

“CHANGE” (from front page)

But people often like CHANGE... CHANGE that they believe is for the better, but usually rots the fabric of their being even worse. Yet, despite their openly-chosen direction, God appeals to their reasoning power by asking “Why do you go about so much to CHANGE your way?” (Jer. 2:36).

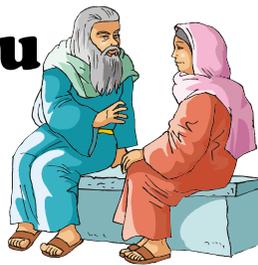
Similarly, God reasoned in Isa. 55:2 “Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.”

Through the prophet, Haggai, God said “You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes. Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Consider your ways!’” (1:6,7). To properly consider our ways, we need an UNCHANGING and UNCHANGEABLE point of reference. God says, “I am the LORD, I do not CHANGE” (Mal. 3:6). There we find safety, security and certainty!

The great CHANGE we need, and the greatest we could ever desire is more likeness to Jesus Christ! Man’s self-destructing image-changing is seen in Rom. 1:18-32 (see v. 23). But God’s cure is seen in 2 Cor. 3, ending with v. 18: “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” MAN, WHAT A CHANGE!!

Did You Hear!

Gabriel L. Mancino



King Solomon turned from God, though the Queen of Sheba thought Solomon was even better than she had heard! (see Jan-Feb issue). The Bible says “So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded” (1 Kings 11:9, 10). God did not “appear to Solomon” in bodily form, yet God’s communication to this man “twice” was sufficient to bring God’s judgment. What a lesson for us all!

Of Noah, the Ark-builder, the Bible simply says, “Noah, being warned of God, moved with fear, and built an ark to the saving of his family” (Heb. 11:7). It does not say that God spoke to Noah daily during that 120 yr. project, giving him directions like an on-site foreman... much less that God paid Noah personal visible visits.

Jesus often repeated these words: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Physical eyes and ears are not enough, and Jesus said that, too! Many have heard God “speaking” to them personally—oh yes, they knew it very well!—but refused to obey. Some of these even promised they would obey whatever God would say to them. We may easily deceive ourselves if we are not careful! Do as Noah did—Listen and Act! without delay, without “corner-cutting” and without “turning back!” Did you really hear? Then build your boat! (Jude 20)

(Continued from front page, bottom red) Many seeming “guardians of liberty” are the worst against the truest freedom. Many that cry “Racism!” are the worst racists. Obviously, many people of both sexes, from all races, cultures, etc have been having a terrible daily existence. No one in history has shown more practical & perfect love to the human family than Jesus Christ. There are avenues in social structure to work toward the best in proper and thorough human assistance. Yet, those who have laid the foundations of Socialism and that have hijacked & perverted Capitalism, as well, are indeed in a revolution... “against the Lord & against His Christ...” Politics? Yes! God’s right to govern man! (Read Ps. 2 [v 7 is quoted in Acts 13:33 & is for Easter!])

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Obama’s and Cameron’s campaign “buzzword” was CHANGE! What coincidence. That word has also been used in the present Middle East and North Africa hotspots. Whoever may be orchestrating this big, domino-like move toward CHANGE, God is ever watching. Where are these CHANGES actually and ultimately heading? I feel that this CHANGE is more a spiritual than political phenomena and strategy. Protesters in Egypt recently declared: “No turning back!” Sometimes returning is wisest and best. Yet returning to what, and CHANGING to what, are two vital things to consider.

Humans were never apes, but washed pigs still have a pig nature (no racism

intended). God asks, “Can the Ethiopian CHANGE his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil” (Jer. 13:23). External CHANGES can simply be a swapping to a different brand of evil.

With cosmetic CHANGES available for practically every part of the body, the fashion industry would contest the truth of God’s words above. The fashion industry is largely another tool used to destroy (I mean, CHANGE!) people, as they take advantage of man’s moral and spiritual imbalance and self-centredness.

Many times, God, in love, tried to appeal to man’s reasoning. The impossible CHANGE, illustrated by the Ethiopian and leopard, is that sinful man cannot become un-sinful by himself. So God says to us, for example, “Come let us reason together...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isa. 1: 18). THAT is a CHANGE we need, a CHANGE God requires, and a CHANGE God can and will perform: “Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it!” (1 Thess. 5: 23,24).

(continued on back page)

“International Women’s Day reminds us why feminism must not lose its bite.” Well said, Guardian writer, for it started in Eden with the bite of forbidden fruit. I esteem too many females for anyone to say I am against women, so don’t yield to superficial criticism, nor jump to conclusions nor put words in my mouth. I.W.D. was formerly International Women Worker’s Day, & was linked to Socialism and even backed by Lenin himself! I mention the International Bankers again in this issue, & the newly formed US Federal Reserve (1913) helped fund the Russian Revolution. The bankers are behind it, and helped fund the Women’s Lib movement. More women at work means more tax money for them, more mothers away from home, therefore more rapid break-up of the family. This devil-plan is only one of his tactics for world-control. “The feminist movement is constantly CHANGING...” so continued that Guardian article introduction. (Cont. back page)

“M&M” Pleasure!

Gabriel L. Mancino



Were it not that I am **pinching pennies** and **pinching fat**, I might buy those **M&Ms** I enjoyed so much in my youth. As other sweets, they are likely not good for teeth, though! I worked with a man who had the daily habit of eating his favourite chocolate bar (a U.S. **Three Musketeers**). *BUT*, he followed it immediately with an Alka-Seltzer; knowing that the chocolate bar would have a fierce effect on his stomach! The great 17th century preacher/writer, John Bunyan, said that there are things that while they tickle your fancy (i.e. are humorous), they break your heart. Oh, my poor co-worker friend!

These chocolates are trivia compared to the many things with which peoples' lives are ensnared and enslaved. I speak from personal experience. In my mid-teens, I gazed into the bathroom mirror while on LSD, and said audibly to myself, “What in the world are you doing?!” It was about 3 years later when Christ entered my life and changed it around. I was “having a blast,” not conscious that I was headed for the eternal “blast furnace” of Hell.

I'll use the “M&Ms” above to stand for Music and Movies. Movies could be used to represent TV, cinema, theatre and such like. First of all, **“comparing sins” is foolish and pointless**. A newspaper article had a young female **“TV star”** in a skimpy swimsuit laying, arm-propped, on the beach. They admit that the TV programme was flesh-showing and had sexual innuendos, but suggested it was less likely to corrupt children than **The Simpsons**. Oh, the **“Pandora's Box”** of sin contains an endless supply of corrupting content!

Innumerable examples illustrate how “modern man” has been sent to the slaughter-house for generations. But we must **stop comparing sins**, and just be rid of it *all*. Sin is the worst pandemic ever. I neither hate nor excuse the church. Wherever sin takes place, it must be confessed and forsaken. **No sane person**

on earth would walk around with a dead body strapped to them, face to face, etc., yet this is exactly what sin is, as pictured by St. Paul's words in Rom. 7: 24. I hope you get disgusted enough to get rid of all sin in your life.

Sin will fool a person, just like the man in the article to the right, to whom God said *“You fool!”* If you look into it, much sin is full of hypocrisy and inconsistency.

Music is an **“M&M”** I had mentioned. Rock music was an enslaving drug to me in my teens. I know at least *some* of the philosophy, purpose and effects of such music. A number of *classical* pieces of 200-300 years ago were composed and performed by people who loved God. Yet, do those who go to classical concerts care any more about God and eternity than those enjoying other “worldly” types? God examines our pleasures, and we should, too, for God's nature can't mix with the darkness of sin. (2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Jn. 1:6)

When a good-selling product is available, someone usually tries to make a similar one to undercut the original...so I'll make **more M&Ms!** Marriage is another **“M”** which has been undermined in many ways. A chief cause of *this* is the seeking of self-oriented pleasures. Yet a deeper cause is simply heart-rebellion against God. Same-sex relationships are wrong and God calls it sin. However, those in sinful *opposite-sex* relationships stand equally condemned by God. Many things war against God-instituted marriage

Let's name one last M: Money! International bankers, hidden away safely (except from God!) perhaps mainly in Switzerland, have funded wars for centuries; funding both sides! War brings them the greatest profits. Yet, the general person on the street is equally “at cross-purposes” with God. That is, they are at war with God, and they believe it brings them the greatest profit...just like the evil International bankers who fund *and likely help create* much of the world's misery. Jesus said, *“No man can serve two masters—you cannot serve God and mammon (i.e. money/materialism).* But make no mistake, the world-wide human family basks in its varied bouquet of **pleasures**, and *this* helps create the very environment for the chaotic condition of today. **Aren't pleasures fun?**

“GOD KNOWS”

Gabriel L. Mancino



“God knows!” is a good, proper and factual reply, though it has often been used superficially. Ps. 139 speaks greatly about God's knowledge of us. Amid perplexing and agonising circumstances, Job (pronounced *Jobe*) stood firm. His *feelings* gave evidence for despair, but his *faith* rested in knowing that God knew the way he was living and walking— *“But He knows the way that I take, and when He has put me to the test, I shall come out like gold!”* (23:10).

The Bible gives many examples of God's knowledge of us. Sometimes, those examples show that people can be mistaken about their true condition “in the eyes of God.” We should weigh ourselves in *God's* scales, not our own.

To one man who had prospered greatly, and had made big plans for the future, God said *“You fool, your soul will be taken tonight; then whose shall all these things be that you have provided?”* (Lk. 12:20).

To another, Jesus Himself said, *“YOU say, ‘I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing;’ but you do not know that you are poor and wretched and miserable and blind and naked!”* *“You say...but you do not know!”* That's putting it briefly!

For that first man, it was too late for a **CHANGE**—*“this night!”* But Jesus continued in the second case, *“I counsel you to buy of Me, gold purified in the fire that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see”* (Rev. 3: 18). Christ's remaining words to these people tell that His cure for their condition comes from His love, and that He makes house-calls—standing ready *right now* to give to all genuine takers who will “listen with their inner ear” to what God tries to tell them. (v.19-22).

God also knows that many will simply

not listen...but that *doesn't* have to be you! Here's an example: In 2 Kings 19:27 & Isa. 37:28, God says to one group, *“I know your dwelling place, and your going out and coming in, and your rage against Me!”* Then God says, *“Because your rage against Me and your arrogant words have come up to My ears, therefore I will put My hook in your nose and My bridle in your lips, and I will turn you back by the way which you came.”*

God also knows that during this earthly time, even *HE* cannot do all He would like with man, since He has given man free choice, rather than make man a puppet or robot. For example, God painted the following word picture for us: *“Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? Can you put a reed through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook?”* (Job 41:1,2). **“Leviathan”** is thought to mean a whale or alligator or crocodile, etc. *Human* body-piercing has become popular and common. Oh, that people would allow *GOD* to “pierce and catch them!” After all, *HE* was “caught and pierced” for us *all*, as **Lent, Good Friday and Easter** remind us. By the way, most people—the world over—have things with which they *spiritually* “pierce” themselves. Man needs the sin-killing, soul-freeing salvation of God.

When Jesus first called His fisherman-disciples, He said *“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”* (Matt. 4:19). Their response? *“They brought their boats to land, left their nets, forsook all, and followed Him!”* Yes, **God knows us**, but **He also knows** what *HE* has in mind for us—and it is always gift-wrapped in love. It is true that love often walks with pain...as it did for *Jesus!* (Matt. 26:39, 46; Heb. 12:2). Yet God says, *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope”* (Jer. 29:11).

To that wonderful woman at the well, Jesus said: *“If YOU knew the gift of God, and who it is that says ‘Give Me to drink,’ you would ask of HIM, and HE would give you living water!”* (John 4: 10).

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.