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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

### “THE LORD IS MY... DELIVERER”

David spoke these words unto the Lord as he meditated upon God's mercy in his times of distress. The title of this 18th Psalm helps us to perceive his deliverances:

“To the chief Musician (Victor), A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said,”

“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 knew great deliverances during his life of subjection to his God. He further expressed his trust, as we read in II Samuel 22. This was in 1018 BC according to the chronology, and he died in 1015 BC - three years later. He was delivered from his enemies, beginning with the lion and the bear, Goliath, Saul, Absalom, Shimei, as well as his greatest enemy - self - as seen in the matter of Bathsheba, and in the numbering of his army.

As we read his words of thanksgiving for God's deliverance in Psalm 18, we find that David spoke nine times concerning such deliverance. There are three Hebrew words for deliverance - to defend, to escape, persevere, rescue, carry away safe, loose, prepare - revealing God's work of deliverance. Why did He so often deliver David in his distress? Was it not because David loved God, submitting to His word, halting, going softly, walking in his integrity, relying upon the Almighty - to the extent that God spoke of him:

“... I have found David ... a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.” Acts 13.22.

Let us look at the circumstances from which God delivered David:

"The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

The sorrows of hell (grave) compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me." Psalm 18:4-5.

David knew he was close to the end of his life. We too, on occasion, look toward the end of our lives, facing God's inevitable sentence due to Adam's sin. In that distress David turned to God:

"In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears." Psalm 18:6.

Often David knew adversity, affliction, anguish, and trouble. For example, he cried out in the weakness of his flesh:

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring (mourning)?

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent." Psalm 22:1-2.

Our fleshly minds in times of distress cry out, failing to trust in God's mercy, strength, and deliverance. We have to fight this weakness of the carnal mind, turning to God, as did David:

"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted and thou didst deliver them.

They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded." Psalm 22:3-4.

What was David's distress? He made it very clear:

"But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him."

Psalm 22:6-8.

As we listen to David's distress and perceive his deliverance, we think of Jesus' words as He hung upon the cross for nine hours. In that ninth hour:

"... Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama, sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46.

His fleshly nature cried out, as He struggled to glorify God, obeying His word, even to His death - in agony, ridiculed by the scribes and Pharisees, God heard and delivered Him:

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the spirit." Matthew 27:50.

He was the Victor to the end!

"... It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the spirit." John 19:30.

God did not forsake Jesus, but tested Him, even at the time of His crucifixion: Would He submit to His Father's purpose; would He conquer His flesh, never sinning; would He submit as the Lamb of God? The Almighty delivered Him from His distress, and received Him as He wounded His serpent nature in the head.

The Almighty tests all those who seek to glorify Him. We have the example of Hezekiah who was delivered from a fatal disease, and his life was extended for 15 years. The threat of Sennacherib's invading Jerusalem was prevented! During that 15-year extension of his life, God tested him in the matter of the ambassadors from Babylon:

"... God left him (forsook him) to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart." II Chronicles 32:31.

As we realize that God is always there to help, testing our hearts, as we strive to overcome our fleshly nature, let us pray, as did David:

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

thee to help me: Deliver my soul (breath) from the sword;  
my darling from the power of the dog.” Psalm 22:19-20.

David sought God’s deliverance when he was afflicted:

“For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down  
high looks.  
For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will  
enlighten my darkness.” Psalm 18:27-28.

In further times of affliction and anguish, David continually  
turned to the Almighty:

“It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my  
way perfect.  
He maketh my feet like hinds’ feet, and setteth me upon  
my high places.  
Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and  
thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath  
made me great.  
Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did  
not slip.” Psalm 18:32-33,35-36.

“Gentleness” also means - to afflict, abase, and chasten -  
revealing God’s mercy to enlighten one’s way so that there is no  
slipping out of the way that He would have His people walk. Our  
fleshly nature does not like affliction, and does not always recognize  
that it is the gentleness and mercy of God that leads to His  
atonement. Under the law, Israel kept the day of atonement, looking  
forward to God’s deliverance. Accordingly, Israel was instructed:

“... this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the  
seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict  
your souls, and do no work at all...  
For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you,  
to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before  
the LORD.  
It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict  
your souls, by a statute for ever.” Leviticus 16:29-31.

The word “afflict” is also used to gentle. It is God’s affliction

that tests our hearts to determine whether we are worthy of deliverance, of atonement, of forgiveness for our shortcomings - made possible through the mediatorship of His Son, Jesus Christ.

David further spoke of God's deliverance:

"Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people: and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me." Psalm 18:43.

To strive is to contend, adversity, strife - far from the gentleness that God looks for in those whom He delivers. Further, David speaks of those who strive:

"He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man." Psalm 18:48.

As David meditated on all the deliverances that God had granted, he rejoiced:

"Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.  
Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore."  
Psalm 18:49-50.

Can we see David's spirit, David's heart which was so pleasing to God, making him a man after God's own heart? We know God's promises to David - a son, a kingdom, a house, a throne - which will be fulfilled when Jesus returns to gather His people, those who have determined to say from their hearts:

"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;...  
I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised...."  
Psalm 18.1 -3.

J.A.DeF.

**PSALM 16**  
**MICHTAM OF DAVID**

One of our recent daily readings has been Psalm 16 - the first of several songs written by David, entitled, "Michtam of David". The word "Michtam" comes from a prime root meaning, "to mark or inscribe indelibly". This psalm speaks to us of David's faith in God, which was engraved or deeply etched permanently upon his heart. He believed that through a faithful walk in God's precepts, the Almighty would preserve and keep him, not only in this life, but also in the one to come:

"Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust".  
Psalm 16:1.

These words clearly imply his faith in God - a sure anchor to hold him steady throughout a life that was often beset with trial and testing. The word "preserve" means "to guard or hedge about", and displays David's trust in God's protection to insulate him from the dangers of the world about him and all its evil:

"But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.  
I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me."  
Psalm 13:5-6.

His belief in God's word focused his eyes on the promised inheritance to faithful Israel. He did not rest in the comfort of the present he knew as the king of Israel, but instead looked far to the future and the promise of his greater Son, who would establish forever an inheritance of salvation to the faithful of all generations.

"The LORD is the portion off mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.  
The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage."  
Psalm 16:5-6.

David knew his portion would not be realized during his lifetime, but his "lot" would be part of an inheritance in the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The word "lines" means a twisted rope, indicating how the promise of God has been

interwoven throughout the ages - the same promise made to all those who seek Him and endeavor to walk after His teachings.

Speaking of Israel's entrance into the land promised under Joshua, David said:

"He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents." Psalm 78:55.

They did by line receive a portion of the land, each tribe receiving a portion as indicated by God's plan:

"And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased." Psalm 78:54.

What a great deal is revealed by these words of the hope in a dwelling place to be provided through his greater Son - the Lord Jesus Christ. Though he knew Him not by name, he fully understood and believed in the salvation that God would provide through the price of his Son's life - He who now sits at the Father's right hand. David was grateful for the bounty and blessing God had bestowed upon him as king of Israel, but more importantly he looked in faith to the everlasting kingdom to be established by the Messiah to come.

Our life today is only a means to an end - a walk in faith towards that same gift of eternal life that David sought, through belief in God's Son. How can we accomplish this? David goes on to explain:

"I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.  
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope." Psalm 16:8-9.

God's word was ever before his face, engraved or michtamed on his heart. He believed in God's nearness to help preserve him in times of need, knowing he had a sure anchor of hope in God's provision of salvation - ever at His right hand, in the person of His Son.

How often we may lose sight of this wondrous hope set before us when at times of stress our flesh exerts itself - complaining and fighting against the constraints of the spirit. Yet as we look to follow

after the example of the Lord Jesus, our flesh can be controlled if we will but yield up our daily cares and put our trust in Him to provide what is needful.

Again in this Psalm 16, David's depth of spiritual wisdom is revealed when he prophetically writes of the death and resurrection of his Greater Son:

"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Psalm 16:10.

He obviously speaks here of the Lord Jesus - the only One of Adam's sons not left in the grave to suffer the natural corruption of the flesh. Because the Lord Jesus perfectly overcame His own carnal nature, the grave could not hold Him and with His resurrection, God designated Him the first fruits of the dead. This truth Paul also explained to his brethren at Corinth:

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

I Corinthians 15:20-23.

With God's word ever before his eyes, David endeavored to put away every fleshly thought and motion all that was displeasing to the Almighty. If God's word is engraved upon our heart and our eyes are always looking towards the inheritance promised, we too will be preserved as was David, and be hedged about with His protection and care, through belief in His Son - the means of our salvation.

As we read these psalms of David in the coming days, may they help us to grow in faith, inspired by David's spirit of trust and hope in the inheritance provided through his Greater Son. Let our every endeavor Brethren and Sisters be to walk faithfully after the example of His Son, that we too may be preserved and kept unto the day of His return.

M.C.S.

**“Upon the earth distress of nations,  
with perplexity. - - -”  
(Luke 21:25)**

Jesus, in answer to the question of His disciples “- - - when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass” He told them that it would be a time of perplexity for the nations.

Over the centuries since that time there has been considerable distress with perplexity in the World’s affairs. But what perplexity now!

Recently, in the media, it has been voiced that governments are now aware that “north and south” training camps for terrorism are arising. One potent comment read:-

“The money flows, the brainwashed volunteers flock to fight and die. The secret emissaries depart to the four corners of the world to organise mass murder.- - -”

The very great threat now comes from the atom bomb. One media statement spoke of the:-

“- - - selling (of) these deadly secrets (atomic) to pariah despotisms. There are others. Are they all totally reliable? is there not a single one who would provide a suitcase-sized nuke for London or Washington?  
I lived through all 43 years of the Cold War. But it was nothing like as scary as this.”

A judge of the British Courts has spoken out against:-

“- - - the ‘spiral of contamination’ that began with ‘the preachers of hate who contaminate impressionable young minds’. The gang’s most frightening plot was to buy a ‘dirty’ nuclear bomb from the Russian Mafia and blow up a crowded city centre.  
Apart from the mass killing, the explosion would have left radio active fall-out over a wide area.”

British Intelligence succeeded in forestalling the plans of this terrorist gang. But, let us note, the fanatics who are prepared to give their own lives in bringing about a terrorist event, are very dangerous people, and governments are undoubtedly perplexed

about such a trend in world affairs.

In one quarter of Britain a song has been composed about two children, who lose their mother when she becomes a suicide bomber. It is believed to be about a young Palestinian woman who blew herself up in 2004 at a crossing in the Gaza Strip, killing four Israelis. But the “distress of nations, with perplexity” takes on even more meaning when nuclear development is looked at. Consider the following media comment:-

“War heads (now) dwarf Hiroshima - - -. Missiles have a range of more than 4,600 miles - - - each warhead has eight times the power of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, which killed more than 140,000 people!”

A yearning for things to improve is seen in a letter published in a newspaper, an extract from which is herewith quoted:-

“- - - humankind can achieve more by investing in life and construction instead of death and destruction starting in 2008. - - -

My hope - - - is that we consign fear, hate and mistrust to the dustbin of history. I hope that America makes peace with Iran, (and) that Britain awakens to a bright, new dawn. - - -”

As nations spend more and more on nuclear development the “distress with perplexity continues”. The only hope is in the coming of “the prince of peace” from Heaven.

Isaiah declares:-

“For it is a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity by the Lord God of hosts in the valley of vision. - - -”  
(Isaiah 22:5)

A BIBLE CLASS

**“The Poor Man’s Wisdom Is Despised”  
Ecclesiastes 9:16**

This subject comes from the words of Solomon, the son of David and the preacher, whose wisdom was a gift from God.

Solomon reigned for about forty years after David’s death and like his father, he walked in God’s wisdom, but only at the beginning of his reign while he thought of himself as a little child, looking to God for guidance and help, as was his prayer:

“And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?”

I Kings 3:7,9.

Endowed with God’s wisdom, Solomon could write of the frailty of the human condition in this parable:

“There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man’s wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.”

Eccl. 9:14-16.

There was not much chance for a little city to defend itself against a great king who came to attack with armies and strong bulwarks. Yet in this city was a poor, wise man, whose wisdom saved the city from destruction. However, after their deliverance, no one remembered him in gratitude. This poor man was not prominent or well respected, nor the first one that people would turn to for advice. As is the nature of fleshly thinking, the poor person is not thought equal to those of position or wealth because

the flesh IS a respecter of persons, as Solomon explains:

“...Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man’s wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.”  
Eccl. 9:16.

In a practical sense, when a kindness is done for another, it’s often forgotten, yet a harm done is remembered, turning into a grudge which may fester into bitterness and linger for years:

“The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.  
Wisdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner destroyeth much good.”  
Eccl. 9:17-18.

This is a true understanding that no matter what weapon of the flesh a person may wield, the words of God and the understanding from His word which leads to the path of life, is far superior and of everlasting benefit. The quiet spiritual man may not gain the respect of those in the world, but this is of no importance, for the ways of the world and all its benefits are not the ways of the Spirit, as Paul wrote:

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.  
For it is written, He TAKETH THE WISE IN THEIR OWN CRAFTINESS.  
And again, THE LORD KNOWETH THE THOUGHTS OF THE WISE, THAT THEY ARE VAIN.”  
I Corinthians 3:19-20.

Solomon at first used God’s wisdom to judge Israel, yet as he grew in influence and wealth, so too did he grow in pride, forsaking the path of his father David, to apply himself to seek out the world’s wisdom, to his own spiritual detriment:

“I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:”  
Eccl. 7:25.

In departing from God’s path of understanding, Solomon married many foreign wives - those not of Israel. To please them, he

built temples and groves for the worship of their idols and strange gods. In doing so he forgot the law of Moses:

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.  
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:”  
Exodus 20:3-4.

Being strangers to Israel’s God, his wives lured him away from the one true path of life, until he became lost to God and could say of himself:

“Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.” Eccl. 4:13.

He no longer looked upon himself as a small child needing his Father’s help, but walked in the strength of his own worldly thinking.

Is our heart focused on the world’s pleasures and benefits or are we looking to the end of God’s purpose in the kingdom of God? If it is the latter, we need to cultivate a poor and meek spirit - not one puffed up by fleshly pride or position but endeavor to remain as a little child who looks to his heavenly Father for support, guidance and care.

No one knows the time of his death, yet there is given through God’s wisdom a hope after life to any who will seek it out.

“For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.” Eccl. 9:12.

In the day of the Lord Jesus’ preaching, His words were not heard by those well schooled in the law of God - the scribes and Pharisees. It was the common people, those not in high position the humble fishermen and laborers who sought Him out.

In Noah’s day, he preached for one hundred and twenty years of God’s coming judgment. The wisdom of God’s word was there

to profit any who would seek it out. Yet only eight were saved in the ark out of the thousands that must have lived during that time. Why? Because Noah's message cast the Spirit's light upon man's failing fleshly nature, in need of repentance and only eight souls were willing to yield their living to God's wisdom. The majority abhorred the wisdom offered, just as those in Solomon's parable who disrespected the poor man who saved their city.

What a testimony this is upon the flesh's stubborn unyielding nature which is unwilling to listen as a little child, to the Father's direction and guidance, so freely given in His word.

M.C.S.

**"JUDGE NOTHING BEFORE THE TIME"**  
**I Corinthians 4:5**

Paul's instruction to his brethren in Corinth was:

"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God" I Corinthians 4:1.

Paul was a minister and a steward of the Lord Jesus. As such, he was a servant of Christ, an apostle, a teacher of the gospel, particularly unto the Gentiles. We remember how he was called to be a 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.

A steward is a governor, a chamberlain of his master's house. He would be appointed by his master to be a faithful and trusted servant to care for his master's goods. As such, Paul was transformed

from a persecutor of Jesus' disciples to a "steward of the mysteries of God" Paul recognized his responsibilities:

"... it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord." I Corinthians 4:2-4.

Paul gave his life to his Master, caring for his Master's will, knowing that Jesus would be his judge. Would he be a faithful servant, obedient, responsible, pleasing Him, not self? Was he a minister and a faithful steward of God's mysteries - the purpose of God revealed through His word?

Jesus spoke to His disciples concerning a steward who wasted his master's goods:

"... How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's (master's), who shall give you that which is your own?

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Luke 16: 2,12-13.

The unjust steward used his master's goods for his own advantage, serving self - not his master, who trusted him!

Paul wrote to his Corinthian brethren after having served as God's steward for over 20 years. We can understand how he would feel:

"For I know nothing by (against - margin) myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord."

I Corinthians 4:4.

In a stewardship, the one who judges is not the steward, but the master. To judge - as the word is used by Paul - is to question, to

examine to search, thereby revealing whether the steward is faithfully serving. God searches the heart, the mind, the spirit of the steward. In His mercy, He will help, correct, and chasten as He so judges. Paul felt His hand upon him and wrote to his Hebrew brethren:

“... despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”

Hebrews 12:5-7.

The Lord knows the hearts of those striving to be His faithful stewards, and helps them to endure, looking to the end of His purpose when those who are His servants will appear before the judgment seat of the Lord Jesus. Paul wrote:

“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”

I Corinthians 4:5.

The counsel of the heart is the purpose of the heart, which will be revealed: Is the heart circumcised; is the flesh removed? Jesus can look into each heart: Is there darkness, or is it filled with the light of truth? A true servant will have searched his heart as he prepares to stand before Jesus' judgment seat. This IS the final judgment, when His faithful stewards will hear Jesus' joyful words:

“... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Matthew 25:34.

J.A.DeF.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

### DECLINE

“Back biters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents.”

(Romans 1:30)

The Apostle Paul lamented at the ignorance of appreciation of what is right, and also, in another of his letters further said:-

“Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”

(Ephesians 4:18-19)

He did not hesitate to give a very strong condemnatory description of what mankind's behaviour can descend to. In another of his letters he made a pertinent prophecy:-

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:  
FROM SUCH TURN AWAY.”

(2 Timothy 3:1-5)

The world is filled with misery as a result of its behaviour, as so described, and how much more in these last days.

Let us consider some of the sad laments that can be quoted from the media: we quote as follows:-

“There was a time when the kicking to death of a middle-aged man by a gang of feral teenagers would have stopped

the nation in its tracks. Now killings such as that - - - are almost weekly events - - - but too often it is followed by a fatalistic shrug of the shoulders. This is 21st century Britain, we tell ourselves, what do you expect?

The murderers - - - will no doubt still be young men when they emerge from prison - - -. Do not let politicians say it cannot be done. - - - (if life actually meant life for them, it would send a powerful message to other jobs, (particularly) if the death penalty were brought back)!"

But the fear of punishment is now lacking !! The report of the kicking to death of a young woman student by two members of a five-strong gang is a dreadful report, as follows:-

"- - - Police - - - blamed the killers' parents for allowing the pair to become COMPLETELY LAWLESS. (the young woman and her young man associate) who were attacked by the jobs, were so treated because this couple liked to wear black Goth clothing. They suffered such horrific facial injuries that paramedics were unable to tell them apart."

The young woman sadly died. Her mother lamented that her "intelligent - - - courageous" daughter was killed "simply because of the way she looked". But why such extraordinary evil behaviour? These violent men admitted drinking cider, lager and schnapps BEFORE THE UNPROVOKED ATTACK! The young man, (a university student) who survived, said that he had lost his "entire world when his young lady died and wished the jobs had killed him instead."

It is reported that teenagers as young as 15 and 16 are indulging in wine drinking, or lager equivalent in quantity of alcohol of the stronger wine. A survey which has been conducted of 10,000 young people showed:-

"- - - of the youngsters (checked upon) it was revealed that up to 40 per cent of 15 and 16 year olds from the poorest districts and a third of those from better-off areas binge-drink. These are three times more likely to be in violence than those who drink moderately. Binge drinking was classed as drinking more than five drinks in one go and would be enough to leave the teenager drunk and out of control."

One sad comment came from the police; a constable said, "I often have to confiscate alcohol from kids standing around street corners drinking in London." "Obviously one of the problems with under-age drinking is that parents are complicit in it, sometimes even supplying their children."

"Sadly some parents will not be bothered because they don't care."

What a condemnation these comments supply to the present state of things. In concluding this article we will quote some revealed facts:-

"Forty police officers are assaulted every day, and violence against them is growing; (the latest available figures) show more than 14,500 officers were injured in a year - the equivalent of 40 a day." "The Police Federation disclosed - - that four in 10 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."

So the decline continues! And the warning from God's Holy Word becomes most pertinently meaningful:-

The people in various quarters decline and become  
"- - - blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful (and)  
unholy.- - -" (2 Timothy 3:2)

## ERRATUM

For those who had pages in the June Magazine in the wrong position, please accept our apologies.

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JULY 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

We are delighted to report the baptism of Jon Steiger on April 24th after a full confession of faith. The right hand of fellowship was extended on Sunday, April 27th.

We are grateful for God's blessing and mercy. The hand of the Almighty has been strong on our behalf in several circumstances in response to fervent prayer.

J.A.DeF.

**MANCHESTER**

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

We rejoice with our Brethren and Sisters in America, in another one being brought, through baptism, into the fellowship of the Ecclesia.

God in His wonderful mindfulness, has granted His saving knowledge again, to where there has been a responsive mind.

The working of His Spirit is witnessed to by this event. Though these last days are days of "small things", the "light of Heaven" is preserved to continue in dark times of ignorance.