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After months of enquiries by hundreds of British police and intelligence officers, two Russian agents have been identified as the perpetrators of the nerve-agent attack on a former Russian spy and his daughter in Salisbury in March 2018. The public have been given details of the attack plus CCTV footage of the two Russian men in various locations including Gatwick Airport and Salisbury.

This nerve-agent case is a timely reminder that these days “Big Brother” really is watching us as never before, either by being able to look back over our activities and whereabouts if it suits him, or by actually screening all of us all the time. For there are now so many ways in which our personal details can be known: emails, text messages, phone calls, social media, online searches, satnavs, car number plate recognition, credit cards, cash points, bank records, tax returns, CCTV images and so on – quite a list. We can safely assume that virtually everything we do is either known right now by someone somewhere, even if we think it is private, or is easily traceable in the future.

This fact of our being watched may be acceptable if the watchers are benign and only use their knowledge to catch wrongdoers. But it quickly becomes very different if the watchers use their power to bully or silence any opposition to their agendas, as we have been considering in recent Weekly Reflections concerning the various anti-biblical foistings now being pushed upon us in Britain, and as is still the norm in many other countries around the world.

We can briefly mention here the foretold “mark of the beast” (Revelation 13.16-17), which will raise “Big Brother Watch” to a wholly new and dreadful level for those remaining on the earth after the removal of the true church (I Thessalonians 4.13-18 and I Corinthians 15.51-52). It is plain that modernist efforts to dismiss this prediction as some lurid fairy tale are utterly foolish - the “mark” technology already exists and the scene is increasingly set.

Yet this knowledge that we are being watched is also healthily scriptural! – for at no time or place are we hidden from the gaze of either the Lord God Himself or of human agencies or individuals. Examples abound in the Bible of supposedly secret sins being discovered and paid for, (please see your Concordance for references), such as: Adam and Eve; Cain; Achan; Saul and the Amalekites; David and Nathan; Jezebel and Naboth; Haman and Mordecai; Ananias and Sapphira.

Truly, “... be sure your sin will find you out”, as spoken by Moses to the tribes of Reuben and Gad in Numbers 32.23. The Lord Jesus gives the same message – “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops” (Luke 12.2-3). Such words give us all pause for thought.

Those “in Christ”, redeemed and regenerate, have nothing to fear before Almighty God, for - “there is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus ...” (egs., Romans 8.1a / I Corinthians 1.8-9 / I Thessalonians 3.13). We confess our sins and sinfulness and receive God’s forgiveness afresh by faith in Christ’s blood

shed on our behalf (eg., I John 1.8-9 – 2.2 / Hebrews 9.11-15 / ...). We then seek to continue abiding in Christ, living in loving obedience to Him (John 15.1-17), knowing that eventually our “works” alone will be judged, not we ourselves (I Corinthians 3.11-15). Here is comfort indeed, but with no licence for complacency, especially in view of the many “signs of the times” around us.

Clearly one vital expression of our Christian commitment is very practical - how we are actually to live among one another, honestly, openly and without hidden secrets, as WYSIWYG Christians – “what you see is what you get”! In our next two Reflections God willing, we will concentrate first on some reminders of our getting along with our fellow Christians, which we all know can be tricky at times; and then we can come on to how best to conduct ourselves as “ambassadors for Christ” (II Corinthians 5.20) among “those who are without” (I Corinthians 5.12-13 / Colossians 4.5 / I Thessalonians 4.12 / I Timothy 3.7); that is among those who, at least for the present, are without Christ.

But for now we bear in mind these two important truths for our Christian conduct: first, we are being watched, by the Lord and by others, all of the time; and second, nothing that we may currently regard as being private or secret will remain so, either in the shorter or the longer term.

In view of these truths, and as by God’s grace in Christ we are “light in the Lord”, may we indeed “walk as children of light” – all of the time (Ephesians 5.8).

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