

THE GOSPEL TRUMPET

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet." Isaiah 58:1



Editorial

Same ol', same ol'. The devil is ever busy working with his ancient ploy to divide and conquer. Families, cultures, nations, Christians. He will even try to divide you from your biological self! And he has no shortage of helpers to facilitate this war tactic in the merchants and kings of the earth, today's media (his propaganda machine), our governments (the puppets-in come the clowns), health institutes (working hard these days)-the list could go on.

Lies! Lies! So much of history has been based on LIES. So many wars-based on lies. So much hostility between peoplebased on lies. Even religion (maybe especially)-based on lies. Satan has deceived the nations (Revelation 20:8-9). So deceived that they now have compassed the true church and are fighting God, all the while, some even thinking they are doing Him service. These are perilous times indeed!

In contradistinction to all this chaos—I love the simplicity that is in Christ. How peaceful His paths! Obedience to His laws produces abounding comfort, assurance, and joy. Let the devil huff and puff and try to blow the door down. He will just be left breathless, while the door still intact. Persecutions and threats? The Christian walks stedfastly on. Vile slanders and blasphemies? The work is great, the time is short, and we have no time to come down to the plain of Ono.

Our foundation is sure. The sure word of prophecy marks our path. *Nothing* can overthrow this safe place. No, the very gates of hell shall not prevail! Many religious people have been separated from this Bible way by Satan. Undeterred, we ride our white horses on the prophetic end-time road through Revelation. The air is exhilarating and we fear not the foe!

SIS. SUSAN MUTCH | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF editor@thegospeltrumpet.com

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TESTIMONIES & LETTERS



What Powerful Articles!

I have made the decision to quit the city business and be a homemaker...Exiting the system has its cost. I am successfully getting there. Proud of it...

If you're part of the church of God of restoration shout Amen. "Amen!"

Also thank you for my mailed out bimonthly newsletter/magazine. What powerful articles! I have taken some time to include a few of my neighbors here around Nepean, Ontario, to read a few passages. They have been grateful for the truth. It's unfortunate that death is needed to awaken our fellow brothers and sisters.

Please, if you have any way, what is the name or pattern for the beautiful dresses many of our sisters wear? I went to Fabricland for a pattern but they have so so many it's very time consuming to fish out a specific one.

> Blessings and many thanks, N. Gagnon Ontario, Canada

Really Inspired Me

I am a friend of Audrey Wild. She is a neighbor of mine and a wonderful friend and sister to me. I got a couple of booklets from your church that she got for me and I really like them. One that I finished reading is "How to Live a Holy Life" by Charles E. Orr. This book really inspired me, and it is so true what he writes. May I post some of his comments from the book on my Facebook page? If not, that is okay. I think everyone should read them.

I have read a lot of Christian books.

but what he says really is true, and it really touches the heart and makes me stop and think about my life and me as a Christian. Thank you, and God bless you.

> T. Eastland Ohio, USA

Divine Healing Baffles Doctors

I thank God for the miracle of full salvation. He pulled me out of the mire of sin, washed my heart clean, and set me on the narrow way. He keeps me happy in Him day after day, and He has also brought me to the strong city (Ps. 107:4-7).

I also thank Him for healing my body. In August of 2020, I felt unwell. I had severe cramps in the abdominal area, which radiated into my chest as a stabbing pain. I became bedridden, could hardly eat, and could not even get up without help. I asked the saints for prayer and firmly believed that the Lord could well remove this pain.

I needed sick leave from work. Two doctors visited me and told me that it was a life-threatening emergency and that I had to go to the hospital urgently. I kindly refused, but was willing to be examined in order to have a diagnosis. To the glory of God, I had not the slightest sense of fear or doubt that God could heal.

I had inflammation and a pulmonary embolism. A further test was needed to locate the blood clot in the lungs. Again, I was that if I didn't do anything, I'd be dead any day. I told him I would definitely do something, only in a way he might not be used to. I felt clearly that God wanted to glorify Himself in this matter.

I contacted Apostle Benjamin Tovstiga and told him that I was firmly convinced that God would glorify Himself if one of the apostles would pray for me according to James 5:14-15. Again and again the words sounded inside me, "The prayer of faith SHALL save the sick." He sent up the prayer of faith to the throne of grace over the phone. And, oh, miracle of grace, God was already at work, for "before they call, I will answer." Another examination was carried out and everything was fineno blood clots in sight! The doctors could not make sense of this, so did more tests. All was normal!

Nothing is impossible for God! All glory is due to Him now and forever!

> Sis. Lilia Wiesner Austria

Simple and Conservative

Hi, God bless you all. I would like to know what the church of God believes regarding the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the primary sign of speaking in tongues?

I will also know where do the believers buy their beautiful clothes; such a simple and conservative attire. God bless. Have a nice one. Jefté Crespo

Blessed and Informative Issues

I would like to request a digital copy of your blessed and informative issues to this email address.

Thank you for your boldness and commitment to bring Truth to our lost world. Blessings,

THE GOSPEL TRUMPET PUBLISHING CO.

ANTI-DENOMINATIONAL HOLINESS PAPER

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SUBSIDIARIES OF THE GOSPEL TRUMPET PUBLISHING CO.

The Gospel Trumpet is available in English, German, Russian, and Spanish.

The Shining Light for Children editor@theshininglight.com

Zion's Voice for Audio zionsvoice@churchofgod.net

THE BIBLE TEACHES:

Godly Sorrow and Repentance Acts 3:19; 17:30, 2 Cor. 7:10

The New Birth—a Radical Conversion John 3:3-7

Freedom from Sin/A Holy Life 1 Jn. 5:18, Lk. 1:73-75, Tit. 2:11-12

Entire Sanctification—a Second Cleansing

1 Thess. 5:23, Act 15:8-9

Unity of God's People/One Church

John 17:21, Matt. 16:18

Divine Healing James 5:14-15, Isa. 53:5

Ordinances

Mt. 28:19-20, Jn. 13:14-15, 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Plain, Modest Dress

Dt. 22:5, 1 Tim. 2:9-10, 1 Cor. 11:14-15

Sanctity of Marriage

Mt. 19:5-6, Mk. 10:11-12, Lk. 16:18, Rom. 7:2-3

Non-Violence Luke 3:14; 6:27-29; 18:20 Restoration (Sounding 7th Trumpet)

Rev. 10:7: 11:15

Eternal Punishment or Reward Matt. 25:46

This definite, radical, anti-sectarian holiness paper is published in the name of the Lord for the edification of the church of God. Its mission is to point souls to full salvation through Christ and to expose the errors of spiritual Babylon (false religion). We desire this paper to be used as a sharp instrument in the hands of the Lord, breaking the spiritual silence in this time of restoration.

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NEWS MAINSTREAM MEDIA DOES NOT REPORT

1976: About 25 DEATHS from the swine flu vaccine halted the programme. It cost the director of the CDC his job.

2021: The covid mRNA shot had tens of thousands in the first few weeks. They explained it away and are still carrying on, despite multitudes dying and suffering adverse effects.

SOMETHING IS SERIOUSLY WRONG.

https://edition.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/04/30/swine.flu.1976/index.html https://nytimes.com/1976/10/13/archives/swine-flu-prograrm-is-halted-in-9-states-as-3-die-after-

Shocking Data Confirms COVID Jabs are "DANGEROUS IN THE EXTREME"

V-safe, a voluntary U.S. database managed and monitored by the CDC, is an "after vaccination health checker" deployed to collect data on those who got the COVID-19 jab.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was forced to release its V-safe database, after more than 15 months of fighting to not release any of these data. The Informed Consent Action Network had to file two lawsuits and multiple appeals to get the CDC to hand it over, and when you see the data, you understand why.

In addition to spending taxpayer dollars to prevent the release of this information, the CDC also stopped promoting the use of V-safe around May 2021, mere months into the COVID-19 jab rollout. This was probably because "it became crystal clear that it was accumulating data that showed the vaccines were unsafe."

The V-safe data confirms that the COVID jabs are dangerous in the extreme.

Of the 10 million people enrolled in V-safe,

7.7% (770,000 people) required medical care after getting the shot and 25% (2.5 million people) missed work or school or suffered a serious side effect that affected their day-to-day life.

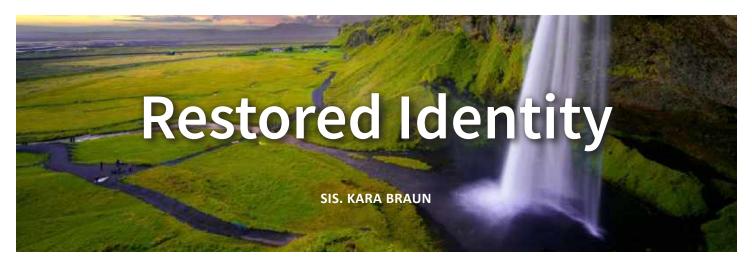
The V-safe data also shows a massive immune reaction signal. Four million people (40%) reported joint pain. Two million, or 20%, reported "moderate" joint pain and 400,000, 4%, classified the pain as "severe."

Importantly, DEATH is not reportable to V-safe, as dead people cannot use their phones. So, we have no way of knowing how many of these 10 million registered V-safe users have died.

https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/v-safe-data-cdc-covid-vaccines-dangerous-cola https://americanlibertyreportnews.com/articles/court-orders-cdc-to-release-data-showing-18million-vaccine-injuries-in-america/

Albertan MLA Shane Getson, who himself has suffered serious adverse vaccine effects, talks about the dying words of his father-in-law: "I should never have taken the shot. I knew better. They killed me!"

https://rumble.com/v1venpq-freeman-interviews-shane-getson-mla.html



"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

Acts 3:20-21

Restitution signifies the bringing back to a good state from what had been a bad one. It means to make good, to repay something stolen, to restore, to make an end of, and to satisfy a debt. The inspired prophet addressing the multitudes at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost recognized the need for a coming day of restitution when the wrongs of history could be addressed. Along with all God's holy prophets who had prophesied since time began, he looked forward to the time (the original Greek suggests a period or space of time) when that restitution would be

fulfilled. Crimes long perpetrated against humanity would be judged and labeled properly for what they had been, so that a reckoning could take place. That which had been lost and that which had been stolen would, through divine enforcement, be given back and restored.

Among the oppressions men have practiced against one another throughout every age since the dawn of time, are untold examples of cruelty beyond one's power to describe or enumerate. Yet, perhaps no oppression has been so systematic, so diabolical, so lasting and painful in the trauma it inflicted, and yet so subtle and devious in form, as the oppression of stolen identity. The identity of individuals has been attacked. The identity of families has been attacked. The identity of entire nations has been attacked. And too often it has been done intentionally and systematically. Trouble began for the human family when a man and a woman stepped outside of the identity God had given them; and trouble has perpetuated under every circumstance in which people's sense of identity has been lost.

The strife that exists between any two or more subgroups within the human family stems most often from people who have misunderstood or misappropriated their identity. A family who knows its identity and the identity and contribution of each of its members, is a family en-

The identity of individuals has been attacked. The identity of families has been attacked. The identity of entire nations has been attacked. And too often it has been done intentionally and systematically.

abled to stand in power and unity.

One of the most barbaric forms this attack has taken is illustrated in the treatment of indigenous tribes in Canada. As if the robbery of their land had not been enough, government and "church" joined hands to rob the native people of their culture-"for their own good," it was claimed. They criminalized education given by the indigenous home and community, and instead, forcibly and against the will of the parents, removed the children to prescribed government-owned schools, where they proceeded to strip them of their cultural identity in a systematic, degrading way. They cut their hair to a prescribed style. They gave them clothes of a foreign cut. They prohibited them from speaking their native language, singing their native songs, or engaging in the cultural customs which they loved. Worst of all, they schooled the children to look down on their own people. Lost without a sense of who they were or where they belonged, many were driven to drunkenness and despair.

This is but one of many examples in which one people oppressed another under the false illusion that they were superior in identity and could persecute

> a "lesser" people and overrun their culture with impunity. The African people, cruelly shipped from their native soil to destinations across the Americas, were stripped of their languages, of

their names, of their customs, and, to some degree, of their expressions in music. (Alex Haley, in his book Roots, tells us slaves were not allowed to play drums for fear they would thereby "talk" to each other across distances as they had in Africa and thus enflame an uprising

Continued on Page 10



"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." I Corinthians 12:1

With God's heart charged with a fiery zeal to rescue His sin-fallen creation, He sent Jesus Christ into this world. The cost was so great, His body a bloodied, agonizing sacrifice, that He might build His church, thus establishing His kingdom on the earth. One holy church comprised of the redeemed. One holy church replete with a divinely-called and gifted ministry to feed and govern her.

"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." Eph. 4:8. Once captives of Satan, the redeemed now voluntarily become captives of Christ. And, to these happy love-slaves, He gives gifts, as in 1 Cor. 12 and Eph. 4:11.

The kingdom of God, as does any kingdom, requires government to properly function. The church (which is synonymous to the kingdom), with Christ as its head, is divinely built and divinely ruled-not by celestial angels, but by men and women divinely-called and divinelygifted. These individuals have been given authority by God to govern the church.

2 Thess. 3:4, 6; Titus 1:5; Hebrews 13:17.

Apostolic government in the early church is not questioned. Would it be normal for today? Should it be? Does Jesus still give the same gifts unto men or have they ceased? Are any sent in His name that have the same authority as did the ministers of the early church?

Were it not for almost two thousand years of apostasy and compromise in religion, the answer would be clear to all. But with the rise of two destructive beasts (Rev. 13:1, 11)-Popery and Protestantismthe nations have been made drunk on religious wine (Rev. 17:2). Consequently, what people are now calling "church" and "Christian" bears no semblance to the New Testament pattern. With dead religious formalism and the "reckless prophesying and tongue speaking of the Pentecostal movement," it is not surprising that some now imagine that there has been a cessation of the gifts of the Spirit.

In the words of one cessationist:

"It is neither the Spirit's plan, nor His normal pattern to distribute miraculous spiritual gifts to Christians and churches today as He did in the times of the apostles. Those gifts ceased as normative with the apostles."

Quite the sweeping statement! By what authority could one make such a claim? Where is but one scripture to sustain it? This conclusion can only be reached by having mainstream Christianity's norm in view...and the gifts are not to be found there!

Were there Only 12 Apostles?

Many mistakenly believe that there were only 12 apostles in the early church and that after the death of the apostle John, the gifts ceased. But there were more than twelve in the early morning church. Here are but a few:

- · Matthias was not ordained by Jesus, but was chosen by lot to be with the eleven after Judas' transgression. He had been with them from the beginning and was witness of the resurrection-the criterion for the original twelve only.
- · Paul was not of the twelve. He was converted and became an apostle a few years after the death of Jesus-obviously not witness to the resurrection.
- Barnabas (Acts 13:50; 14:4, 14)

- Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25) your messenger (GR 652 apostolos)
- Junia, a woman (Romans 16:7)
- James, the Lord's brother (Gal. 1:18-19)

The fact that there were false apostles at the time of the early church (2 Cor. 11:13, Rev. 2:2) did not negate the office, nor does it today.

Have Apostles and Prophets Ceased?

1 Corinthians 12:28 states that God "set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets," and so on. Ephesians 4:11 states that the following gifts have been given unto men: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." This was written around AD 64. Do any doubt there are still gifts of pastors, evangelists, teachers? I do not hear of any issue there. Perhaps pastors and teachers seem tamer to today's sectarian than authoritative apostles and prophets. If one claims there are apostles and prophets in this time, they are labelled a cult!

Nowhere in scripture do I see the cessation of apostles or prophets. If so, such a "giftless" people will not be perfected, or brought to the unity of the faith, and will remain as children, tossed to and fro, carried about by every wind of doctrine, according to Ephesians 4:11-16.

The infallible Word of God also reveals that there are apostles and prophets in this end of time. We see the exhortation in Revelation 18:20 for them to rejoice at the fall of Babylon. But, being without the help of apostles and prophets, most do not understand these prophecies.

Is There Warrant for Apostles Today?

"The apostles were uniquely appointed for the early days of the church to establish orthodox doctrine. There is no warrant, then, for saying there are still apostles todav."

Interesting reasoning. Yes, God enabled the early apostles to establish doctrine. Thank God for the inspired Word! Did they not also set things in order, give direction and commands to the various congregations, and spread the gospel to the nations? How strange to assume this a temporary calling, unique to the early church.

No warrant for apostles today? My friend! Today's lack of Christian unity, the confusion of multiplied "churches" having multiplied doctrines, and a prevalance of spiritual deadness and worldliness is proof that God-appointed apostles and prophets are needed now!

Sectism, with its religious seminaries compound the problem. 1. By creating more winds of doctrine. 2. By sending out men and women who have no divine call!

Who can help the people maneuver out of the quagmire of false religion? Who can rightly divide the Word of God for a deceived and confused generation? Who can discern the times NOW?

Peter and Paul didn't deal with technology, television, the internet, extreme transgender confusion, and much else attendant with our age. Is there not need of an authoritative "thus saith the Lord" now?

What company is without its management? Are the people to read a business manual from long ago and presume things will run smoothly without current upper management to properly apply what is written and ensure its fulfillment?

"Indeed, if anyone claims to be an apostle today we should be concerned, for such a claim opens the door to false teaching and to abuse of authority. If the gift of apostleship has ended, then other gifts may have ceased as well, since the foundation has been laid by the apostles and prophets."

An apostle today opens the door to false teaching and abuse of authority? Quite the assumption! This world has been flooded with false doctrine for a long time. Maybe we should throw out pastors and evangelists, too. Perhaps they opened a door to false teaching and abuse.

"Our Christian faith rests on historical, objective revelation. That rules out all inspired prophecies, seers, and other forms of new revelation until God speaks again at the return of Christ."

How dismal! We can't expect to have God reveal anything till His return? Has He no word for this troubled time; no insights to instruct His people? Satan's wrath is currently unleashed on the church more than any other time in history, and He is to be silent? And how can we understand the battle without apostles and prophets to unravel the prophecies specific to our day?

The early apostles were equipped by God and entrusted with His work. Let us not imbibe the spirit of unbelief that He cannot do the same today.

A Restoration Prophesied

With the world overrun with powerless religion, and many looking on in disgust, God's own honour is at stake! That is not the church that Iesus built! He is not the authour of confusion (I Cor. 14:33).

Isaiah 1:26 declares that God "will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city." And, according to I Cor. 12, that will mean "first apostles."

God needs men now, just as He needed a John the Baptist and a Peter to be His authoritative voice on the earth. There must be Holy Ghost LEADERSHIP.

The world is presently groaning for such leadership! And, good news to all in this end time! As prophesied in Revelation, God has raised up a people through whom He has chosen to work, replete with apostles and prophets. With the operation of these gifts, He has gathered together a holy people who are rejoicing in His presence. This He has done for His own name's sake. And this He has done in great mercy to mankind, to prepare a people for His soon-coming.

People acknowledge the biblical

fruit of this people, yet some denounce the apostleship. I marvel that this is even a point of contention. It is biblical. Yet, some prefer to continue with their spiritual deadness and unanointed preachers than to accept an apostle with God-given authority and fruit for his labours.

When John the Baptist, the apostles, and the Messiah Himself stepped into the religious status-quo of their time, they were hated, especially by the Jewish leaders. Being of the same spirit, many religious leaders today follow this same pattern, not wanting to submit to divine authority. But God gives authority to His servants and expects it to be used in love and obeyed-for the furtherance of the gospel and for His glory! Amen!

IS GOD ALLOWED?

SIS. CHRISTINE THILMONY

Countries have a president, prime minister, or monarch. Corporations have a CEO. Police departments have a chief. Armies have a general. Courtrooms have a judge. Is God allowed to have leadership that will enforce His laws?

The cry of our age is "Don't judge." But is God allowed? Is He allowed to lay judgment in 2022 through a physical representation on earth? Is God allowed to choose a man that can tell other men what to do? Is He allowed to have a leader in 2022 that can confront the kings of the earth?

And after all, is leadership such a very bad thing? Doesn't the very earth cry for justice to be executed upon evil? We need another Elijah to step into our time! Step into 2022 like he stepped into Naboth's vineyard and met Ahab. If only we had justice once again laid to the line and plummet. But according to many in 2022, God is not allowed. Not allowed to have a mouthpiece on the earth. Not allowed to have prophets and judges that can tell other men what to do. Not allowed to have a unified ministry with the authority to

exercise His judgment on earth.

Oh, for another John the Baptist that could call out the sins of the Herods and Herodiases of our day! Would social media go viral when he touched personal matters as did John? Yes. Would he be loved by the masses? John the Baptist wasn't.

What if Jesus physically stepped back into our time? What if He went through the mega churches, statehouses, or even Planned Parenthood or Congress as He did through the temple

The very existence of every false prophet demands a counterpart and necessitates the loosing of true God-called prophets to lay judgment in our time.

so many years ago? What if once again He used the whip and turned over the tables of the moneychangers? Today's moneychangers, hypocrites, and false prophets would be most unhappy!

Do you know who was happy with the restoration of judgment through true leadership? People like you and me. Widows who had been robbed

of their houses by the temple priests. Families who came to sacrifice a lamb and were left with a dove because of the "religious" temple-changers robbery. Mothers and fathers who had watched the hypocrisy in the lives of the priests but were forced to bring them their sacrifice every year to obtain forgiveness. Children who were healed and gathered around Him singing Hosanna in a clean temple.

The world in our time has witnessed precious few holy men and women called of God; true prophets who walk in the presence of God and can bring His message to the people.

The fact that you have never seen or experienced God-called leadership does not disqualify its existence. The abundance of false prophets does not veto God's authority to execute His judgments through true prophets. In fact, the very existence of every false prophet demands a counterpart and necessitates the loosing of true Godcalled prophets to lay judgment in our

Will you stop and take a moment to answer honestly: "Is God allowed?"

ARMAGEDDON NEWS

REPORTED BY BRO. DANIEL EICHELBERGER



When will Babylonians see their true plight and cease their assault on the Almighty? They stagger like drunken men, and like the base, blinded fellows who sought the door to Lot's house in vain, they clamor and pound and cry out the excesses of their folly. They are destined to fail, and we fear them not. Hear them foaming out their own shame in the latest news.

COVID Is King in California

Cotton used to be king in the South. But COVID is king in California. Governor Gavin Newsom has signed California Assembly Bill 2098, effectively wrenching control of what doctors say about COVID-19 from their hands and giving it to the State.

Physicians in the Golden State must now take care to preach the party line regarding the disease. As the Bill itself states, "It shall constitute unprofessional conduct for a physician and surgeon to disseminate misinformation or disinformation related to COVID-19, including false or misleading information regarding the nature and risks of the virus and its prevention and treatment; and the development, safety, and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines."

In other words, doctors in California can now have their licenses revoked for disagreeing with government public health campaigns. They are being forced to betray their Hippocratic Oath in the name of compliance to the whim of the CDC or other public health authorities. They are being muzzled in the name of a changing and wildly unstable "science."

We take note of the curiosity that California does not have a similar bill related to influenza or other similar infectious diseases. The reason is obvious. COVID-19 vaccines are big business, breaking sales records for pharmaceutical companies, who in turn lobby the politicians. All must bow the knee to the golden calf, the cash cow, of COVID-19.

A Trans Christ?

Worshippers in Trinity College chapel at the University of Cambridge in the UK were in for a shock at a recent Evensong service. There, according to the Telegraph, they heard junior researcher Joshua Heath put forth the idea of a transgender Christ. Heath's sources for his burst of inspiration? Certain medieval paintings depicting the wound in Christ's side after the crucifixion. This wound, Heath claimed, "takes on a decidedly vaginal appearance," rendering the body of Christ both male and female. "In Christ's simultaneously masculine and feminine body in these works, if the body of Christ as these works suggest the body of all bodies, then His body is also the trans body," he preached.

Attendees were stunned, some leaving in tears, some shouting "Heresy!" as they departed, and one even writing a letter to the dean of Trinity College, Michael Banner. But the good dean was nonplussed, writing back that the sermon "suggested that we might think about these images of Christ's male/ female body as providing us with ways

of thinking about issues surrounding transgender questions today."

No wonder the Church of England is in such dire straits.

The Divided Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church (UMC) is hemorrhaging members and congregations over issues of homosexuality, the ordination of gay clergy, and the blessing of same-sex marriages. The recent departure of 249 congregations from the UMC North Carolina Conference underscores the internal struggle with an organization that doesn't have the courage to live up to its own Book of Discipline.

The break-away congregations make up about 22 percent of the regional conference membership and 32 percent of its churches.

The Western North Carolina conference saw a departure of 41 of its 990 congregations earlier in the year, according to Christian News Headlines. Many churches who disaffiliate from the main UMC body are joining the theologically conservative Global Methodist Church, which holds to the prohibitions against practicing gay clergy and same-sex marriage.

Christian, do you look on such things with horror and dread? They are the mere symptoms of the vessels of wrath fitted for destruction. We know their end. Why fear their present? Yet a little while and the wicked will be no more (Psalm 37:10).

Restored Identity

Continued from Page 5

against their oppressors.)

Justifying their cause with false science, Europeans, labeling themselves white and Africans black, came to believe that the Africans were intellectually, socially, and morally inferior to themselves. This tragic belief gave excuse to any number of hostilities and outrages inflicted unjustly upon them. Likewise the Jews, chased from Germany and other parts of Europe by others attempting to achieve a "purer race," were disposed of in concentration camps in the most inhumane manner.

While we dare not suggest that every nation has experienced the same pain or the same level of cruel and shameful subjugation, it is logical to think that every nation has been damaged through attacks upon their identity. The very fact that Europeans were labeled "white" and given the illusion of entitlement to privilege, was from a subtler angle a disabling

attack on their identity. It was an attack because it is olated

Much of what has passed for religion has itself helped to steal people's identity. Sin is everything that separates man from his Godgiven identity. Holiness restores man to what God created him to be.

them from the very people who could have built them up through the shared richness of their differing culture. It was an attack because it enabled the carnal man to make animals and oppressors of men who had not been created to be beasts and oppressors. Because the attack was more subtle, the damage has, in many ways, been harder to rectify.

More recently, there has been a worldwide organized attack on individuals' sexual identity. Hollywood and false media, who have long prescribed things like beauty, fashion, and strength in an ungodly and unnatural way, are now preaching the virtues of tolerance and inclusion in such a distorted form (allowing perversions from nature that ultimately hurt the person) that they actually victimize the very groups they profess to help. Too often, children given a false identity are plunged into social confusion and trauma at the most basic level, when all they needed was an understanding parent or mentor to guide them through their identity crisis and find peace in what God created them to be.

Religion—not all religion, but much of what has passed for religion—has itself helped to steal people's identity, telling them they were not Christian until they behaved in a prescribed manner, often a melancholy manner, which God never created them to do. Entire subcultures have been given a false and oppressive religious identity (e.g. "Mennonite"), which

effectively doomed them to a life of extreme is ola-tion, cul-

tural sterilization, and superstitious ignorance. In so doing, false religion has robbed men's very souls. That is the farthest thing from what Christ came to do. Sin is everything that separates man from his God-given identity. Holiness restores man to what God created him to be. Carnality is in effect a vain imagination of myself, a false image reigning on the throne of my heart that oppresses me by my own consent. Sanctification is the possession of the Spirit of holiness that puts me in touch with my fathers, who in

turn put me in touch with my God-given identity. Carnality takes me out of the image of God; the Holy Ghost restores me to the image of God. True religion resists sin because it is unnatural and reclaims the identity God created.

The world at large has been driven to a state of chaos, confusion, and moral ruin through misplaced loyalties and misplaced identity. God is calling for people to come out of confusion and to find their true identity through salvation from sin

Into the Dark I Went

Before I saw the light of day,
Before in springtime's light I played,
Or in my mother's bosom lay—
Out into the dark I went.

Because I wasn't "fit" to breathe, They counseled her to do the deed. The clinic gladly paid the fee— So into the dark I went.

My mother didn't have a hope, Sixteen, she couldn't really cope. Trafficked, and strung out on dope— And into the dark I went.

She'll never know that I could sing, Or feel the rapturous joy I'd bring. When young, would never to her cling— For into the dark I went.

The crime is great, the loss is real,
My life the state saw fit to steal.
My haunting presence they will feel—
For into the dark I went.

They've robbed me of my precious breath,
They've stolen Mommy's soul and left
Us both in tragedy's black depth—
As into the dark I went.

— Bro. Jadon Eichelberger

and connection with the fathers whom He has placed over them. Within God's church, they join together with all the rest of the saved of the human family and make up together one perfect man (Eph. 4:13)-no carnal sects, no wrong labels or wrong joints, and no pressure to be who one is not.

Each nation has its story, and each nation, in Zion, has its opportunity for revenge. The time of restitution puts people back in their place, and by this restoration, reconciles their history and heals their oppression.

Sources:

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Bad Passions of Opposers

ALBERT BARNES

But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles. And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them...They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe... and there they preached the gospel.

Acts 14:4-7

"And part held with the Jews." Held to the doctrines of the Jews in opposition to the apostles. A revival of religion often produces excitement by the bad passions of opposers. The enemies of the truth form parties and organize opposition.

It is no uncommon thing even now for such parties to be formed, but the fault is not in Christianity. It lies with those who form a party against religion, and who confederate themselves, as was done here, to oppose it.

"Divisions in families, towns, and cities, though the common consequence of the preaching of the gospel, are not owing to any fault in that, but to the depravity and corruption of human nature; and are what our Lord declared was, and foretold would be the case in Luke 12:51." John Gill 🗾

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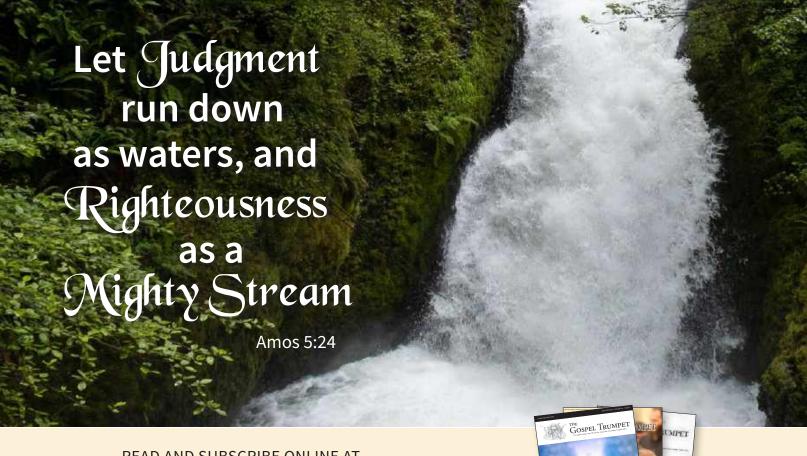
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