

## **xx Clapham Junction and Waterloo - TWR 133**

If you travel to London by train from Southampton, the end of the line and your final destination is London Waterloo. The last station before you reach Waterloo is Clapham Junction, a sprawling mass of platforms and railway lines which claims to be the busiest station in Europe. It may well be, but it isn't the end of the line, and it isn't where you are trying to get to.

We are living in times when the reactions to the complex issues of the day seem to be far more about Clapham Junction than Waterloo: the solutions that are bandied around, in Parliaments and the media, may well be presented as being "the end of the line" in terms of wisdom and sense, but they too often fall far short of the ultimate questions that should be being asked.

The Supreme Court of the United States for example has just voted, by 5 votes to 4, that so-called "same-sex marriage" is now a constitutional right across the country.

"Love has triumphed" was the cry of those in support. Now who could argue with such a sentiment? - but in the context of the "same-sex marriage" controversy this ignores the other, deeper Waterloo-type questions. For a start, if "love" really is all that is needed for any relationship to be granted the status of "marriage" by the State, then where do we stop? No, such a view falls short. What we should be doing instead is asking - What does "the divine Station Master at Waterloo" have to say on such matters? - and take things from there.

The main point of those who were distressed by the Supreme Court's decision was that, being taken at Federal level, it overruled the authority of individual States within the Union. This is clearly the case, but misses by miles the real reasons why many people feel this step is deeply wrong. We are still at Clapham Junction with such comments: where, oh where, are those end-of-the-line Waterloo comments concerning the Word of God?

A second example of this Clapham Junction-not-Waterloo approach involves the brutal murder of 38 holidaymakers on that beach in Tunisia. The British Prime Minister has reacted by speaking of

"defending our values", by which he means such things as democracy, freedom of speech, tolerance, the rule of law, and equality of women. Again, there is little to argue over in such values - but WHY are these our values? FROM WHERE have these values come in the first place? Just WHY is this country so different from a France or a Syria or a Soviet Union?

Have not these values, which play such a central part in defining who we are and how we do things, come in the main from this country's deeply-rooted, long-standing adherence to the - wait for it, hold tight! - Protestant, Biblical, Christian Faith? Yet it has become the norm in Parliament and the television studios for this Biblical heritage, by which the Lord has so richly blessed this nation, to be ignored. The effect of this Clapham Junction approach is that critical policy decisions over, for example, how to deal with the so-called Islamic State, are taken without a thought for the living God and His living Word.

The divine "Station Master" at Waterloo has His own opinions about such arrogance! One such opinion comes to mind - "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1.22). Fools. Fools for ignoring Almighty God and His revealed Word.

So it falls to the ordinary "faithful sheep" of Jesus Christ like us to make sure that God and His Word are NOT ignored. We must use the channels available to us today, such as emails, letters, phone calls, MPs' surgeries, social media, church meetings, phone-in programmes and local government. If Christians don't speak up for God's "Waterloo-Truths", we can be quite sure that nobody else will do the job for us.

Christian silence has played its part in leaving opinion-formers stuck in that crowd at Clapham Junction, falling short of where they need to be. The Word of God remains what it has always been - the true, trustworthy, well-founded "end-of-the-line" - the best place and the right place to be, for nations and individuals alike.