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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

“BOUND IN THE SPIRIT”

In our recent reading, we have followed the works of Paul as God's chosen vessel:

“... 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 did indeed suffer many things as he witnessed to God's purpose to be achieved through Jesus Christ. It is probable that Paul did not see Jesus before His crucifixion and resurrection, but he heard His voice as he was traveling to Damascus to persecute the disciples of the Lord Jesus. We know how “there shined a light from heaven round about him” and he heard a voice saying:

“... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? Acts 9:4.

When Paul asked:

“... Who art thou, Lord?

...the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks” Acts 9.5.

Trembling, astonished, and unable to see, Paul responded:

“... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” Acts 9:6

Here was a submissive spirit, pleasing to God, as a chosen vessel. Paul was given the power of the Holy Spirit, was baptized, and went forth teaching the gospel - the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ.

In this work, he witnessed to the Gentiles, healed the sick, preached the word throughout Asia Minor, and established ecclesias:

“... the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.” Acts 19.17-18.

As this work was finished:

“... Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia, and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” Acts 19:21.

As he traveled toward Jerusalem:

“... Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.”

Acts 20:16.

His mind was:

"... now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Save that the Holy Spirit witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me." Acts 20:22-23.

As Paul left his brethren:

"... they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him.

Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship." Acts 20:37-38.

He traveled to Tyre, where:

"... finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem." Acts 21:4.

They longed for Paul to stay in Tyre to help them, but he was determined to continue his journey to Jerusalem.

Paul again stopped at Caesarea, where a prophet named Agabus bound Paul's girdle to his own hands and feet, and said:

"... Thus saith the Holy Spirit, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem." Acts 21:11-12.

Paul faced temptation to stay with his brethren at Caesarea, but expressed his anguish and determination:

"... What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done." Acts 21:13-14.

Paul, moved by the Holy Spirit, went to Jerusalem, to be bound, in bonds as in prison, but fully determined to be "bound in the Spirit" - as he had uttered at the time of his conversion: "... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He did not know what would face him in Jerusalem, but went, putting his life in the hands of God.

Within seven days of his entering Jerusalem, he was accused by the Jews:

"Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks (aliens) also

into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.  
(For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus,  
an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought  
into the temple.)

And all the city was moved, and the people ran together:  
and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple:...

And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the  
chief captain ... that all Jerusalem was in an uproar."

Acts 21:28-31.

Here was one of the trials Paul faced in Jerusalem, trusting in  
the Holy Spirit's working on his behalf. The chief captain of the  
Romans ran down with soldiers, and the Jews ceased beating Paul  
- God's interference on Paul's behalf! However, the chief captain:

"... commanded him to be bound with two chains: ..."

Acts 21:33.

Paul witnessed before the Pharisees and Sadducees, and was  
again rescued by the chief captain, lest:

"... Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them."

Acts 23:10.

As Paul was again in prison

"...the night following, the Lord stood by him, and said, Be  
of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in  
Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome."

Acts 23:11.

Paul did go to Rome, and did bear witness, as he had done in  
Jerusalem, being "bound in the Spirit." He continued his witness  
until his death in Rome, under the hand of Nero.

Paul wrote to his brother Timothy, as he approached the end  
of his work, still "bound in the spirit":

"... Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work  
of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

For I am now ready (AD 66) 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 4:5-8.

We, Brethren and Sisters, 'love His appearing' - long for His  
return, now striving to be "bound in the Spirit" - with the hope of

"a crown or righteousness." Paul offered his life, not knowing what would befall him. At the end of his life - with over 30 years, inwardly saying "... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" - he offered himself still "bound in the Spirit."

He helps us in our striving to be pleasing to God, as he wrote to his brethren in Rome:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present (yield) your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable (according to the Word) service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:1-2.

Paul's mind was transformed from a zealous determination to persecute the followers of the Lord Jesus, to a humble determination to yield his life to God, subject to His word by following the example of Jesus Christ. As his mind was renewed, he proved by his works what was acceptable to his Father.

We feel God's hand in our lives! We are helped by Paul's experiences as he went "bound in the spirit." And, like Paul, we look to Him for guidance and help in whatever might befall us. One of the hymns we sing reminds us:

"Thy children shall not faint nor fear,  
Sustained by this assuring thought:  
Since Thou their God art everywhere,  
They cannot be where Thou art not."

Let us listen to what may be Paul's last words, as he wrote to Timothy "my own son in the faith":

"... the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching (of the gospel) might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear:  
and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."

II Timothy 4:17.

We find further help through the mind of David:

"... be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thou to help me.

Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns."

Psalms 22:19-21.

## THE REMNANT

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This was also the spirit of Jesus as He was determined to glorify His Father, and did perfectly, as He died on the cross, saying:

“... Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit, and having said thus, he gave up the spirit.” Luke 23:46.

Let us give heed to Jesus' words, as he revealed how one can strive to go “bound in the Spirit”, as He did:

“... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life (in the flesh) shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”

Matthew 16:24-25.

J.A.DeF.

## I SEEK NOT MINE OWN WILL

In a recent reading from the book of John, the Lord Jesus provides insight for us of how we may follow after His example and endeavor to overcome:

"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true."

John 5:30-31.

He had the power to do anything, yet through His perfect humility, He used that power, given of God to do only "the will of the Father".

Earlier in this same chapter from John the Lord Jesus said:

"...Verily, verily, I say unto you. The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel."

John 5:19-20.

The power of the spirit vested in Him was to be used to do God's work - that a witness may be left not only for those of Jesus' day who believed, but who would also leave a record for us today. He was always careful not to witness to His own glory through the works of spiritual power given Him of God. To the Jews of His day who asked who He was, He could have proved to them that He was the messiah through this great power, but instead answered:

"When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." John 8:28-29.

He was saying that after they had "lifted up" (crucified) Him, then some would believe when He was resurrected from the grave and there were many Jews that did believe:

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:31-32.

That truth was the word to which He witnessed - the love of God shed on Him and to those who believed on His Son - to those who fit like stones into the figurative house of God.

In this same spirit, David wrote a psalm to his son Solomon:  
"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."  
Psalm 127:1.

Only as we align ourselves to the Cornerstone of that house, the Lord Jesus Christ, and follow after His example, can we hope to achieve control over our own natures, which will if not reined in, lead us away from God.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians, reminding them of the blessing they as Gentiles could realize as part of the household of God, a house established first for the Jews and now available to the Gentiles through belief in Christ:

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;  
And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;  
In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:  
In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."  
Ephesians 2:19-22.

To be part of the habitation of God was the Lord Jesus' aim at all times, and if we could do the same, would we not be more pleasing to the Father? However, we fail where He did not, and marvel that He was able always to overcome and dominate His own flesh nature through a love for God and a desire to do His will in all humility.

That household of God in the kingdom age will be assembled as one great multitude of people from the time of Adam - comprising all those who will find mercy at Christ's judgment seat, because of their endeavor to serve God during their time of probation, and not themselves.

M.C.S.

## THE TIME OF THE END

“- - - Seal the book, even to the time of the end:  
many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be  
increased.” (Daniel 12:4)

It is a comparatively short time since the horse and carriage; then came the steam locomotive on its own special rail-road, but look at the situation on the roads today! Cities and towns and even country places are filled with motor vehicles.

The ancient prophecy was most pertinent. As the end approaches knowledge shall be increased; and how greatly that is the position today. But clever manufacturing has brought about its problems. Consider the following media lament:-

“Ever had a summons for a speeding offence? - - - you will be familiar with the brown envelope with the police-headed notice inside informing you that on such and such a date and time, one of those - - - roadside cameras clocked your vehicle travelling (above the speed limit in a restricted zone). - - - The chances are - - - that you will - - - admit to the offence and pay the fine - - - (accepting points of disapproval on your driving licence).”

Hundreds of thousands of motorists are so caught, just in the London Metropolitan Zone. But many, many more motorists dash along, undetected. Sadly, accidents occur, and dreadful injuries result. But how is excess speeding to be curbed? Motor vehicles are being produced with many safety features, which is to be approved. But as motor engine power, with amazing acceleration thrust develops, also human behaviour gears itself to a faster life-style; so hurtful consequences naturally take place! Daniel, all those years ago was significantly told of the coming of such a development. As he considered the prophetic message, he made an appeal:-

“O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

(Daniel 12:8)

The response from the Messenger of the Spirit gave to Daniel comforting reassurance:-

“- - - He said, Go thy way Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”

(Daniel 12:9-10)

God’s holy word reveals how mindful He is of what is taking place in human affairs.

A BIBLE CLASS

“THOU SHALT STAND UPON A ROCK”

Exodus 33:21

The Almighty spoke these words to Moses as he prayed for God’s forgiveness for Israel, when they had made a golden calf saying:

“... These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” Exodus 32:4.

God was displeased with His people as He spoke to Moses:

“... I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people:  
Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.” Exodus 32:9-10.

As Moses sought God’s forgiveness for Israel:

“... the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.” Exodus 32:14.

Moses spoke to Israel:

“... Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD, peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.  
And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.  
Yet now, if thou wilt, forgive their sin --, and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.  
And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.” Exodus 32:30-32,35.

Moses prayed:

“... if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

And he (God) said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.” Exodus 33:13-14.

Moses replied:

“... if thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.” Exodus 33:15-17.

The word “separated” is also used as - “to show marvellous,” to put a difference, to set apart, to sever, and to make wonderful. This was only possible as God in His grace went with Israel.

David was one who sought God’s presence, as he prayed:

“Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them. Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings.” Psalm 17:7-8.

Those who seek to be under that shadow are a “separated” people, a peculiar treasure unto God, as He spoke to Moses upon Mount Sinai:

“... if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.” Exodus 19:5.

As Moses sought God’s grace, he further prayed:

“... I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.” Exodus 33:18.

God replied:

“... Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:" Exodus 33:20-21.

No man can look upon God, but He said to Moses: "there is a place by me." God's presence was there! The Almighty is nigh unto all those who seek His grace and His glory.

We are reminded of Elijah, as he fled from Jezebel, who sought to kill him. The word of the Lord came to him:

"... Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountain, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire and after the fire a still small voice.

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave...." I Kings 19:11-13.

Elijah saw God's power in the wind, in the earthquake, and in the fire. He hearkened to the "still, small voice" of God speaking softly to him. He perceived God's presence, His power, and Elijah heard His voice as he stood on the mount - the rock of the Lord.

The LORD strengthened Moses as he stood upon the rock. Moses later spoke to his people:

"GIVE ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak, and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

My doctrine (instruction) shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

He is the Rock, his work is perfect for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Deuteronomy 32:1-4.

We are helped, as was Moses, while we listen to God's words: "there is a place by me" - mindful that He is a Rock upon which to stand.

David expressed his reliance on God's word:

"I WILL love thee, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;  
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler,  
and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so  
shall I be saved from mine enemies" Psalm 18:1-3.

David looked forward to the Deliverer, our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus, who will fulfill God's promise of a Rock - as Paul reminded his Corinthian brethren:

"MOREOVER, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

I Corinthians 10:1-4.

It was through God's grace that He provided the bread (manna) and the water from the rock, as signs of His presence with His people, as He spoke to Moses: "Thou shalt stand upon a Rock."

Let us - like Moses, like David, and like all those who have loved God - rejoice that God does stand by His "separated" people, as we look with hope for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

J.A.DeF.

## PASSERS THROUGH

Throughout Paul's letter to the Hebrews he exhorts them to take heed to the word of God as fulfilled through the Lord Jesus Christ:

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,  
Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."  
Hebrews 1:1.

This letter is a help for us today, for we too desire to be known as spiritual Hebrews - strangers and pilgrims in this world - passers through on the way to a more glorious inheritance to come in the kingdom age, provided by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus.

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.  
Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.  
For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.  
By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."  
Hebrews 13:12-15.

It was the desire of God when sending forth ministers to broadcast His word, that this work be not of the flesh, but according to the spirit - according strictly to His plan and purpose for man.

To those Hebrews who had been taught His word through the law and were now newly learning of His Son, Jesus Christ, Paul admonishes in their walk of faith, to remember the failures of their fathers who were sentenced to wander forty years in the wilderness because of their disobedience:

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.  
For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."  
Hebrews 4:1-2.

It is clearly possible to lose that hope - to not attain unto that rest of salvation if one does not value the gift offered. The knowledge of the word through belief in the name of the Lord Jesus, whose blood is our covering for sin, is the ONLY means of entrance into that promised inheritance. If any believe in the word but not the work of Christ as the Redeemer and Mediator between God and man, then their hope is dead and of no effect. Christ alone is the Cornerstone and Savior - the anchor and support of God's spiritual temple, who holds us steady in one place when troublesome storms attempt to wash us away. Paul emphasizes the importance of this knowledge many times in his letters to the Hebrews:

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum:  
We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of  
the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;  
A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which  
the Lord pitched, and not man." Hebrews 8:1-2.

This is the sum of God's purpose for man that only those who endeavor to conform to His word and the example set forth by His Son, have a hope of receiving the gift of life after death. There is no other way to achieve the gift of life at Christ's return:

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.  
For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the  
will, of God, ye might receive the promise.  
**FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE, AND HE THAT SHALL  
COME WILL COME, AND WILL NOT TARRY."**  
Hebrews 10:35-37.

There is a great "recompence of reward" waiting for those who endure in patience as Paul says. Though they endeavor to walk after His example, they stumble being flesh, to walk perfectly without failure as He did. How this should make us appreciate the sacrifice He made for us - to walk perfectly according to God's word every day of His life, that He might become the unblemished Lamb of God, whose blood would cover our transgressions.

Chapter eleven of Hebrews, acclaims the faith of many, such as Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses and more. All these are recorded as having a good report because they believed in the hope of a

messiah provided of God, although they knew Him not by name as we are privileged to do. These faithful of old, though they sleep now in the dust of the earth, will be raised and gathered with those living believers at His return, to the judgment seat. Those found approved will make up the complete household of God - the spiritual house of God:

“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”

Hebrews 11:39-40.

This is the end of the hope set before us as well, therefore, Paul exhorts those endeavoring to be known as brethren of Christ to push on in faith:

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1.

We too have been given the route of the race and at the end will be waiting a laurel wreath to the victors - the gift of everlasting life - the same prize that the faithful of old struggled to receive in faith.

This knowledge given is to be used in our daily lives in order to control our every action and word, for by this will we be judged when Christ returns.

How diligently we should then run this race, being blessed to receive the knowledge of God's purpose through His word and the additional insight into the life of Jesus Christ our savior, who is the key to any hope of our being victorious at the journey's end. Only through belief in Him and a patient enduring after His example may we hope to be among that throng at his right hand.

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“- - - Until the day that Noe entered into the ark,  
And knew not until the flood came. - - -”

(Matthew 24:38-39)

Unquestionably, things at present are different to how they were a few decades ago. Consider the following lament that has been voiced in the popular media. It concerns the behaviour of a proportion of young people:-

“The rough child who does not want to learn and is poorly disciplined at home is a toxic presence in our schools. He disrupts lessons, promotes an anti-learning subculture in the classroom, bringing an atmosphere of casual violence to the playground and soaks up precious resources - - - children in state schools - - - life chances are being wrecked by yobs. - - -”

A lament speaks of “a minority of badly behaved pupils (holding) the whip hand”. We ask the question, would such a situation have been tolerated a few decades ago?

Christ, speaking prophetically of how things would be, as His return from heaven got near, directed attention to what mankind experienced at the time of Noah. The Bible witness records:-

“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was FILLED with violence.

And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for ALL flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence THROUGH THEM; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth - - -.

(Bible margin note, ‘FROM THE EARTH’)

(Genesis 6:11-13)

The Bible shows to us that God’s intervention was very severe at the time of Noah. But there is also assurance in this account, that God’s mercy at the same time was very great. He gave time for Noah, and those with Noah, to make preparation in their lives for what was coming. Also animal life was to be preserved. But let us

note the meaningful Biblical wording:-

“- - - the earth (was) filled with violence THROUGH THEM - - -.”  
(Genesis 6:13)

Looking at today’s state of affairs, consider the present lament, that “a minority of badly behaved pupils (hold) the whip hand”. Present day bad behaviour of some (as at the time of Noah) influences and leads onwards into a more and more deterioration in human affairs.

Another media comment reads:-

“When divorce lost its stigma, unmarried mothers were supplied (with flat accommodation); and gay partnerships (were) given official sanction, (then) the seal was set on any vestige of the ‘traditional’ family.”

The comment then goes on to say:-

“Would I rather a child was raised by an absent father or present lesbian co-mother? Without question, I would choose the woman who is willing, ready and able to impart her enthusiasms, passions and disciplines over the man (who is then ready to disappear from her life).”

Would such a state of things have been tolerated a few decades ago? Family life was an essential feature of God’s wonderful Creation. That is why the divine record bears witness, of how an important part of the Creation was the formation of Adam and Eve. Can we wonder then, when this order of things is departed from, that great deterioration came about. Several decades ago there was a certain respect for the Bible record. The media, however now shows a critical attitude has arisen, seen in the following:-

“A disdain for Christianity has become a hallmark of the suffocating liberal consensus that dominates our public life. The religion which built Western civilisation is today seen not only as a threat to the official creed of multi-culturalism but also as a challenge to the all-powerful state. Our civic leaders cannot tolerate a rival source of authority and ethical values. So they seek to rob the Christian faith of

all real influence either by mocking it or more insidiously, turning it into a cheerleader for the fashionable dogma of political correctness. The - - - leading media advocate of Left-wing liberalism, is playing a key role in this process - - - in recent years - - - eager to deride and marginalise Christianity. - - -"

So a proportion of what was once the religious world, is now affected by what is hereby admitted to being a "rival source of authority and ethical values" - - - a "left-wing liberalism, playing a key role - - - deriding and marginalising Christianity." What an admission this is! We would however underline this "left-wing liberalism" is still only a proportion of the religious state of things. But what a difference it has made! So family life is affected and there is a great decline in the behaviour of young people. The prophetic words of Jesus focus on this our time, and on what we see is arising in the earth, bringing about much anxiety and sadness. Religion has failed over the centuries since Christ, but this aspect of society has still held on to a certain standard for human behaviour. But where is that standard now in the admission of "badly behaved pupils (holding) the whip hand"?

A recent news report about the work by authority for the keeping of law and order gave the following details:-

"Forty police officers are assaulted every day and violence against them is growing. Rank-and-file officers said - - - the increasing dangers they face is a sign of the violence sweeping Britain, - - - attacks have increased by thirteen per cent in half a decade.

The Police Federation disclosed - - - that four in ten officers had feared for their lives while on duty. Almost a third had been threatened with a knife, and six per cent faced a gun."

Jesus in His prophetic warning of a final overcoming of all which is evil declares:-

"This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."  
(Matthew 24:34)

It is a message for those of that final time, who are to be given an opportunity to respond to the gospel at Christ's return. Matthew's

## THE REMNANT

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record shows there will be a final saving when:-

“--- one shall be taken, and the other left. ---” (verse 40)

At Christ's coming there is to be the resurrection and the judgment; and also the judgment of peoples who are to be given an opportunity; with all amenable respondents taken and delivered from all those who are the violent and the corrupt who are to be removed.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR APRIL 2008

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

This is an election year for the President of this country, with its political promises by those seeking this office. This brings to mind the words of God through Daniel:

“... the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will,” Daniel. 4:17.

In the world there is fear of financial recession which has caused turmoil in the nations’ stock markets with a scrambling to prevent global-wide financial downfall. These fears are a sign of the coming of Jesus Christ to establish God’s kingdom as He foretold:

“And then shall they see the Son of man, coming in a cloud with power and great glory.  
And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:27-28.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As we proceed with this endeavour in a day of “small things”, we are grateful for help and guidance which we receive.

We are in receipt, as time goes on, of correspondence voicing gratitude for this publication, and also asking for any further scriptural articles. We are glad, and comforted in this knowledge that we can so continue in such a work.