

OCTOBER 2008

A Monthly Magazine issued by

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

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

“MY SON”

Our recent reading in **The Proverbs**, expresses Solomon's mind:

“... to know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;” Proverbs 1:2.

When Solomon was God's chosen king of Israel after David's death, he sought His help, revealing his own desire to please the Almighty:

“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 the 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.

The Almighty was pleased with Solomon's spirit, and gave him wisdom, understanding, and also added riches and honor. God also promised Solomon:

“... if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked; in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.”

I Kings 9.4-5.

In his God-given wisdom and understanding, Solomon wrote **The Proverbs** to help his people to walk in God's ways, and to keep His commandments.

As we begin to read these proverbs, it is outstanding how Solomon, through God's inspiration, addressed many of his proverbs to “My Son” - desiring to instruct his son and his people to walk in God's way. Let us look at his words addressed to his son,

to help us in our desire to know wisdom and understanding. Solomon wrote:

“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.” Proverbs 1:8.

This was one of God’s commandments:

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 20:12.

Instruction involves chastening, correction, discipline, doctrine, or rebuke. A father (and mother) with love seek to bring up their son in obedience to their discipline. Further, Solomon wrote as part of a father’s discipline:

“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.” Proverbs 1:10.

Those who are sinners are not disciplined by the law of their father, and so strive to entice others to join in their lack of obedience. We all know “...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16). The flesh continually entices - or allures, deceives, or persuades. We know the consequences of consenting to fleshly desires, for Adam and Eve fell victims of the serpent’s lie, resulting in all mankind becoming dying creatures.

Solomon further addressed “My son”.

“... walk not thou in the way with them (sinners); refrain thy foot from their path.

For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.” Proverbs 1:15-16.

The way of the sinner can lead only to death, while the way of the Lord can lead to eternal life, if one is determined to walk in obedience to God’s laws.

How can one walk in the strait and narrow way? Solomon makes this clear:

“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide (esteem) my commandments with thee;

Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.” Proverbs 2:1,5.

Solomon experienced the fear of the LORD as he ruled over Israel, as he built the temple with wisdom and understanding. As the fear of God grew, Solomon's instruction continued:

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck: write them upon the table of thine heart:

So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:1-6.

To acknowledge is to take to heart, to know, to understand, to seek, to comprehend the mercy and grace of God. With such a heart-felt knowledge, one will NOT forget His law!

At times we fail, consent to enticement, and displease God. Solomon helps in such failure:

"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

For whom the LORD loveth, he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." Proverbs 3:11-12.

The flesh abhors chastening or correction, and scorns it, as one continues to please self rather than God, thus rejecting the Almighty's forgiveness.

Centuries later, Paul spoke of this proverb:

"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 12:6-7.

Solomon added:

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings:

Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.” Proverbs 4:20-22.

The Lord Jesus was tempted immediately after He had been baptized by John the Baptist, and had received the Holy Spirit from God. He was enticed in the wilderness, yet revealed His heart by replying, “... It is written.” The word of God was in His heart, enabling Him to reject the enticements of His flesh, and fully obey His Father.

Solomon further warned:

“My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:

That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:” Proverbs 5:1-3.

Discretion involves a plan having to do with good or evil. In this case, Solomon warned against evil, lewdness, wickedness - such as a “strange woman” - a foreigner or profane person whose plan is to lead one away from the law of God to be tempted by the lust of the flesh:

“... her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell (the grave).” Proverbs 5:4-5.

Finally, Solomon spoke:

“My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.” Proverbs 7:1-3.

These proverbs of Solomon were the expressions of the wisdom and understanding given of God, as he in humbleness acknowledged that he was “but a little child.” As he grew in honor and riches, which the Almighty had given to him, these filled his

heart, and thus the “lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” consumed him. How displeasing to God!

We read in I Kings chapter 11:

“But king Solomon loved many strange women, ...
And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three
hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.
... and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as
was the heart of David his father.” I Kings 11:1,3-4.

Early in his reign, Solomon was a man pleasing to God, with the hope of eternal life, but in his later failures, he was corrected only to the extent that he expressed:

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

To be admonished involves being enlightened, warned, taught, cautioned.

Brethren and Sisters, can we perceive the example of Solomon as a warning for ourselves? He was so greatly blessed in response to God’s question: “Ask what I shall give thee.” Let us strive to be children of God who can be admonished, can be chastened and warned. Let us heed His words, and in obedience, “... write them upon the table of (our) heart” - as Jesus, the Son of God, spoke to His disciples:

“... 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 shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake, shall find it.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul (life)? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”
Matthew 16:24-27.

J.A.DeF.

VANITY OF VANITIES

In the past few weeks we have been reading the words of Solomon as recorded in Ecclesiastes. Chapter one identifies Solomon the author, as the preacher:

“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.” Ecclesiastes 1:1.

Through the Book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon examines with his God-given wisdom the vanity of man’s existence.

“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.” Ecclesiastes 1:2.

This word “vanity” is defined as “emptiness”, from a prime root meaning, “to be vain”. The Dictionary gives the meaning of vanity as, “of no real value, something worthless and also as having a high regard for oneself”. Solomon was teaching of the futility of man’s existence in God’s sight without the Spirit’s direction, as he goes on to say:

“What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before us.

There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.” Ecclesiastes 1:3-4,10-11.

God as the Creator has provided a plan for this earth - its seasons, natural progression and inevitable end is preordained by Him as the generations of man come and go, without any power of the flesh to effect a change in this order. As Solomon sought through his wisdom to discover the place of man in this plan he found that:

“. . .this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun: and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.”

Ecclesiastes 1:13-14.

From the beginning after the fall in the garden, man was sentenced to a life of labor and toil ending in death, because of his failure to obey God's precepts:

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Genesis 3:19.

Originally, man was created to glorify God and was part of all that God had created in goodness. However, man failed to obey and the vanity of disobedient flesh revealed itself as abhorrent to the Almighty.

Solomon's own father David, though a mighty king of Israel, recognized the only path to pleasing God was through a humble control of man's natural fleshly nature. Perceiving his own frailty in God's sight he wrote:

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Psalm 8:3-4.

Man without submitting with obedience to God's plan will end without hope in the grave, for the flesh has no power to deliver itself once life is over:

"I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.
For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast: for all is vanity.
All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." Ecclesiastes 3:18-20.

How helpful this knowledge should be to us today - that without being a part of God's plan for man's salvation, there is no hope available to the flesh, except an inglorious end in the grave - for within the man of flesh can be found nothing worthy of redemption.

After the privilege of embracing His word, we are to endeavor to walk in righteousness according to Christ's example. Yet being flesh we fail and often overlook our own weaknesses while inflating our own importance. In truth, man is a dying creature, prone to failure and fit only for the grave:

“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.” Ecclesiastes 7:20.

We can only glorify God as we strive to stifle the natural inclinations of our flesh nature in humility and follow after the example set forth by Jesus Christ.

At the end of Ecclesiastes and after all his study, Solomon the preacher summarizes his findings:

“Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.
Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.
For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”
Ecclesiastes 12:8,13-14.

The whole understanding of man's hope for salvation is not found from just a knowledge of the scriptures, but from a doing of those things that will control the man of flesh within. Are we privileged to know the gospel and be part of His household yet erupt in anger to others, or are slow to show kindness, mercy and forgiveness? If so, our faith is in vain, making us a hearer only of the word and not a doer, pleasing to the Father.

Through Solomon's help and study, we have learned how vain is the flesh and its pursuits, while within the spirit of God's word and the doing thereof, is the means of light and life.

M.C.S.

**“ - - - The people shall dwell - - - at Jerusalem.”
(Isaiah 30:19)**

The Jews in Israel, from an ordinary point of view are in a somewhat precarious position. To the north of Israel, is Iran, whose President has repeated calls for Israel to be destroyed. Iran is quite a threat for it has nuclear plants, and has been reported to have considered obtaining nuclear bombs.

Recently the British Prime Minister has focused his attention on this situation, condemning the Iranian leader for such an “abhorrent” attitude. In fact he made a special visit to Israel, where he made the first speech of a British Prime Minister to the Israeli parliament praising the Jewish state, and at the same time warning the Iranians that there could be international action of sanctions against them.

The British leader has been criticised for his support for British involvement with its troops in Iraq, but he has maintained his stance for keeping troops there, indicating he would not be prepared to set a timetable for a withdrawal of its forces from that country. The position of Britain and the United States politically and militarily in the Middle East is, of course, an over-ruling of the course of events for a continuing of the nation of Israel.

One significant aspect of the Jews' position, in what was the land of Palestine, is their place in Jerusalem. Israel has annexed the eastern position of Jerusalem. The Jews regard Jerusalem as an important place for them, and the fact that their position in the ancient city has been obtained, underlines the coming to pass of prophetic fulfilment. God's promises to Israel and the Jews are clear:-

“ - - - therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore, will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him. For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

And though the LORD give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying,
This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right
hand, and when ye turn to the left."

(Isaiah 30:18-21)

Events in the world, and particularly in Israel, are moving on towards the fulfilment of what God has promised through His prophet.

Oh! what a wonderful outcome for the Jews. They are living to a degree precariously at the present time, but their salvation is approaching: the enemy that would destroy them will no longer have any power to threaten; and to Israel will come the true understanding.

A BIBLE CLASS

“... HIM THAT BLASPHEMETH
AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT ...”
LUKE 12:10

Our subject contains the words of the Lord Jesus as he spoke to His disciples:

“... whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven.”

Luke 12:10.

What is the difference? Jesus was a mortal man, the son of Mary. The Holy Spirit is the power of God delivered through His Word. Jesus was blasphemed by the scribes and Pharisees; it was part of His battle against His flesh. For example, Jesus spoke:

“But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

Matthew 5:39.

Jesus not only forgave the smiter; He also submitted by turning the other cheek. It was a test of His submission to His Father, which He did until He died on the cross as the unblemished Lamb of God.

The Holy Spirit is God's power. For example, in the foundation of the earth.

“... the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

Genesis 1:2-3.

Could man reveal such power? All that God had to say was: “Let there be” - and there was! Although mankind has now polluted much of the earth, God said at the time of creation:

“... behold, it is very good.”

Genesis 1:31.

We might ask: How can one blaspheme the Holy Spirit? To blaspheme is to defame, to rail upon, to revile, to speak evil. God is all-powerful, all-seeing, all-knowing, and never fails! As He speaks, it comes to pass. To blaspheme such power is despising God, denying His will, and moving contrary to His commandments. Who

would dare to commit such an evil deed? Is it because there is no fear, no awe of God's word? Surely God will not forgive such despising of His purpose!

We are shown the circumstances in which Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit:

“... Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.
For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed;
neither hid, that shall not be known.” Luke 12:1-2.

The Almighty knows all - nothing can be hid.

Jesus further warned of the hypocritical Pharisees:

“And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body (they did kill the Lord Jesus), and after that have no more that they can do.
But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell (the grave); yea, I say unto you, Fear him” Luke 12:4-5.

It is the fear of God that enables one to submit to His power. Those in awe and reverence, obey His commands, and they will know His mercy and grace when Jesus returns to judge His people. Jesus further helped His disciples:

“Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:
But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.” Luke 12:8-9.

To confess is to acknowledge, give thanks, to promise, to covenant. To deny is to refuse, to disavow, to contradict. Jesus forgave those who denied Him, speaking as the Son of man, subject to failure, agonizing to submit to His Father. As such, He said:

“... whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him ...” Luke 12.10.

Jesus was not infallible; He was striving to be, if only He could overcome His flesh nature, according to His Father's purpose.

We have many examples of those who denied Jesus. Peter was warned by Jesus, after Peter said:

“... Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.” Luke 22:33.

Jesus answered Peter:

“... I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.”

Luke 22:34.

Peter did deny the Lord Jesus the same day, and the cock did crow:

“And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.” Luke 22:61-62.

Jesus forgave Peter. Indeed. He said to him after His resurrection:

“... Feed my sheep.”

(John 21:15-17).

He trusted Peter to teach the gospel to His followers. Peter was crucified in Rome, giving his life in obedience to God's word. He will be among those at Jesus' right hand at the judgment seat.

Paul wrote to his Ephesian brethren:

“... grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:30-32.

As we strive to please our Father, let us remember Jesus' words to His disciples concerning the time of judgment.

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed (not blasphemers) of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Matthew 25:34.

J.A.DeF.

**“BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD
AND NOT HEARERS ONLY”**

James, in writing to his brethren in Christ, explains the personal struggle that is involved in coming to the Truth, for those who endeavor to walk after the example of God’s Son.

The natural man has to fight daily to control the tendencies of his flesh nature with help from the spirit of God’s word. James helps in this struggle as he writes:

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.”

James 1:22-24.

When embracing God’s word, it must be received with meekness and humility - characteristics of the spirit, which when exercised in righteousness, combat the proud and disobedient nature inherent in the man of flesh.

A “hearer” is not necessarily a “doer”. After a knowledge of God’s word, the “hearer” sees the reflection of the natural man, as in a mirror, and recognizes his weaknesses and fleshly characteristics which are displeasing to the Almighty. Yet the word is not applied within him - he makes no changes to his character through repentance. However, a doer who remembers the liberty or freedom he has been given through the death of the Lord Jesus, compares his own living to Christ’s example, and recognizing his own lacks, endeavors to change through obedience and a righteous walk. This man will be found pleasing to the Father:

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

James 1:25.

In the same manner, Peter also exhorts his brethren of the frailty of the flesh nature - warning not to trust in it for its strength is only fleeting, while yielding nothing worthy before God:

“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away;

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

I Peter 1:24-25.

The nature of man is as fragile as grass. It may grow and flourish for a brief time but eventually it withers away and is fit for nothing. While in contrast, the promise of God’s word endures forever a spiritual hope which lives beyond the grave, for those who endeavor to walk after His spirit of Truth:

One who realizes he is flesh, from an understanding of the word, and knows the restraint he should exercise, yet does nothing, is a “hearer” only and not a “doer” of the word. His spiritual life is empty and of little worth before God.

In this same regard, the Parable of the Sower teaches of the word, cast as seed to many in different circumstances, and how they use it:

“Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth;

But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.”

Mark 4:3-8.

These all were blessed in having received the knowledge of God’s word, yet many did not let it work within them to fight the natural tendencies of the flesh. Only he who received it and changed, increasing within himself in those fruits of the spirit such as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance, was pleasing to God.

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:20-21.

James' letter is a sober warning to his brethren, revealing how they are naturally and that only those who fight a good fight and wage war daily upon their flesh nature in an effort to change, can be pleasing to the Almighty. Even Paul, a minister of God who was renowned for his endeavor to walk in righteousness, lamented the struggle he faced in trying to quell the man of flesh within:

“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.
Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.
I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.
For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:
But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7.18-25.

God's word or law is like a mirror - helping us to see our inward fleshly man for what it really is - worthy only of death because of disobedience. Yet, if we endeavor to be a “doer” and not just a “hearer” of His word, exercising the Spirit's teachings in all that we do, we have the hope of life everlasting, as Paul taught:

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Romans 8:5-6.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“The heart of the children to their fathers.”
(Malachi 4:6)

These words are in context with the promise of:-

“--- the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”
(Malachi 4:5)

How significant the warning words, for this present time, about the schism between the generations:-

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:
And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”
(Malachi 4:5-6)

The carrying of knives by the younger generation, because of hostile inclinations, is causing the Authorities considerable concern; and in some areas causes people to feel unsafe when they go out on the streets. Official statistics have revealed a seven hundred per cent rise in the number of blades discovered in schools comparing with the position ten or so years ago. Those prosecuted for carrying knives are reported to be almost three times as likely to go to prison as in 1997 and for a third longer of sentence amongst these teenagers. Amongst these young people there is a disobedient inclination against parental influence.

One disturbing report published is that:-

“Road accidents are a major cause of death amongst youngsters aged 16 to 18.
More young people think it is acceptable to drink alcohol and then go out to drive a vehicle. Research shows that young drivers are two-and-a-half more times more likely to crash than older experienced drivers.”

This would never have been thought permissible among the younger generation a few years ago.

The deteriorating behaviour amongst the young is not confined

to the male population. One report concerns a female gang, which reads: -

“A disabled ex-soldier has been savagely attacked by a gang of teenage girls.

Parkinson’s afflicted sufferer (aged 52) was pounced on by an 18-strong mob in broad daylight. - - - The girls 14 and 15 - - - punched their victim to the floor, then rained blows and kicks on his head, - - - he suffered a broken arm and needed facial surgery. - - - He said “I am more frightened in what can happen on our streets than I ever was while I was a soldier. - - - I have very little strength, yet these brutes attacked me as if they were playing a game. - - -”

A statement from the Police said, “This was a totally unprovoked and vicious attack. The victim was quietly going about his business when he was set upon for no apparent reason.”

The antagonism of young people towards the older generation is shown in a recent Court Prosecution. Six youths (aged 15-20) had been brought to trial for their part in the stabbing of another young person. This victim had also been punched, kicked and hit with a brick in South London. He had put himself between the gang and his young brother who was being attacked and so they cruelly reacted to this opposition, and they executed revenge upon him. The Judge was condemnatory of their behaviour with the following comment about it:-

“This was needless extremely serious violence in which a knife was carried and used and a young man very nearly lost his life.

Each of you bears a responsibility for that.

He was surrounded, outnumbered and expected to lose his life during that onslaught.”

There was a reaction of these youths of this gang (aged 15-20) to this Judge’s rebuke, and of finding them guilty, it is an indication of the behaviour of present young people. The media report reveals what the younger generation thinks about those responsible of the older generation:-

“The six youths in (the) street gang sneered at British justice as they were jailed - - - for their part in the stabbing. - - - They laughed and sniggered as the Old Bailey Judge

condemned the near-fatal attack.”

In the year 2006 there was a survey concerning “Offending Crime”. This Survey which questioned more than five thousand children and young adults found that twenty-two per cent had been involved in crime in the previous twelve months, while six per cent were serial offenders and had committed at least six offences in a year, including burglary, robbery, assault and selling drugs.

Authority and the older generation published such a report and such figures with much concern about many of this younger generation, which in their turn are critical of Authority, and are resistant to the position of the older generation, in relation to themselves.

This state of affairs is a fulfilment of Bible prophecy. It is a great sign, and so how meaningful is the scriptural promise that from Heaven, intervention is to come, which will result in “the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers”, to bring about more respectable behaviour amongst the young.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR OCTOBER 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

Continued mailing of invitations for literature brings a small but encouraging response, giving opportunity to witness to God's purpose with this world.

We rejoice to be under the shadow of God's wings, granting mercy and care in our striving to glorify His name, as well as the help granted in our daily living.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As we continue to have letters which indicate appreciation for this magazine, it helps us to have a motivation, which results in this witness going to many places, not only at home, but abroad.