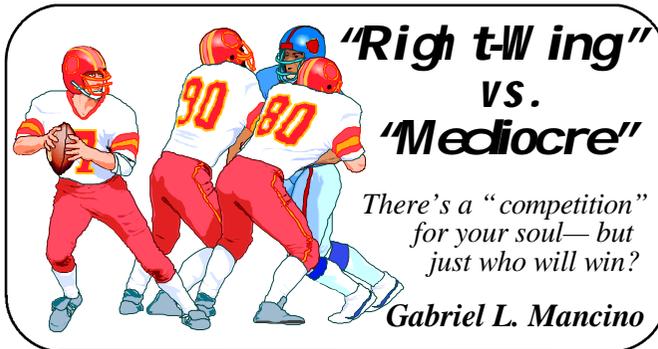


# The London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

**"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10**

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About 20 years ago, when visiting a couple with young children, suddenly the mother's own mother (who lived nearby) entered and, referring to what she felt I represented said, **"You don't want that. You want to be mediocre!"** A young mother spoke with me quite recently, and gladly took a few issues of the paper. The next day, this same lady told me that her friend told her (having glanced at the papers) that I was **"right wing!"** Well, some of the religious rulers accused Jesus of working by the power of the devil!! Most of these critics don't even know for themselves what the Bible says about being a real Christian, yet their negative comments tend to dampen or kill other people's God-awakened interest. **Jesus said He would encourage the bruised, and fan the dimly burning flame.** No wonder those words are followed by *"and in His name shall the nations trust!"* (Matt.12:20,21). **Jesus condemned the Pharisees** who He said held the key to heaven (they knew the way) but not only did they not go in, they kept others from entering, as well! The attitude and response of these "leaders" was as much as saying, "I'm going to Hell, and you're going with me!"

**So, who are you to follow?** Some easy, direct questions can help you to decide. Is this in the Bible? What does Jesus say? Great Christians like Wesley and Booth in this country have known the power of God and have been examples of godliness, as well

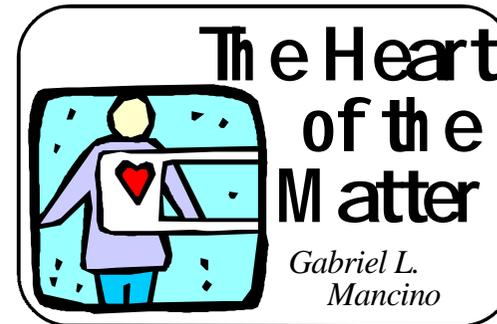
**It's Up To You To Receive and Share God's Word With Others!** Adam and Eve brought sin into the world, which messed US up, and the whole natural world, too. Recent years have brought a dramatic increase in hurricanes, earth quakes etc. as well as violence, sexual perversion and endless mockery of Jesus Christ.

as being outstanding sources of lifting the people of the entire nation. The life and teaching of such people can be an excellent and additional way to test and measure if something is good or bad. **A ship captain** was training a young man to bring the ship into the shallow harbour at night without crashing onto the hidden rocks. The captain pointed to three lights on the shore and said, "When

your position is such that those three lights are lined up, go straight toward shore." Likewise, God has made His Way abundantly clear so that we may all make it safely to the shores of eternity!

**Go to the Bible!** (*..and I don't mean a cult Bible which is purposely "translated" to support various false teachings of the group.*) **If your father was rich** and left a great inheritance to you, would you trust lawyers to do all the reading of the Will, and not look at it at all for yourself? **What about buying a house?** Would you trust the loan companies and banks to do all the details without looking over any of the paperwork yourself? **I cannot believe you would be so careless.** Yet I am talking about issues far greater than anything else on earth. Read the Bible for yourself. Jesus said, *"If you love Me, then do what I say,"* but how can you really know what God says...what Jesus says...unless you read and study the Book?

**Mediocre people** are not inventors or ambitious, except maybe to invent excuses, level blame or criticise others. *Mediocrity* in genuine spiritual matters—often accompanied by **GREAT interest** in endless, empty, earthly pursuits—is just the perfect, comfortable mediocrity that will land a person's soul in Hell. If that sounds "right wing," then I guess I am guilty. I love eating good food, but I cannot tolerate a diet of mediocrity for my never-dying soul. **Mediocrity? You don't want that!**



**February** is a month which may, due to **Valentine's Day**, focus more on the heart than any other month. Of course, **if people don't guard their hearts**, they can let their minds and emotions get them into trouble.

The Bible says **"Keep watch over your heart, above all things that are guarded, for out of it flow the outgoings of life"** (Proverbs 4:23). Jesus confirmed this in further detail (Matt. 15:18-20; Mk. 7:20-23), when He lists some of the *"evil things"* which *"come from within and defile a man."* Be sure of this: just as the arteries, veins and capillaries carry blood to the extremities of the body, so also our body acts out in its various parts—**eyes, ears, hands, feet, tongue**, etc—the dictates of the wilful choices of the heart.

**Without God's grace working in the human heart**, man's condition is painted by God through Jeremiah the prophet in the

most unflattering terms, saying (using various translations): **"The heart is deceitful, twisted and crooked above all things and desperately wicked, exceedingly corrupt and incurable; who can know it?"** (Jer. 17:9). Thankfully, it answers, **"I, the Lord, know the heart, I test the heart and mind, even to give to each and every man the reward of his ways and in keeping with the fruit of his doings"** (v.10).

Some writers have authored books showing a **"Bible Code"** which is allegedly encoded by God within the actual Hebrew text, which tell of many things today such as the Twin Towers, Sadam Hussein, Osama Bin Laden and many, many other things. One such book predicts that this year, 2006, is to be a very climactic year.

Jesus said that before He returns, the world situation will be such that **"men's hearts will fail because of fear and expectation of the things which are coming upon the earth, for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken"** (Lk. 21:26). If, for example, the internet would utterly crash, so much business could collapse as to bring about a far larger number of suicides than the Great Depression of 1929. This is unimaginable...yet possible!

Sin's deceitful nature produces a **hardening of our hearts**, so says Hebrews 3: 7, 8, 12, 13, 15 **UNLESS** we choose to **seek and obey**

**"God's Clock Keeps Perfect Time!"**

After long waiting, St. Paul says **"in the fullness of time,"** Jesus Christ, God promised Messiah-Saviour was born. Likewise will be Christ's **SECOND Coming...and likewise will be the coming to judgment of each individual and the world in general.** As the prophet, Amos, said, **"Prepare to meet your God!"**

# “No Chance!”

by  
Gabriel L. Mancino



The expression used in the above title could also be said “**No Way!**” meaning **No Possibility**. Gambling is as much a plague as many other legalised practices in society, and how many lottery players actually win anything? You also know that **there are many ways to gamble**— many people putting at risk some of the most precious things a person could have, yet there it goes, and often cheap.

The false, chance-theory of evolution is likewise one of the Devil’s most powerful tools he used to cheapen human life during the last century; and just look what a wonderful world it has helped to create! In the last several months there has been what seems to be a much higher flood of news about evolution, violence and sexual perversion. Science fiction, based largely on atheism and evolution, is inundating us. **What does this all say?**

The Bible says that, in one way of looking at it, **the deck of cards was “stacked” against us all** (to use a gambling term)! “Stacked” here means “to put the cards (in a pack) into a predetermined arrangement, as for cheating.” First of all, I’d better refuse the temptation to write about the epidemic of cheating which permeates our society and world. Secondly, if you are a cheater, liar or deceiver, you had better stop it. I saw an article not long ago which referred to the criminal breaking into a photography shop (caught on the shop’s cameras!), and called the thief stupid. Hey, there is an

enormous queue behind him, for the Bible asks us, “*He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?*” (Psalm 94:9, compare with Proverbs 20:12). In other words, God the *Person*, not God the *It* has made us all, He knows what we are up to and payday is coming.

**The worse way the deck is stacked against us is from inside not outside.** Just listen: “*And you...were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*” And again in the same chapter: “*Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh...that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of God’s people and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world*” (Ephesians 2:1-13). **Did you take note of all the negative things against us?** And that’s only one place in the Bible! In both those sections which paints us in a terrible position, the Bible inserts “*But God, who is rich in mercy*” and “*But now in Christ, you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ!*” Talk about “disadvantaged people”— we all had **No Chance**, then it says “*But God!*” I’m glad it also says “*But Now!*” There IS a chance, and it is NOW!



**As the Devil may tempt you to neglect the eternal welfare of your soul, just tell him by decisive action—**

**“NO CHANCE!”**

I have written a 16 page article (4 A4s folded like this LCS & stapled) with the title: “*Un-gay Marriages, and other related subjects for Christians and non-Christians*”

# I Reject Despair!

by  
Gabriel L. Mancino



**Depressed people** are often told by doctors and counsellors to stop watching or reading news reports. Though I appreciate the fearlessness of some newspaper reporting, I find the news they do well to expose or speak out against often results in nothing corrective being done. *That* tends to be very upsetting. “Justice” is often upside-down, and it seems there is a purposed strategy to create anarchy. All of this could bring about a sense of hopeless despair, if it were not that I believe in and give my life in obedient love to the God of the Bible. Secondly, **I reject the despair** which could invade my soul when I realise that I count and I matter to God. I count, *not* for selfish purposes, but first for God’s glory—to reflect Him in this present world. Then, too, I count for the greatest care for others for time and for eternity. This provides plenty of purpose for living!

Jesus’ disciples and the early church had no modern technology, bulging bank accounts or any of the “advantages” of today, yet their enemies said those disciples “turned the world upside-down!” (Acts 17:6). A doctor did a corrective operation on a little girl’s legs, and for the first time she walked straight. Her mother stood to the side and had her little child come to her. As she reached her mother’s arms, she burst into tears, saying, “Mommy, I’m all crooked!” This world is so accustomed to being bent and distorted by sin, that crookedness is preferred to rightness. God wants modern-day disciples in this present, crooked world. **Jesus’ disciples had “corrective surgery” to remove their depression, doubt and despair** through His Resurrection and the coming of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost.

We simply cannot imagine nor measure the deep, genuine, powerful and lasting effect for social good that can come *in our present times*

We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.

if individuals like yourself will dare to be different for God’s sake and the sake of the people of the world in which we live. The impact for social uplifting in every good way has resulted before by such people as John Wesley, when Britain and British society was in the pits! To inform passers-by why a dramatic change occurred in that area, **a sign in Cornwall read:** “A man named Wesley passed this way!”

**The prophet Jeremiah had a reason for distress and hopeless despair.** He was faithful as God’s weeping prophet who loved God and the people...but the people wouldn’t obey. Jerusalem was burnt to the ground and the enormous walls thrown down, and people who passed by mocked and couldn’t care less. I have sometimes felt this way, as I observed the crowds who appear to care nothing for the soul of this country. **Yet, Jeremiah said,** “*This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. Through the LORD’S mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Your faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, says my soul; therefore I hope in Him. The LORD is good to them that wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him*” (Lamentations 3:21-25). Of Jeremiah’s first words here: “*This I recall,*” “recall” literally mean “*make to return to my heart.*” And as the front page article’s title suggests, **THIS** is the heart of the matter!

## ‘Victims of Fashion’

**Liz Hurley** is seen on huge advertising boards, standing beside a dressmaking form which has about four pairs of large sewing scissors stuck in its back. The caption has Liz saying: “**You can’t have fashion without victims, darling.**” Oh, Liz, you are more accurate than you know! Yet though like cigarette packs that have in large print, “Smoking Kills,” the crowds rush to harm themselves. Fashion may well be one of Satan’s clever and “refined” tools to send as many people to Hell as drugs, prostitution, alcohol and nicotine. Yet, for *their* financial profit and *your* pride and peril, Brent Cross continues its advert: **Feed Your Addiction.** Victims are lying everywhere, for **Fashion makes mincemeat of them all.**

God can make you usable for His glory and the best help for others. Repent *for* and turn *from* all your sin completely, and believe God to forgive and change you. Then study and obey the Bible, and tell others!