

The Greatest War...

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God,” and that WORD became *action*. God’s WORD was willingly nailed to the Cross, but **if Satan thought he won the war, he grossly miscalculated.**

This “war” (that started when Adam fell into sin) culminated in the head-smashing defeat of Satan on the Cross, though Christ WAS crucified. (Read this in Genesis 3:15 where this was first foretold.) Yes, the soldiers nailed Jesus to the Cross. However, on that Cross, Jesus not only made our pardon possible, but nailed the entire burdensome demands of ceremonial laws and observances to it, too! St. Paul says that Jesus “*has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it*” (Colossians 2:13-15). Too bad mobile phones couldn’t film what happened that day in the spirit world! The obstacles hindering us from being able to truly know, love, worship and serve God were stripped, spoiled and exhibited as trophies of victorious warfare. This is “**Happy Slapping**” of a different kind, that produces pardon, holiness and acceptance with God. The Bible says, “*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross*” (Heb.12:2). The Cross brought horrific suffering and shame, **yet Jesus was infinitely “HAPPY”** to fulfil the eternal plan of God in providing our release from the captivity of sin, and publicly humiliating and stripping Satan.

I remember as a very young boy, fighting another lad. I had been winning. However, after I had started dancing around in proud mockery, the lad got up and got on top of *ME!* Sometimes, armies that were initially defeated, came back to conquer. Satan won no such victory, for what Jesus accomplished on the Cross, He finalised

by the Resurrection. Satan had no chance.

I guess many people have trouble with Jesus being God. Some make a joke, for example, and ask who was running the universe if God died on the Cross! Many believe (as I do) that even as a dead body is laying in a casket, that person’s spirit (not mere “energy”) is elsewhere and lives forever. The body in the casket isn’t faking it. When Christ’s body died, His Spirit (with God’s total nature in it) lived on, too.

To save money and time, the BBC rather hypocritically filmed both a Christmas 2006 and Easter 2007 Songs of Praise service last November, which I agree, “gives an air of unreality” to the Easter Songs of Praise. However, *NOT* to save *time* or *money*, but to save *souls*, God gave gifts again at the Resurrection, as St. Paul (quoting Psalm 68:18) describes, “*Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”* You see there again, God is parading the victory of the Cross and Resurrection, for it won the spoils of the war and provides gifts for us all. **I heard a man tell how on Christmas morning, his little son came around the tree, saw the bicycle he got as a present, and then kicked it!** God has gone to the greatest cost to provide a priceless Gift through His Son. It was a terrible price of war, but won the greatest victory. Are we wholeheartedly receiving His Gift, or are we kicking it? The choice is ours. (Acts 9: 4,5).

Get A Hold Of Yourself!

Jesus declared in one of His stories illustrating His own resurrection: “*If they do not believe Moses and the prophets, neither will they believe if one rose from the dead.*” That is an alarming insight into sin and human nature. At any level of society, **complacency is a plague and is most dangerous when it regards one’s eternal welfare.** Our will must “get in gear,” or else! We must **WILL** to change. With God’s help and your will, you can make it!

YOU MAY BE SAVED RIGHT NOW, AND KNOW IT! ANY person from ANY background may completely turn from their sin and come to Jesus, the Saviour. God’s Holy Spirit will be like an heavenly down-payment in your heart, to let you know that God considers the “transaction” complete and acceptable! Yes, “it CAN be YOU!” Then what? “Go on and tell!” THAT’S our command and from the first Easter morning. Let’s obey that joyful order!

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“Lift up a standard for the people.” Isaiah 62:10

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The Greatest War — (and its Victorious Outcome)

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World War 1 is sometimes called “The Great War”— certainly *not* because it was so *splendid!* At present, wars of various kinds are being fought in numerous countries, yet imagine the march of war through the many previous centuries. Even as the world has been considering the abolition of the slave trade, we know that slavery was in fashion before Britain became involved or America was discovered— **AND** that it is *still* being carried out today, with organised ruthlessness and greed.

People have spoken of “the spoils of war,” referring to what they have gained for themselves in the defeat of others. The present-day architects and executors of human-trafficking exude the pus of evil by laughing in the faces of the victims of their wicked deceit, perhaps much like the “Happy Slappers” who video their sordid acts on their mobile phones. **Jesus Christ “turned the tables” on His enemies before the Crucifixion, as well as during**

and *after* His Crucifixion, and became a “Happy Slapper” of a far different kind! Let me explain.

First of all, mark it down, **Jesus knew very well that His enemies were also enemies of God the Father, and enemies of you and me.** He summed up this truth when He said to the money-changers, “*It is written, ‘My Father’s house shall be called a house of prayer for all people, but you have made it a den of thieves.’*” If you read through the life of Jesus in the Bible, you can watch and listen as He interacts with both the needy who *find* Him and the needy who *fight* Him.

Secondly, **Jesus also “turned the tables” on the devil himself.** To clarify this, I ask you to consider the following:

Jesus never once lost His focus on the grand and glorious purpose of His coming to earth as a human like you and me—as John records it: “*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*” (1 Jn. 3:8. see also Heb. 2:14). “*The works of the devil*” simply refers to *sin*, in all its ghastly forms, and which involves and infects all people without respect or favouritism. **The devil cannot punch God**, so he does his worst to “tear to pieces” God’s created children like us. However, God stepped in and said “Oh no you don’t!” I say God “said” this, because Jesus is called “*The WORD of*

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HAPPY EASTER! As St. Paul declared: “*Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than what these prophets and Moses did say should come: that Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should proclaim light unto these people, and to the nations.*” (Acts 26:22,23).

Release From The Torturing TYRANT

by
Gabriel L. Mancino



The Bible makes it clear that the coming up out of slavery in Egypt under the human leadership of Moses, though a true historical event, was a **Divine illustration** of what our spiritual life should be. The Hebrews were in slavery in Egypt, which was a God-given “type” illustrating the life of bondage to sin. Of course, God’s delivering them from Egypt illustrates a person being delivered from sin. Then, crossing the Red Sea was an illustration of baptism (1 Corinthians 10:2). Finally, coming up to the city of **Kadesh-barnea** and crossing into the Promised Land of Canaan was an illustration of entering the life of holiness in *this present world* (Titus 2:12), and of entering safely into heaven itself or the New Jerusalem; call it what you will. The problem is that God’s people turned back at Kadesh-barnea and would not enter the land. The Bible says “*they could not enter in because of unbelief*” (Hebrews 3:19). Unbelief is not an innocent sin, but is the root from which springs all manner of sin, such as (in their case) rebellion against God and His appointed leadership. **They even began to complain as to how bad freedom was**, and how nice they had it in Egypt! Sin never makes sense; it only seems to. The Bible record of the above story is *full* of invaluable lessons.

God’s people refused to inherit their inheritance, and though this was thousands of years before Jesus’ earthly life, yet **the same character, manner, attitude and principle** has been demonstrated through the centuries of the Christian Church until this very day. God punished the Hebrews and even allowed pagan peoples to conquer and control them, but this did not

mean that God intended the pagans to replace them with paganism. The same is true with the Church. Like the ancient Hebrews and Jews, the Church has largely not inherited their inheritance, and God in response has permitted their being flooded with paganism of every sort. This is an awful, but predictable punishment for rejecting obedience to God in true holiness. Oh Britain, return to the Lord!

The Church in general, and the world as a whole, are under the power and control of the tyranny of sin and Satan. **Perhaps the most cruel punishment** was to tie a dead body to a living prisoner—hands to hands, feet to feet and face to face—until the rotting corpse would suffocate the prisoner with the stench. Prisoners would prefer the rack or being burned alive or crucifixion to this form of torture. It is this very torture that St. Paul likely has in mind when he wrote concerning the tortured soul of a slave of sin: “*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this body of death?*” (Romans 7:24). Sadly, many that are even professed evangelicals look at Romans 7 as “the normal Christian life,” though that chapter is somewhat parenthetical to the deliverance described in chapter 6 and the deliverance declared in 8:1, where Paul says “*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*”

Many professing Christians reject holiness teaching, saying, “no one is perfect,” or “we’re not perfect,” or “I don’t believe in perfection.” Yet, if a *professing* Christian tells a lie, steals something or acts proud or harsh, they (rightly) think it strange and grossly unacceptable! Why? Because they **DO** expect perfection...*in others!* Oh, if they were just as fearful of sin and worldliness as they are of perfection!

There IS a deliverance from sin because there is a Deliverer from sin—the One who died on the Cross and rose again: Jesus Christ! Glory to God!!

Our Topsy- Turned World

Gabriel L. Mancino



I recall reading the true story of the **young girl** who, apparently from birth, was unable to walk erect and straight. A doctor took her case and performed a corrective operation. The proving time came, and the doctor steadied the lass on one side of the room, while the mother waited with open arms on the opposite side of the room. Walking slowly, but erectly, she reached her mother’s arms and burst into tears, crying “**Mommy, I’m all crooked!**” This paints the picture of much of this world so perfectly. Throughout society, crooked is correct!

Isaiah 5 starts by describing God’s Vineyard and, though He did so much for it, yet it produced wild fruit. Like the article opposite, this vineyard teaches a lesson. A later verse in that same chapter says “*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*”

This very thing is happening daily, in the streets, in homes, in society and in the halls of education, legislation and justice. Isaiah 5 applies to God’s people, so it aptly applies to the church, as well!

If truth and righteousness (not *self*-righteousness!) are labelled “bigotry” by bold defender, Elton John, yet **STILL** unrighteousness will never become righteousness. This fact is settled even now, and will be an unchangeable “constant” in eternity, as says Revelation 22:11—“*He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.*” This simply refers to eternity, that change will no longer be possible. Now is the time to change.

The word “*filthy*” is used by **Paul** in connection to money and base gain, as is so often the case throughout the world. **Peter** speaks of the “*filthy conduct*” of

the people of Sodom. **Jude** mentions as “*filthy dreamers*,” those who in Sodom-like character brought in teaching and opinions that were contrary to God’s truth. The suffering man called **Job** (pronounced Jobe), asked, “*How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinks iniquity [unrighteousness] like water?*” Psalm 14:3 and 53:3 refer to those who go backward into sin as being “*filthy*.” Isaiah 64:6 warns us all against expecting our own self-righteousness to be acceptable and pleasing to God, while we refuse and reject God’s clear way of holiness, for God portrays all our self-righteousness in the most unflattering and deplorable terms. Finally, the prophet **Zephaniah** (3:1) does our moral maths for us, and concludes rightly that a city will become as *filthy* as its citizens, so that one need not wonder why London is in such a state! He says, “*Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!*” In this verse “*filthy*” is also translated “*rebellious*” or “*uncontrolled*,” while “*polluted*” is otherwise translated “*unclean*” and “*corrupt*.” It all doesn’t sound good, that’s for sure.

But, thank God, all is not lost! God has some much-needed encouragement for us in the prophet **Zechariah**, chapter 3. The man, **Joshua**, is seen wearing “*filthy*” clothes, with Satan at his right side to oppose him as he stood in front of God’s angel. God commanded a glorious set of new clothes and pure head covering to be given him which illustrate holiness of heart, life and mind. God then made it known that the change is possible because of His Servant, “**the BRANCH**” (verse 8), which refers to Jesus’ first coming, and what He would accomplish on the Cross, saying “*And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.*” What a Day that was!! And because of that Day, *filthy* cities even like London can be put right, for God says in verse 10 “*In that day, says the LORD of hosts, everyone will invite his neighbour under his vine and under his fig tree.*” Even London, a topsy-turvy town, can experience city-wide return to God, and resulting right relationships between its citizens. **Oh, what a Day!**

Tomorrow...tomorrow...tomorrow...tomorrow...tomorrow...tomorrow...tomorrow...tomorrow...**NO, TODAY!**