
REFORMATION DAY EDITION 2023



SYMBOL OF THE REFORMATION FIVE SOLAS



FOR THE WORD OF GOD,
AND FOR THE TESTIMONY
OF JESUS CHRIST,
REVELATION 1V9.

PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AFRICA
Founded 1925

REFORMATION DAY EDITION

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR.....

Reformation Day remembers the symbolic date of the Protestant Reformation's beginning, 31st October 1517, when the monk, Martin Luther, nailed his 95 Theses on the Wittenburg Cathedral door, against the sale of "indulgences" a type of forgiveness transaction for sins committed by parishioners, "reducing time in purgatory"; part of the funds going towards the rebuilding of the St Peter's Basilica in Rome. Hence the inference that it was built on the sins of the Germans!

What a treading and trampling underfoot of the Son of God, counting a common thing the Blood of the Covenant by which He was sanctified, and insulting the Spirit of grace, Hebrews 10V29! It was only a matter of time before the 1,000 years of Christian theological consensus built on tradition, idolatry, truth and error mixed, received the sentence from the Fingers of God's Hand: You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting, Daniel 5V23-31.

Meanwhile back in South Africa!

"We will go on again: yes, we will work a little longer."

**Rev. Paxton Hood (1820-1885), author, used to say this during adverse times
as he looked at his pocket watch.**

All of the above was foreign to me prior to my conversion, and it was more as a student that our godly heritage after the apostolic era became vital to me; and was seen to be treasured and guarded. My initial call to serve the Lord from Jeremiah 1V4-10, was later followed by a determination of the specific ministry that I was not giving thought to, in the hope of being a missionary, it was to be a watchman with others to the house of Israel, including the Church, but not ever forgetting His ancient people, the Jews, Ezekiel 3V5. Our nation is in its usual cycle of crises (always plural!), yet we know Who to call upon, as we continue in our respective callings from the Lord; and while we have breath to stand against the tide of rampant rebellion, compromise of truth in the Church, and sowing of discord among our citizens. In a word, we urgently need a good dose of Law and Order, Proverbs 6V16-19. Yet, there is cause for hope with many here, of all colours, who call upon our God, and have a spirit of goodwill from above. Dr. Andrew Murray's spirit lives on!

Yours in Jesus

Rev. Craig Hounsom – Always on the winning side!



**"Men must either be governed
by God or ruled by tyrants."
William Penn USA pioneer father and protector of liberty.
(1644-1718)**

THE AXIOM OF THE REFORMATION

CONDENSED FROM AN ARTICLE BY
DR PAUL HARTWIG

31ST October 2017 was the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's famous 'Stand' at the Diet of Worms in Germany. It was momentous in the history of Christianity, as a solitary Christian stood his ground against the current of religious tradition and conventional beliefs of the day. His stand reminded me of the great African leader Athanasius who in the 4th century also stood his ground in the teeth of a doctrinally corrupt (Arian) Christianity. He stood Contra Mundum ('against the world'). May God see our need for such men and women today!

THE BIBLE REVEALS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

As I did my research on Luther one truth rose in my mind and was highlighted as the most immediate cause of both Luther's stand and the Reformation: It was because Martin Luther discovered the meaning of Scripture that both his life and continent experienced a revolution. Yes, there were hundreds of other events in the long chain of causality (cause & effect) that converged on the Augustinian monk of Wittenberg. Yet it is my conviction that his persistent probing and determined scrutinizing of Scripture was the most immediate cause of the Reformation in Germany. His discovering of the Bible itself was necessarily antecedent to this probing, but his Latin, Hebrew and 1516 Greek texts did not of themselves produce a Reformation. It was as a university lecturer having to understand to his own satisfaction what a portion of Scripture actually meant that changed Luther's life and made him the great Reformer.

When he first began to lecture on Romans 1:17 he interpreted the phrase 'the Righteousness of God' as the way God punishes sinners. Yet he grew increasingly dissatisfied that this was what Paul actually meant. It slowly started to dawn on him, like the first rays of the morning sun, that the phrase meant something different. That window was opened to bring in this transforming light?

Here are his words:

"Nevertheless, I beat importunately upon Paul at that place, most ardently desiring to know what St. Paul wanted. At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely,

“*In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live.'*”

“There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith.”

THE DOORS OF PARADISE SWUNG OPEN BY FAITH IN CHRIST.

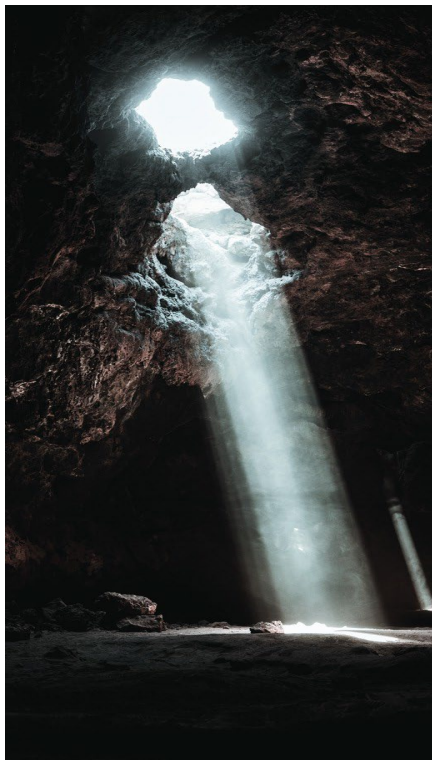
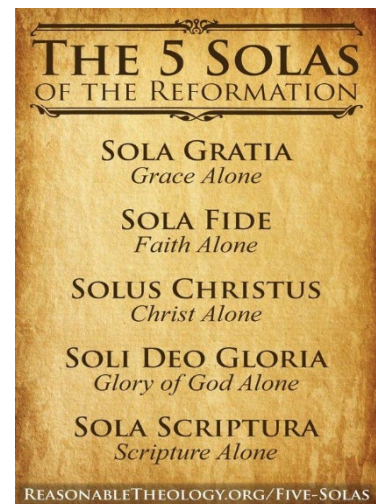
The breakthrough came for Luther after a resolute and persistent quest to know what the words of Scripture meant. This quest was a great means or instrument for the Reformation. Discovering what Scripture meant was ‘the axiom of the Reformation’. I believe it is 'the axiom (core principle) of all reformation'.

We all have Bibles. Some of us have many Bibles, in many languages. This is all good and we can thank God for access to his written Word. But how few of us discover the Bible and the meaning of its words! This is a great problem today in the Church. We ‘cherry pick’ verses for Bible nuggets, and very seldom, if ever, take portions of Scripture and do what Luther did with Romans. Have you taken a portion of Scripture recently, like a Psalm, and then probed it with both eyes, both hands, satisfied your mind on what the writer is saying, and then absorbed that meaning into your heart, prayed over it and talked to God in its language, and then gone and made that Psalm real in your daily life? That is what most of us don’t do and that is why we are like we are and the world is as it is. Martin Luther was not like us. That was why he was assured of the truth and why he was able to stand his ground and would not recant his beliefs. He was captivated by the truth he had spent time discovering in Scripture. END.

We have freedom of religion and conscience because of the Lord raising up the Reformers.
Editor.

“Every week I preach justification by faith to my people, because every week they forget it”.

Martin Luther.



THOUGHTS ON THE TIMES

By Dr Kenny Allen

A NEED TO AVOID PEER PRESSURE

"Groupthink": when the desire for harmony in a group of people may produce a tendency among its members to agree at all costs, which causes the group to reach a consensus decision without critical evaluation (Wikipedia). The church is as subject to this as any

other group and is certainly falling into this trap at present. One way to reduce the danger of falling into this is to read works from the past, to have light shed our time from those who are not living in it. The opinions. Truth is not democratic – it doesn't matter if anyone (or no one) votes for it: it is still the truth! And often in the Bible, it is the small remnant that is faithful – not the majority.

**“Most men think in crowds,
this is only to say that they are victims of thoughtless plausibilities”.**

Paxton Hood.

THOUGHTS ON THE TIMES

By Dr Kenny Allen

A NEED FOR CAREFUL SCHOLARSHIP

Too often in recent years, I have read statements by authors that blandly repeat what someone else has said, without substantiation or checking. Yet the Apostles themselves were glad to be checked by the "noble Bereans" (Acts 17:11). Beware of worshipping pre-eminent scholars, even if they are rightly held in high regard: this can lead to false statements being repeated *ad nauseam* simply because they come from a generally reliable source who may have accidentally repeated something erroneous. As far as possible we need to check the facts, the original source of a claim before repeating it ourselves – or at least check an expert who has personally examined the facts. In my opinion (and more importantly, some of those who are qualified to speak), the field of Biblical textual criticism is one that has suffered from poor scholarship by some people in the past century and a half. This is of great concern because it affects the very foundation of our faith.



This article of Dr Kenny Allen is particularly applicable to the Bible's New Testament text which has been under attack, and has resulted in confusion over the true identity of the inspired Word of God, particularly related to the Person of Christ, and reflected in the many new Bible versions. There is no doubt that the devil is at work in so called "Lower Criticism" which some scholars see as merely academic and therefore neutral. The Textus Receptus, Received Text, behind the King James Version is also termed the Majority Text, and is a sure and safe text. – Editor.



BILLY GRAHAM : JUST AS I AM.
“Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God”
Ruth1V16.

How can a man be justified with God, and for that matter, a godly man’s granddaughter approach God? Job25V4.

JUST AS I AM

A sickly, and soul-sick young English lady, Miss C. Elliot asked that question to an eminent visitor, French Swiss evangelist Dr. Cesar Malan; and he impressed on the descendant of the renowned clergyman, Rev. Henry Venn, the wise counsel:

“You must come just as you are a sinner, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.”
Christian Library.

The providential meeting would result in a beautiful hymn of personal meaning, and later resound throughout the world, and be the signature tune and song of an American evangelist’s appeal to all and sundry:

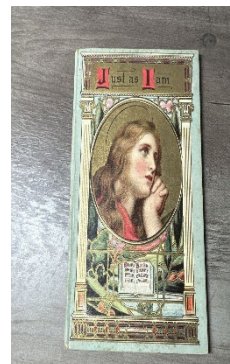
**“Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me.
And that thou bidd’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.” (Charlotte Elliot)**

DEATH SENTENCE (2 Corinthians 1V9)

Every man, woman, and child, who seeks salvation, begins at the Cross Holy Ground where they remove their shoes off from their past sinful self-righteousness and pride, a new life commences with Jesus’ love.

Billy Graham (7 November 1918 - 21 February 2018), born 4 days before the end of WWI, was called to take the exact same Way to God; and then to enlist in the primary battle between good and evil in the human heart, from where wars and fighting arise, James 4V1. As with a seed or grain that falls into the ground to seemingly die, abundant fruit and grain grow:

“Before God gives a blessing He writes a sentence of death on the means leading up to it.”
Springs In The Valley Mrs. Charles Cowman.



of Christ, the path. Stripped of

PAINFUL PREPARATION - “JESUS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD” (B.G.)

During his preparation and training, a sobering place to be in if one is expecting great things and idealistic dreams as a novice, the odd encouragement helps to keep a vision which is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. A particular word proved to be prophetic to Billy Graham:

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“At best, all you could amount to would be a poor country Baptist preacher somewhere out in the sticks.... you have a voice that pulls. God can use that voice of yours. He can use it mightily.” Bob Jones Snr. Founder of Bob Jones University, later to differ with him.

THE VISION IS FOR AN APPOINTED TIME

“Anyone who repents of sins and accepts Jesus Christ will be saved.” Billy Graham.

A pastor is expected to regularly occupy a church pulpit – as an evangelist he has the flexibility needed to reach out or go to others, rather than to wait for them to enter a church. The U.S.A. and regions beyond opened up in the good Lord’s time, and Billy Graham did not then have to build on “another man’s line of things”, 2 Corinthians 10V16.

A significant influence on the budding evangelist, was an unconventional roving Irishman who held dual U.S.A. citizenship, J Edwin Orr, who at times resorted to a bicycle, or even hitch-hiked, to his destination:

“Dr J. Edwin Orr, in my opinion, is one of the greatest authorities on the history of religious revivals in the Protestant world. I think that God has given him one of the greatest, and most unique ministries anywhere in the nation... I know of no man who has a greater passion for worldwide revival or a greater love for the souls of men.” Billy Graham

THY PEOPLE SHALL BE MY PEOPLE, AND THY GOD MY GOD – RUTH

Behind every successful man called of God is a woman – a lady born in China of Presbyterian medical missionary parents, Dr L Nelson Bell and Virginia Myers, aptly named Ruth. The lasting impact of Ruth Bell’s (born 1920-2007) marriage to Billy Graham cannot be measured in material terms, for this virtuous woman’s price is worth far more than rubies, Proverbs 31V10.

Eternity may reveal more of the value of a wife’s union and journey with a husband who traversed land, air, and sea to spread the Gospel, and explain why a dramatic glimpse of her life is in a book called “Footprints of a Pilgrim”:

“She was not only his rock, she was an inspiration to her family and community and a spiritual guide to millions who’ve read her books.”

HYPER-EVANGELISM AND DECISIONAL REGENERATION – RALLIES: A CAUTION

A concern in calling persons to the front at a rally is that it may prove to give false assurance based on a momentary “decision”, also termed “easy-believism” – emotionalism, and the “pew pressure” of “herd mentality” playing a part. Time, perseverance, is the great test.

Another reservation is the evangelist’s theologically naïve approach of glossing over differences between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism, which in real terms of “unity” results in a compromise of the Bible’s witness to Jesus Christ’s Finished Work on the Cross. An **ostensible** show of religious devotion, such as in the Vatican, and an **overt** rejection of Divine revelation in the Bible, by modern humanism, is one and the same thing!

There are other ancient Christian Churches too – Protestant Churches have one mandate: to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified – to point to Him alone, and not to the Church. We therefore cannot gloss over truth, and blur it with such a core doctrinal error! 2 Timothy 3V5.

Notwithstanding this concern, Billy Graham, made a mark for good on his generation, when he openly confessed his faith in the Lord, as the Holy Spirit empowered him:

“it is better that men should be disorderly saved, than orderly damned, and that the Church be disorderly preserved than orderly destroyed”, Puritan Richard Baxter; and “If a choice be made, life comes before order” Eifion Evans on Welsh preacher Daniel Rowlands.

As a young couple my late wife Val and I were taken by her aunt May to hear Billy Graham in Durban. Though we had tentatively been seeking God, that rally was the place where we crossed the line. I suppose the long walk inside Kings Park Stadium was to this hymn:

**“Just as I am without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.” Charlotte Elliot.**

An invitation to “a rebel” like myself, which says, anyone who repents of, or turns from sins, and accepts Jesus Christ will be saved (B.G.), would give me hope. I now publish the same good tidings with my wife, “Meisie” alongside me.

Soli Deo gloria = Glory to God alone.

CRAIG HOUNSOM.

Bibliography: Dr Billy Graham various books & Wikipedia
Write The Vision! J. Edwin Orr by Bishop A.J. Appasamy (India).

**"I know of no true religion but that of Christianity;
no true Christianity but the doctrine of Christ."
Preface of Robert Traill's (1642-1716) sermons.**

AN EXTRAORDINARY SERMON PREPARATION.

Prince of Preachers wakes up late on a Sunday morning with no sermon!

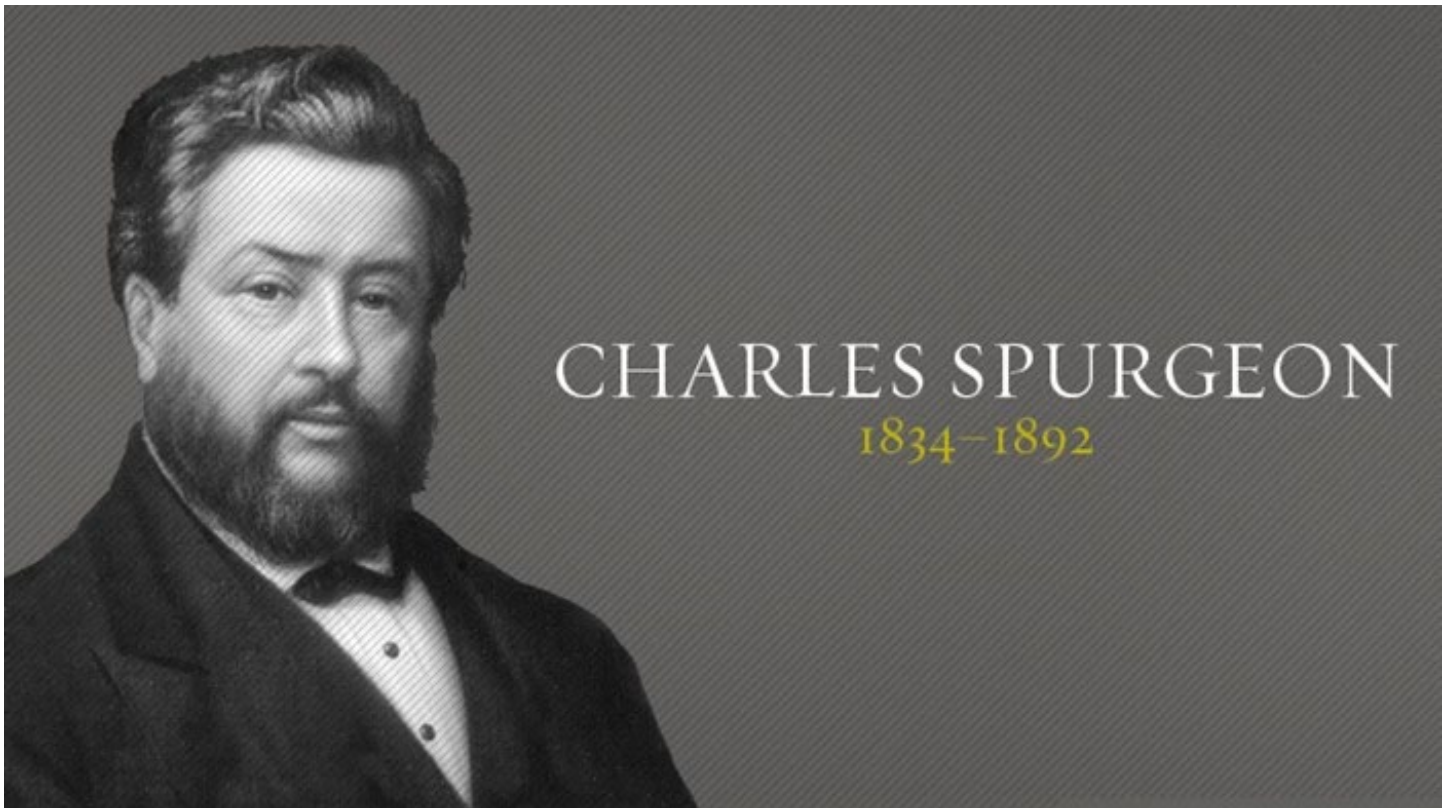
An extraordinary incident occurred in this early period of our history. One Saturday evening, my dear husband was deeply perplexed by the difficulties presented by a text on which he desired to preach the next morning. It was in **Psalm 110V3: "Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: Thou hast the dew of Thy youth,"** and, with his usual painstaking preparation, he consulted all the Commentaries he then possessed, seeking light from the Holy Spirit upon their words and his own thoughts, but, as it seemed, in vain. I was as much distressed as he was, but I could not help him in such an emergency. At least, I thought I could not; but the Lord had a great favour in store for me, and used me to deliver His servant out of his serious embarrassment. He sat up very late, and was utterly worn out and dispirited, for all his efforts to get at the heart of the text were unavailing. I advised him to retire to rest, and soothed him by suggesting that, if he would try to sleep then, he would probably in the morning feel quite refreshed, and able to study to better purpose. "If I go to sleep now, wifey, will you wake me very early, so that I may have plenty of time to prepare?" With my loving assurance that I would watch the time for him, and call him soon enough, he was satisfied, and, like a trusting, tired child he laid his head upon the pillow, and slept soundly and sweetly at once.

Revealed in a dream!

By-and-by, a wonderful thing happened. During the first dawning hours of the Sabbath, (Sunday), I heard him talking in his sleep and roused myself to listen attentively. Soon, I realized that he was going over the subject of the verse which had been so obscure to him, and was giving a clear and distinct exposition of its meaning, with much force and freshness. I set myself, with almost trembling joy, to understand and follow all that he was saying, for I knew that, if I could but seize and remember the salient points of the discourse, he would have no difficulty in developing and enlarging upon them. Never (a) preacher had a more eager and anxious hearer! What if I should let the precious words slip? I had no means at hand of "taking notes", so like Nehemiah, "I prayed to the God of Heaven," Nehemiah 1V5F, and asked that I might receive and retain the thoughts which He had given to His servant in his sleep, and which were so singularly entrusted to my keeping. As I lay, repeating over and over again the chief points I wished to remember, my happiness was very great in anticipation of his surprise and delight on awaking, but I had kept vigil so long, cherishing my joy, that I must have been overcome by slumber just when the usual time for rising came, for he awoke with a frightened start, and seeing the tell-tale clock, said, "Oh, wifey, you said you would wake me very early, and

now see the time! Oh, why did you let me sleep? What shall I do?”. “Listen, beloved,” I answered; and I told him all I had heard. “Why! That’s just what I wanted,” he exclaimed: “that is the true explanation of the whole verse! And you say I preached it in my sleep?” “It is wonderful,” he repeated again and again, and we both praised the Lord for so remarkable a manifestation of His power and love. Joyfully my dear one went down to his study and prepared his God-given sermon, and it was delivered that same morning, April 13, 1856, at New Park Street Chapel. It can be found and read in Vol. 2 of the sermons (No. 74), and its opening paragraph gives the dear preacher’s own account of the difficulty he experienced in dealing with the text. Naturally, he refrained from telling the congregation the special details which I have here recorded, but, many years after, he told the tale to his students at one of their ever-to-be-remembered Friday afternoon gatherings, and some of them still keep it fresh in their memories. Recalled by Mrs. Susannah Spurgeon.

C. H. SPURGEON: THE EARLY YEARS BANNER OF TRUTH.



Picture taken from Christianity Today – Editor.

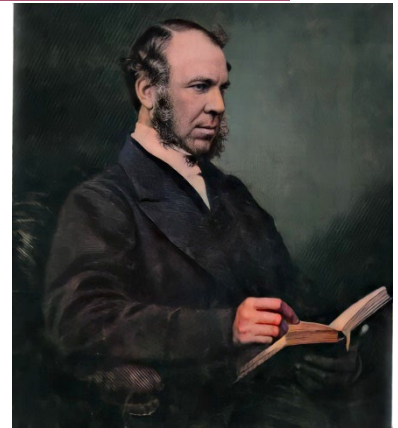
"But sometimes 'mountains' that have been much prayed over are removed very quickly."

**Henry Frost "By Faith" Mrs. Howard Taylor
China Inland Mission (OMF)**

HOLINESS - AN EXTRACT FROM

— BY BISHOP J.C. RYLE

I cannot withhold my conviction that the professing church ... is as much damaged by laxity and indistinctness about matters of doctrine within, as it is by skeptics and unbelievers without. Myriads of professing Christians nowadays seem utterly unable to distinguish things that differ. Like people afflicted with colour blindness, they are incapable of discerning what is true and what is false, what is sound and what is unsound. If a preacher of religion is only clever and eloquent and earnest, they appear to think he is all right, however strange and heterogeneous his sermons may be. They are destitute of spiritual sense, apparently, and cannot detect error. Popery or Protestantism, an atonement or no atonement, a personal Holy Spirit or no Holy Spirit, future punishment or no future punishment, "high" church (Anglo-Catholic), or "low" church (Evangelical), or "broad" church (Liberal), Trinitarianism, Arianism, or Unitarianism, nothing comes amiss to them: they can swallow all, if they cannot digest it! Carried away by a fancied liberality and charity, they seem to think everybody is right and nobody is wrong, every clergyman is sound and none are unsound, everybody is going to be saved and nobody is going to be lost. Their religion is made up of negatives; and the only positive thing



about them is, that they dislike distinctness, and think all extreme and decided and positive views are very naughty and very wrong! These people live in a kind of mist or fog. They see nothing clearly, and do not know what they believe. Now I do beseech all who read this message to beware of this undecided state of mind in religion. It is a pestilence which walks in darkness, and a destruction that kills in noonday. It is a lazy, idle frame of soul which, doubtless, saves men the trouble of thought and investigation; but it is a frame of soul for which there is no warrant in the Bible For your own soul's sake dare to make up your mind what you believe, and dare to have positive distinct views of truth and error. Never, never be afraid to hold decided doctrinal opinions; and let no fear of man and no morbid dread of being thought party-spirited, narrow or controversial, make you rest contented with a bloodless, boneless, tasteless, colourless, lukewarm, undogmatic Christianity. END.

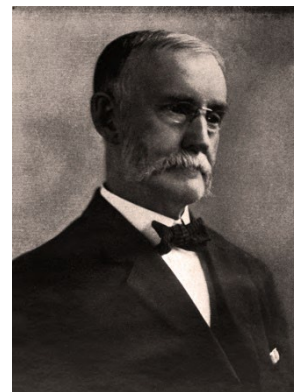
“To expound a heresy is to refute it.”

IRENÆUS – Church Father (A.D. approx. 120 – 200).

“For, the kingdom of God is not in the word, but in power.” 1 Corinthians 4V20.

FISHERS OF MEN

**“Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become, fishers of men.” –
Mark 1v17.**



Personal attachment to Jesus is the very beginning of all Christian life. Believing a creed does not make one a Christian. We may believe every word we find in the Bible about Christ, and every word of His that we have in the Gospels, and yet not be His disciples. A Christian is one who has joined Christ's party in this world and attached Himself to Christ as a personal follower. All the invitations Jesus gave implied this. He said, “Come unto Me;” “Come after Me;”, “Believe on Me;” “Follow Me.” He always wanted men to come out from the world and personally identify themselves with Him. Then after they have joined themselves to Him, and He has put His own Spirit into them, He begins to use them. He cannot use them in the saving of souls until they really belong to Him.

We cannot become “fishers of men” just as we become carpenters, or merchants, or physicians. It is not one

of the trades or professions to be taken up and learned as trades and professions are. Colleges and theological seminaries cannot make men “fishers of men.” They may teach them how to think, how to write, how to speak; they can furnish them with knowledge of many kinds, can teach them systems of theology, and make them exegetes (commentary on meaning), logicians (science of reasoning), rhetoricians (speakers) or orators (eloquent public speakers). But these things do not make men “fishers of men.” These acquirements may be helpful to them in their spiritual work if they are consecrated to Christ. But the point to be remembered is, that Christ alone can make any one truly a “fisher of men.” Teachers in the Sunday school should remember this. With all they can learn in normal classes about how to teach, and all they can get in teachers’ meetings or from lesson helps regarding the lesson, they need yet to go to Christ to learn to win the souls of their children.

**Taken from Daily Readings in the Life of Christ – March 26
Come Ye Apart by J.R. Miller, D.D. (1840-1912)**

“The Secret of a good sermon is – To have a good beginning and a good ending – and to have the two as close together as possible.”

By George Burns, comedian.

Mercury Newspaper (13/8/2010) Durban Thought for the Day.



“WHAT IS LOVE, LORD?”

SERMON BY PETER POLLOCK – 2ND PART

**“THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE (CHARITY)” 1 CORINTHIANS
13V13.**

We conveniently fit the Lord into our cultures, politics, and life-style. But, God is the be all and end all of life;
“other stuff is not working.”

Peter then recapped his life; his and Graeme’s parents were strict, and the boys schooled at Grey Hish School in old P.E. Its motto in Latin means: “Mind, body, and Spirit.” But the spiritual side, he feels in retrospect, was missing. Peter thought sport was the all in all. His four children, six grandchildren, sporting achievements, business world, gave him much fame and reward. In Australia after preaching, a hearer brought his son to him and introduced the famed cricketer telling the boy it was Peter’s team that beat Australia 4-0 in a test series. The boy looked up and down at Peter, to respond, “No ways!” and googled the actual facts before he believed them!

But though his life was fulfilling, the evangelist came to realize that all his achievements and life paled into

REFORMATION DAY EDITION

insignificance the day he met Jesus. He is the Pearl of great value, whom church leaders often battle to put as No.1. You have never met Him, if He is not first in your life. The world and the church need to hear this. Luke 14V26 speaks of hating all others – not hate in the usual sense, but an idiom of preference – in comparison to love for Christ.

Peter met a famous and humble matriarch in India, and she shared her sum total values of life:

“...you will ever know who/what Jesus is, until He is all you have.”

Mother Teresa (solid Protestant theology! - Editor)

A man in a wheelchair was to be prayed for, but he did not want to leave his wheelchair, as it was there that he found the Christ. With tears of joy; his condition and wheelchair he now saw as priceless!

APPLICATION AND CONCLUSION:



Some years back the preacher made a visit to Israel, and at the Garden Tomb was with his group who were given to praise and worship; he then felt the Holy Spirit say to him, “You must go back to Gethsemane.” Then with 5 others on the next day being time off, he went to the garden of Gethsemane. However, as they were in shorts their entrance was prohibited. But a little Jewish man beckoned him over the road and assured him that the whole place is Gethsemane. He had a key, and after a few shekels (cash) were parted with, they went in a gate!

A statue depicting the Lord when He had perspired blood was there. They shared Holy Communion, and Peter encountered a deep revelation of the Son of God:

- A. The Christ died for him – very specially for him that He sweated Blood. Isaiah 52V14 came to mind.
- B. Do not blame Pontius Pilate, the Jews and the Romans – they were just agents (instruments.) I, Peter Pollock, had put Him on the Cross.
- C. As if Jesus looked down on Peter and said, “Father forgive him, for he does not know what he is doing.”

Simon Peter denied Jesus, and his Risen Lord thus challenged him if he loved Him more than the other disciples do (John21V15F.) We are what we are, and impossible to love until His plan takes fruit in our lives, and so Jesus Christ became the core of Simon Peter’s life. Falling in love produces fruit in mind and body. A foretaste of the spiritual where heart and will take captive intellect (our own thoughts):

Jesus Christ is the only access to God, He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John14V6.) Love is Jesus – the One who brings us to the Father.

Where do you stand? This is the only decision of eternal consequence. Paul told Timothy to preach the Gospel in and out of season (2 Timothy 4V1&2.) The Gospel is the Revelation of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. Paul did not glory and boast of anything else, but Jesus (Galatians 6V14.)

Peter thanked the Lord for his 80 years and asked us:

“Where do you stand this morning with Jesus?”

His closing prayer challenged the hearers to choose to listen or to reject, and though they could fool the world, it is a response deep in our hearts:

**“Lord Jesus, I come to You as I am.
I believe, confess, repent and turn my back on sin.
Take Your glory ...take charge...
I love You Jesus.” AMEN.**

(A summary of Peter Pollock’s sermon at St John’s United PMB 27th June 2021 in gratitude for his 80th birthday on the 30th June in the city of his birth, and where his Presbyterian parents presented him as a baby to the Lord). Craig Hounsom

“The carnal person fears man, not God. The strong Christian fears God, not man. The weak Christian fears man too much, and God too little.”
John Flavel (1627-1691) Puritan.

HIROMI OF HOKKAIDO, JAPAN: **FEATURE**

A sweet “Cherry Blossom” in the Land of the Rising Sun promoted to glory (55 yrs).

“The most important thing in your life is not what you do. It is who you become.”

Dallas Willard – placed on the print of Hiromi’s loved art painting of Mina Taylor.

A fellow student of mine, Dale Viljoen, married another student Maude Fowler, and left home and country 44 years ago, to serve Jesus in Japan under the auspices of the illustrious OMF (China Inland Mission). Together, they had 3 fine sons born in Japan; Stephen, Peter and Luke.

Maude passed on some years ago, and Dale subsequently remarried a sunny Californian veteran missionary, Karen, whom we were able to meet in December 2022, during their deputation work, including visiting his



REFORMATION DAY EDITION

sending church, Mowbray Presbyterian. As a student Dale went on an OMF deputation with the late director of OMF, Rev. Don Houlston, and at the Pietermartizburg Presbyterian Church (now part of St John's United Church with the Congregational Church), he met a USA missionary who gave him some advice for the long road:

"You are now a slave, do not stoop to be a king" (1978).

Hiromi taught English, served tables and her people

Dale and Karen are now involved with the COEN Bible Community church, and “seconded” to the COEN Cafe outreach in Sapporo, Hokkaido, the northern island of Japan. It was there that a graduate of Biola University, California, Hiromi Takahashi, radiated the sweet Name of her Saviour Jesus, and His anointing graced her life. She returned from a visit to California, and her friends, late May 2023. On the 11th June her Intercity Express bus was hit head on by a truck, at Yakumo, Southern Hokkaido, leaving both crew and three passengers dead, including Hiromi!

[illegible]

“And I say unto you, That many shall come from the East and West, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the Kingdom of Heaven.” Matthew 8V11.

In an unusual gesture Japan's NHK Hokkaido TV aired part of the Christian farewell service at the COEN Café, and the following are rough translations of a few testimonies:

HIROMI WALKED WITH GOD AND SHE WAS NOT FOR GOD TOOK HER, GENESIS 5V24.

“A female colleague who said that Hiromi helped her with a problem just before her accident, shared, ‘When I said I had a concern, she came in front of me, looked me in the eye and said, ‘I’ll listen to you. I’ll listen to you.’ While talking to her, she listened to me without looking away until the end. And she told me that she was praying for me. I really wanted to talk and sing more and more. It’s a shame that I can’t hear that clear song of Hiromi’s”.

Another friend shared: “She was the kind of person who enveloped us with warm and bright air. She was like the sun, shining on us with the same temperature without dividing us”.

HIROMI'S LAST EMAIL TO ME (EDITOR) 5 JUNE 2023.

“I couldn’t help but smile as I read your email because I knew it was from the Lord. Do you know the Psalm I have just happened to read this morning contains the very words this ‘writer’ (me using my middle name) has included in the writing you have shared! ‘Surely the wrath of man shall praise you’ (Psalm 76V10).

“Also, C S Lewis ‘the most reluctant convert in all England’ rings a bell- I happened to watch the movie about him, which is called, *The Most Reluctant Convert!* a couple of weeks ago while I was in California....” (NB. The big screen movie is *SHADOWLAND* with Anthony Hopkins).

HIROMI - KAREN VILJOEN'S WEEKLY PRAYER LETTER (which was formerly Hiromi's ministry)

“The café has been a safe haven for many to gather and share their grief over Hiromi’s death ... We have cried, sung, laughed, and cried some more together. We have even overheard ‘not-yet-believers’ encouraging

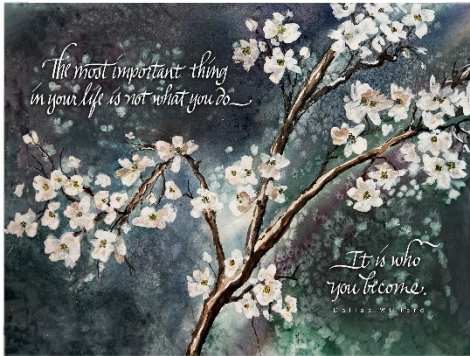
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others that 'Hiromi is with Jesus'...'".

"Hiromi was the kingpin in our Café COEN and the Bible Community Church ministry".

JAPAN'S MACEDONIAN CALL, COME OVER HERE AND HELP US, ACTS 16V9.

Dale and Karen Viljoen are under pressure, and need our prayer support and help. **"For many Japanese, the blooming of the Cherry Blossom trees symbolizes human life, transience (temporal) and nobleness". Sakura History – Japan Tourism Organization.**



If any of our readers respond, Protestant Reville will connect them.

A veteran Anglican stalwart, Neville Lobb's first convert to Jesus in Japan was Yokoto, who adopted the Biblical name of Ruth. We trust that the seed Neville sowed will reap an eternal crop.

What of your late call by the Holy Spirit; will you bloom in the land of the Rising Sun?

CRAIG HOUNSOM

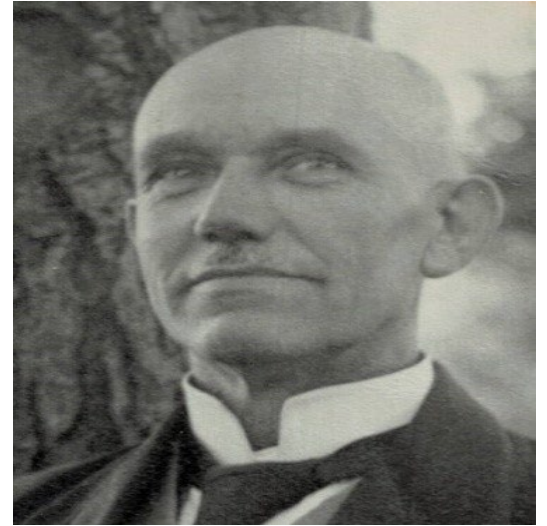


"He prayed constantly for God to 'exert His power in the conversion of the Eastern nations,' and felt that his prayer was being heard."
Rev. Henry Martyn of Cambridge, Missionary martyr. (1781-1812)

THE INJURED SOLDIER WHO MADE A VOW DURING WWI.

BIOGRAPHY OF REV. ROHLF UKEN.

Rohlf Uken was born in Germany on 17 September 1895. He was conscripted to fight in the First World War, during which he was seriously wounded in battle near Paris. Machine gun bullets penetrated both knees. During the 26 hours before he was admitted to a field hospital, he made a promise to the Lord that he would serve Him, instead of becoming a teacher, if he survived. In those days little attention was given to shock treatment. Amputations were done in an open hall. Many amputations were carried out, until the surgeon arrived at my Dad's bed. Luckily it was tea time.



After the short break, the doctor proceeded, skipping my Dad's bed. Much later, the orderly said we have skipped 'this one'. The doctor was exhausted, took one look at Rohlf and said: 'He should be OK'. Years later he was really OK, being able to walk without crutches or a limp. The large scars remained as a constant reminder of his vow.

After completing his theological studies, Rohlf and Elisabeth were sent to Zululand in 1926. He was given two years to learn the language from another missionary, and then sent to preach at the Lemgo Lutheran Mission Station. Later he was sent to Endhlovini, near Mtunzini, to build a church and establish the current Mission Station. This is where I was born and 80 years later I could meet the adjoining school principal. In 1939 my Dad was promoted to Georgenau near Wartburg, where he was serving 3 congregations and managing 11 Lutheran Mission Government Aided schools. This position had the added advantage that us 5 siblings could all attend the Primary and High Schools in Wartburg, near Pietermaritzburg.

Here Rev Rohlf Uken died at the age of 53, due to lead poisoning by the bullets. His last words on his death bed to me were: "Nichts hält mich noch auf dieser Welt". (*Nothing still keeps me on this Earth*). Although disturbing to an 11-year old boy, they made very good sense to me when I started serving as Church Elder and

Lay Preacher in the Lutheran Churches of Pretoria, Cape Town and Pietermaritzburg over the past 25 years. We can now truly join him singing Psalm 56 v12: *“Thy vows are upon me (us), O God”* According to Google:

‘Today’s eNdhlovini Church and Parsonage were built from 1937 onwards by Pastor Rohlf Uken’. Submitted by his son, Prof. Ernst Uken.

Editor’s Note: Pastor Rohlf & Elisabeth Uken’s memory has been honoured by the family’s gesture to the Bible Institute of S.A., Kalk Bay, obtaining a 100th Anniversary token of Christian goodwill towards its training of ministers and missionaries.



“ Missionaries ... simply a bunch of *nobodies* trying to exalt *Somebody*”.
Jim Elliot (27yrs) U.S.A. missionary martyr to Ecuador in 1956.



THE “PROPHETIC WORD”, OR THE BIBLE?

**“For the Word of God, and for the
testimony of Jesus Christ”
Revelation 1V9.**

God is not the author of confusion, a distinct
feature of our age, which is
heightened by the recent Pandemic and
shaking of the nations. He has given us

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His Word, the Holy Bible, which is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our paths

Psalm 119v89 and v105:

“Let the man who would hear God speak read Holy Scriptures”

Martin Luther.

This basic teaching, i.e. the Bible, of our Church Reformers, is the decider of all things. In an unpublished book, **Wells in the Desert – the neglect of truth**, the late Rev. Murdo Ross Gordon of the Isle of Skye and Kalk Bay, states:
“The Bible is the religion of Protestantism”.



RIVERS OF WATER IN A DRY PLACE.

It now appears that “rivers of water” need to flow further than our dry and thirsty land, as “each Tom, Dick, and Harry,” is bringing so called “prophetic words”, “revelations”, and “visions” to our unbelieving and evil generation, seeking a sign and the “Wow factor”! All this circulates with individuals claiming that they are Bible believing. What do we make of the extra – Biblical revelations, an old error, which is often behind cults and sects, and is similar to the false claim of Papal infallibility?

**“if private revelations agree with the Scriptures,
they are needless, and if they disagree, they are false”**

Dr John Owen – Former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford 17th Century.

In the sphere of religion people are often naïve and gullible, and impressed by a show of authority by seducing spirits in some: test the spirits by the very Book that they give lip service to, and appear to give allegiance to 1 John 4v1-6. Christ may be acknowledged, but the centrality of the Cross is not evident; resulting in a dead cesspool of error!

SOLA SCRIPTURA-Scripture alone.

It is a complete Book, and explicitly states in its final chapter that addition to or subtraction from this Book will result in the awful judgement of taking away that person’s part of the Book of Life Revelation 22V18-19. Those who play with the Word of God, play with fire! It is a detracting and shifting of attention from the Lord in His **settled Word**, to self-appointed “prophets” who put words in God’s mouth:

“The fanaticism which discards the Scripture, under the pretence of resorting to immediate revelations is subversive of every principle of Christianity. For when they boast extravagantly of the Spirit, the tendency is

always to bury the Word of God so they make room for their own falsehoods”

John Calvin-Geneva Reformer.



Taking God’s name in vain.

We are commanded to not take the Name of the Lord in vain, as that carries the eternal wrath of the very God whose Name is spoken in, or on behalf of, Exodus 20V1-17.

Some modern churches have largely abandoned the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the old doctrines found in Him. They have devised many inventions, often based on the sensational and private insights of opportunists seeking attention and an audience:

“For as soon as the Bible was cast aside, and no more put in exercise, then began every one of his own to write whatsoever came into his head and seemed to be good in his own eyes, and so grew the darkness of men’s traditions”

Miles Coverdale – English Reformer and translator.

It is not uncommon for sincere Christians to be vulnerable when they are stampeded with a show of religion, and pressure to hastily act in the “light” of some forceful and opinionated individual, who operate within the body of believers; there is no new thing under the sun, (Ecclesiastes 1v9).

History repeats itself:

“...in our day no error dares to rally round the uninstructed crowd without seeking the shelter of the Christian name”

Augustine (354-430AD) to Greek-speaking student Dioscorus.

The difference between the “prophetic word”, and the “Settled Word”, the Bible.

It is in the effect that error is ultimately exposed, and that may take time in unfolding. The word of man in a disguise of truth, and the Word of God, are Darkness and Light; and while the former cannot save even a saint, the latter turns the world upside down in its outworking! Acts 17V6.

All who come to know Jesus are drawn by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, which are joined together and never contradict each other. How many lives, that even the Lord’s children have given up on, have been changed by the Bible?

“ ‘The Lord has sworn’.

The most potent weapon with God is His own Word.”

Augustus F Tholuck – Quoted by Spurgeon on Psalm 132v11.

Christians, stand firm on the settled Word of God, and you will never be moved. It is a River of eternal Life, running to Heaven. We cannot put God in a box, and yet we dare not allow a so-called “prophecy” to add or to subtract from the Bible.

Rev. Craig Hounsom – Editor

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“And Oh! How deeply I have felt the sight of children entrusted to unconverted teachers;
Christ’s lambs given to the charge of the world.

On one of his collecting tours, as he was getting into his cart on a farm near Fraserburg, the old farmer advised him not to go too fast. He urged the need of care for the horses.

‘Uncle Piet,’ said Mr. Murray, ‘what would you do if a jackal had got into your sheep kraal (sheep fold)?’

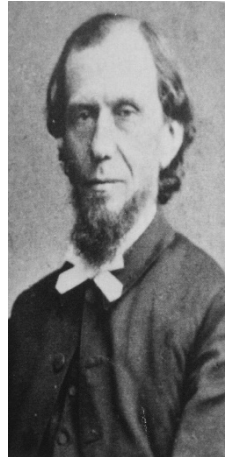
‘I would run to kill him or drive him out as quickly as I could’.

‘Well, Uncle Piet, there are two jackals among my sheep,’
and with that he touched the horses with his whip and was off.”

ANDREW MURRAY

AND HIS MESSAGE.

W.M. DOUGLAS.



The NGK (Dutch Reformed Church), S.A. honours the legacy of its great son Dr. Andrew Murray (1828-1917), the son of a Scottish father, Rev. Andrew Murray Snr., and Maria Susanna Stegmann, of French Huguenot Afrikaner stock. Dr. Murray maintained missions to be “the chief end of the church”. Wikipedia. It was a great moment in my life to introduce Dr Murray’s great-grandson’s widow, Mrs. Louise Murray, to my wife during 2022 in Stellenbosch, Western Cape. Editor.

KSDG- KOINONIA SINODALE DIENSGROEP

Eerste in-persoon gekombineerde vergadering van die Koinonia Sinodale Diensgroep (KSDG)
saam met secundi op 1 Junie 2023 in Pretoria



Voor Links na Regs: ds. D Kleynhans; ds. N Rossouw (skriba); dr. A Knoetze (voorsitter); ds. PC Pretorius (onder-voorsitter); ds. D du Toit; ds. T Danzfuss.
Rys 2: ds. H J van Rensburg; mnr. G van Niekerk; ds. P Otto; dr. H Klaasing; mnr. A Olivier; ds. N de Jager (sek); Prof. H Hofmeyer; ds. I Dubery (sek);
Agter (Inlas) Persone afwesig met verskoning: ds. J Koen (sek); ds. S J.v. Rensburg; dr. J Ernst; dr. B Marais.

Translated: KSDG – KOINONIA SYNOD COMMITTEE ‘s first combined meeting in Pretoria on 1 June 2023. By curtesy of Dr. Henrietta Klaasing (standing in pic). The aim is to stand against the

inroads of the tide of error threatening the NGK (Dutch Reformed Church), from within its own ranks! *Editor.*

Refer to <https://koinoniasinode.org.za>

“Then I put the brakes on glorified Bible Studies, walking sedately through passages of Scripture, and ‘doing books’ of the Bible”.

Geoff Thomas Sermon Archive on preachers’ sermons.

Rev. Dr Geoffrey Thomas was the minister of Alfred Place Baptist Church in Aberystwyth, Wales, from 1965 for the next fifty years.

Banner of Truth.



A painting of the NGK (Dutch Reformed Church), Botrivier, Overberg, Western Cape S.A.

The church celebrates its Centenary (100yrs) anniversary in November 2023.

The NGK contribution to South Africa cannot be overestimated, as it remains faithful to its Protestant fidelity to the Holy Bible, the inspired Word of God. The care, behind the scenes, of its social services is not generally known by the public, but done as unto the Lord Jesus.

Editor.

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