

The **SECOND** Drum Roll

(continued from front page)

With Christ's Resurrection, the **Second Drum Roll** begins, and lasted 40 days until the Ascension. Well, **actually, the drum kept beating a little longer**, for even Christ's *Ascension* wasn't the end! During those 40 days, Jesus was "in and out" among the disciples. Certainly this assured them that whether or not they could see Him, He was alive! *Also*, there were times during those special appearances that Jesus gave them powerful and crystal-clear teaching of the central truth of the Old Testament: i.e. the coming and work of the promised Messiah, who He identified as Himself. His explanation of Scriptures gave them heavenly heartburn (Luke 24:32). **Even that was not enough!**

Jesus had told them repeatedly that He would be betrayed, killed and then would rise from the dead. However, He had also told them that they were to "wait for the Promise of the Father." That "Promised Gift" of the Holy Spirit was given by God to those waiting disciples during the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, ten days after The Ascension of Christ. Let me tell you that if what happened on that first Pentecost "outpouring" of God's Holy Spirit would happen...say, at **Hyde Park...I can promise that it won't be boring!**

Oh, it was "boring" alright! It bored right into the hearts of thousands who were gathered there...and it didn't stop. It wasn't *supposed to stop!* Jesus had told them that those disciples were

to "Wait" and then "Go!" He meant, "Wait for the Promised Gift of God's Spirit," then "Go into all the world and make disciples." Upon the reception of the Holy Spirit, those disciples (*who were already saved/converted before Pentecost*) were then and only then **Christ's God-qualified "witnesses."** God gave no copyright to "Jehovah's Witnesses" for that name: "Witnesses!"

The Promised Gift (God's own Spirit) will purify and fill only those already-*genuinely*-converted believers in the Christ of the Bible. Jesus' words recorded in Luke 24:44-49, along with His words of the same event, recorded by Luke in Acts 1:1-8 make it very clear that those *only* are His "witnesses" who have received the Pentecost Gift, OR those who are right on the verge of receiving (Luke 24:48,49).

God did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all (Rom. 8:32). Jesus used no safety net, but held the hand of God and the hand of man. **What daring! What danger! What devotion!** However, Pentecost was not merely for our entertainment, but for our indwelling...by God's Holy Spirit. From that point on, we listen for and are led by God's drum roll in our own life.

"Jesus cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7: 37, 38).

At the beginning of His "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus said "Blessed are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6).

(continued from front) than the physical ritual administered by the church.

But the Bible also speaks about The Baptism of Holy Ghost and Fire. THAT is the blessed experience of Pentecost. Jesus provided for and demands the New Birth AND Pentecost for those who would follow Him as true witnesses. It was the Great Fire of 1666 that cleansed London of the Plague. The entire UK needs a new Fire to cleanse it from its present horrific condition, which exceeds all previous plagues put together. Sing that old Salvation Army song: "Send the Fire!" Mean it with all your heart. Then cry out to God until you get the blessing. Make sure you are really saved first! New Birth...then The Fire! Then Go, Grow and Glow!

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The **SECOND** Drum Roll



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The daring and skill of the flying trapeze artist is sometimes preceded by a dramatic "drum roll." Danger fills the air...especially when no safety net is being used! Such scenes have put audiences on the edge of their seats.

Man is on the edge of his seat... asleep. Man's "seat" can be called "the cliff of eternity." **Poppy, the Springer Spaniel dog**, suffered shock and a collapsed lung in February after falling about 300 feet from an East Sussex cliff. She chased a seagull, who had one great advantage! Humans pull the same stunt, and with no more understanding than Poppy displayed. What "seagulls" are people in the UK chasing? The shock of eternity for such chasers includes more than a collapsed lung, but it need not happen!

Life's crushing circumstances, confusion and chaos need not deter you. Though the world is being forced into freefall collapse, God has His rescue net in place for all who will cast themselves to His hands, and trust.

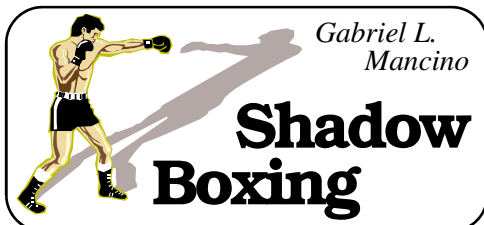
The 40-days before Good Friday (that commemorated Christ's death) is what I call **The First Drum Roll**. It started the final scene of the greatest drama on earth. God had first promised it to Adam and Eve 4,000 years earlier. One of Christ's "seven sayings" on the Cross was "*It is finished!*" and that part *WAS* finished—*completely!* Yet, Jesus had told His disciples that He would rise on the third day. So, though that part of God's rescue plan was "finished," it would *not* have been complete without the Resurrection.

There was tremendous drama, as well as tremendous accomplishment in the Cross and Resurrection. Read the Bible record of it and you will see! Yet, even with the Resurrection, we can say that God's plan was *still not* "finished." Jesus said it was absolutely necessary for Him to "go away"... to "go to My Father." Jesus was referring to what is called "The Ascension," that is, Christ's return to the Father.

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PENTECOST SUNDAY — 23 May 2010...and never stop!

We are getting deeper and deeper into the new Dark Ages. The steam engine of the church has been travelling for miles after the fire has gone out of the boiler. Many professing Christians have no idea that Jesus commands us all to experience what is called "The New Birth"... and He didn't mean reincarnation, or any such thing. Jesus said it, we need it and we had better get it! He spoke of the required baptism of water, which refers to the heart experience from God, rather (continued on back)



Walking with God in regular training, makes a person capable of practising blows and footwork against the enemy. This fight takes discipline, skill and practise, and it *does* include our feet... that is... how we walk!

I noticed that “shadow boxing” is also used to refer to people who act or speak unconvincingly, without saying what they mean. A real walk with God won’t necessarily turn you into a great speaker, but it *will* give you something to say... a testimony to share confidently, but politely, with others still in darkness. We are to be light-bearers for the truth. If we refuse to walk in truth, our light is out, or going out.

Some people express the desire for Jesus’ Second Coming, though they are not wholeheartedly obeying the Lord themselves. God’s prophet, Amos, says “*Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?*” (5:18-20). Those, determined to walk in darkness, spiral downward from bad to worse, until they see that the enemy was not a shadow, after all.

Light has its counterfeit. Satan comes as an angel of light, as does his messengers (2 Cor.11:13-15). Darkness also, used by Satan, can bring misery to the minds and lives of some who truly love and obey the Lord. To such needy persons, the prophet Isaiah says “*Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness [dark places] and has no light [brightness]? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon his God*” (50:10).

PENTECOST— Compare good and bad drunkenness! Good: Acts 2:13-21. Bad: Isaiah 29:9,10. Neither used alcohol, but one is Divine, the other deadly! People are “intoxicated” one way or another. What “strange brew” are you on? See Eph. 5:18.

In a figurative sense, people speak of shadows or of darkness as symbolic of difficult experiences. *That* makes me recall the song of encouragement, “Standing Somewhere in the Shadows You’ll Find Jesus!”

We are in a “war”...a “fight” so to speak, against the darkness of Satan and sin. With regard to spiritual darkness, consider two thoughts: one is linked with our *present* life in this world, while the other is connected to heaven. In the *first*, Jesus said that the spiritual life He can give to us right now is a life of light, “*having no part dark.*” Of the *second*, which refers to heaven, the Bible says “*there is no night there.*”

The Bible is clear that if we expect to walk with God now, and make it to heaven later, we must live in His light. John, “the apostle of love,” tells us much about this. He wrote, “*God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin*” (1 Jn.1:5).

Since sin entered this world, all subsequent babies are born in the boxing ring against darkness. Shadow boxing is exercise used in training for combat sports...and fighting sin and Satan is combat, for sure. God, in His perfect justice, will judge all people in connection to their thoughts, words and deeds. Yet, the trail of all evil leads to Satan and his demons, as well as to corrupt sinful nature in fallen man himself...so *this* is not like fighting the *imaginary* opponent of shadow boxing!

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.

An INSIDE Job

Gabriel L. Mancino



An **enemy army** is more of a threat if some of your own are helping them! Jesus’ group had such a **traitor** in it. The Inside Job this article speaks of is even more important for you to know about than the super-powerful global cartel that is closing in and tightening its death-grip.

John chapters 13-17 find us at “**The Last Supper**” Passover meal with Jesus and His followers. Judas left them to betray Jesus. A little later, Jesus and the others sang appropriate songs for that festival, then went to **the Garden of Gethsemane**. It was to this garden that **Judas led the soldiers to capture Jesus**.

John 17 is often called Christ’s High-Priestly Prayer. Chapter 18 opens as follows: “*When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place.*” The words I have underlined reflect **the same fatal flaw** Christ’s professed followers have had for generations...that is...familiarity with, but betrayal of the Lord. That is the most devastating union...for the individual, for the nation and for the world.

Among Christ’s twelve disciples, three have been called “**the inner circle.**” They seem to have drawn closer to the Lord themselves. **Judas did the opposite.** He had an “inner circle” of betrayal in his own heart. Peter’s words in Acts 1:17 may say more than it appears. Of Judas, Peter said “*for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.*” The dreadful condition of the church (and the world, as a result) is due largely to professing Christians obtaining only “part” of God’s provision through Christ and His Spirit. It is to be *obtained* and *maintained*. God *calls*...yes, *commands*... sinners to repent of sin, and believers to be cleansed by and filled *with* His Spirit.

In John 17:17, Jesus prayed for His disciples’ specific deficiency to be remedied. It was **an inside job** that would deal with an specific need. The disciples were clearly “saved,” but were not “sanctified” in the sense Jesus prayed about. That specific and *foundational* work of holiness would powerfully effect unity *within* the community of believers, *and* make them effective witnesses to those *outside* “the body” of believers.

That “**traitor**” on the inside of man is at war with God and God’s full sway in their lives. “*It is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be*” (Rom. 8:7). That betrayer inside “*is enmity against God.*” The word “**enmity**” means ruthless, unyielding, rebellious and irreconcilable. It *may* even carry the idea of murder! Judas asked, “**Is it me?**” If we refuse to let God have His full way in our lives, it confirms that WE are determined to run the show...even if Jesus Christ has to die. Such people masquerade, hiding the fact that they are “*holding back part of the price,*” like that couple in Acts 5.

Yes, **Judas “knew the place,”** but Peter says that Judas’ suicide simply took him “*to his own place.*” (Acts 1:25). I’m so thankful that Jesus said that He was going “*to prepare a place*” for those who love, obey and serve Him (John 14:2-3). This implies that we have a choice to make. Judas made the wrong choice, and made it again by “repenting” to the vicious religious group who had hired him. They abandoned Judas. Oh, that he had run to Jesus!

James 4:4, **speaking of flirting** with the world in “spiritual adultery,” says “*Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*” **You see that word “enmity” again.** John confirms James’ words, stating clearly and simply “*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him*” (1 Jn.2:15). The professing church had better get back to God, back to Christ, back to the Cross and Resurrection...and **ALL THE WAY BACK** to Pentecost! Without Pentecost, **the traitor** remains inside to fight against God Himself.