

## 124 "But how do we get there?"

Our readers, especially those in the UK, may rest assured - this week's Reflection is an election-free zone; well, almost! The election campaign has reminded us that we all actually want more or less the same things - peace, prosperity, happiness, opportunity, "the good life". The political parties hardly differ in these, their final goals, but strongly differ in their chosen route to achieve those goals. So the election is far more about the choice of route rather than about the final goals themselves.

We see this deep longing across humanity for "one-ness", for the recognition that we really are all "on the same side", as one big, hopefully happy, human family. The United Nations, the strivings by some for a one-world government, and the efforts to develop Esperanto as a single, global language are examples of this longing for global one-ness. To an extent, this one-ness is wholly true, right now. For we are all indeed the creation of the one true, living, Creator God. We are all the offspring of Adam and Eve; it means we really are "family", and yes, we are all related to royalty, with blue blood in our veins!

And this is how the Lord God made things to be "in the beginning" - His perfect, finished creation, with its simple description of being "very good", at peace with its Creator, and at peace within itself, His creation. That is what He wanted. That is how things were. That is the longing and the goal we still find existing in us all, both politicians and voters alike.

The "petrol", on which God's perfect creation has always depended to run as intended, is love: love from Creator to creation, and love returned from creation to our Creator. Now love, to exist at all, is voluntary, and that brings into the heart of God's creation, in all its "very-goodness", the possibility of non-love, withheld-love, refused-love. The Creator could have made us all like little "Lego figures", each of us with a painted smile on our face. He could have lined us all up and said, "There! - see how much they love Me - they're all smiling at Me!". But no, in His creating this stupendous universe the Lord God took the risk: He sought, and seeks, real smiles in return, and He allowed for, and still allows for, real scowls instead.

And real scowls quickly came, with Satan in the heavenlies and Eve and Adam in the Garden, producing a spoiled creation. Creation's sought-after response of love given back to its Creator is trampled under the feet of "Never mind Him, we know best!"; and how rampant are those trampling feet these days.

Since those beginnings the Lord has continued in His patient love towards His creation, to crack the problem we caused, the problem which is un-crackable from our side. His Word is a full and faithful record of His promising, His warnings, His judging, His choosing, His explaining, His guiding, His forgiving, all culminating in His giving of Himself, in Christ Jesus His only Son, as Lord and Saviour of His creation.

So we are living in the messy time, the period between the original "very good" and the "very good once again". God through Christ is restoring His creation to what it was and should be, transforming it so completely that the old creation will be wholly new! Because of the Creator's risky gift of love, we can be involved in all this restoring and transforming - or not.

The petrol remains love, and the "high octane" within that petrol remains Jesus Christ the Lord. The door to salvation, through which we may return to the state of peace with God and His creation, remains open to all who will respond to the call of God, by accepting His gifts of faith and salvation in Christ.

Humanity's goals are agreed and longed for, but the routes to those goals are hotly disputed. The Lord God in His mercy has made perfectly clear the One True Route to the finest goals beyond anything we could ever imagine: Jesus Christ is that Route - the Way, the Truth and the Life, the same, yesterday, today and for ever.

His is the only Name on creation's ballot paper that matters, and He is entitled to every vote we've got!

(Some texts relevant this time, to ponder should you wish: Genesis 3.17b / Acts 2.21, 36-39 / Acts 4.10-12 / I Timothy 2.5-6 and 3.19-21 / Romans 5.12-21 / 8.18-23 / II Corinthians 5.17-19 / Galatians 6.14-16 / Ephesians 1.3-12 / Colossians 1.9-22ff / Hebrews 13.8 / I Peter 2. 4-10 / II Peter 1.16 and 3.1-13 / Revelation 20.1-22.21)

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