

371 Bertrand Russell – 2 – The Antidote

Last week, the 50th anniversary of the death of Bertrand Russell, we examined the legacy of this much-vaunted philosopher and prominent rejecter of the Christian Faith. Thanks be to God, we were able to establish that the reasons Russell gave for his Christian rejection quickly crumble when scrutinised.

We are giving some time to this man and his beliefs in our Weekly Reflections because of the great effect which he and his adherents have had, and still have, within today's society. As Bible-accepting, Jesus-redeemed Christian believers, we find ourselves confronting the malign influence of men like Russell and the others at every step of the way.

Mention of the Holy Bible, Almighty God and Jesus Christ has been an accepted part of public discourse and practice in Britain for centuries. This is not to say that everyone was a born-again Christian in earlier times, but rather that the Christian Faith was accepted as the spiritual and moral basis of this society. Thus for example we have had overtly biblical Coronation Services for over a thousand years (will it be the same next time we wonder?); King George VI announced times of national prayer in 1940 to which millions sincerely responded; State schools included Christian worship and teaching; and constitutionally we remain a Christian, Protestant country.

But how things have changed. We note the jeers and sneers outpoured on Christians in public life who have the supposed effrontery to speak of God's Word in public debate. Recent examples include Tim Farron, former leader of the Liberal Democratic party; Israel Folau, Australian rugby player (whose recent signing for Wigan rugby league team is provoking mass pro-homosexual outrage across the sport); Margaret Court, former tennis champion, whose adherence, as with Folau, to biblical teaching concerning homosexual practice attracts vicious criticism from Martina Navratilova and others. The hostility that such Christians receive is so vitriolic that those words in Ephesians 6.12 come to mind – "we wrestle not against flesh and blood ...". Further "Shut-up-about-the-Bible-or-else" cases abound on social media and on "news and comment" programmes on radio and television. In such ways are displayed the lofty atheistic notions of Darwin, Russell and company, with the ugly consequences of those notions plain to see.

What a relief to return to God's Word! – and to understand the ample grounds we have for doing this. We don't take the Bible seriously

because we like the stories or because Granny told us to. We do so because, on the grounds of the ample external and internal “Christian evidences”, and of our own personal experience, it is so obviously true: “God’s Word written” indeed. (To be better equipped to speak of the “evidences”, see for example “Many Infallible Proofs” by Henry Morris, and/or “Evidence That Demands A Verdict”, 2 volumes, by Josh McDowell).

How vital it is that we Christians can demonstrate in discussion this impregnability of the Bible, thus thwarting the efforts of Satan and his cronies to get rid of the Bible, efforts which have gathered pace since the ill-named “Age of Enlightenment” and are now in such full flow.

A few quiet hours spent with the Lord, your Bible and Concordance, looking up references to such words as “knowledge”, “wisdom”, “understanding” and “truth”, will surely bring blessing, with a few samples here to “set the scene” before we close.

“The fool hath said in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 53.1). “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools ...” (Romans 1.22). “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge ... the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 1.7 & 9.10).

“I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes” (Matthew 11.25). “Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?” (I Corinthians 1.20b, (also 1.17-2.16).

“Except a man be born again ... Except a man be born of water and the Spirit ... Ye must be born again” (from John 3.3,5,7). “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8.8). “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh” (Galatians 5.15).

“If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8.31b).

Also: Philippians 2.14-16 / John 14.6 / I Timothy 2.5-6 / John 8.12 / II Peter 1.19-21 / Rev 21.22-27, 22.5 / and many more.

Bertrand Russell, a clever, gifted man, was deeply mistaken as to genuine truth, and along with the many others sharing the same false views of truth, he has gravely misled millions of people.

By God’s grace, we know otherwise. May we therefore be “blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked

and perverse nation, among whom ye – we - shine as lights in the world;
holding forth the word of life” (from Philippians 2.15-16a).

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