

Christmas! Charles Dickens' story, A *Christmas Carol.* (in its old form) should be heard or read by all. I must quickly point out those two dreadfully impoverished children, hiding under the cloak of the Ghost of Christmas Past. The young lass was "Want," i.e. "Lack." The boy was named "Ignorance." Both were to be feared, but the lad more than the girl, "for written on his head I see DOOM," declared the impassioned spirit... "IF the things were not erased" (i.e. *corrected*), which the spirit had shown to Mr. Scrooge.

Moving from this tremendous man-made *tale*, I turn to the far more tremendous God-given truth of the Bible. The prophet Hosea seems to blend the lad and lass in one inspired stroke of the writer's pen when declaring by Divine instruction the heartache of God: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (4:6).

A dear and long-time friend of mine recently expressed his strong belief that many people do not show interest in God, nor come to God simply because they lack a knowledge of God... especially a knowledge of God that they can relate to and understand. I fully understand this view and can sympathise with it. It is for this reason that God Himself told His people to share the truth with others... beginning back in the "Old Testament" period! I have represented this view myself, in the article inside. It represents, however, only *half* of the picture!

Look what God says immediately following those words from Hosea, and in the very same verse! "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you!" This means that they *lacked* the knowledge of God, because they had rejected the knowledge of God. The word "destroyed" (above) means "cut off," just like the tree mentioned in the inside article.

The entire Old Testament record confirms this diagnosis by God, but it flows into the New Testament, as well. Rom.1:28-32 says "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetous- <sup>1</sup>4:16). Be this Lighted Bridge for them.

ness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evilmindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent. proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrust-

worthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; For the RIGHT reason, I look forward to  $_1$  who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

Friend, that horrible and long list tells us clearly that when individuals and nations push away the heart-knowledge of God, all sorts of moral and spiritual deterioration takes over like dry rot and cancer. 2 Thess. 2:10-12 goes further, stating that God may very well do what rejecters of truth want Him to do, i.e. leave them alone! A so-called "spiritual vacuum" is always temporary. If God is shoved out, be sure, something else will come in! 2 Thess. 2:11 says that "because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved...God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie!" God is said to "send" the delusion, vet when God withdraws His hand, man is left to his own devices. This is the "God Delusion" to avoid, Mr. Dawkins! BUT **REMEMBER THIS:** God sent the prophet Ezekiel, to people who God said would not even listen! Why?!! The answer is in God's command to Ezekiel: ""Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die?!" (Ezek. 33:11, but read the whole chapter!). God showed the same love and mercy to others, such as "pagan" Nineveh (see inside), as seen in the short book of Jonah (see 4:2, but read all!).

Yes indeed, those who love God and the Saviour-Son He sent, must go everywhere with the Good News of salvation from sin. But to those who have no desire to know God, a veritable encyclopaedia of clear evidence will not suffice them. Of such people, Jesus said "neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead!" (Lk. 16:19-31). We are to go to those without the Gospel Light. Light that is rejected, or *turned out*, so to speak, becomes GREAT darkness, Jesus said (Matt. 6:23). People and nations that had once had Light, but rejected it, have opened themselves for a more dreadful species of darkness. Yet, even these that SIT in great darkness, must see a GREAT Light! (Matt.

Do you have understanding of what is really going on? It's just a matter of time! 6X in 1 Cor.6 God asks, "Don't you know!?" Not to mock us, but to shock us...awake! Registered Charity #1092050

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A paper for all people everywhere... LIGHT and with a personal touch!



## London Christian Standard "...and Provincial

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

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Surely, we hear enough of scandals and tragedies in the news! However, in THIS scandal, there is a brilliant light in the midst of its darkness. THAT light would inspire hope, as well as clearly point the path to recovery to fallen people and fallen nations.

Please forgive my seeming dogmatism, but absolutely nothing can bring about the radical change that is needed *except* the work of God's Holy Spirit. In speaking of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus first says "He will convict the world of sin!" True Bible repentance comes as a result of this conviction of sin. Many religions

make nothing of this. In fact, for far too long, "Christianity" has been either silent about this foundational truth, or watered it down so much that it has lost its meaning and intended impact. True "Holy Ghost conviction," thorough repentance from all sin (confessing and turning away from it ALL), along with complete trust and faith in God to "keep His promise," will "pave the way" for God to take sins away, and make people the "new creations" He promised.

If the above sounds too complicated or radical, let me tell you that this is exactly what the king asked God for! No, not a King of England! Intensely relevant to us all, I speak of Israel's highly-exalted king, David. David lived over 1,000 years before Christ was born in David's hometown. Bethlehem.

David illustrates that the "sex sells" concept has "selling-prices" (consequences) far higher than he would ever have wanted to pay! David's sin was adultery with **Bathsheba.** He then schemed the death of her honourable soldier-husband (by the enemy, of course!) in an attempt to cover it

(continued inside)

"Kept for the Master's use," or "Corrupted for the King's use?" THIS was DAVID'S choice...& it is OUR choice, as well! Many have or hide a "big boss" strut. In Psalm 51, King David cried out in earnestness: "Have mercy upon me, O God!" A glorious Psalm, this! Isaiah 55:6,7 says that mercy is near especially when God is near! The Bible says much about God's mercy. However, Jonah the prophet (see inside) informs us rightly that "they who observe lying vanities (worthless idols) forsake their own mercy!" (Jonah 2:8). God's mercy is for EVERYONE, yet there comes a time when it is too late...out of reach, as we see with the man in Jesus' story in Luke 16:24 who cried out like David... but too late. David is an example NOT to trust in your own strength, NOR to give up hope! Sin dragged him down, but grace lifted him out of the filth. Peter denied that he knew Jesus, & began to swear. Jesus lovingly said to Peter, "When you are converted, strengthen your brothers!" This is what King David intended to do, too!! Follow him!

## ROYAL SCANDAL...etc

(continued from front page)

all up. David learned what everybody had better know: "*Be sure, your sin will find you out*!" (Num. 32:23). And it *WILL* find you out...now or later!

After about a year, God's prophet, Nathan, came to David with a clever story to expose the king's sin. David fell for it. Nathan told of a rich man who owned many sheep. Upon receiving a visitor, the rich man took a poor man's only lamb, that was like a pet to him, and killed it instead of taking one from his own *many* sheep. David's anger was quick to declare judgment on that selfish man, whoever he was! In line with "Moses' Law," David said that the man was to repay *four times* as many sheep to the poor man. Bravely and faithfully. Nathan said to the king, "YOU are the man!" The strange and tragic fact is, that David DID repay four times, for four of his sons had premature deaths: this illegitimate child as a newborn, two by murder and one by execution.

To his credit, David crumbled in genuine humility, repentance and confession. Other kings simply had such prophets put in prison or killed. Psalm 51 contains David's graphic and powerful words to God in connection to this whole affair. The content of Psalm 51, if thoroughly applied by every household in Britain, would bring about total national recovery, and put Britain on the road to being "Greater" than it ever was! I am neither joking nor exaggerating. And I mean *every person*, regardless of one's position or background in any aspect.

I read of a man who jerked open the door of a car that had stopped at a traffic light at about 2 or 3 a.m. **The man put a gun to the driver's side** and ordered him to drive. Soon, the driver was ordered out, and **the gunman drove away.** The car owner was able, after precious time, to get a taxi and proceed to **the hospital** where he had been called for **an emergency.** He was **the only surgeon near enough** to possibly save a young man's life who had

been in an auto accident. It was too late. A nurse asked the surgeon to comfort the lad's grieving father, who sat, head in hands. To his shock, it was the man who had taken his car! That father had forced *out* of the car the only person who was able and willing to save his son.

The situation, both locally and globally is more desperate than we realise, but the Only One able to save us has been forced out. Mere religious traditions or culture, of whatever sort, cannot save us. The nation needs thorough cleaning...inside and out...like David spoke of in Ps.51. David wasn't asking to be cleansed using gentle flowing water and baby soap. Using a different word for "wash," King David said, "Lord, plunge me into the water, onto that flat rock, like dirty clothes, and beat me with something until you get every bit of stain out!" David wanted nothing to do with partial cleaning, nor was he pointing his finger at others. For far too long, people have been luxuriously soaking in comfort, as it relates to departing from all sin. Ps. 51 gives evidence of genuine repentance that shakes like an earthquake, and sends a tsunami that washes away every sin in its path.

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This is what Britain needs NOW! This is what happened in ancient Nineveh (Assyria's capital) when Jonah called them to repentance...and God sent a city-wide revival! David proved he meant business with God. So did Ninevah! So did the people in Corinth, Greece (2 Cor. 7: 8-11).

King David committed adultery, but every last person in Hell will be there for the same sin! Sin is a very real and horrible form of unfaithfulness to God. In the Bible, God repeatedly refers to sin as "adultery" against Him! Those who truly belong to God are called "kings and priests...a royal nation," but sin is an adulterous prostitution of that high position, which drags it into the dirt in front of a watching world that desperately needs full salvation. THAT is a Royal Scandal without parallel. Let Ps. 51 sink in deeply. Britain must earnestly renew its marriage vows to God and Christ!



King David tried to hide his "secret sin" (see main article). Thankfully, it didn't work. God condemned all such who hide idols, of *whatever* sort, "*in a secret place*" (Deut. 27:15). Jesus said that all such secret *words* and *works...* maybe even *wishes!...* will be exposed (Lk. 12:2,3).

God can make a Mary and a Moses of any willing person who comes to Him. The Bible does not teach that Mary was born without sin, but it *does* say that those who are "born again," that is, born from above by the action of God, have ALL their sins taken away, and they are made new! Now. THAT'S a Biblical "Immaculate **Conception,**" for John says that such a person has "God's seed-nature of life in him, all sins are gone, and he is able not to sin!" (1 Jn. 3:9). Such a person is alive and dead at the same time, that is, he is alive to God, and dead to the world and sin. God Himself buries such a person, just like He did Moses! God does both parts of the job Himself—that's why it works so well...that is, if it is genuine!

This new person has changed hiding places. Now he "dwells in the secret place of the Most High, and abides under the shadow of the Almighty!" (Ps. 91:1). There are too many benefits from this change of "secret places" to list here. But please note, that the "perks" of the new "hiding place," are both personal AND social! While we are to receive with thanks and joy the personal blessings of the secret hiding place, I feel I must focus here on the social aspect.

King David knew about this tremendous social aspect coming from changing hiding places, from sin to salvation and from Satan to the Saviour, as seen in Acts 26:18; 1 Thess. 1: 9,10 & 1 Pet. 2:9. In Ps. 51, used in the main article, King David knew that when God would take him from his secret hiding place of sin, and restore him to the full blessing of God's grace, forgiveness and indwelling, "*THEN*," says David, "*I* will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You" (Ps. 51:13). David didn't "get the cart before the horse," nor would he forget the cart! *THIS* "kingly cart" would carry people!

Jesus said that no person lights a candle to put it in a "secret place" or "under a basket" (Matt. 5:15; Lk. 13:33). David intended to do the same, but only *after* he himself got thoroughly right with God! His sin did serious damage to the kingdom. Nathan the prophet, who exposed his sin, told the king, "by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme" (2 Sam. 12:14). This is what the spiritually-dead, professing church has done. But like David, the church may turn from the shadows of sinfulness, to "the shadow of the Almighty!"

Great King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was blessed and used of God, but then abused his God-given position and power, and like the devil, was lifted up in pride. Read Daniel 1-6. **This king's powerful testimony to the entire kingdom** (*AFTER*, *like David, he was restored!*) **is given in chapter 5.** *EVERYBODY* should read this!! God was showing the king that he was like a great tree which gave rest and shade to the birds and animals, but that it was cut down, and everything was scattered from it.

This is exactly what has been happening to the church for generations! This is what Jesus said of the tree in Lk. 13:6-9: "Cut it down!" Jesus, soon-after, (v. 18-22) gave the positive and intended way His kingdom is like the tree... just like Nebuchadnezzar's tree was supposed to be. Immediately after Jesus told of His "treelike kingdom," the Bible says "and He went through the cities and villages!" This is what David intended to do. This is what Nebuchadnezzar did! This is what all of us are supposed to do if we really love God. If we are placed, by God's mercy and grace, "in the secret place," and abiding "under the shadow of the Almighty," then others from around the world may rest under our God-given shadow! As the moon gets its light from the sun, we may only provide a protecting shadow as we rest in "the shadow of the Almighty." You may tell this secret!