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# The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

in opposition to the Dogmas of  
Papal and Protestant Christendom

A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

and a warning against the deception in the last days  
foretold by Christ

**"Take heed that ye be not deceived"**

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**"AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD"**

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

“LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD”

We have read Paul’s words to his brethren in Corinth, written in AD 59:

“Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.” I Corinthians 1:2-3.

Paul had spent 18 months in Corinth in AD 54:

“Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” Acts 18:9-11.

Paul taught the many people whom God called, and formed an ecclesia there.

We have read Paul’s words five years later, when he reminded those in Corinth of their blessings:

“I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” I Corinthians 1:4-9.

Having reminded them, Paul continued to exhort:

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there

be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you." I Corinthians 1:10-11.

"Contentions" are quarrels, debates, strife, variance - all of which destroy the unity of fellowship, which Paul taught. In five years, the fleshly thinking and doing corrupted the unity, which was the grace of God taught by the gospel. What was the subject of these contentions? Paul made it clear:

"... that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

For Christ sent me, not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." I Corinthians 1:12-13,17.

The work of Paul, of Apollos, and of Cephas (Peter) was not to baptize, but to preach the gospel concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, who, by His victory on the cross, opened the way unto salvation.

Paul taught that:

"... being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

For the wages (that earned) of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:22-23.

Paul further emphasized:

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

For it is written. I will destroy the wisdom of the wise (worldly), and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent:

Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer (contender) of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

I Corinthians 1:18-21,23-25.

Indeed, where is the wise of this world, compared to the wisdom of God; where is the scribe who is merely a writer copying down the words of others; where is the disputer who argues with the power of God? They know not the grace and mercy of God, and have no hope of salvation! Paul writes further:

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

That no flesh should glory in his presence."

I Corinthians 1:26-29.

In confounding the wisdom of the world, we call to mind Moses' bringing the plagues upon Egypt and Pharaoh, when he would not let Israel go. In the first three plagues, God allowed the magicians of Egypt to bring forth the same plagues as Moses did. however, when Moses brought forth the plague of lice:

"... the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there was lice upon man and upon beast.

Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said." Exodus 8:18-19.

The wisdom of the Egyptian magicians was of no avail, causing them to confess: we can't, with all our enchantments. But "the finger of God" could and did bring the plague of lice! Truly "no flesh should

glory in his presence." How great is the power of God in His mercy and grace toward those who strive to walk in His way, seeking His power and wisdom, pleasing the Almighty, as did the Lord Jesus. We remember Jesus' words to Peter and His disciples:

"... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24.

Paul further wrote to his brethren in Corinth, reminding them:

"... of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." I Corinthians 1:30-31.

Brethren and Sisters, how can we glory in the Lord? The Almighty helps us, as He spoke to Jeremiah, His prophet:

"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:" Jeremiah 9:23.

The man of flesh does glory in these passing things which bring pleasure to his worldly desires. The Almighty spoke further to Jeremiah of how one should glory in the Lord:

"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."

Jeremiah 9:24.

Paul had understanding and knowledge of God, having been converted from being a persecutor of the followers of the Lord Jesus, to:

"... a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." Acts 9:15-16.

Paul grew in the understanding and wisdom from God, and used it to witness to the glory of God. He indeed suffered for His name! As the end of his life neared, he was able to say, 31 years later:

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.  
I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:  
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."  
II Timothy 4:6-8.

The Apostle Paul had glorified God; indeed, he was soon to be killed in Rome for the name of Jesus Christ.

Let us strive to follow the Lord Jesus, as He so perfectly glorified His Father, never failing, never sinning, never offending God. We have His help, mercy, grace, and strength as we take heed to the Spirit's words:

"... He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."  
I Corinthians 1:31.

J.A.DeF.

**"LOOK NOT THOU UPON THE WINE"  
(Proverbs 23:31)**

From this chapter Solomon gives warning against many of the flesh's weaknesses: gluttony, the love of riches, laxity, envy and drunkenness. Our particular verse under consideration from this chapter is in answer to his question put forth in the 29th verse:

"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions?  
who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?"

He goes on to answer....

They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright."

Proverbs 23:29-31.

Perhaps we may question, why does Solomon speak so negatively against wine when it has beneficial attributes and has

been given by the Creator for the good of man?

When used with appreciation and moderation, it can be a help to aid digestion and relax aching muscles and was used especially in times past as a medicine. However, when used without restraint to excess, it can fog the mind and remove reason, resulting in acts one normally wouldn't consider, if not under its influence. Its overuse can lead to addiction, which encircles one in its grasp like a serpent, from which it is hard to escape:

"At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not; when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again." Proverbs 23:32-35.

Instead of a pleasant beverage to bring warmth, it can be misused with excess to one's harm, as Solomon warns in another chapter of Proverbs:

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 20:1.

Isaiah the prophet also spoke in warning to those who had let themselves become addicted to its hold:

"Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands."

Isaiah 5:11-12.

They have no room for God or His word any longer - their main desire and focus is not on walking in His ways, but in satisfying their thirst for wine, intoxication and excess, and so they become a slave to it.

God created the earth and all that grows therein for the good of man. Any of those things given, taken in excess and abused, whether it be food or drink can be dangerous:

"He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;

And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to

make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart." Psalm 104:14-15.

Paul in writing to Timothy, guides him in choosing deacons to minister in the church. Not a novice, but one well seasoned in the Word, a man looked upon as being honest and of good report by others, not given to excess but a man of moderation and steadiness: "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience."

I Timothy 3:8-9.

A man appointed to a responsible position as an elder, ministering to others in the Truth, cannot be prone to an excess of wine which would fog his judgment and mar his behaviour.

To those in the church at Ephesus, Paul gives similar advice in order to maintain control and decorum of one's behavior as would please the Almighty:

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:17-19.

Here again is the same advice to be circumspect, not as fools who are without control of their words or their actions, but as wise men, perceptive of all circumstances which surround them and using moderation in all they do.

"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:5-6.

Solomon here does not forbid wine - but rather knowing the frame of man, warns of the dangers of anything when it is used in excess as an escape from the realities of life. Such things can wrest control from our own hands, and blind us to the path set before us.

M.C.S.

## THREATS OF THESE LAST DAYS

"Now will I rise, saith the LORD: now will be exalted; now will I lift up myself."

(Isaiah 33:10)

"Thine heart shall meditate terror. Where is the scribe? where is the receiver? where is he that counted the towers?"

(Isaiah 33:18)

At a time when people are caused to think upon what is a possible threat, if fanatics gain more power and influence, the holy message brings hope to those who reverence it. It calls those who have faith to:-

"Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; - - -

But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams. - - -"

(Isaiah 33:20-21)

From heaven is to come salvation to this good earth, and it will commence in Zion.

At this time of consideration, one comment from the media reads as follows:-

"The Muslim terror gang that plotted a devastating bomb blitz of Britain were told - - - 'you have betrayed the country that has given you every advantage in life' - - - evil influence and the 'spiral of contamination' began with 'preachers of hate who contaminate impressionable young minds.'"

The terror gang were apprehended before they could carry out their evil work. But consider what they were planning to do. Their plot was to buy a "dirty" nuclear bomb from the Russian Mafia. Then to blow up a crowded city centre with it. This would be a mass killing, with the explosion causing radio active fall-out over a wide area. It was admitted by one of them that there had been talk to obtain a "radio-isotope" device. A contact of them had claimed (via the internet) that he had a "source" in the Russian Mafia; but the plotters had been unsuccessful. The Authorities took this potential threat very seriously. The trial of this group took many months and the judge warned they may never be released. If they had been able to carry out what they intended, there would have been up to 30 explosions across the country, the devastation would have been horrific. Their capture involved the biggest undercover surveillance operation ever assembled in Britain. The sadness that

emerges from what has been revealed is the reflection that has come upon the Muslim world. The members of the terror gang were disciples of radical clerics; but the vast majority of Mohammedan supporters, who voice their condemnation of such a threat, are put in a bad light by such sombre news distribution.

This threat, which has been contained by the diligence of the Authorities at this time, does not solve the nuclear weapon problem, which becomes more acute when fanatical terror gangs emerge, who have very distorted religious thinkings.

So comes to pass, what the ancient prophecy foretells, and with the divine declaration:-

“Now will I rise, saith the LORD.” (Isaiah 33:10)

## A BIBLE CLASS

### “LET EACH ESTEEM OTHER BETTER THAN THEMSELVES”

Philippians 2:3

The key to our study is the meaning of the work “esteem.” The Concordance defines it: to account, judge, have rule over, suppose - giving the thought of thinking well of, to have praise. An example is found in Paul’s words to his brethren in Thessalonica.

“... we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

I Thessalonians 5:12-13.

Another use of “esteem” is found in Hebrews, concerning Moses’ submission to God:

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter;

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”

Hebrews 11:24-26.

Believing in God's word, Moses thought "the recompense of the reward" - the hope of Israel - to be of greater value than all the riches in Egypt.

With these thoughts in mind, let us look at our subject:

"... Let each esteem other better than themselves."  
Philippians 2:3.

Paul wrote to his brethren in Philippi:

"If there be any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."  
Philippians 2:1-2.

He was encouraging them to be of one mind, one love, one accord - fulfilling his joy at their fellowship one with another. He warned his brethren whom he loved and fellowshiped:

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."  
Philippians 2:3.

Is there room for strife or vainglory when striving to esteem one another in the fellowship of the Spirit through Jesus Christ? John, the disciple beloved of Jesus, helps us to esteem the fellowship of Jesus:

"That which we have seen and heard declare we into you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have

fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:3-7.

How can we walk in the light of God's truth? Jesus made it very clear, as He spoke to his disciples:

"... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" Matthew 16:24.

If we are to be "crucified with Christ," we must deny self, putting behind the desires of the flesh. We must strive to follow in His steps, if we are to be in fellowship with God and Jesus now in our time of probation, and in the hope of eternal joy in His kingdom.

God has given help in our striving to submit to His word, as we read Paul's words:

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness, and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians 4:1-6.

Love is essential in denying self and esteeming other better than self!

The one body of fellowship is made up of many members, whom God has called and granted gifts according to His will. Paul wrote to his brethren in Corinth concerning these gifts:

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." I Corinthians 12:4,7.

The word "profit" means to be better for, to bring together, to be expedient. To whom do these gifts bring profit - to self? Obviously

not! But the gifts are to be used to edify the body - submitting one to another - to be fully joined together. Paul tells us how we can use the gifts, not for self, but for the edifying of His house, joined together in fellowship:

“... speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together (esteeming other better than self) and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16.

Can the ear say to the mouth, I don't need you - or the foot say the same? All have a part in that body, contributing to the strength of the spiritual body through the ability given to each member.

Paul continues to help us:

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Philippians 2:5-8.

Let us, brethren and sisters, take up our cross, and follow Him!

J.A.DeF.

## RENDER THE CALVES OF OUR LIPS

Hosea was a prophet sent to the ten tribes of Israel during the reign of Jeroboam. From the Book of Hosea we learn it was a period of moderate prosperity in Israel, but only in a political sense. Under Jeroboam's rule, Israel recovered territory to add to the kingdom, but were spiritually far from serving the Almighty:

"In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joah king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin." II Kings 14:23-24.

Even though the reign of Jeroboam was not righteous, God was watching over His people and allowed help to regain the territory that they once held. His eyes were still fastened upon His people for good, even though they had strayed from serving Him:

"He (Jeroboam) restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel. For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up nor any left, nor any helper for Israel." II Kings 14:25-26.

There was no spiritual prosperity, yet the word of God came through Hosea to remind them of the hope held out if they would turn back to God, leaving their own ways and serving Him. Hosea explained what was necessary:

"O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the LORD; say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips." Hosea 14:1—2

The "calves of our lips", speaks of the sacrifice that one's words could offer, if they are chosen carefully and respectfully in obedience to God's precepts, giving glory to Him and not to self.

This has been God's message from the beginning - His

covenant of mercy made with Israel - if they would obey Him, He would be their God and care for them.

Hosea, whose name means "Deliverer or Salvation" was a prophet sent to remind them of their perilous condition. God's mercy was at hand if they would but turn from their unrighteousness, cleanse their hearts and hands and return to walking in His paths.

Jonah was another prophet sent by God to warn the city of Nineveh of their unrighteousness, yet his name even today brings to mind one who tried to flee from God. When fleeing by sea, he was tossed into the waves where the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow him. From the depths of his grave within this fish, Jonah turned to God and cried out for the only help he knew existed:

"Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,  
And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD,  
and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou  
heardest my voice." Jonah 2:1-2.

He knew he would die within that fish if he did not turn to God and seek His forgiveness and mercy:

"When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD:  
and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.  
They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.  
But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving;  
I will pay that that I have vowed." Jonah 2:7-9.

Because of Jonah's yieldingness, vowing to rededicate his life to the service of the Almighty, the Lord took pity on him and delivered him again unto dry land.

God holds out mercy and is ready to receive the sacrifice of our lips - our obedience, if we will turn to Him when we find ourselves in error and far from His path.

David was another who was quick to turn to the Almighty when he was beset by affliction. He knew that by endeavoring to live God's word through a faithful walk, the Lord would in turn have mercy and revive him again:

"I am afflicted very much: quicken me. O LORD, according unto thy word.

Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments.

My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law." Psalm 119:107-109.

The "freewill offerings of my mouth" is the same thought as "rendering the calves of my lips" - believing that God hears the prayers of those that turn to him when they recognise their own frailty and are in need of His mercy and forgiveness.

Hosea reminds of what the mercy of God will do for those who seek Him:

"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon." Hosea 14:4-6.

This is the grace of God held out to those who recognize their flesh must bow before God and realize the arm of flesh is powerless. God is the only source of help and strength and those seeking wisdom will find it only by following His word and living justly, as James knew:

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." James 3:13.

During the time of Noah there was prosperity and a great increase of people, yet they had clearly chosen to walk in their own ways and not God's:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." Genesis 6:5-6.

Man's wickedness was wide spread - everyone doing as they thought best. They no longer looked to God's word for direction, but followed their own rules of conduct - which when unrestrained by the spirit's guidance, naturally leads to wickedness. Yet one man still walked after God's precepts with respect and obedience:

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."

Genesis 6:8-9.

Noah was given the charge of building an ark, which would save any who believed, from a destroying flood that God was to bring upon the earth. For one hundred and twenty years this faithful man preached and witnessed of the coming destruction to a world which must have ridiculed and derided him for his faith. At the end of those years, only Noah and his family were saved from death because of their faith and belief.

After the flood, the rainbow was set in the clouds as a reminder that He is ever present and will keep the promises He has made never to destroy the earth again with a flood. The bow is a calming reassurance after a rainstorm of God's grace, and Noah's name lives even today as a testament of his faithfulness to God's word:

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

Hebrews 11:7.

The testimony of Hosea, Jonah, David and Noah reminds that our words and conduct can be a sacrifice of praise to the Almighty, by rendering the calves of our lips in obedience to His word.

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“--- EXCEPT THOSE DAYS SHOULD BE SHORTENED. ---”

(Matthew 24:22)

Hovering behind what appeared to be a considerable improvement in the diplomatic situation between the United States and Britain on the one hand, and Russia on the other, is the unease felt by the Western Powers on the Iranian and North Korean position.

The United States plans what it terms a “missile shield”. A defence system with special missiles to intercept, for example, rocket attacks from Iran and North Korea. It is intended to have sites for these weapons in suitable places in Europe, such as Poland. The response of Russia to such plans is great displeasure. The Russian President has called upon the United States to cancel such an arrangement or face the prospect of having Russian weapons trained on mainland Europe. The United States has voiced unease at such a threat. The President said:-

“We think that is not helpful. We would like to have a constructive dialogue with Russia on this issue. We have had it in the past.”

American reaction was shown in the attitude of its Secretary of State who said that the Russian President’s threat would not sway the United States and that such comments of the Russian leader hearkened back to the Cold War. The United States’ and Britain’s involvement in the troubles of the Middle East has undoubtedly contributed to the opening up again of a split between the powers of the West and the Russian Federation. A Nato spokesperson also entering into this dispute called the Russian President’s remarks as “unhelpful and unwelcome”. Nato’s official endeavoured to assure Russia that there was nothing to fear from the protection of “missile shields”; his words were:-

“As far as I am aware, the only country speculating about targeting Europe with missiles is the Russian Federation.”

The Russian leader called upon the United States to tear up its plans for this “missile shield” against Iran and against North Korea. The American Secretary of State in reply said Russia’s threat would

not sway the United States. Russia however still remains suspicious of this new scheduled American anti-ballistic missile system, based in eastern Europe. The United States has given considerable assurance that these forward defences are only being arranged as part of a forward defence programme, and in no way are aimed at Russia.

The Russian leadership however desires the world to realise that it wants political respect from other nations to revive. It believes that the United States has the missiles with sufficient power to obliterate the Russian territory. But military advisers have declared that regardless of which nation won in a conflict, most of Europe would be a wasteland. Millions would die with the end of the global economy as known at the present. There would be a nuclear winter with a devastated planet.

As America looks at the Iranian stance, it sees a country with huge oil and gas reserves, and yet Iran wants to develop nuclear power! Understandably the U.S.A. questions Iranian intentions. Iran's leader has declared that he wants to see Israel "wiped off the map"! He went on to say that the "countdown to the destruction of Israel has begun". What will such a hot headed leader do if he acquires nuclear weaponry? America speaks of seeking for protection with a "nuclear shield" with which to thwart and shoot down rockets before they can get near countries America wants to protect. But then Russia comes along to speak against the intentions of the United States. So, developing is a situation foretold by Christ:-

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."  
(Matthew 24:21—22)

The warning of scripture is clear, showing that ultimately a time was to come, with mankind becoming capable of complete self destruction. Do the world's intellectuals give this situation sufficient thought? Sadly there are very many who do not. Consider the following remarks from an intellectual:-

"---At some point we will colonise the Moon, and NASA has outlined plans for a permanent base there --- if we do return, the Moon will almost certainly form a staging post for humanity to colonise other planets;

--- if we don't, the footprints of the --- astronauts on its sterile surface may be the only evidence of mankind left in the universe after humanities extinction."

So God, the Great Creator is left outside the intellectual's consideration. There can be no extinction of man. He who created "In the beginning - - - the heaven and the earth" has declared, through His inspired prophet:-

"- - - Thus said the LORD that created the heaven;  
God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. - - -  
I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right."  
(Isaiah 45:18—19)

God, in His infinite compassion, has looked down from heaven, and preserved in His holy word, a comfort and a hope for a very dark spiritual time. Assurance that mankind will not be allowed to sink into self obliterating destruction.

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR SEPTEMBER 2007**

Hamburg, NEW YORK, Corner Southwestern Blvd. & Pleasant Avenue.

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30am  
Sunday Afternoon Class: 1:45pm  
Midweek Bible Class: Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia  
Every Third Week: Revelation Study

May's mailing of invitations to write for our literature has been very encouraging. We are grateful for these responses received as an opportunity to spread the word of God.

The news from the Middle East endangers Israel's position as Hamas has taken over the Gaza Strip and eyes the West Bank as its next step. We know that God's eyes are always upon Jerusalem and Israel. In His time, He will accomplish the peace of Jerusalem and Israel under His hand, not man's.

J.A.DeF.

**MANCHESTER**

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.  
Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

The blessing of Ecclesial Fellowship is a provision from Heaven which is much to be grateful for.

As we think of the needs of one another, and pray for help for each, what a comfort we are to each other.

The work continues, and though these are days of small things, we are profoundly helped in our efforts. What grace is of His Truth.