



Storming Fortresses

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh,
but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4

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A WORD:

It should need no long and laborious argument to demonstrate that God must require obedience... from every rational agent, for only thus does He enforce His moral government over the same... For God to issue commands is for Him to impose His authority on the one He has made; for him to comply is but to acknowledge his creaturehood and render that submission which becomes such. It is as the Lawgiver that God maintains His sovereignty, and it is by our obedience that we acknowledge the same. Accordingly we find that upon the day of creation Adam was placed under law, and his continued prosperity was made dependent upon his conformity thereto. In like manner, when the Lord took the nation of Israel into covenant relationship with Himself, He personally made known His laws unto them and the sanctions attached thereto. There are no exceptions to what has just been pointed out.

Arthur W. Pink

Twin Towers, Symbol of Hypocrisy

Part 7: The Clayton's Tragedy Cont'd

By

Murray McLeod-Boyle

Continued...

So that our readers do not think that we are simply picking on our American friends, we would like to point to the duplicity of our own government. In the 1950s the British and Australian governments conducted Atomic tests on Australian soil. As part of these tests they deliberately put men, service personnel and civilians, in harms way. They denied this for many years. Then, like the American stories above, there came an admission of what had taken place. Following are two news reports concerning these tests. We apologise for the

length of these reports, but we felt that it was important that voices be heard. This first article is from one of the victims as he leads a fight for justice. Read it carefully please. Note some of the obvious and deliberate acts by our governments. They are not painted in bold letters, but any person with a spattering of morality will see the wickedness and be forced to ask some serious questions:

Norman Geschke has found time in retirement to tinker with glass-domed, ornate antique clocks. He winds up one and a soldier parades on a turret, a train crosses a

bridge, a windmill turns. He is 77 and it is almost eight years since he stepped aside after a lengthy stint as state ombudsman. The wrong Mr. Geschke now hopes to see put right is the damage done when he was a RAAF bomber pilot sent out to track a mushroom cloud over outback Australia during British atomic tests in the early 1950s. He was moved to call for a "factual, independent inquiry" into the testing after reading a recent report in The Sunday Age on a criminal investigation by British police on the lawfulness of an order to another pilot who subsequently committed suicide, to fly through a

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mushroom cloud after a test at Christmas Island in 1958. Five years before that, Mr. Geschke had piloted a heavy bomber in a similar mission after testing at Emu Field, South Australia. Cancer has claimed the lives of at least two and possibly a third in the crew of the Lincoln he flew out from Richmond air base in Queensland on October 16, 1953. He does not know if exposure to radiation was responsible for the skin cancer that has afflicted him for years.

Mr. Geschke says an inquiry is long overdue before the further deaths of affected servicemen might enable governments to “again escape responsibility through procrastination and deviousness”. Among more than 16,000 Australian Defence Force members and civilians the Department of Veteran Affairs says participated in tests between 1952 and 1963, he was 29, married with two children, when the first of two bombs was detonated in Operation Totem at Emu Field. After waiting anxiously for several hours until the last 20 minutes of his rostered time on duty at Richmond the following day, he and his crew “happened to win the jackpot” and were called on to take the Lincoln up to track the cloud’s

progress towards Townsville, with metal canisters to sample the air and equipment to measure radioactivity. At the time, it was a welcome relief from tedium. “There was a competition among us as to who would do this flight,” Mr. Geschke says. “We were anxious to get up and fly.” They received no special warnings when briefed before departure in a bomber he fondly remembers as “a gentle aircraft” on what was to be another routine flight. They wore only flimsy flying suits, no protective gear. No one had any inkling there might be awful consequences to the “jackpot” mission.

Others were not so oblivious to the risks. An American B-29 pilot he met had taken part in earlier US tests and spoke of “a dirty cloud”. American pilots, he later learnt, “went on to full oxygen so they weren’t breathing any atmosphere at all”. British scientists also used protective equipment.

Mr. Geschke and his crew, however, had not only been kept ignorant of the dangers but had no special medical check-ups after they returned to base. One man had carried contaminated canisters bare-handed from the aircraft. “There’s a danger in war from the enemy,” Mr. Geschke says, “but you’re not expecting to be put in danger by your own side are you?”

It was not until crews from Woomera, also involved in the operation, were recalled from leave and contaminated aircraft grounded that suspicions were raised. “My argument is that with a lot of these things, it is absolute irresponsibility and negligence to put people into situations that can unnecessarily influence their lives,” says Mr. Geschke, who also cites the harmful effects of Agent Orange in Vietnam and untested inoculations and the effects of depleted uranium in weapons in the Gulf War in the same category of irresponsibility.

As federal chairman of the Regular Defence Forces Welfare Association (1974 to 1979) and Victorian om-

budsman (1980 to 1994), he had been sought out by families of others involved.

Air force friends caught up in the same exercises had succumbed to intestinal cancer and cancer of the oesophagus. “A number of families came to me to raise the case to see what they could do about it,” he says. “Not that I was a guru or anything like that, but just to guide them.

“A lot of them in the early stages had great fights on their hands to try to establish that they had suffered because of the atomic trials. The difficulty was how to prove it. The incidents were there. But they (the British government) wouldn’t recognise it.” He says the catalyst for him to go public after so long was the action of Shirley Denson, widow of a British pilot ordered to fly his plane repeatedly through a mushroom cloud after tests on Christmas Island in the late 1950s. She initiated a police investigation into whether it was legal to send Eric Denson and his crew through the cloud, in a case some say could open the way for claims from Australian, New Zealand and British servicemen exposed to radiation fallout. The testing in Australia was conducted at three sites: the Monte Bello islands off the coast of Western Australia, Emu Field and Maralinga in South Australia...

Mr. Geschke recalls his flight set off late with a crew of eight... They encountered the cloud at dusk and spent about three hours tracking it, turning again and again whenever radioactivity readings stopped. The light had gone and the horizon barely visible, let alone the cloud, when he switched on the radar “for some reason - there’s no great moment to it - (and) got a lot of flashing on the screen which I’d never seen before”. All eyes were on the screen. No one could account for the piercing beeps and green lights. One of the crew had previously devised a secret code to alert a colleague on the ground in the operations room at Richmond to the radioactivity they found, but it was

10 times the reading from the mushroom cloud they expected and the secret code proved inadequate to the task. "The British covered it up," Mr. Geschke says. "At the time it was going on, I asked a few questions. We couldn't get any answers. They said, 'Oh no. It's all in hand and everything will be all right'." He quit the air force in 1971 and says the consequences of his role in the atomic testing are "an annoyance"...¹

The second report is shorter and is here as a confirmation. It is the last line that is the important one:

A report released today by the National Archives of Australia shows Australian authorities were aware Australian and New Zealand military personnel involved in atomic bomb tests in the 1950s received excessive doses of radiation.

The report shows that more than one third of the 76 personnel involved in tests in 1956 received a radiation dose greater than the maximum "permissible exposure" in a week.

The records back work by British researcher Sue Rabbitt Roff, who said she had uncovered documents in the archive which proved servicemen were deliberately exposed to radiation in nuclear tests in the 1950s.

Her document says 24 British, Australian and New Zealand officers and civilians had walked, crawled and driven through a fallout zone three days after an explosion, testing out three different types of protective clothing.

"The object was to discover what types of clothing would give the best

protection against radioactive contamination in conditions of warfare," the document said.

In all, 12 British atomic bombs were detonated in Australia between 1952 and 1957.

British and Australian governments have long resisted pressure from veterans of the tests to accept they suffered radiation exposure and deserved compensation.

The British Government claimed in the European Court of Human Rights in 1997 that no humans had ever been used in experiments in nuclear weapons trials.

But the British Ministry of Defence ended years of denials and admitted yesterday it had used Australian servicemen in nuclear radiation tests.^{2, 3}

Our governments can talk about justice and peace all they want, but this justice and this peace is foreign to the Bible. It is a justice and a peace which does not accord with righteousness! As such, it is really hypocrisy and white man speaking with fork tongue. These words are used to disarm the people of their right to be concerned. These terms are used deliberately to misguide people as to the truth of the situation.

We realise that we are walking a fine line at this point. With every word we risk raising someone's ire or giving offence. However, we must go forward. We have read some very interesting and ill informed articles since September 11. There are Christians who are being led off the track by blind patriotism. Others are being

caught in the emotional tornado that sucks people into its vortex without hesitation, particularly if they are not prepared to resist.

Brethren, please do not follow blindly. If you feel that you must follow, do so with eyes wide open and with them fixed on Christ! Not fixed on Bush, Howard, Blair, Saddam or Osama, but fixed on Christ. Ours are truly difficult times and these world events are often complicated by unrighteousness, deceit, and half truths.

Let us leave the battlefield for a moment and return to our own domestic scenes. Talking about the political intrigue that surrounds the events of September 11 and its aftermath may be too divisive. So let us shift the focus a little to a subject that should, from a Christian perspective, be a little more solid and less fraught with danger.

The American leaders, in company with other Western countries, have decried tyrants who murder their own people. Again, what hypocrisy is this? How do the leaders of the West explain their inaction on the abortion issue, which is nothing short of government sponsored genocide against its own people.

All tolled, the September 11 attack killed, in round figures, three thousand people. This is a significant number and amounts to the population of a small rural town. Consider, however, the statistics on abortion. We, in Australia, lost ten people on September 11. On this basis we joined in a coalition dedicated to

1. The atomic test cover-ups: a 'jackpot' must have a pay-out, By Larry Schwartz, Sunday 3 February 2002 at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/2002/02/03/FFXEY5EA6XC.html>

2. Canberra knew military personnel exposed in atomic tests: report at http://www.abc.net.au/news/2001/05/item20010512013244_1.htm

3. Other sites with information about Australia's Atomic Tests: <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/20910/20020116/members.optusnet.com.au/~seanmd/nuke/>; http://www.naa.gov.au/publications/fact_sheets/FS129.html; <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/2002/02/03/FFXG0EDA6XC.html>; <http://www.tac.com.au/~anva/>

hunting terrorists. Yet our national abortion rate stands in excess of eighty thousand.⁴ This amounts to losses twenty times greater in a day than that of September 11. It is equivalent to the population of a major rural city. It is a pity we didn't join in a coalition aimed at saving the lives of our children!

Alas, things are about to get worse!

In January 1973, abortion was legalised in America. To date it is estimated⁵ that forty-two million lives have been taken by this insidious and monstrous abomination. Let's write that again so you grasp the magnitude: 42,000,000.⁶ That amounts to, in round figures, 1, 448,000 deaths per year; 3950 deaths per day; 165 deaths per hour; and 2.75 deaths per second.⁷

When we speak in figures of this magnitude we must be humbled. We

are not speaking here of the annihilation of a country town or rural city. Numbers of this enormity are the equivalent of nations. In fact, you would need to slaughter every living soul in Australia *twice* to fulfil this number.

Think about this, please. If our nation were exterminated overnight our ally America may avenge us. She would no doubt decry those who committed such an atrocity. What then do we think or say when she herself has murdered the equivalent of our nation twice over—and this without a word of remorse or a pang of conscience?

Earlier, we mentioned some of the horrors of World War Two. As an horrific event etched into the annals of history we can use this as a measuring device. The war was misery from first to last. It was marked by the release of unbridled hatred. This in turn gave rise to numerous events

that should not occur, even during a war. Whilst figures for such a horrendous event will never be exact, one history buff has given a combined figure (service personnel and civilians) of "circa 61,000,000."⁸ The world at war over a six year period managed to kill 61,000,000. In contrast, the United States, through twenty nine years of peace has murdered 42,000,000 of its people. Genocide!!??

No one can convince us that this innocent blood does not cry out from the ground. No one can convince us that the Lord will stay His hand of judgement when such abominable acts are carried out daily with the full knowledge of the citizens and governments alike.

Oh Lord, have mercy on us!

To focus this a little further we can look to the state of New York itself. The events of September 11

4. The figure of 80,000 can be found at <http://www.lifesa.asn.au/raped.htm>. We have also read reports that put the number as high as 150,000.

5. These estimations are not wild guesses. They are based on the reporting procedure by abortionists and other health care organisations.

6. **The Trend:** After reaching a high of over 1.6 million in 1990, the number of abortions performed annually in the U.S. has dropped to levels not seen since the late 1970s. Two independent sources confirm this decline: The government's Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alan Guttmacher institute (AGI), Planned Parenthood's special research affiliate monitoring trends in the abortion industry. The CDC develop its annual report on the basis of data it receives from 52 central health agencies (50 states plus the District of Columbia and New York City.) AGI gets its numbers from direct surveys of abortion providers. Because of these different methods of data collection, AGI consistently obtains higher numbers of abortions than the CDC. CDC researchers have admitted it probably undercounts the total number of abortions because reporting laws vary from state to state, and some abortion providers probably do not report or under report the numbers of abortions they perform. Nevertheless, because increases and decreases in CDC and AGI numbers have always roughly tracked each other, both sources are thought to provide useful information on abortion trends and statistics. According to the CDC's annual abortion report appearing in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Surveillance Summary of Dec. 8, 2000, the number of abortions performed in the U.S. in 1997 was 1,186,039, a drop of 3% from the previous year and the lowest number of annual abortions reported by the CDC since 1978. Overall, the 1997 numbers are nearly 17% below the 1990 numbers. The latest AGI figures confirm this downward trend. In the December 30, 2000 edition of the New York Times, Gina Kolata reported an AGI statistic of 1,328,000 abortions for 1997. This is a drop of about 2.5% from the 1996 numbers, and over 17% below AGI's 1990 high of over 1.6 million. Using AGI figures through 1997, estimating 1,328,000 for 1998-2001, and factoring in a possible 3% undercount AGI estimates for its own figures, the total number of abortions performed in the U.S. from 1973-2001 equals **42,036,175**. [Bold added] <http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/facts/abortionstats.html>

7. CDC (Center for Disease Control, USA) report on statistics for 1998 can be viewed at <http://www.nrlc.org/news/2002/NRL06/cdc.html>

8. <http://www.stokesey.demon.co.uk/wwii/casualty.html>

took place predominantly in that state. Two thousand eight hundred people died when the Twin Towers collapsed. As we have already noted, this became the catalyst for the world to unite against terrorism and wage war in Afghanistan. Yet in 1996, the state of New York recorded 152,991 abortions.⁹ Again, the disparity should be blatantly obvious to all.

Knee deep in the blood of the innocent, the President of the United States condemns those who kill their own people. Therefore, every declaration he makes, he makes against himself and his nation.

This man, George Bush, who is ascribed by many as a Christian, seems to have some very different ethics to the God of the Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 19:10-13: “So innocent blood will not be shed in the midst of your land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance, and bloodguiltiness be on you. “But if there is a man who hates his neighbor and lies in wait for him and rises up against him and strikes him so that he dies, and he flees to one of these cities, then the elders of his city shall send and take him from there and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die. **“You shall not pity him, but you shall purge the blood of the innocent from Israel, that it may go well with you.**

Deuteronomy 21:6-9: “And all the elders of that city which is nearest to the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley; and they shall answer and say, **‘Our hands have not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it.** ‘Forgive Thy people Israel whom Thou hast redeemed, O LORD, and do not place the guilt of innocent

blood in the midst of Thy people Israel.’ And the bloodguiltiness shall be forgiven them. “So you shall remove the guilt of innocent blood from your midst, when you do what is right in the eyes of the LORD.

2 Kings 21:16: Moreover, **Manasseh shed very much innocent blood** until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

Psalm 106:38: And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and their daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with the blood.

Jeremiah 7:5-7: “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor, *if* you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and **do not shed innocent blood in this place**, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin, *then I will let you dwell in this place*, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

Matthew 23:29-36: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, ‘If we had been *living* in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in *shedding* the blood of the prophets.’ **“Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered** the prophets. “Fill up then the measure *of the guilt* of your fathers. “You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell? “Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and

persecute from city to city, that upon you may fall *the guilt* of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. “Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation.

We note that “blood” and “land” play very important roles in the Scriptures. They are key covenantal subjects. Remember that Israel was cast out of the land because of the innocent blood that she shed, among other things. The slaughter of the innocent was a sign that a nation no longer feared and revered God as Law giver and the One to whom they must give account. It also meant that these people forgot or did not care that God was the defender of the innocent and that He would not stand by and watch an endless massacre.

This forgetting left Israel as an object of wrath, ripe to receive judgement. People of the West, what makes us any different? How is it that we think we will escape judgement when the blood of the innocent cries from the ground?

September 11 must be called a “Clayton’s Tragedy” because it really fails the test of being an ethically unique event. It may have involved a new means of attack. It may have been the first time international terrorism had arrived on American soil on that scale.¹⁰ However, in essentials, it does not differ from the Columbines or the drive by shootings in the back streets. All revolve around an evil doer taking life in order to gratify desire or make a point.

What September 11 had in com-

⁹. http://www.publicagenda.org/issues/factfiles_detail.cfm?issue_type=abortion&list=4. This site now lists the 1997 information, whereas the figure quoted is from the 1996 statistics. Unfortunately, the newer version does not contain the data for New York State.

¹⁰. Let’s not forget that this was the second attempt to fell the Towers.

mon with all other calamities is that on that day there were sinners who were unprepared to meet with God. That is the real tragedy!

The Conclusion of the Matter

Our series has led us to explore some difficult issues. It has placed the writer in a position of saying some things which are difficult to say. Nonetheless these things need to be said.

Brethren, we live in a sewer. The West is decadent, hedonistic, autonomous, and marked by all kinds of ungodliness. Our governments, and even some church leaders, have been busily handing out air fresheners, deodorisers, and cotton wool (to be placed into the nostrils). Every conceivable effort is being made to make our unhealthy and putrid state look like paradise.

The events of September 11 should have, above all else, given us pause to stop and look at the rotten state of our own nations. It should have been a “time out” to examine ourselves and truly ask of God, Why has this happened?¹¹ Instead, it became a time for vitriol. A time when venom was poured out at every one else. It became a time of talk. A time when beautiful words such as “justice” were murdered. A time when tyrants in distant lands were blamed.

It seems that the West has truly imbibed the spirit of psychology—in the midst of distress it blamed everyone else and claimed for itself the status of victim.

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, this should never be the case. If the Bible teaches us anything, it teaches us to examine our own role and guilt in a matter as the first priority.

James 5:13-16 states:

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

This verse has, unfortunately, suffered from the “baby and the bath water” syndrome. In reaction to the Roman idea of a “confessional”, Protestants have mostly buried these verses. Confession of sin does not take place as it should. If there is no confession then according to James there can be no healing.

Now, let us clarify this so that there are no misunderstandings. James does not say every sickness is a sure sign of sin. He says that “if he has committed sins” they will be forgiven. Then, in light of this, James commands us to confess our sins. Yet something is missing. It is implied at every stage, but not expressly stated. What is missing? The idea of an examination of one’s state. James’ instruction cannot be obeyed if we do not first search ourselves and know whether or not we are guilty of sin and therefore deserving of the infliction.

We would posit that this element is what was missing from September 11. We were given opportunity to reflect and see whether the sores upon us were because of our own sin. This proved to be too burdensome. Consequently, we chose to look at the sins

of others.

Finally, we as Christians in the West must take some responsibility. Our Lord has commanded that we be Salt and Light:

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. “Nor do *men* light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16).

If we find that our society is beginning to putrefy then we must look at the preservative. If we find that darkness is creeping in, we must look to the lights which repel the darkness.

Jesus, our Saviour and Captain, tells us that we are both. What are we not doing well, not doing at all, and doing contrary to Christ’s instruction that the state of decay and darkness exists?

We in the Church, like the governments on September 11, have chosen to point the finger at anything and everything, except our own guilt. We are not willing to admit that we have abandoned the truth of the Gospel for the whims and delights of our own egos; the doctrines of the world; and the value system of modern philosophy.

We demand that the worship service conclude in fifty-nine minutes and fifty-nine seconds. We are content to forgo Bible study and the

¹¹. This is not to be construed as blaming God, but points to a humble and genuine enquiry that would lead to an examination in the Light. Psalm 139:23-24

prayer meeting because of that fascinating serial on television. We refuse to speak out because we might become known as a “fundamentalist.” We are not willing to write to the local paper about homosexuality because we do not want to be known as a homophobic!

Beloved, where would we be today if a forthright, beer swilling monk (as some would define him), by the name of Luther had not nailed his theses to a door. Old Martin may not have passed the test of Europe’s finest finishing school, but he had a conviction that all must yield to Christ. His conviction meant that he had no life of ease. He was kidnapped by his own friends to save his life.

In the wake of September 11, it is time we got the nails and the hammer out again. Whilst we grieve at the loss of life, we should not be deterred from seeing the blatantly obvious wake up call that this event was and is.

Can you justify your support of our governments when they are as guilty as those they accuse? Are you willing to send your armed forces to war, to fight another political war, the stupidity if which has been proven time and again, when we in the West are morally and ethically bankrupt?

Then there are the religious questions. Have you bought the West’s public affirmation of Islam as a peaceful religion? Let’s face it, Islam has been the winner in the light of September 11. Instead of being denounced, the governments of the West have actively supported and propagated it. As we are a little behind with publishing we have the advantage of viewing the anniversary of 9/11. Islam got the “thumbs up” again. We have also seen the Bali bombings. Islam wins again. How so? We have the Americans releasing

a documentary come advertising campaign in Indonesia which highlights how Muslims have made a prosperous and peaceful life for themselves in the US. We are contemplating giving ten million dollars to Indonesia to improve airport security. All this when Indonesia has done nothing in the last few years to combat the radicals living within its borders.

Well, one thing is certain. Islam will come in under budget this year. Their evangelism budget has been saved because the leaders of the West are doing the proselytising for them. George Bush, Tony Blair, John Howard and Simon Crean are the new and active voices for Islam. Muslims have certainly been the winners.

Yet, we wonder, do these leaders have any idea about the beliefs of Islam, apart from what some aide wrote in a brief? Do they know what the Muslims are doing to the Christians in Africa? How has it escaped their notice that the UN has sided and acted with the Muslims in all the conflicts of recent years? Has it escaped their notice that the terrorism, that is, the obvious terrorism—blowing up planes, buildings, etc, conducted in the last decades has come at the hands of Muslims?

Christianity is banned from schools. People are forbidden to use the name of Christ in public, except as a swear word. The incongruity? Those who banned Christ from the public square are the same ones performing contortions to embrace Islam.

Brethren, a second Reformation will never be conducted from our lounge chairs. We must raise our flag and be willing to fight for it. We must, as Luther, Knox, Calvin, and Zwingli before us, engage the world

in which we live.

The current environment gives us an acid test of our faith. Are our beliefs and the Kingdom of God and of His Christ worth fighting for? In the end the question is that simple. Our very way of life is threatened. Our freedom, our law, our peace, our idea of justice, and many other aspects of our Western societies, are founded upon principles derived from God’s Word.

We can either surrender these and be oppressed by Humanism, Islam, or some other tyranny or we can publish abroad the Gospel of Christ and continue to live in freedom. What is more, we can begin to establish a greater freedom than what we currently experience

It is time for action. We must, as Christ’s disciples, be prepared to speak out against the foolishness of our governments and our cultures. We can no longer be held to ransom by unjust taxation—thievery. We can no longer be levied and taxed at the governments whim—larceny. We can no longer allow governments to opt out of their responsibilities to the orphan and the widow—social neglect. We can no longer see the worker oppressed and the bludger rewarded—injustice. We can no longer abide a legal system that rewards evil doers and destroys the rights of law abiding citizens—anarchy. We must re-establish the priority of the family—future. We must put an end to homosexuality—death. We must limit the accumulation of wealth by the chosen few—oppression. We must reclaim our parliaments and have just representation—it used to be called Democracy and should not be confused with the current inferior product marketed under the same name. Our pulpits must be reclaimed by men who fear God and not man—prophets. We must remember our first love—thankfulness.

We must be true to our confession—conscience. We must bring all things into captivity to Christ—obedience.

It is time that the Christians of the West came before God in humble submission and asked for the intestinal fortitude to stand in our day. We have all stood in the assembly¹² and lifted up our voice to the hymn, “Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus.” Did we mean what we were singing? Did these words ring true:

1. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross; Lift high His royal banner, It must not suffer loss: From vict’ry unto vict’ry His army shall He lead, Till ev’ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.

2. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, The trumpet call obey; Forth to the mighty conflict, In this His glorious day: Ye who are men, now serve Him Against unnumbered foes; Let courage rise with danger, And strength to strength oppose.

3. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Stand in His strength alone; The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own: Put out the gospel armor, Each piece put on with pray’r; Where duty calls, or danger, Be never wanting there.

4. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, The strife will not be long; This day the noise of battle, The next the victor’s

song: To him who overcometh A crown of life shall be; He, with the King of glory, Shall reign eternally.¹³

Friends, please understand the intent with which this is written. We have a mission to accomplish. We must see the saints safely to the other side. We must call the lost into the light. We must storm the fortresses, setting the captives free and taking territory for our King.

This we do in the power and strength of our God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This we do for the glory of our Christ and the establishment of His kingdom— A rock hewn without human hands that shall smash all the kingdoms of the world

Do not let the September 11’s of this world shake your foundations. Be educated, be armed, be prepared in season and out to declare the reason for the hope that is in you. Submit, therefore, to the faithful preaching of the Word. Diligently attend to daily devotions. Do not abstain from Bible study or prayer meetings.

Finally, beseech Almighty God for the strength and courage to take the field. Pray for the courage to imitate Luther: “Here I stand, I can do no other.”

Be encouraged Brethren, for Christ has overcome the world:

Ephesians 6:10-20: Finally, **be strong in the Lord**, and in the strength of His might. *Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm* against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil *one*. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **With all prayer and petition pray** at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and *pray* on my behalf, **that utterance may be given** to me in the opening of my mouth, **to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel**, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

¹². The exception being our Psalm singing Brothers. Equivalents would be Psalms: 9; 10; 20; 76.

¹³. Joyful Noise Music Company, *Logos Hymnal*, (Fort Worth, TX: Joyful Noise Music Company) 1994.