

411 “The Changed Demographics”

On Sunday 15th November 2020 Prince Charles spoke in Berlin during Germany’s National Day of Mourning for victims of war. The emphasis of his words, understandably, was on the need for the promotion of harmony and peace between nations, which therefore involves in his opinion the firm rejection of “intolerance and bigotry”.

So here was a fine example of the first part of that saying we finished with last week, “Peace at any Price”, and few would argue with that. But we notice that the second part of the saying, “- and Truth at all Costs”, is missing from the Prince’s comments. Not only is it missing, but those who are concerned to uphold God’s Truth in the face of all the “keep God out of it” nonsense surrounding us, are now targetted as being “intolerant bigots”! In recent days for instance we hear of a woman member of the Church of England’s General Synod telling us that “the Bible is homophobic”, so out must go the Bible on homosexuality! (egs., Leviticus 18.22; 20.13 / Deuteronomy 23.17 / Romans 1.27 / I Corinthians 6.9-10 / I Timothy 1.9-10). In Scotland, parents are now legally prohibited from smacking their children, so there is another issue, according to current trendy thinking, on which the Bible is clearly just plain wrong (Proverbs 13.24; 19.18; 22.15; 23.13-14; 29.15,17).

Besides Prince Charles ignoring Truth while decrying “intolerance and bigotry”, Rishi Sunak, a practising Hindu, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and possible future British Prime Minister, has recently described the UK as “a secular country”, explaining how Christmas is a festival celebrated by everyone, of all religions or beliefs. The lobby group Humanists UK has welcomed Mr Sunak’s comments, “as standing in contrast to comments from previous political leaders, when advocating for ‘divisive policies’” – (by which they mean the very rare acknowledgment by our national politicians of the Christian roots of our country); for the phrase “divisive policies” we can equally read “intolerance and bigotry”.

Humanists UK Chief Executive Andrew Copson commented: ‘The Chancellor’s comments are a very welcome breath of fresh air. He is right that the UK is a country that is shaped by pre-Christian, non-Christian, and post-Christian forces, (we note the complete non-mention of “actual-Christian forces”! - which have been far the most prevalent “forces” that have shaped our country), and today has a highly diverse population ... (In England) there are various areas of public policy which privilege Christianity over other religions and beliefs ... but these are not

reflective of the population of the UK today. These matters must be examined, to ensure our state institutions keep pace with the changed demographics”.

So there we have it in an all-too-clear humanist nutshell! – our state institutions are to “keep pace with the changed demographics” rather than to keep aligned to God’s unchanging Truths. Humanism jettisons our Christian foundations and constitution; removes Almighty God from public debate; replaces all that “nasty” biblical teaching about Right and Wrong, Truth and Falsehood, and sin and forgiveness, with warm humanist ideas about tolerance, diversity, progressivism, “human rights”, liberalism and so on. The great mantra of “no discrimination” is chanted, apart, that is, from what is deemed to be the virtuous discrimination directed against those who disagree with the liberal tide. Hence all religions are to be treated identically, which blatantly ignores the fact that the core doctrines of all except two of them are simply not true.

Last week we established from God’s Word that God’s true, real Peace comes only after His Truth has been established and acknowledged. We humbly and heartily thank God that that era of God’s Peace, focussed on His Son Jesus Christ, will indeed come on this earth, despite the best efforts of God’s opponents (egs., Philippians 2.5-11 / Revelation 20).

Until then, we know what to be doing! We must know, believe and speak of God’s written Word, the “canon” of Scripture, this “canon” meaning a line as perfectly straight as a plumb line. We see how Jesus countered the devil’s wiles with three simple “It is writtens” (Matthew 4.4,7,10) – in other words, “What the Bible says, God says”.

Just as important in this sceptical age, we should also know the rock-solid credentials underlying the Bible, (the “Christian Evidences”), which give us the confidence that the Bible is indeed true and trustworthy; and also know the credentials, or rather the lack of them, underlying rival claimants for the Truth, notably Darwinism and its fellow-travellers, and the eastern Faiths. Truly, “Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path ... Thy Word is truth” (Psalm 119.105 / John 17.17).

We watch, we pray and we proclaim, defend and justify God’s Truth (egs., Ephesians 6.10-20 / Romans 8.31-39 / Matthew 28.19-20 / Acts 26.24-29). In so doing we are being no more “intolerant” or “bigoted” than the many vocal opponents of the Christian Faith these days! – the difference being that, by God’s grace and through no merit of our own,

we “know the Truth” (John 8.31-32) and hence we now have “Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5.1).

Psalms 97. 9-12.

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