verse Phil 2.3 "...let each esteem other better than themselves," came to mind. In India they have a caste system which humbles people who are born into poverty, but this was a Christlike humility which was especially seen in the leaders. They made us feel so welcome and genuinely wanted to make us happy and comfortable.

On the second day of our visit I received a beautiful lesson in thankfulness. A new shower block and some extra toilets had been added to the home. This was cause for great celebration and a whole ceremony was held to thank God for His goodness as the building was officially opened. There was great rejoicing as the children and staff sang songs of praise and clapped their hands in joy at God's provision. I always try to be thankful for everything God has provided for me, but this took thanksgiving to a completely new level. I believe there is a great lesson in this; the more thankful we are the more prayers we will see answered. Phil 4.6 "Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

The final impression I want to share with you is the one which has had the greatest impact on my life. The Christians I met

were doers of the word and not just hearers. James 1.22 "But be ye doers and not just hearers only, deceiving your own selves." My Mother has visited the orphanage over the past few years and commented that every year there is something new happening. This particular year Timothy Babu, the leader of the home, has been reaching out to the villages in the local area. His vision is to reach twenty villages with the Gospel by opening Adult Literacy Centres where adults can learn to read the Bible. His hope is to encourage them along to the church where they will hear about the Lord. Despite Timothy being busy already with running the orphanage

he desires to do more for God - I find this very inspiring! Prayer must be accompanied by action otherwise it is meaningless!

On the Sunday of our visit we had the privilege of attending the church, which is located in the grounds of the home, but I received a special blessing when I attended the Junior Church that afternoon. In his desire to reach out beyond the orphanage, Timothy has begun a Junior Church meeting in the afternoon inviting the children from the local villages. At first only a few came, but now growth is such that the entire church is full. As I sat observing the children pouring into the church, I marvelled at what God is doing through these humble, thankful, Christians of action. In my heart I cried, "Lord, please don't forget Scotland!"

My prayer is that God will continue to challenge me and enlarge my vision to reach Scotland for Christ. I have a particular burden for the children of Scotland that they would be educated in the ways of God's truth. May these spiritual impressions translate my prayers into action.

*Jayne Richardson*



## Russia: Martyr's Crown for Christian Leader

Russian church minister, Daniil Sysoev (34), was murdered in his church in Moscow on 19 November 2009. He was approached by a masked gunman who checked his name and then shot him in the head and chest. A choirmaster was also injured in the attack.

Daniil had been active in evangelistic outreach to Muslims, and many people think that he may have been killed because of this ministry. He had received threats via email that he would have his head cut off if he did not stop preaching to Muslims. His widow Yulia commented that he "expected the death some years prior to its happening; he always wished to receive a martyr's crown, and the Lord has given him this crown ... He said that he would be killed."

There are 30 million Muslims in Russia, including a large Muslim population in Moscow, who currently enjoy much favour from the government.

*Barnabus Fund*

Think on these things...

# Everlasting Life

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3.16)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (John 5.24)

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6.40)

### The words of eternal life

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: as thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus

Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17.1 - 3)

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (1 John 5.11)

### With thee is the fountain of life

Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. (John 6.43-47)

**HEAR, AND YOUR SOUL SHALL LIVE**

## Faith that sees Christ

With a weak faith and fearful heart, many a sinner stands before the Lord. It is not the strength of our faith, but the perfection of Christ's sacrifice that saves! No feebleness of faith, no dimness of eye, no trembling of hand can change the efficacy of his blood.

The strength of our faith can add nothing to it, nor can the weakness of faith take anything from him. Faith (weak or strong) still reads the promise, The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.' If at times my eye is so dim that I cannot

read these words, through blinding tears or bewildering trials, faith rests itself on the certain knowledge of the fact that the promise is there'; and the blood of Christ remains in all its power and suitability upon the altar, unchanged and uneffaced. God says that the believer is justified. What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

**Horatius Bonar**

# CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello Boys and Girls,

Have you ever wondered who the One True God really is? He is a Spirit. He doesn't have a body like us and even though you can't see God, He is everywhere. He sees and hears you. He knows what you are doing all the time. We must remember this. God never had to learn; He knows everything. He knows more than the smartest man or woman.

God is the Creator. He made the world and everything in it - the mountains, the trees, the birds and animals. He made you and me too. We are His most special creation.

God could make all things because He is all powerful. He can do anything. Nothing is too hard for Him.

God is holy. That means He is perfect - He never does anything that is not right or good.

God never changes - He will be the same for ever and ever.

God has prepared a perfect place called Heaven. It is a beautiful place where everything is right and good. And God wants you to be in Heaven with Him. His plan for you is found in His Word, the Bible.

"I am God and there is no other... There is none like unto Me"

Isaiah 46:9

Love from Mrs Glass



# WOMEN'S VIEW

I have just recently returned from my fourth trip to visit the Grace Childrens' Home in South India. I never come away from India without being moved and challenged by what I see there – both in the Home and in the world outside of the Home.

.....

Where in the U.K. would you see an 8 to 9 year old girl begging by doing somersaults in the middle of the road and then putting out her hand to the cars as they stopped at the traffic lights?

Where in the U.K. would you see whole families camped at the side of the road under a make-shift tent and the mother bathing her little one in a basin in full view of everyone?

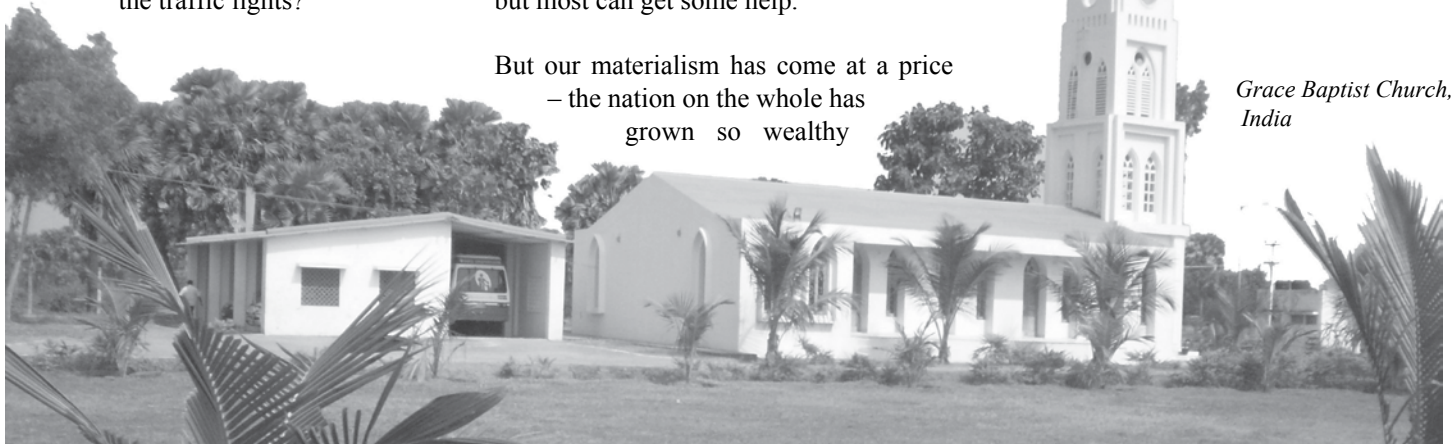
Where in the U.K. would we find youngsters crawling around on all fours because their parents couldn't afford the operation to cure them of Polio?

We in Britain don't realise how blessed we are in this country – we may have beggars but most can get some help.

But our materialism has come at a price – the nation on the whole has grown so wealthy

and self sufficient it has turned its back on God and although now rich materially, we are at poverty levels spiritually. The Apostle John warns the Church in Laodicea about being rich and thinking they had need of nothing and he goes on to say that they were actually wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. Let us examine ourselves on these things for even we as Christians can get caught up with these the materialism of this world.

**M. Glass**



*Grace Baptist Church, India*

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