

“I WAS BORN THIS WAY!”

The “egg-shell,” at right, is the Earth!

by Gabriel Mancino

Planet Earth cannot rightly make the above statement. St. Paul told us that way back in the first century! (Rom. 8:22, 23).

Neither man nor this physical earth are in the original condition in which they were created (“born”). Earth and its entire atmosphere were invaded with a pollution that preceded and exceeded all other, including the appalling pollutions of the previous and present centuries.

Look around. Earth is “a basket case.” Yet, Satan did not take away so much from mankind without cooperation. For centuries, much has been willingly given away...not by the politicians, alone... but also by the general population, bit by bit. Anarchy is not the corrective; neither is atheism. Wars, the global economy, medicine, education, entertainments of all sorts—all these and more “are in the hand of the Evil One” (1 Jn. 5:19). What a master! What a menu! What a mess!

There IS a Firm Foundation... a “fixed point of reference” from which we learn where we have come from, where we are, and where we are going. The Large Hadron Collider cannot give right answers to the above points; neither can atheists.

Today’s Babel Mentality, along with its vast global effects, is advancing like a tsunami from hell. God said of the people at The Tower of Babel: “This they do, and now they will stop at nothing in what they plan to do!” (See below in red)

THE BABEL MENTALITY (above) Upon seeing the Tower of Babel (an earlier “civilised world!”), the Bible records “And the LORD said, ‘Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them’ ” (Genesis 11:6). Other versions read, “and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do” — “and this is only the start of what they may do; and now it will not be possible to keep them from any purpose of theirs” — “And now will they be hindered in nothing that they meditate doing” — “and this is only the beginning of what they will do...” Get the point? And BABEL MENTALITY leads the way today...but not just among “the irreligious!” We need a heaven-sent turn-around...& human cooperation on individual AND mass scale!



These effects cannot be hid. 18th century English painter, Hogarth, refused to hide the pock-marks of those involved in and suffering from the effects of prostitution. Today’s world is full of the prostituting of God’s intended life for His creation; man, in particular. The pock-marks are obvious, yet people seem oblivious. The prostituted perversities are protected and promoted more and more. We were not “Born”

This Way, nor made for this.

In Jeremiah 18:1-10, God showed that a “potter” that makes things out of clay can remake a messed-up item. God then says that HE can do infinitely better! He can remake messed-up people and a messed-up world! That applies to us all.

Human beings are “moral clay;” not mere dirt. Therefore, we must confess to God our messed-up lives of sin, plus the need to take the only cure...the perfect cure...He provided through Christ. Real confession to God thoroughly deals with all varieties of “messed-up moral clay!”

Yes, We Were Born This Way—born in sin. But, originally, We Were Not Created This Way! Yet, God, “The Master Potter,” wants to remake each piece of clay...and keep His hands on! Praise Him! Some, like competitive lovers, want to get their hands on us, too. The lady in the Song of Solomon was asked what makes her lover better than any other. Her answer? “He is completely lovely, desirable, beautiful! THIS is my loved one, and THIS is my friend!” In Jesus Christ and we have that answer fulfilled and filled full! And JESUS said “You MUST be Born Again!” (Jn 3:3,7). But even “born again” is not an end in itself. We must KEEP connected to Christ, and on HIS terms. (See it in Jn. 15 & Jn. 17).

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MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

A NEW YEAR'S & VALENTINE'S DAY ARTICLE

Gabriel L. Mancino

On JAN. 1, 1733, John Wesley preached a sermon at an Oxford university titled

“The Circumcision of the Heart.” In May 1765, Wesley wrote in a letter that the above sermon “contains all that I now teach concerning salvation from all sin, and loving God with an undivided heart.” In his Journal, Sept. 1, 1778, he again referred to the truth of that sermon he preached 45 years before.

YES, this topic IS relevant to our times! News was reported, off and on, last year...and still is... regarding what is called *FGM...sometimes referred to as female circumcision. FGM and male circumcision are occasionally put on

* FGM means “female genital mutilation”



the same level. Some people do this, hoping to make FGM acceptable. Others do this, hoping to ban both. This article does not take up the debate, yet attempts to go below the surface of the skin.

A famous man wrote in 1854: “There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root.” His 1000-to-1 gap rapidly widened! Lack of

spiritual and moral insight and courage has greatly helped create today’s ominous, dire and almost irreversible decay.

I said almost irreversible decay! An indispensable step in reversing the decay is found in the possible foundation for that man’s statement. John the Baptist said: “And even now the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which does not bring forth good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that comes after me [Christ] is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall

(continued inside)

THE ALMOST CHRISTIAN: John Wesley, the 18th century founder of Methodism wrote, “When I was at Oxford, I never was afraid of any but the ‘almost Christians.’ If you give way to them and their prudence an hair’s breadth, you will be removed from the hope of the gospel. If you are walking as the generality of men walk, you are walking to the bottomless pit! Are many wise, many rich, many mighty, many noble,* travelling with you in the same way? By this token, without going any farther, you know it does not lead to life. Here is a chart, a plain, an infallible rule...If you move but one step toward God, you are not as other men are.” (*1 Cor. 1:17-2:5). Wesley preached this sermon, The Almost Christian, also, before the University at St. Mary’s Oxford on July 25, 1741, from Acts 26:28.

MORE THAN SKIN DEEP (continued from front page)

baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (Matt. 3:10,11. Read verses 1 to 13 for better insight).

Some people came to John's baptising place, with no intention of turning from their sin. To turn from all known sin is one of God's primary conditions for acceptance by Him. John rightly refused to "give in" on this. Another condition is genuine faith. After John's imprisonment, Jesus preached these same two conditions, saying: "The time has come, and the kingdom of God is near: **repent, and believe the Good News!**" (Mark 1:15).

Various aspects of practical life are certainly important, including the FGM concern. Yet, physical circumcision, in no way, compares to the supreme world-wide need for "**The Circumcision of the Heart!**" With this **Divine "surgical work,"** God deals with *negative AND positive* imperatives in our lives. There is no "neutrality" in this matter.

Yes, God started male circumcision with Abraham, as a main "sign," setting the Hebrews apart as His special "human instruments" for rescuing mankind from its worst enemy—sin. **But wait...**

It didn't take God long to bring it to their attention that man's faithfulness to Him must go **More Than Skin Deep!** The Hebrews/Jews kept the *outward* religious duties, but were typically far from God, inwardly. This happens with other religions, as well; including Islam and Christianity. The *non-religious* and *anti-religious* are also guilty, by default.

Through Moses, God spoke of "**The Circumcision of the Heart.**" Deut.10:16 says "**Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiff-necked.**" That verse focuses on *man's* own action in the matter. Yet most people...including the most religious of all sorts...refuse to submit themselves fully to **God's Divine "surgery."** Why?

Stephen, the first Christian martyr, ended his faithful speech to his religious opponents, saying: "**You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears,**

you always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do you" (Acts 7:51). His courageous and Spirit-inspired, Spirit-fired words got him killed. "**Stiff-necked,**" means proud, unbending, stubborn. Israel was "**stiff-necked**" clear back in Moses' day, as seen in Deut. 9:6,13. But they're not alone; *then* or *now*, are they?

In Deut. 30:6, **Moses gives "the flip side!"** "**And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live.**" Notice that in *this* verse, God tells them that **HE** will perform the surgery. In the earlier verse, Deut.10: 16, (bottom, left), God told **THEM** to do it. No contradiction!

Another place where we see both sides of the one "surgery" is in the book of Moses called Leviticus, chapter 20. In verses 7 and 8, God says: "**Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy: for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My laws, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you.**" **Did you see it!?!?** God said "**Sanctify yourselves... I am the LORD which sanctify you.**" "Sanctify" means "be holy" and/or "to be made holy."

God **requires** holiness because of His own nature— "**Be holy because I am holy**"(said, at times, in Leviticus and quoted in 1 Pet. 1:16.) God has **made provision,** through Christ, for this holiness to be received.

God cannot unite with sin, nor wants *His followers* to adopt or absorb the sin and ways of the world. Yet, **into the corrupt and corrupting world, God sends His "heart-circumcised" followers.** Again, this is no contradiction. We are **not** to be *isolated*, but *insulated*... starting on the inside!

Even so, in 2 Cor. 6:14ff, St. Paul clearly stretched his vocabulary to say to professing believers: "What are you doing?! Where are you going?! How can you go *this* way, when God said to go *that* way?!" You cannot go north and south on the M1 at the same time.

Finally, after trying to reason with the professed believers, St. Paul said, "**For we are the Temple of the ever-living**

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God; as God has said, 'I will dwell among them, and walk about among them; and will be their God, and it is they who shall be My people.' Therefore, 'Come out from among them and be separate,' says the Lord, 'and touch nothing impure; and I will receive you, and will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,' says the Lord the Ruler of all.' Having, then, these promises, beloved friends, let us purify ourselves from all defilement of body and of spirit, and secure perfect holiness through reverential fear of God" (2 Cor. 6:14 to 7:1).

Yes, "Heart Circumcision" goes More Than Skin Deep! In Matt. 5:21-48, Jesus spoke about familiar laws of God, such as murder, adultery, swearing and revenge, saying: "*It has been said of old time [in the Old Testament]...but I say to you.*" Jesus did not contradict God! For our sakes, He showed the deeper-depth meaning of God's command in things to either *do* or *not* do. **THIS** gets to **The Circumcision of the Heart!**

God shows us the two-fold purpose of **The Circumcision of the Heart:** 1) to make it possible for man to love God entirely in true holiness, and 2) that, as a result, they may *truly* be considered to be alive... "*that you may live*" (Deut. 30: 6, see left). Without this **Circumcision of the Heart,** none of us are truly and fully alive— so says the Author of Life.

Physical circumcision was not to be an end in itself. The circumcision God instituted with THE MAN, Abraham, was inseparably connected to loving God with all the heart. **THAT** is *always* "the main thing!" Religious rites, ceremonies, etc. are useless without entire love to God...**on HIS terms, not man's.**

First John makes clear what it means to love and walk with God. He says "if you say you love and walk with God, yet walk in darkness or hate your brother, you're deceived, or you're a liar." Love to God goes "**More Than Skin Deep!**" It is our *talk*, but, more-so, our *walk*. Jesus said we are to love God "**with ALL!**" (Matt. 22:37; Lk.10:27)... "**even as I!**" (see right).

HORSES and CAMELS



Gabriel L.
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I refer to **The Trojan Horse** and also to **the old Arab story of the camel** getting into its master's tent. The camel, little by little... *the nose, then the head, etc...* finally pushed its owner out into the cold open sky at night, leaving the camel *inside* the warmer tent; subtle, but sure!

Our world is under siege in various ways. Dangers, hidden in "**Trojan Horses,**" have been brought in, just as with the naive people of Troy. Generations of cowardly spiritual compromise has made the West "sitting ducks."

This path was being paved as the world, little by little, attempted to dethrone Jesus Christ, and call the Bible a volume of myths and tales. Oh yes!

The Circumcision of the Heart, spoken of in the main article, describes the real *and radical* salvation from sin and love to God which He has made possible through Christ. Jesus set God's approved Standard for love when He said "**even as I!**" (e.g. Jn. 15:10 and Jn.17).

Rejecting God's Gift-Provision, man usually has *no comprehension of, no control over* and *no care about* the "horses and camels" that come in to take its place. And then? Duped, distracted, dispossessed, destroyed...damned.

The Trojan Horse is a Greek myth. But, St. Peter wrote: "*when we told you of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our teaching was not based on cleverly-invented stories, but we were eye-witnesses of his glory*" (2 Pet. 1:16). We need His (*true!*) story...and His glory!

**Have a New Year's New Heart
From Valentine's Day, Onwards!**

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.