

391 “... unto the knowledge of the truth”

In recent Reflections we have been considering the swathes of anger sweeping round the world that were sparked off by the killing of a black man George Floyd by a white policeman. While some of this anger is justified, some is not, for it has been hijacked by powerful groups such as Black Lives Matter (BLM) and “Antifa” to further their anti-democratic, anti-West agendas. With mobile phone cameras, TV crews to hand and social media, the protests, marches and rioting have proved to be an effective tactic.

Now we must turn to another significant trend of our times. Last weekend, in a park in the British town of Reading, three men were stabbed to death and others were injured; fortunately the killer was immediately arrested. In the wake of this sinful deed the news reports were careful. At first the motive for the attack was said to be a mystery. Then the “suspect” was identified as a Libyan asylum seeker. Then we were told that the police were treating the murders as “terrorist related”, and that the killer was “known” by MI5 who considered him not to be a security risk. Then there were reports of the killer having a history of “mental problems”.

Notice the features of a “below the radar” agenda lying beneath the dreadful events that had been enacted “in plain sight” – that the words “Muslim”, “jihad” and “Islam” were avoided. This avoidance sprang from the authorities’ understandable desire to keep the peace between Muslims and others within the town, but all too often this desire means that what is happening in plain sight – the frequent Islamic jihadist atrocities in western countries which evidently we are now expected to regard as “just the way things are” – is downplayed. Instead the authorities go out of their way to avoid upsetting Muslim opinion, an approach that has been aptly termed “islamopandering”. The Muslim presence within local communities and national bodies gradually grows, and any questioning of Islam is instantly struck down with shrieks of outrage as being “Islamophobic”.

There is no denying that Islam is spreading across Europe and North America in plain sight before our eyes, with its clear Qur’anic goal of world dominance and a 1400-year long track record of jihadist violence to help achieve this; another tactic towards achieving dominance is simple and openly admitted - “we shall take over this country by the wombs of our wives”. For Christians and others to “keep our heads in the sand” over what is going on is clearly dangerous folly.

We are thus facing today the old jostle of answers to Pilate's simple question, "What is truth?" (John 18.38a). In any list of the various rival Truth-Claimants confronting us, including Atheism, Communism and Islam, Judeo-Christianity remains unrivalled in terms of the credentials it possesses as to why anyone can be confident that Judeo-Christianity is TRUE. At its heart lies the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (eg., I Corinthians 15.12-20), the event described by a careful lawyer as being "the best attested fact in history".

In John 8.31-32 Jesus told some Jews who believed on Him, "If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (KJV). There is the reality of personal experience backing up the historical facts: as we "continue in Jesus' word", so our confidence is confirmed that the Bible is true.

In contrast the credentials in support of Islam being true are rather different. As Irwin Linton, another lawyer, wrote in his book "A Lawyer Examines The Bible" – "Mohammed declared that he was God's inspired prophet in giving the world the Koran ... a shred of proof was never offered".

As we draw to a close this time, here are some key words within Paul's wonderful prayer in Ephesians 1.17-19: may "the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory" give to the Ephesian Christians through Christ - wisdom, revelation, knowledge, understanding, enlightening, knowing, hope, riches, glory and "inheritance in the saints" – that is quite bagful of Truth!

In Galatians 4.16 the Holy Spirit speaks through Paul to ask, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?". Just so, are the Christians of today really to be seen as the enemies of others because we proclaim the God-revealed truth in Jesus Christ?

By God's grace, in Christ we have the Truth, we know the Truth, and we hold forth the Truth (John 14.6 / Acts 4.5-12).

The wonder is that in Christ, "God our Saviour will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (see I Timothy 2.1-7). We praise Him.

(It is worth recommending here once again the faithful lady Susan Wallace (susanwallace54@yahoo.co.uk) who emails to any who wish a free daily digest of news reports and videos which serves as a helpful Christian eye-opener over a range of current issues of concern).