Trawled Treasure

(A collection of mainly Christian quotations)



More than 40,000 words compiled over more than 40 years by Gareth P Bolton

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ADMINISTRATION

'The next deluge will not be of water but of paper.'

WILLIAM FAULKNER

AGE

'Youth would be an ideal state if it came later in life.'

HERBERT HENRY ASQUITH

'We do not stop playing because we are old. We grow old because we stop playing.'

HELEN HAYES

HELE

'Youth is wasted on the young.' SAMMY CAHN

'You've reached middle age when all you exercise is caution.'

PETER ROSE

'Young people have no reverence for their parents. They are impatient of all restraint; they talk as if they alone knew everything, and what passes for wisdom with us is foolishness for them.'

PETER THE HERMIT (11th Century)

When I was 18, I thought my father a fool; when I was 25, I realised how wise he had become in the intervening 7 years.'

MARK TWAIN

'He (sc. Saul) thought youth was exclusively a matter of age.'

P T SMYTHE

'Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do and the eyesight to tell the difference.' ANON

'Middle Age is when you stop criticising the older generation and start criticising the younger one'.

LAURENCE PETER

We soon reach middle age when our broad mind and narrow waist change places'

Quoted from 'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

'No matter how rich, powerful, glamorous or influential you might be, to confront ageing is to confront the reality of your mortality'. (USA Prof of Physics) PROFESSOR KAKU

'In Ephesians 4:13, no mention is made of old age. For in Christian progress, no place for it is found'.

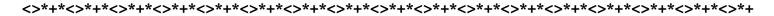
JOHN CALVIN

'Growing old is compulsory - growing up is optional'.

BOB MONKHOUSE

People think maturity comes with age. No; growing old comes with age. Maturity comes with taking responsibility.

ED COLE



ANGER

'What is outrageous is the absence of outrage'

GEORGE F WILL

'There are times when I do well to be angry, but I have mistaken the times'
PHILLIPS BROOKS

'Anyone can be angry: that is not difficult. But to get angry about the right things, in the right way and in the right proportion, that takes skill.'

ARISTOTLE

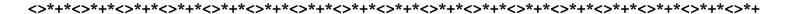
Take any upright man or woman. He will get along very nicely with those who do not provoke him, but let someone proffer only the slightest irritation and he will flare up in anger...if not against friends, then against enemies. Flesh and blood cannot rise above it'

MARTIN LUTHER

'I've learned to pick my battles; I ask myself, Will this matter one year from now?

How about one month? One week? One day?'

UNKNOWN



APOLOGETICS

The very need for a thing called 'apologetics' is an example of the weakness of theistic argument; 'God' always needs apologies, rationalisations, explanations, equivocations, excuses.'

MARK R BILBO (Host and operator of www.alt-atheism.org)

The word 'apologetics' is the most unfortunate word, because it is not a translation, it is a translation. We have taken the word 'apologia' in Greek and made a word from it in English. But if we just translated the word and put your question into English, then it would be, "Do you think churches need to take the defence of the gospel more seriously?" Of course, they should. The problem is that by taking this word and making a special word from it that sounds very intellectual, we reduce 'Apologetics' to a subgroup of philosophy instead of 'defending the gospel'. One of the biggest problems we face is that people say, 'Well I'm not into apologetics.' That is absurd. What, you're not interested in defending the gospel? Are you sure you believe it? We must get away from the mindset that says apologetics is a special activity. That has been very bad and very dangerous.' Prof. JOHN LENNOX (UKEA interview, 2013)

'Love is the final apologetic of the gospel.' DR FRANCIS SCHAEFFER

There is nothing so self-defeating as a question that has not been fully thought through before it is posed.' C S LEWIS

BALANCE

'We all live with a bag of inconsistencies called ourselves' ANON

'One of the dangers of technology is work and rest blend together. We are never completely 'on' and never totally 'off'. So, we dawdle on YouTube at the office and then catch up on emails in front of the television at home....it is a concern that our lives are getting more and more rhythm-less. We do not have healthy routines. Evening and morning have lost their feel.'

KEVIN DEYOUNG (USA Pastor)

'I have dedicated too much to public ministrations and too little time to private communion with God' (1795 Journal).

HENRY MARTYN

BIBLE (1/4)

'I can truly say that the King and I long to see the Bible back where it ought to be as guide and comfort in the homes and lives of our people.'

QUEEN MOTHER (1951)

'This is the most valuable thing that this world affords'

IBID (1989)

'My country's success lies in a love for and obedience to this book.'

QUEEN VICTORIA (to an Indian Prince)

'Nurture an appetite rather than instil a habit.'

ANON

'It's a cracking good tale but anybody who takes it literally needs their head examining.'
BRIAN REDHEAD

'It is impossible to govern the world without the Bible.'

GEORGE WASHINGTON

'The Word of God is not primarily to be debated and discussed but to be obeyed.'

DR STEVE BRADY

'The primary ethical thrust of the OT is, in fact, social.'

CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT

'One of the many divine qualities of the Bible is this: it does not yield its secrets to the irreverent and censorious.'

J. I. PACKER

'Isn't it amazing that almost everyone has an opinion to offer about the Bible, and yet so few have studied it?'

R.C. SPROUL

'Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself but because it contradicts them.'

THE DEFENDER

You can never really know the scriptures until you are willing to be changed by them.'

BROTHER YUN

"The Word of God is above the Church."

THOMAS CRANMER

"I will put down all apparent inconsistencies in the Bible to my own ignorance."

JOHN NEWTON

"Every thinking man, when he thinks, realises that the teachings of the Bible are so interwoven with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally impossible for us to figure what life would be if those teachings were removed. We would lose almost all the standards by which we now judge both public and private morals; all the standards to which we, with more or less resolution, strive to raise ourselves." THEODORE ROOSEVELT

"Scripture is the manger in which we find the Christ child."

MARTIN LUTHER

BIBLE (2/4)

"In regard to this great book, I have got to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Saviour gave to the world was communicated through this Book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of this, a knowledge of the Bible. When you have read the Bible, you will know that it is the Word of God, because you will have found it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty."

WOODROW WILSON

"Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the Book widens and deepens with our years."

CHARLES SPURGEON

"The Bible, the whole Bible, & nothing but the Bible is the religion of Christ's Church." IBID

"Education is useless without the Bible."

NOAH WEBSTER

"The Bible is the chief moral cause of all that is good, and the best corrective of all that is evil, in human society; the best Book for regulating the temporal concerns of men, and the only Book that can serve as an infallible guide...the principles of genuine liberty, and of wise laws and administrations, are to be drawn from the Bible and sustained by its authority. The man therefore, who weakens or destroys the Divine authority of that Book may be accessory to all the public disorders which society is doomed to suffer..."

NOAH WEBSTER

"The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all of our civil constitutions and laws...All the miseries and evils which men suffer from – crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war - proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

"I have done nothing; the Word has done and accomplished everything."

IBID

"It is a miracle how God has so long preserved His Book! How great and glorious it is to have the Word of God!"

IBID

"My conscience is captive to the Word of God."

IBID

"The Bible is worth all the other books which have ever been printed."

PATRICK HENRY

"We must never edit God."

A.W. TOZER

BIBLE (3/4)

"The Bible is a book, in comparison with which all others in my eyes are of minor importance; which in all my perplexities and distresses has never failed to give me light and strength."

ROBERT E LEE

"The Bible is the sceptre by which the Heavenly King rules His Church." JOHN CALVIN

"The truly wise man is he who always believes the Bible against the opinion of any man."

R.A. TORREY

"If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if were now posterity to neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity."

DANIEL WEBSTER

"The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying."

JOHN FLAVEL

"A Bible reading laity is a nation's surest defence against error."

J.C. RYLE

"The Christian feels that the tooth of time gnaws all books but the Bible...19 centuries of experience have tested it. It has passed through critical fires no other volume has suffered and its spiritual truth has endured the flames and come out without so much as the smell of burning."

W.E. SANGSTER

"Doers of the Word are the best hearers."

THOMAS WATSON

"In this age of space flight when we use the modern tools of science to advance into new regions of human activity, the Bible...remains in every way an up to date book. Our knowledge and use of the laws of nature that enable us to fly to the moon, also enable us to destroy our home planet with the atom bomb. Science itself does not address the question whether we should use the power at our disposal for good or for evil. The guidelines of what we ought to do are furnished in the moral Law of God."

WERNER VON BRAUN

"Thankfully, society as a whole has realised that the Bible is not the literal word of God and believes that the bigotry and intolerance within its pages is unacceptable." THE STUDENT President of BLOGS (Bisexual, Lesbian or Gay Society)

"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education." VON BRAUN

"I consider it a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God".

GEORGE MULLER

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BIBLE (4/4)

"Much Old Testament teaching is concerned with organising the corporate side of life, laying down laws, ordering community, establishing political and social justice. In contrast, the New Testament focuses on the individual: on the struggle in the individual's life to put God first before one's worldly desires; on the individual's own morality, generosity and awareness of others....to form communities of the 'God centred'. Jesus brought the Kingdom of God...to the individual's life, and sought through the individual to transform society and the world.'

"The Irrelevant Church" by ROBIN GAMBLE

The writers of scripture misapprehended and misread the mind of God...the book of Revelation contains page after page of paranoid fantasy'.

(Open to Judgement, 1994) ROWAN WILLIAMS

You cannot read the Scriptures too much; and what you read, you cannot read too well; and what you read well, you cannot too well understand; and what you can understand well, you cannot too well live.' MARTIN LUTHER

'Our congregations will never be mature, our impact on society will never be significant, and our hopes of revival will remain distant until we develop a stronger desire to read, understand and apply God's word to our lives.' 'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

'The Bible is the only book where the author is present when we read it'. ANON

Engaging with the Bible was thrilling: I couldn't wait to learn more. I love to see others discover the same joy as they wrestle with God and study deeper. There isn't anything more enjoyable than that.'

OLDI MORAVA (Albanian Bible Translator)

To most Christians the Bible is like a computer software license. Nobody actually reads it. They just scroll to the bottom and click, 'I agree'.

ANON

'Disregard the study of God and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction & no understanding of what surrounds you'.

J I PACKER

The more you read de Bible, the more you meditate on it, the more you'll be astonished by it.'

C H SPURGEON

CHARACTER (1/2)

'If you don't stand for anything then you will fall for anything' WALL GRAFFITI

'Our character is the result of the choices we have made.'

ANONYMOUS

'Character is revealed by what I do in secret.'

ANONYMOUS

'Maturity is revealed by what I do in my free time.'

ANONYMOUS

'Happiness is a choice' ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'A man is as happy as he wants to be.'

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

'God's call is not primarily to work but to be.'

DAVE EDWINS

'The true orientation of Christians is not what we are by constitution (hormones) but what we are by choice (heart, mind and will).'

JOHN R W STOTT

'We pray for God to change our circumstances but not our character.'
(Quoted by) CAPTAIN GEORGE BOOTH

'When a difficult person or moment comes, see in it a chance to die.' AMY CARMICHAEL

The expansion of the right of the individual to behave or misbehave.....has come at the expense of orderly society. I would hazard a guess that it has a lot to do with the erosion of the moral underpinnings of a society and the diminution of personal responsibility"

LEE KUAN YEW

'Destructive and irresponsible freedom has little defence against the abyss of human decadence, such as, for example, misuse of liberty for moral violence against young people, motion pictures full of pornography, crime and horror and so forth.'

ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN

'Human nature changes not much faster than the geological face of the earth.'

ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN

'Christianity is the only major religion to have as its central event the humiliation of its god.'

BRUCE SHELLEY

CHARACTER (2/2)

"The longer I live, the more I realise the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the 1 string we have & that is our attitude. I am convinced life is 10% what happens to me & 90% how I react to it & so it is with you."

'Apostolic claims without apostolic character produce apostolic catastrophe.' GEORGE MILEY

'I have learned that what seems funny to the strong can be cruel and humiliating to the weak.'
BILL CLINTON

'Sour godliness is the devil's religion.' JOHN WESLEY

When you chose independence over relationship, you become a danger to others. Others then become objects to be manipulated or managed for your own happiness. Authority as you usually think of it is merely the excuse the strong use to make others conform to what they want.'

Adapted from 'The Shack' by WM. PAUL YOUNG

"Transparency is not an option. Cover-ups lead to flare-ups [but] exposure leads to healing." (Senior Pastor of Nairobi Pentecostal Church) CALISTO ODEDE

'I learned that to humiliate another person is to make him suffer an unnecessarily cruel fate. I sought always to defeat my opponents without dishonouring them'.

NELSON MANDELA (Memoirs)

'When your character is in conflict with your values, you experience guilt'. DICK VAN DYKE

'Self-deception is not the worst thing that you can do but it is the means by which we do the most terrible things.'

'Don't be impressed by money, followers, degrees and titles. Be impressed by kindness, integrity, humility and generosity'.

MINDFUL CHRISTIANITY

'a feeble folk, not very wise, not very holy, not very patient. They have broken most of the commandments and fallen into every conceivable mistake'.

(Certain Christian missionaries) STEPHEN NEIL



CHILDREN

'When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments: tenderness for what he is and respect for what he might become.'

LOUIS PASTEUR

'The happiest little girl I ever knew was a Christian - although only eight years old and blind.'

J. C. RYLE

'It is a sacred joy for me to know that boys and girls are praying for me. I have more confidence in the spiritual life of the children I have received into this church than I have in the adults.'

C. H. SPURGEON

'Matthew Henry was 11, Richard Baxter was 6, Robert Moffat was only a young boy, Helen Cadbury (founder of P.T.L.) was 12, Rosalind Goforth was 11, Countess of Huntingdon and Isaac Watts were only 9, Catherine Booth's eight children were all under 10, Jonathan Edwards and Mary Slessor were 7, Amy Carmichael was 9 and Jim Elliot was 6when they were converted to Christ.'

'Never under rate the under eights.'

HUDSON POPE

'There is everything in our Saviour to charm and attract children.'

F. B. MEYER

'If men do not keep on speaking terms with children, they cease to be men and become merely machines for eating and earning money.'

JOHN UPDIKE

- (1) Pray for them.
- (2) Love them.
- (3) Teach them
- (4) Take time with them.
- (5) Write to them.

(*Five-fold plan to be a blessing to children.*)

ROGER CARSWELL

The soul is healed by being with children'.

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

'Isaac Watts was 4 when he learned Latin, 9 when he learned Greek, 10 when he learned French and 13 when he learned Hebrew'.

BIOGRAPHY

When I am a man, I mean to be a missionary and go to China'. HUDSON TAYLOR (aged 5)



CHRISTIANITY (1/4)

'Christianity was born in Palestine. They took it to Greece & they made it into a philosophy. They took it to Rome and they made it into an institution. They took it to America and they made it into a business enterprise. They took it to England and they made it into a tourist attraction.'

TONY CAMPOLO

We tolerate no one in our ranks who offends against the idea of Christianity. In fact, our movement is Christian.'

ADOLPH HITLER

'I can only thank the Lord for blessing us in such a wonderful way (in this our first difficult struggle for our rights). I pray to him to let us and all others to find the right path that all may be granted new peace and happiness'.

IBID

'Once sever the fundamental root of conversion to Christ from the Christian message and it becomes a broken and lifeless plant, however beautiful the flowers of Christian concern and social involvement it displays'.

MICHAEL GREEN (EIEC)

'A growing army of more contemporary Christians, comfortable with technology and in tune with modern culture have grown impatient with the status quo. They are making their way across the landscape, meandering between the new language and values with such consummate ease that their distinctive features may not always be easily identified at their first glance. They are comfortable in cinemas and theatres, they may even smoke and use words their parents would not approve of. They do believe the Bible, but they may not believe it like most people who call themselves evangelical. In fact, they may prefer to be called 'post-evangelical' if they use the label at all.

JOEL EDWARDS

'...self-conscious revolt against authority...the 20th century was caught up in a global revolution, epitomised in the two World Wars. The old order is giving place to the new. All the accepted authorities (family, school, university, State, Church, Bible, Pope, God) are being challenged. Anything that savours of establishment, that is of entrenched privilege or unassailable power, is being scrutinized and opposed...the erosion of Christian faith in the West has continued. Relativity has been applied to doctrine and ethics and absolutes have disappeared. Darwin has convinced many that religion is an evolutionary phase, Marx that it is a social phenomenon, and Freud that it is a neurosis. Biblical authority had for many been undermined by biblical criticism. The comparative study of religions has tended to downgrade Christianity to one religion among many, and has encouraged the growth of syncretism. Existentialism severs our historical roots, insisting that nothing matters but the encounter and decision of the moment.'

JOHN R W STOTT

Today with the foul miasma of evangelism rising up to engulf us from every corner of God's poor earth, it is hard to remember that good Christian lives were once lived without words like 'outreach' and 'salvation' being dragged into general conversation. God was a dignified generous father and Christ his beautiful liquid eyed son; they loved you even when they saw you on the lavatory or caught you stealing sweets. That was Christianity, something quite unconnected to hymns, psalms, anthems & the liturgy of the church.'

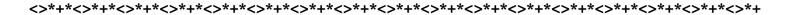
(Moab is my Washpot) STEPHEN FRY

'Western Christianity is privately engaging and socially irrelevant.'

OS GUINNESS

The world is trying the experiment of attempting to form a civilised but non-Christian mentality society. The experiment will fail; but we must be very patient in awaiting its collapse. Meanwhile we should redeem the time so that the Faith may be preserved alive through the dark ages before us, to renew and rebuild civilisation and save the world from suicide,'

(from an essay written in 1930) T S ELIOT



CHRISTIANITY (2/4)

"No-one in charge of Christianity seems to be that convinced about the product." TIM RICE

There is such a dichotomy between what we Christians profess and the way we behave that it makes me wonder whether our profession is really genuine. I am sure the world wonders too.'

MIKE WAKELY

'Extremes always excite people; even when they are thoroughly wrong, you'll find people excited by extremes.'

JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

"The cultural captivity of Christianity in the West is almost complete. And with the religion tamed, it is now open season on the West's Christian heritage. I worry about a West without a moral centre, especially as it faces a politically resurgent Islam".

LAMIN SANNEH (Professor of History Yale University)

"A root cause of the problems identified is the century's long assumption that Western Christianity exists within a cultural context compatible with the faith of Christ. That long term understanding has meant we have largely failed to recognise the changes brought about by modernity. So, we have ended up in the Western church with an advanced state of syncretism".

BISHOP LESSLIE NEWBIGIN

"European Christianity has lived for so long in a state of peaceful coexistence with the postenlightenment culture that it is almost impossible for us to recover the standpoint of a genuine missional approach to that culture".

BISHOP LESSLIE NEWBIGIN

"So much popular Western evangelical religiosity is so shallow and selfish. It promises so much, it demands so little. It offers success, personal happiness, peace of mind, material prosperity but it hardly ever speaks these days of repentance, sacrifice, self-denial, a holy life style and a willingness to die for Christ". PETER KUSMIC (Balkan evangelical leader)

The Christian church is not defined by the Enlightenment rationalism that informs our present decaying culture. In the last years of the previous century, the confusion and chaos underlying secular sexual ethics and the unforeseen consequences that attached themselves to the political agenda of pseudo-egalitarianism, have given Christians in the developed world pause for thought. The so-called traditionalism is about a quest for holiness and personal and social regeneration. These resources are found beyond the dogmatic grip of secularised rationalism. Where authentic Christianity has been practised it brings a deep personal change and renews itself in a way that liberal or secularised Christianity fails to achieve. This is a counter cultural view of humanity which is not restricted to either an incoherent appeal to 'rights' that don't exist, however stridently they are insisted on, or a view that humanity is defined by its sexual longings. Until the hubris of our cultural arrogance gives way to a fresh spirit of inquiry, the fault lines of this debate will continue to be misunderstood in terms of traditional v progressive, instead of renewal v decay'.

CANON GAVIN ASHENDEN (a letter to 'The Times', 02/11)

CHRISTIANITY (3/4)

'I like your Christ, but I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.'
MOHANDAS MAHATMA GANDHI

It is not inconceivable that the decline in Christianity since World War 2 may be due at least in part to the failure on the part of churches to act against the Holocaust. When the church fails to act in truth, justice and courage at historic times of evil against humanity, it signs its own death warrant for subsequent generations'.

(On the Side of the Angels) D'SOUZA and ROGERS

'Christianity is not a tame and harmless ethic, consisting of a few moral platitudes, spiced with a dash of religion'.

JOHN R W STOTT

'Not for 2000 years has it been possible for society to exclude or eliminate Christ from its social or political life without a terrible social or political consequence'

(from 'Christianity and Conservatism', 1990) MARGARET THATCHER

'Christians exhibit temperance, exercise self-control, preserve monogamy, guard chastity, cast out unrighteousness, root out sin, care for righteousness, live [according to] the law, practise godliness, confess God; with Christians truth arbitrates, grace is maintained, peace shelters, the holy word guides, wisdom teaches, life arbitrates, God rules'

THEOPHILUS, bishop of Antioch in Syria (c. 120 – c. 200)

It was the double thing. On the one hand there was the truth. I was convinced it was true. The other thing was the adequacy. It answers the deep questions and challenges in a way that no other faith or life philosophy does'. OS GUINNESS

I believe we should be more confident about our status as a Christian country, more ambitious about expanding the role of faith-based organisations and frankly, more evangelical about a faith that compels us to get out there and make a difference to people's lives.'

DAVID CAMERON (Church Times, 2014)

'Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be, is moderately important.' C S LEWIS

'Christ says, 'Give me all. I don't want so much of your time, so much of your money, so much of your work: I want you. I have not some to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there. I want to have the whole tree down. I don't want to drill the tooth, or crown it, or stop it, but to have it out. Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked – the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead.....we are all trying to let our heart and mind go their own way – centred on money or pleasure or ambition – and hoping, in spite of this, to behave honestly and chastely and humbly. And that is exactly what Christ warned us you could not do. As he said, a thistle cannot produce figs. If I am a field that contains nothing but grass seed, I cannot produce wheat. If I want to produce wheat, the change must go deeper than the surface. I must be ploughed up & re-sown.' C S LEWIS (MC)

'Theological liberalism isn't one wing of true Christianity but a different religion'. DON CARSON

CHRISTIANITY (4/4)

I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else'. C S LEWIS

'Colonial Christianity was weak when it came to expressing the gospel of love. You cannot love when there is segregation'. BEN KWASHI



CHRISTIAN(S)

'.....a class of men loathed for their vices. They got their name from Christ, who was executed by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. That checked the pernicious superstition for a short time, but it broke out afresh, not only in Judea where the plague first arose, but in Rome itself, where all the horrible and shameful things in the world collect and find a home'. (from 'Roman Annals' c. AD 116) TACITUS

It was their habit on a fixed day to assemble before daylight and recite by turns a form of words to Christ as a god; and...they bound themselves with an oath, not for any crime but not to commit theft or robbery or adultery, and not to break their word...the contagion of that superstition has penetrated not only the cities, but also the villages and the country.' (extracts from a letter from a Roman provincial governor to the Emperor c. AD 112) PLINY

'After being persecuted by the word, we renounced demons and we now follow the only begotten God through His Son. Those who once rejoiced in fornication, now delight in self control alone; those who made use of the magic arts have dedicated themselves to the good and unbegotten God; we who once took pleasure in Increasing our wealth and property, now bring what we have into a common fund and we share with everyone in need; we who hated and killed one another and would not associate with men of different tribes now after the manifestation of Christ we live together and we pray for our enemies and try to persuade those who unjustly hate us so that they, living according to the fair commands of Christ, may share with us the hope of receiving the same things'.

JUSTIN MARTYR

CHURCH (1/2)

'Additions? I've had some glorious subtractions - I now wait for the multiplications.'

CAMPBELL MORGAN

'A congregation should be weighed, not counted.'

ANONYMOUS

'One characteristic of all growing churches is that the leadership likes people.'

'It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend where the only attraction is God.'

A W TOZER

'What we need is not bigger churches but healthier churches'.

RICK WARREN

'I think I would be the best Catholic in the world if they'd only do away with priests and let me talk to God there in the bed.'

FRANK McCOURT

'For many the church is irrelevant because it is no longer central to their needs or interests.'

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, GEORGE CAREY

The church always arrives on the scene a little breathless and a little late'.

Canadian theologian and philosopher, BERNARD LONERGAN

'God may have accepted you already, but our standards are just a little higher.' CARTOON

'Jesus does not want me for a cabbage. Church is not the ecclesiastical equivalent of the Red Army or Hitler Youth, where lots of unthinking clones do what they're told and, when asked to jump, ask only 'How high?' We need to bring all our critical faculties to bear on our belonging. It is this that has the potential to make church such a rewarding experience.

Baptist minister, SIMON JONES

'Not more than one person in 10......is at all closely associated with any of the churches, and about two-thirds never or practically never go to Church. The majority, however – four out of five women and two out of three men – give at least verbal assent to the possibility of there being a God, and most of the rest express doubt rather than disbelief. Uncompromising disbelievers in a Deity amount to about one in twenty.'

1946 SURVEY OF LONDONERS

Less than half of Britons know why Christians celebrate Easter. Only 48% of adults questioned were aware that the festival marks the Resurrection of J.C. About 40% were able to name Judas Iscariot as the man who betrayed Jesus while 25% recognised the name Rowan Williams as the Archbishop of Canterbury & only 8% know Carol Wojtyla was the name of Pope John Paul II. The poll commissioned by the Reader's Digest showed that 64% believe in God and 58% in an afterlife. The bishop of Durham said the results were disappointing!



CHURCH (2/2)

'Of all the strong churches I have visited in the West, I have noticed that they all have one thing in common: a strong and sacrificial commitment to missions amongst unreached nations.'

BROTHER YUN

'Church is not a series of religious meetings. It is a way of life.'

GEORGE MILEY

'An insignificant minority of old women of both sexes'

ANON

'It's not a democracy, it's a monarchy – it's what the king thinks'.

ANDY SACH

'In the past, the church occupied a position at the heart of the community. It was the place people turned for guidance in the areas of ethics, education, health care and social services. But in recent years, the church has retreated from that position and the school then found itself ideally placed to fill that vacuum'.

DAVID MILLIBAND, MP (c. 2001)

The longer a church has been in existence, the more its resources go toward its own preservation rather than toward outreach and evangelism'. ALAN NELSON

The emerging church movement started as a way of thinking differently about church....but it has become a way of thinking differently about truth. I don't have many sympathies with an attempt to think differently about truth'. TIM CHESTER

'Churches....have more often than not been strongly influenced by the societies in which they are set.....but that which really rots the fabric is the much more insidious process by which weaker churches are gradually taken captive by the surrounding culture'.

ARCHBISHOP ELIUD WABUKALA (Kenya)

The wise church, admitting new members, would give more weight to the quality of their lives than to the story of their conversion'. D A DAWSON (Thamesmead)

"Every Christian family ought to be, as it were, a little church". JONATHAN EDWARDS

"Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet through which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless his people".

TERESA of Avila, 16th Century Nun

"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church."

C H SPURGEON



CONVERSION

"After being persuaded by the Word, we renounced demons. We now follow the only begotten God through His Son. Those who once rejoiced in fornication now delight in self control alone. Those who made use of the magic arts now have dedicated themselves to the good and unbegotten God. We who once took most pleasure in increasing their wealth and prosperity now bring what we have into a common fund and share with everyone in need. We who hated and killed one another wouldn't associate with men of different tribes. Now after the manifestation of Christ we live together; we pray for our enemies, we try to persuade those who unjustly hate us so that they live according to the fair commands of Christ and therefore share with us the hope of receiving the same things".

JUSTIN MARTYR

"While I was still lying in darkness and gloomy night, I used to regard it as difficult matter and especially difficult in respect of my character at that time, that a man should ever be capable of being born again? How, said I, is such a conversion possible? That there should be a sudden and rapid divestment of all which, innate in us, has hardened in the corruption of our material nature or, acquired of (by) us, has become inveterate by long accustomed use. These things have become deeply and radically engrained within us. When does he learn thrift that has become used to liberal banquets and sumptuous feasts?"

DONATUS

COURAGE

To see what is right and not do it is want of courage'.

CONFUCIUS

It was high counsel that I once heard given to a person, "Always do what you are afraid to do."

RALPH EMERSON

'Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others stiffen.'
BILLY GRAHAM

'Men won't follow you because you don't have a title,' said Robert the Bruce.
'Men don't follow titles, they follow courage,' said Braveheart BRAVEHEART

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Dr MARTIN LUTHER KING

The opposite of courage is not cowardice, it's conformity'.

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.'

(Man and Superman, 1903) GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

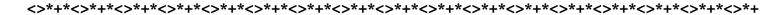
'Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

(attrib. to) DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

"It's impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case, you fail by default". J K ROWLING

"More important than any precaution we take, we are anxious to operate within the will and providence of God." (Pilot martyred by the Waodani tribe in Ecuador in 1956) NATE SAINT

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CREATION

'I am not sure if God created man or man created God.'

JOHN HURT

The chances of any one of our body's 200,000 proteins having evolved by chance are roughly the same as the chance of a blind person solving the Rubic's Cube – estimated at 5 x 10(19) to 1.'

PROFESSOR FRED HOYLE

'God created humanity in his own image; unfortunately, humanity decided to return the favour.'

French mathematician and theologian BLAISE PASCAL

'Our bodies have enough phosphorous for 22,000 matches and magnesium for 1 dose of flea powder for a dog'.

STEVE BRADY

'People travel to wonder at the height of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars, and they pass themselves by without wondering.'

AUGUSTINE (AD 354-430)

It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going'.

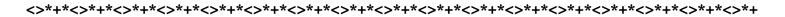
(From 'The Grand Design') DR STEPHEN HAWKING

'On the origin of species by means of natural selection or the preservation of <u>favoured</u> races in the struggle for life'. CHARLES DARWIN M.A.

I am very astonished that the scientific picture of the real world around me is very deficient. It gives a lot of factual information, puts all of our experience in a magnificently consistent order, but it is ghastly silent about all and sundry that is really near to our heart that really matters to us. It cannot tell us a word about red and blue, bitter and sweet, physical pain and physical delight; it knows nothing of beautiful and ugly, good or bad, God and eternity. Science sometimes pretends to answer questions in these domains but the answers are very often so silly that we are not inclined to take them seriously. ('Nature and the Greeks' 1954) PROFESSOR ERWIN SCHRODINGER

I want atheism to be true and I am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the Universe to be like that. (The Last Word) THOMAS NAGEL

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CRITICISM

'Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do.' DALE CARNEGIE

CROSS

'Before you can see the cross as something done for you, you have to see it as something done by you.'

JOHN R W STOTT

The prisoner would first be publicly humiliated by being stripped naked. He was then laid on his back on the ground while his hands were either nailed or roped to a horizontal wooden beam and then his feet to the vertical pole. The cross was then hoisted to an upright position and dropped into a socket which had been dug in the ground for it. Usually a peg or a simple seat was provided to take some of the weight of the victim's body preventing it from being torn loose. There the victim would hang helplessly exposed to intense physical pain, constant public ridicule, daytime heat and night time cold and that torture would always last for hours and often for several days'

An anonymous description of CRUCIFIXION

'For most, 'the cross' means the carrying on of small duties which are distasteful to us'

JOHN H NEWMAN

The cross is God's truth about us, written in blood on a wooden beam. It tells us that we're not wise enough to know him, we're not strong enough to save ourselves, the cross closes off all other options. It declares that no other way of salvation works. If there were any other way we could be saved, the death of Christ on the cross wouldn't be needed but at the cross God took our sin on himself and suffered his own divine judgement in our place'

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

The doctrine of the atonement which Christians take very seriously indeed is so deeply, deeply, nasty that it deserves to be savagely ridiculed.' 'Outgrowing God' by RICHARD DAWKINS

The very word 'cross' should be removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but from his thoughts, his eyes, his ears.'

CULTS

'The book of Mormon is like chloroform in print.'

MARK TWAIN

'I shall complete the work begun by Jesus Christ.'

ADOLPH HITLER

'It is not always easy to see where a legitimate school of thought ends and heresy begins'.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

CULTURE

'American culture is idealistic...intolerant of weakness and failure. British culture, by contrast, tends to be suspicious of idealism, intolerant of the hypocrisy and pretension that so often accompany ambition, wary of the methods of the motivation industry, more focused on how things are than on how they might be, more willing to accept weakness and failure. A predisposition to irony (Ed. *and cynicism*) habitually pricks the bubble of any complacent attempt to think positively.' Faith, Health and Prosperity, UKEA ed. ANDREW PERRIMAN

Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must hate or fear them. The second is that to love someone, you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate.

RICK WARREN

<u>Firstly</u>, in the western worldview, there is a stronghold of scientific rationalism or modernism. This means that I only accept what I can see and understand; intellect and analysis are exalted above faith and the spiritual world is either denied or seen as less real than the physical.

<u>Secondly</u>, there are also strongholds of self-centeredness which means that the pursuit of pleasure becomes our greatest goal. Our attitude is 'how does this affect me?' Many today who get saved have a self-centred lifestyle and a consumerist attitude, even towards Christianity and the local church.

<u>Thirdly</u>, linked with this there is the stronghold of individualism. In the West we think individualistically (or at best in the context of a small nuclear family) rather than as a community. This is contrary to the heart of God, because God exists in perfect community

<u>Fourthly</u>, there is the stronghold of self-fulfilment. This is seen to be idolatrous as we forget we are here primarily to serve, not to be fulfilled.

(What on earth is the church for?) DAVID DEVENISH

'Jesus did not come to fulfil our agenda; he came so that we might fulfil his agenda!' GARETH

We need to exegete culture as well as scripture'

ANON

DEATH (1/2)

'It has always mattered to the saints to make a good job of dying. If you mar or spoil that business, you cannot come back to mend that piece of work again.'

SAMUEL RUTHERFORD

'The ultimate statistic is death - one out of one die.'

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

'We are immortal until our work on earth is done'.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD

'God gives dying grace to the dying man.'

D. L. MOODY

'I'm not frightened of dying, it's just that I don't want to be around when it happens. The fundamental thing behind <u>all</u> motivation and <u>all</u> activity is the constant struggle against annihilation and against death. It's absolutely stupefying in its terror, and it renders anyone's accomplishments meaningless.'

WOODY ALLEN

'If any righteous person of their number passes away from this world, they rejoice and give thanks to God; and they follow his body as he if were moving from one place to another.'

ARISTIDES (of Christians)

'When I shall die, receive me I cry, for Jesus has loved me and I cannot tell why.'

C H SPURGEON

There is a democracy about death - it comes equally to us all, and makes us all equal when it comes.'

JOHN DONNE

'When Groucho Marx was asked what it was like to be 90 years old, he replied that it was better than the alternative.'

GROUCHO MARX

'Death is around us all the time and the older we grow, the more familiar we become with its visits.'

MIKE WAKELY

The adjustment to the loss (of ?) is a much longer process practically and emotionally than I anticipated...I now realise that much has changed and that my life will never be the same again. When does grief end? When is the pain of loss replaced by renewed hope and desire to live again? When can the soul start forming new and meaningful relationships when the wound of the tearing apart from the one you loved the most is still so fresh? I do not know but this I do know: in the process of readjustment and recovery I am in my Father's hands. The bereavement counsellors say that it takes at least two years to readjust.'

EILA PENROSE

'Earth is receding, heaven is opening. It is my coronation day.'

D L MOODY

'I am abandoned by God and man. I shall go to hell. I wish I'd never been born.' VOLTAIRE

"The call to follow is the call to come and die."

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

In the UK, there have been six million abortions since 1967, 600 abortions every working day. The NHS funded 173,000 abortions in England in 2010 costing £118 million.' DoH STATS

DEATH (2/2)

'Without Jesus, we approach life with the expectation of death. With Jesus, we approach death with the expectation of life.'

NABEEL QURESHI (1983-2017)

'He (John Rogers) walked to his death like a man walking to his wedding'. AMBASSADOR (FR)

1st martyr, 1555 AD, the reign of Catholic Queen Mary 1

'I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of the world; yet when Christ calls me home, I shall go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school'.

ADONIRAM JUDSON

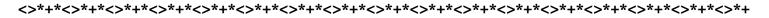
Those who embark on euthanasia venture down a slippery slope along which you irrevocably slide down to the random killing of defenceless sick people'.

(geriatrician at a euthanasia clinic) DR BERT KEIZER

"Tranquil and happy, though very weak. My theology is simple. I can express it in few words, and they are enough to die by. Jesus died for me." C H SPURGEON (on the day he died)

'Think daily upon thine own death'

THOMAS A'KEMPIS



DESTINY

'I rode my pony into the enemy today and dispatched two with my revolver (a dislocated shoulder meant he could not use a sword). I turned my pony around and rode again into the enemy and dispatched two more. Ne'er a bullet touched my tunic, my person or my pony. I believe I was preserved for higher things.'

WINSTON CHURCHILL (WWI in Sudan)

'What attracted me to Billy was his sense of destiny'

RUTH GRAHAM

DEVIL

'The devil is a better theologian than any of us and is a devil still.'

A W TOZER

'No present day system of philosophy gives any place to the "Diabolos" (the devil) of scripture.'

EDGAR BRIGHTMAN

'If the devil cannot pull you back and make you unkeen, he will try to push you forward to unhealthy extremes.'

SANDY BRADLEY

'Satan's purpose was not to make Eve as ungodly as possible but to make her as godlike as possible without God.'

DR BILLY GRAHAM

'The devil doesn't fear potential.'

P T SMYTHE

'The devil is the enemy of all moderation and balance.'

JOHN R W STOTT

'Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honour and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure and pays with pain; he promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death'.

THOMAS BROOKS

DIFFICULTIES (1/2)

'I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity.'

C S LEWIS

'We may change our difficulties in Christian work but we can never escape them.'

DR DALE

'Every forward move you make in the Christian life will be tested.'

'When you are young, the Christian life seems great and easy; as you get old, it seems more difficult and when you get older still it seems impossible.'

STUART BRISCOE

'Si vous m'obstructerez, je vous obliterai!'

CHURCHILL TO DE GAULLE

'The person who succeeds is not the one who holds back, fearing failure, nor the one who never fails, but rather the one who moves on in spite of failure.'

ANONYMOUS

'While in Africa, some friends of David Livingstone wrote to him, 'We would like to send some other men to you. Have you found a good road into your area yet?"

David Livingstone sent them this reply, "If you have men who will only come if there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

DR DAVID LIVINGSTONE

'I believe for us to grow in maturity we are going to have to face adversity and difficulty and it is that which causes us to rely more upon the Lord than we've ever known before.'

RONALD DUNN

'Often when circumstances are the most challenging, God does His most glorious work'.

LUDER WHITLOCK

'Whatever he began he finished. Difficulties never discouraged him'

Mary Carey, youngest sister of WILLIAM CAREY

'He was determined never to give up a particle of anything on which his mind was set'

Tom, brother of WILLIAM CAREY

DIFFICULTIES (2/2)

'Like most of the master minds of all ages, Carey was educated in the school of adversity.'
FRANCIS WAYLAND

What we see as triumphant or successful Christian living is really no more than the calm between inevitable storms.'

STEVE CHALKE

'Adversity introduces a person to themselves.'

ANONYMOUS

'If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere.'

FRANK A CLARK

Troubles are often tools by which God fashions us for better things.'

HENRY WARD BEECHER

'I cannot read, I cannot think, I cannot even pray but I can trust.'

(on learning of wave after wave of killings of his workers in China). HUDSON TAYLOR

'I don't think I've ever met a person who didn't have problems, and I am no exception.'

DR BILLY GRAHAM

'Anyone who wants to live an easy life has been born in the wrong generation'. LEO TOLSTOY

DISCIPLESHIP

'You do not define the terms of your own discipleship.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'Raising a hand to receive Christ, or joining a church, or saying that you are a Christian is not enough.'

DAWSON TROTMAN

'Static familiarity can constitute danger for the Christian pilgrim. It lessens your need to hold on tightly to him. Repetition and force of habit can rob you of your sense of adventure and dependence on your guide. A well-worn track easily becomes a rut. Boredom can begin to paralyse the next generation, especially if there are no goals to score and no mountains to climb! If you simply have to learn the rules and sit in your pew you will look elsewhere for your highs...anything to break out of the groove.'

"If Christians are to be true disciples in the 21st century, what will be the cultural norms they will have to stand against?"

PETER MAIDEN

DISCIPLINE (including 'Spiritual')

'Without the disciplined life, you'll never live for Jesus Christ.'

DR BILLY GRAHAM

'The general lack of discipline in Christian circles is perhaps one of the chief causes of failure in marriages and missions. We must have it no matter what the cost.'

SIM report "Africa Now" (1965)

'Happy is he who makes daily progress.'

A W TOZER

'Refuse to be average in your Christian commitment.'

IBID

'Be hard on yourself and easy on others. Carry your own cross but never lay one on the back of another.'

'I ascribe my mental powers & good health to God's blessing, through the instrumentality of early rising and plunging my head into cold water when I arise.'

GEORGE MULLER

'There is therapy in hard work.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

The best discipline, maybe the only discipline that really works, is self-discipline.'

WALTER KIECHEL III

The word 'discipline' is not common in the vocabulary of today's church. The mood of our age which stresses tolerance and steers clear of judgment or the allocation of blame, has so influenced us that the thought of disciplining fellow Christians seems strangely out of place today.'

Quoted from 'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

"When I first entered upon the work of the ministry among you, I was exceedingly ignorant of the vast importance of church discipline. I thought that my great and almost only work was to pray and preach. When cases of discipline were brought before me and the elders, I regarded them with something like abhorrence. It was a duty I shrank from; and I may truly say it nearly drove me from the work of the ministry among you altogether. But it pleased God, who teaches his servants in another way than man teaches, to bless some of the cases of discipline to the manifest and undeniable conversion of the souls of those under our care; and from that hour a new light broke in upon my mind, and I saw that if preaching be an ordinance of Christ, so is church discipline. I now feel very deeply persuaded that both are of God,--that two keys are committed to us by Christ: the one the key of doctrine, by means of which we unlock the treasures of the Bible; the other the key of discipline, by which we open or shut the way to the sealing ordinances of the faith. Both are Christ's gift, and neither is to be resigned without sin."

ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

"Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him." HUDSON TAYLOR

DISCOURAGEMENT

'All discouragement is of the devil. Discouragement is to be resisted just like sin.'

JAMES O FRASER

'It is a splendid rule to refrain from making decisions when we are discouraged.'

A W TOZER

'Billy Graham has done more harm to the cause of Christ than any other living man.'
BOB JONES III

'But you must never despair. Despair is a sin because it denies the sovereignty of God.'
CHUCK COLSON

The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, "O God, forgive me, or help me."'

BILLY GRAHAM

ENCOURAGEMENT

'We live by encouragement and we die without it; slowly, sadly, angrily.' CELESTE HOLM

"The work to which God sets His Hand will infallibly prosper" WILLIAM CAREY

EVANGELICAL

Evangelicals are party people. They easily divide the world into those who are 'for' or 'against' what they stand for...they were early practitioners of political correctness in expecting their adherents and especially spokespeople to be ideologically pure.'

NIGEL WRIGHT

The truth is, we evangelicals aren't good at dealing with mess.'

STEVE CHALKE

We are only interested in having a conversation if we know all the answers in advance.'

JOEL EDWARDS

'Large numbers of liberals are refugee fundamentalists.'

NIGEL WRIGHT

The fundamental problem in the evangelical world today is not inadequate technique or insufficient organisation or antiquated music – and those who want to squander the church's resources bandaging those scratches will do nothing to staunch the flow of blood spilling from its true wounds. The fundamental problem in the evangelical world today is that God rests too inconsequentially upon the church; His truth is too distant, His grace is too ordinary, His judgement too benign, His gospel is too easy and His Christ is too commonplace.'

The evangelical Protestant mind has never relished complexity. Indeed, its crusading genius, whether in religion or politics, has always tended to an over-simplification of issues and the substitution of inspiration and zeal for critical analysis and serious reflection. The limitations of such a mind-set were less apparent in the relative simplicity of a rural frontier society.' (Canada 1973)

NK CLIFFORD

"It's terrifying what use can be made of genuine evangelical doctrine".

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

"C H Spurgeon and later D L Moody, reflected the underlying problem of British 19th century evangelicalism – its pietist anti-intellectualism and cultural isolation." RANALD MACAULAY

EVANGELISM (1/2)

'God wants a people who will preach His Word and do His works. And the time is NOW. NOW is the day of salvation, NOW is the time - not next week, not next month, not next year, not when the nation's ready, not when the church is ready, not when you're ready, but NOW when God is ready.'

JOHN WIMBER

'All religions lead to the same place - the judgement seat of Christ.'

ANONYMOUS

'Always there was an opportunity because James was determined to find one.'
(of) JAMES O FRASER

'I would not like to be in the shoes of any Christian, pastor or church leader who, going through the diary of his life can only come up with a list of evangelistic efforts in which he was not involved. '

JOHN BENTON

'The best way to avoid doing evangelism is to talk about it.'

HAROLD CONN

'Souls at any price and under all circumstances.'

CHARLES FINNEY

Evangelism is primarily a matter of the will – the element that is basic to evangelism is definite commitment – in complete loyalty to Christ. Men do not into drift into right relation with God, they have to choose.'

JOHN R MOTT

'Evangelism is a tasteless form of arrogance in the light of our pleuralistic society.' ANON

It is wrong to promote someone on the basis of how bad they used to be before they came to Christ.'

DEREK SAVAGE

The greatest tragedy in modern day evangelism is in calling many to belief but few to obedience'.

JIM WALLIS

'Christians are a dim, ego-tripping minority who are dead set on telling everybody why they ought to become Christians, instead of finding out why they aren't.' MAX HARRIS

'Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread.' D T NILES

'Preach the gospel. Use words if necessary.'

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Evangelism and mission are not additional functions of the church in which only the most keen and enthusiastic members become involved. They are the whole raison d'être for the church's existence'. DAVID DEVENISH (What on earth is the church for?)

'We believe the Kingdom of heaven has to be born in the individual soul. Are we a church of silent saints? We believe that it is not so much what is done for men but what is done in men'.

WILSON CARLILE

EVANGELISM (2/2)

'Primitive evangelism was by no means mere proclamation and exhortation; it included able intellectual argument, skilful study of the Scriptures, careful, closely measured teaching and practical, patient, argument.'

MICHAEL GREEN (EIEC)

To evangelise is to so present Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, and to accept Him as their Saviour, and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His Church.' (attrib.) WILLIAM TEMPLE

'Ask them what their story is'. OS GUINNESS

'The gospel isn't just an idea to be shared but a power to be unleashed.' ROGER CARSWELL

In the evenings, we went out in order to try and engage with the crowds of young people. On one street there was a row of night-clubs with many people queuing to go in. Most of them had had too much to drink and this was only at nine o'clock in the evening. Further down the road there were crowds of even younger people, some were on drugs and were completely drunk, many as young as 13.....most, if not all, were too much 'under the influence' to have any kind of sensible conversation. The whole scene was a pitiful sight to see and we were forced to wonder where all these young people would be in a few years' time, if they were not reached for Jesus Christ.'

Swansea, August 2008, EDWIN BAKER (OAM)

"The deep savagery of much of the century was characterised by the torture of animals for sport, the drunkenness of the population, the inhuman traffic in African Negroes, the kidnapping of fellow countrymen for export and for sale as slaves, the high percentage of deaths of poor children, the universal obsession with gambling, the savagery of the prison system, the flood of immorality, the prostitution of the theatre, increasing lawlessness, superstition, and lewdness; political bribery and corruption, and in the church, insincerity, debasement & arrogance – these all suggest that British people were perhaps as wicked as any people in the so-called Christian world". "England, before & after Wesley". WESLEY BREADY

"The whole population seemed to be given over to an orgy of drunkenness which made the very name of Englishmen to stink in the nostrils of other nations', said Sylvester Horne in his 'Popular History of the Free Churches'. A common sign outside pubs at that time said, 'drunk for a penny, dead drunk for two pence'. Wesley referred to 'the obscenity of the stage, that sink of all corruption'. The literature of the period would even today be classed mostly as 'hard porn'. Polygamy, fornication and homosexuality were not considered sinful. Violence was rampant. 'Gangs of drunken ruffians paraded the streets and subjected women to nameless outrages, and defenceless men to abominable tortures. The constables shared the drunken habits of the time and were mainly corrupt'. Sport was cruel and brutal such as bear-baiting bull-baiting and cock-fighting. Pugilism was savage and murderous – even women took part."

Adapted from 'Great Revivals' by COLIN WHITTAKER

EVIL

'God permits evil, uses evil and overcomes evil ultimately for a greater good than would have been had evil not appeared.'

J I PACKER

There is no doubt in my mind that God allowed evil because the eventual glory will be greater than if the evil hadn't appeared'.

TIM KELLER

'God is not the author of evil, but neither is evil running loose in God's universe outside of His sovereign purposes'.

TERRY L JOHNSON

Evil, when we are in its power is not felt as evil but as a necessity, or even a duty'.

SIMONE WEIL

"Much oppressed with vile thoughts these past two days. Sick in bed with too much inactivity. Ah, what a cesspool this heart is if left to bubble up its own production!" JIM ELLIOT

FAITH (1/2)

'Hope is faith in the future tense.'

DAVID HOLDEN

'Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.'

CORRIE TEN BOOM

'Doubt is not the opposite of belief; it is faith in crisis.'

DR D M LLOYD-JONES

'Doubt is not the opposite of faith, it is an element of faith.'

PAUL TILLICH

'We must not overload faith. We must be sane and practical. Let us not claim too little in faith, but let us not claim too much either.'

JAMES O FRASER

'Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No-one was there.'

SAMPLER

'We'd risk more by making the most of opportunities rather than being conformed to our comfortable situations.'

SURVEY TAKEN AMONGST ELDERLY PEOPLE

'Let's consider your age to begin with - how old are you?' 'I'm seven and a half exactly.' 'You needn't say "exactly", the Queen remarked: I can believe it without that. Now I'll give you something to believe. I'm just one hundred and one, five months and a day.'

'I can't believe that' said Alice.

'Can't you?' the Queen said in a pitying tone. 'Try again: draw a long breath, and shut your eyes.'

'Alice laughed. 'There's no use trying,' she said: 'one can't believe impossible things.'

'I dare say you haven't had much practice,' said the Queen. 'When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.'

"Through the Looking Glass" by LEWIS CARROLL

'A faith untested is no faith at all.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'Faith has to embrace risk and the possibility of being wrong'

IBID

'I have held many things in my hands and have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.'

MARTIN LUTHER

There almost always seems to be a time gap between when we respond in faith and when we receive that for which God has called us to trust Him'.

GEORGE MILEY

FAITH (2/2)

The real heroes of our time are those who in a faithless age hold, live and share their faith in God.'

CARL HENRY

'Launch something so great that it is doomed to failure unless God supernaturally steps in'.

HAROLD SALA

'When did you last trust God for something so big only He will get the glory?' BILL BRIGHT

'I can't understand how all this can happen. It's enough to make one lose one's faith in God.'

(Extract from a letter written in her bunker) EVA BRAUN

'A little faith will take you to heaven but I pray for the kind of faith that will bring heaven to earth.'

'A perfect faith is nowhere to be found, so it follows that all of us are partly unbelievers. Yet in his kindness, God pardons us and reckons us to be believers on account of our small portion of faith.'

JEAN CALVIN

'Faith does not depend on our grasp of God, but on God's grasp of us.'
Scottish Theologian, ROBERT DAVIDSON

The choice is never between a risk and a sure thing; it's always between risks.'

ROBERT MCAFEE BROWN

'We must not let our fears get in the way of our dreams.'

STEVE CHALKE

'We don't act, not so much because we are cautious as because we are afraid.'

'If there is no risk, there is no element of faith.'

HUDSON TAYLOR

'If our single, all-embracing passion is to make much of Christ in life and death, and if the life that magnifies him is the life of costly love, then life is risk, and risk is right. To run from it is to waste your life'.

JOHN PIPER

'I will go anywhere as long as it is forwards.'

DR DAVID LIVINGSTONE

'Faith is not an illogical belief in the occurrence of the impossible.'

H L MENCKEN

You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.'

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

FEAR

'Fear is the sand in the machinery of life'

E STANLEY JONES

"Fear of the Lord' is the wholesome dread of displeasing God'.

SIMON PETTIT

"90% of the things you fear never happen to you and the other 10% you can do nothing about."

ANON

"In the end we will not remember the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

Dr MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

"Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends."

GEORGE MULLER

'Curiosity will conquer fear even more than bravery will'. JAMES STEPHENS (Irish Poet)

'Oh, is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion', said Susan. 'Safe?', said Mrs Beaver. 'Who said anything about being safe?' Of course he isn't safe, but he is good. He is the King I tell you'. (The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.)

C S LEWIS

FELLOWSHIP

'Friendship is like a sheltering tree.'

S. T. COLERIDGE

'Don't judge people according to your strengths but according to their strengths.'

NORM & DEBBIE PRZYBYLSKI

I tremble almost before we begin to live together. So much depends on a man's disinterestedness, forbearance, meekness and self-denial. One man of the wrong temper could make our house a hell. Much wisdom will be necessary. It is but here and there that one makes conscience of strangling thoughts and of esteeming others better than himself. Only few are fit to live in such a settlement as ours is to be, where selfish passions must be crushed and the love of Christ swallow up all else.' (One of the Serampore Trio) WILLIAM WARD

'In things essential, unity; in things non-essential, liberty; in all things, charity.'
? ROBERT HALDANE

'People rub us up the wrong way to show us we shouldn't have a wrong way to be rubbed up.'

STEVE BRADY

There is no disagreement in a cemetery, only in a nursery.'

IBID

'Most of them I knew personally......their criticisms hurt immensely, nor could I shrug them off as the objections of people who rejected the basic tenets of the Christian faith......their harshness and their lack of love saddened me and struck me as being far from the spirit of Christ.'

(P302 'Just as I am') DR BILLY GRAHAM

'My approach has always been that of friendship rather than confrontation' (P618 'Just as I am') DR BILLY GRAHAM

'Most of us would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism'

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

'What brings believers together is far more powerful than anything that might separate them' (adapted).

GEORGE MILEY

'When men can preach and pray together with freedom, we may rest assured that in heart they do not greatly differ'

JOHN WILLIAM FLETCHER OF MADELEY

'The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion'. JOHN WESLEY

'Some theologians are less interested in winning friends than in overthrowing enemies.'

BEN KWASHI

FORGIVENESS

'To err is human; to forgive is divine'

ALEXANDER POPE

'Anyone can devise a plan by which good people go to heaven. Only God can devise a plan whereby sinners, which are His enemies, can go to heaven.' LEWIS SPERRY CHAFER

'When you hold on to bitterness, it's like drinking the poison but hoping the other person dies' (from 'Wounded by God's People') ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ



GIFTS

'He has revealed gifts I did not know I had when I started out.' ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'God's gifting can only be expressed effectively when it is rooted in and nurtured by godly character'.

GEORGE MILEY

'I am reminded that giftedness will never translate to godliness. Neither is orthodox teaching the proof of righteous living'.

JACKIE HILL PERRY

GOD

'We have as much of God as we desire.'

'My only aim is to prove that the God I serve is alive.'

GEORGE MULLER

'God does not reveal Himself to the casual inquirer.'

ALBERT (of SHALOM)

'We must not be fooled by those who put forward the specious argument that 'knowing God is more important than 'knowing about God', and who thus rupture the relationship between doctrine and life that is so obvious in Paul's letters.'

DR CARL TRUEMAN

'God never says 'oops'.'

PETER NICOLL

'God loves you so much as you are that He dare not leave you as you are'. ANONYMOUS

'Not only is there no God but try getting a plumber at weekends.'

WOODY ALLEN

'If people stop believing in God, they don't believe in nothing, they believe in anything.'

G K CHESTERTON

'In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God.'

ISAAC NEWTON

'God does not play dice.'

ALBERT EINSTEIN

There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man that can be filled only by Jesus Christ.....Thou has made us for Thyself, O God, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee.'

AUGUSTINE

'A little knowledge of God is worth far more than a great deal of knowledge about Him.'

JIM PACKER

'God plus one is always a majority.'

MARY SLESSOR

'God will never change his principles for any person. If you disobey his principles, then you will surely fall into trouble.'

BROTHER YUN

'It's an interesting view of atheism as a sort of crutch for those who can't bear the reality of God'

TOM STOPPARD

'If God does not exist, everything is permitted'.

DOSTOYEVSKY

The opium of modernity is the belief that there is no God so that humans are free to do precisely as they please.'

CZESLAW MILOSZ (Nobel prize winning poet)

'If we find the answer [to why we and the universe exist], it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason — for then we would know the mind of God'.

(Brief History of Time) PROF STEPHEN HAWKING

'No-one has ever had an adequate thought of God'. ANON

GRACE

'Grace without discipline is disgrace'

GEORGE VERWER

'Grace, she takes the blame, covers the shame, removes the stain. It could be her name.

Grace, it's the name of a girl. It's also a thought that changed the world.'

U2

'It takes more grace than one can tell, to play the second fiddle well.'

F. F. BRUCE

'Since the doctrines of grace are espoused by such an impressive list of ancient and modern divines, one is constantly surprised to find that some can believe a case that could persuade them otherwise'.

GARETH P BOLTON

'Legalism is one way of changing a person that requires no love or relationship. It simply sets the standard and continues to condemn until there is change and conformity'. ANON

GUIDANCE

'Do we spend much time waiting upon God to know His will before attempting to embark on His promises?'

JAMES O FRASER

'I can't say I'm willing Lord, but I am willing to be made willing.'

'The will of God is never exactly what we expect.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'The safest place is in the centre of God's will.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'No move in the will of God is a backward move.'

GARETH BOLTON

'If you honestly want to do the will of God, He will not allow you to go astray' ANON

Examine the Word of God for every step you take. Rightly understood it will never lead you astray.'

WILLIAM CAREY (Writing to his son)

'No guidance to move is good guidance to stay where you are.' PROF. RENDLE SHORT

The trustworthiness of the Lord cannot be known until you make a decision based on His promises.'

BIBLE COMMENTARY?

Even when we make mistakes, it is astounding how God picks up the pieces and turns things around.' SANDY WICKENDEN

'The task of every generation is to discover in which direction the Sovereign Redeemer is moving, then move in that direction.'

JONATHAN EDWARDS

'I do not have a nagging doubt of even wondering whether perhaps I am wrong'
HENDRIK VERWOERD (theologian and architect of 'Apartheit')

'He never held it right to decide the path of duty by any such signs or tokens; he believed that the written word supplied sufficient data for guiding the believing soul; and such providential occurrences as happened in this case he regarded as important only as far as they might be answers to prayer'.

(Andrew Bonar of) ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

'Because things don't go our way, it doesn't mean that things are wrong'. GIAN WALSER

'Do what you can, with what you have, where you are'. TEDDY ROOSEVELT



HEALING

'But not all are healed who are so reported.'

PHILIP ROADES (Pastor with MS)

'It is hardly honouring or glorifying to God's Name when a miraculous happening is trumpeted around for the ungodly to hear, only for him to see that it had no lasting effect. The unbeliever is only and understandably confirmed in his cynicism.'

'I have begun to realise the great amount of harm that is being done to believers who suffer from various afflictions or illness by the pernicious doctrine of "If you have enough faith, God will heal you".'

'I certainly believe in divine healing; all healing is divine.'

CHARLES STANLEY

'God's grace is more powerful than God's healing.'

MARK KNIGHT

'Captain R Kelso Carter came, in the end, to the more moderate opinion that healing was not an automatic entitlement but a 'special favour' to be granted or withheld according to the sovereign will of God' D W DAYTON (Theological Roots of Pentecostalism)

There is a (sc. *mistaken*) underlying enlightenment premise that the spiritual world functions no less rationally and predictably than the physical world, to the extent that it is quite appropriate to speak of the effects of spiritual laws'.

MARK NOLL (The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind

HEAVEN

'Heaven, as conventionally conceived, is a place so inane, so dull, so useless, so miserable that nobody has ever ventured to describe a whole day there, though plenty of people have described a day at the sea-side.'

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

'All our stories will end in glory'.

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

There are no crown-wearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers here below.'

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

HELL

'The rule of hell is 'my will be done.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

The most prominent place in hell is reserved for those who are neutral on the great issues of life'.

BILLY GRAHAM

'My main problem is over the idea that somehow God has left the issue of heaven, hell and salvation entirely with the preaching of the gospel. At university we used to say rather glibly to intelligent non-believers that the fate of those who had never heard was not our problem. But that doesn't really add up.'

Email to MIKE WAKELY

Most of the Bible's teaching on hell is from Jesus. The Gospels contain roughly 66 verses specifically about love and 45 verses specifically about hell'. DAVID INSTONE-BREWER

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HISTORY

'History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.'

WINSTON CHURCHILL



HOLINESS

'The greatest obstacle to our sanctification is our inability (unwillingness) to face ourselves as we really are.'

DR BILLY GRAHAM

'Everyone is just as holy as he wants to be.'

A W TOZER

'Whoever is justified has the choice of walking in the higher or lower path.....to aspire after the heights and depths of holiness or decline into the lower order of Christians.'

JOHN WESLEY

'The greatest need of my church is my personal holiness.' ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

'You can write my life from sky to sky - I have nothing to hide.'

BISHOP?

'Delectat in momentum, cruciat in aeternum.'

JEROME

'Hard work and holiness are never divorced.'

BRIAN EDWARDS

'His will is our holiness.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

"You cannot study the Bible diligently and earnestly without being struck by an obvious fact--the whole matter of personal holiness is highly important to God!"

A W TOZER

'God's greatest desire for us is not that we should be happy, healthy and rich, but that we should be holy and blameless.' MIKE WAKELY

'Sanctification is always for mission.'

D A CARSON

'It was testified of him, that not the words he spoke, but the holy manner in which he spoke, was the chief means of arresting souls.' (Andrew Bonar of) ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

HOLY SPIRIT

'There are many evangelical Christians who unfortunately deny that God has any direct dealings with man today and who therefore hold emotion at a discount; they are afraid of the Holy Spirit and so afraid of certain excesses that they quench the Spirit and therefore never have any personal knowledge of Christ...Christians are so much afraid of excesses and enthusiasm that they are only satisfied that they are real Christians when they are miserable'.

DR D M LLOYD-JONES

'The Church received the Spirit not for its selfish, secret enjoyment but to enable it to bear witness for Christ.'

MICHAEL GREEN (EIEC)

HONESTY

"That the scriptures are brim full of hustlers, murderers, cowards, adulterers and mercenaries used to shock me; now it's a source of great comfort." BONO (U2)

"Nobody is doing great. I'm not doing great; you're not doing great. We're tired, we're cranky, and we need help.

Prof ROSARIA BUTTERFIELD (ex LGBT Feminist activist)

HUMANISM

'By the year 2000 we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential, not God.' GLORIA STEINEM (founder of Ms magazine)

'Not God but man himself has life in his own hands.'

DUTCH POLITICIAN

'It is the gospel, not human nature, that is the hope of our nation'.

BEN KWASHI



HUMILITY

'Never once did he tell me of the way he had been used among the Lisu.'
(Wife of) JAMES O FRASER

The God who can do for and through a poor shoemaker the much He has done for and through me, can bless and use any. The very humblest may trust Him.' WILLIAM CAREY

'There was a day when I died, utterly died to George Mueller, his opinion, preferences, tastes and will - died to the world, its approval or censure, died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends - and since then I have studied to show myself only approved unto God.'

GEORGE MULLER

'God will never be disillusioned with you because He never had any illusions at the start'.

GERALD COATES

You need to know a great deal to find out how little you really know'. ALISTER BEGG

'It is not denying the power and abilities you have, but admitting they come through you and not from you'

'He that is down needs fear no fall, he that is low, no pride; He that is humble ever shall have God to be his Guide.

JOHN BUNYAN

"It's amazing what can be accomplished if you don't worry about who gets the credit."

CLARENCE W JONES

"Rather than being an instrument of the Lord, all I was, was an adoring spectator"

ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

HUMOUR

'There is no mirth like the mirth of believers.'

RICHARD BAXTER

'If you don't know what eschatology means, it's not the end of the world.'

ANON

'Is it true that in interviews, you always answer questions by asking questions?'

INTERVIEWER

'Who told you that?' HAROLD WILSON TO INTERVIEWER

'What has a comedian to show for all the years of hard work and aggravation except the echo of forgotten laughter?' FRED ALLEN (Autobiography)



HURRY

'God is not in a hurry. He cannot do things with us until we are trained and ready for them. Hurry means worry.'

JAMES O FRASER

'He took off his watch and found that he'd got all the time in the world.'

ANONYMOUS

ISLAM

People may find the truth unpalatable but Islam is, at heart, committed to world conquest and will do so by violence, if necessary.

MICK FRISBY

'Islam as a religious system is flawed and often inhumane. In particular, women are second rate compared to men. In Islam, a man may have up to four wives, but a woman only one husband, (*Qu'ran*, Al-Halili 4:3). Concerning inheritance, the *Qu'ran* specifies as follows: Allah commands you as regards your children's [inheritance]; to the male, a portion equal to that of two females, (*Qu'ran*, Al-Halili 4:11). As for a woman's testimony in law, her word is worth half that of a man and less. If a Muslim woman is regarded as so much less than a male, one can only wonder of how much less value non-Muslim women are regarded by some Muslim men'.

JOHN BENTON (EN 02/11)

JESUS CHRIST (1/2)

'You have conquered, O pale Galilean; the world has grown grey because of you'.

THOMAS SWINBURNE

'Now there was about this time Jesus, (a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was) a doer of (wonderful) works, a teacher of (such) men (as teach the truth with pleasure). He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] "so-called" Christ. When Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, (AD 33, April 3) those that loved him at the first did not (forsake him;) "cease to cause trouble" (for he appeared to them alive again the third day (April 5); as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him). And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.' (From 'The Antiquities of the Jews', Book XVIII, Chapter. 3, Section 3, translated Whiston 1737 Italics are possible interpolations).

'He (Claudius) expelled the Jews from Rome, on account of the riots in which they were constantly indulging, at the instigation of Chrestus'

(from the 'Life of Claudius c. AD 120) SUETONIUS

'In all the history of the Lord Jesus Christ, we never find Him out of controversy'.

ROBERT HALDANE

'Sinners are not loved because they are attractive, they are attractive because they are loved'.

MARTIN LUTHER

Either Jesus Christ is true or he suffered from a severe paranoia and its accompanying delusions.'

J R W STOTT

'On the one side there is clear, definite moral teaching; on the other, there are claims which if not true, are those of a megalomaniac, compared with whom Hitler was the most sane and humble of men; there is no halfway house and there is no parallel in any other religions. If you had gone to the Buddha and asked him 'are you the son of Brahma?' He would have said 'My son, you are still in the Vale of illusion'; if you had gone to Socrates and asked are you Zeus, he would have laughed at you; if you had gone to Mohammed and asked are you Allah, he would first have rent his clothes and then cut your head off. If you had asked Confucius, 'Are you heaven?', I think he would probably have replied remarks which are not in accordance with nature are in bad taste. The idea of a great moral teacher saying the kind of thing that Christ said, is out of the question. In my view, the only person who can say that sort of thing is either God or a complete lunatic, suffering from that form of delusion that under-minds the whole mind of man.' C S LEWIS

JESUS CHRIST (2/2)

'A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level of a man who says he's a poached egg or else he would be the devil of hell. And you must take your choice. Either this was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but don't come up with any patronising nonsense about his being a great moral teacher; he has not left that alternative open to us'.

C S LEWIS

'Jesus alone among all religious leaders and founders rejected all forms of discrimination and insisted that all human beings be treated in exactly the same way' CHARLES R TABER

'He is both someone one knows and someone one scarcely knows at all, an utterly intimate friend and yet with indescribable majesty'.

JUSTIN WELBY (Archbishop of Canterbury)

'Jesus did not come to make bad men good but to make dead men alive.' DR J L WILLIAMS 'Jesus did not come to fulfil our agenda; He came so that we would fulfil His agenda.' ANON 'Jesus is not only a historical figure but our eternal contemporary.' F F BRUCE

JOY

'Joy is not the absence of pain but the presence of God'.

TEILHARD DE CHARDIN

'Jesus' joy was not at the mercy of man or of circumstances'. HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

'Seek for happiness and you will never find it. Seek righteousness and you will discover you are happy. It'll be there without your knowing it, without your seeking it'. D M LLOYD-JONES

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JUDGING

May the day of judging President Nixon on anything less than his entire life and career come to a close' (at Nixon's funeral).

BILL CLINTON

'People can't be judged by only their worst or weakest moments; harsh judgments can make hypocrites of us all'.

LANGUAGE

'Five levels of communication:-

- (1) <u>Conviction</u> something that grips you!
- (2) Feeling - heart is touched & you tell someone.
- (3) Opinions - what I, personally, really think.
- (4) Facts - objective reporting about things.
- (5) Cliche - nothing meaningful at all.

'Good deeds do not go beyond the door, but evil deeds spread 1000 miles' CHINESE PROVERB

LAZINESS

'Lethargy, irresponsibility, lack of ambition or desire: they are the real handicaps.' $$\operatorname{W}$ PAGE PITT$$

'Laziness is nothing more than resting before you get tired.'

JULES RENARD

LEADERSHIP

- (a) Be able to sit back & avoid getting immersed in detail.
- (b) Do not be petty.
- (c) Do not be pompous.
- (d) Be a good picker of men.
- (e) Trust those under you and let them get on with their job without interference.
- (f) Possess the power of clear decision.
- (g) Inspire confidence.

FIELD-MARSHAL LORD MONTGOMERY

The defence of Egypt is here at El Alamein. What's the use of digging trenches in the Delta? It's quite useless. If we lose this position, we lose Egypt. All fighting troops now in the Delta must come here at once and will. Here we stand and fight. There will be no further withdrawal. I have ordered that all plans and instructions dealing with withdrawal are to be burned at once. We will stand and fight here. If we can't stay here alive, let us stay here dead!'

(1942) FIELD-MARSHAL LORD MONTGOMERY

'One of the marks of true greatness is the ability to develop greatness in others.'

'I couldn't motivate a bee to sting you unless it had the equipment.' BRIAN CLOUGH

'Apathy is the acceptance of the unacceptable; leadership begins with a decisive refusal to do so'

JOHN R W STOTT

'The greatest problem with Christian leaders is their naiveté.' VIV THOMAS

'A leader is someone who has a compass in his hand and a magnet in his heart.' ANON

'Leadership means not being in complete harmony with everybody else.'

WINSTON CHURCHILL

'Every team needs a leader; every leader needs a team.'

GEORGE MILEY

'Better to be ruled by a wise Turk than a dumb Christian.'

MARTIN LUTHER

"Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them" (Malvolio, Twelfth Night Act II, Scene V) WILL SHAKESPEARE

"All political lives, unless they are cut off in midstream at a happy juncture, end in failure, because that is the nature of politics and of all human affairs".

ENOCH POWELL

To Winston Churchill whose war leadership was an inspiration to all who love freedom, from his admiring and ardent friend, General Dwight Eisenhower.'

Autographed photo from DE to WC (in Chartwell)



LONELINESS

'Recognising it as God's loving reminder of how He feels when we long for the fellowship of others more than His.'

ANONYMOUS

You can have everything in the world and still be the loneliest man, and that is the most bitter type of loneliness. Success has brought me world idolisation and millions of pounds, but it's prevented me from having the one thing we all need - a loving on-going relationship.'

FREDDIE MERCURY

'Remember – you can teach what you know but you reproduce who you are'.

H PUFFETT and H PATTISON

'We read to know we are not alone'. C.S. LEWIS

Sociologists have found that never before in western lifestyle has there been such an erosion of the wide range of relationships. In a busy lifestyle, we have neglected not only the role of friendship but also of tribe, extended family, fellowship and community. This narrowing is causing an increased measure of isolation, and conversely, places a huge strain on marriages – a weight of expectation the institution was never meant to carry. And in a context of an increasing rate of marriage breakdown, the only question we are asking is, 'How can we strengthen marriages?....It is not good for man to be alone.....We are created for community, the whole rich gamut of it'. MARIJKE HOEK (EA, Forum for Change co-ordinator)

LOVE

'It is not a victim of our emotions but the servant of our will.'

JOHN STOTT

''Agape' love is a steady direction of the will towards another's lasting good'
BISHOP STEPHEN NEILL

'Love is not a means to an end; it is an end in itself.'

LEON MORRIS

'More flies are caught by a jar of honey than a bottle of vinegar'.

ALISTAIR BEGG

There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket – safe, dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell."

(The Four Loves) C.S. LEWIS

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MANAGEMENT

MARRIAGE (1/3)

'I shall always endeavour to make choice of such a woman for my spouse who hath first made choice of Christ as a spouse for herself; that none may be one flesh with me who is not made one spirit with Christ my Saviour. For I look upon the image of Christ as the best mark of beauty I can behold in her and the grace of God as the best portion I can receive with her. These are excellencies, which though not visible to our carnal eyes are, nevertheless, agreeable to a spiritual heart and such as all wise and good men cannot choose but be enamoured with. For my own part, they seem to me such necessary qualifications that my heart trembles at the thought of ever having a wife without them.'

BISHOP BEVERIDGE

'The divorce rate in Britain is now over six times what it was in 1961 and is the highest in the European community. Over a third of all British marriages now end in divorce and a similar proportion of weddings involve at least one intended who is divorced. 70% of second marriages also end in divorce. A quarter of children under 16 will experience their parents' divorce. The average age of divorce in England and Wales is 38 for men and 35 for women. Cohabitation has doubled since 1981 with a fifth of all non-married women now living in what was formerly regarded by many as sin. Over a quarter of British women getting married for the first time had lived with their husbands before marriage. The consequences on the birth statistics seem fairly inevitable - more than one third of all pregnancies in 1987 were conceived outside marriage, resulting in 23 per cent of births being illegitimate. That compares with just 6% in 1961.'

MONEYCARE MAGAZINE (NATWEST 1989)

'I wish I could say I admired the casket as much as the jewel.

A WOMAN ABOUT DR ISAAC WATTS

'When you accept (marry) a man you accept his destiny'.

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

Be not content to bear yourself toward your wife with propriety, but let love be the spring of all your conduct. Esteem her highly that she may highly esteem you. The first impression of love arising from form or beauty will soon wear off, but the trust arising from character will endure and increase. I hope that, as soon as you are settled in your cabin, you will begin and end each day together in prayer and praise to God.'

WILLIAM CAREY (to his son)

Those of us who are lucky enough to have good marriages know that it has very little to do with luck.'

ANONYMOUS

'A man should choose his love and love his choice'.

HENRY SMITH

MARRIAGE (2/3)

Take my wife and let her be, Consecrated Lord to Thee, Take her moments and her days Then I'll live in ceaseless praise'. (Parody)

STEVE BRADY

The average marriage lasts 9 years which can be divided as follows - 3 years wedlock, 3 years unlock.' IBID

'Love is not gazing at one another but looking in the same direction.' CHURCH POSTER

'Most miserable people in the world are not single people. They are married people who realise their marriage was a mistake.'

BILL & LYNNE HYBELS

'Going into marriage is tougher than going into missions'

GEORGE VERWER

'Take a critical look at the person you are considering marrying. What are his interests? What does she get excited about? Is he open to new adventures? Does she come up with fresh ideas? If you see a person who lacks energy, who is content with a narrow world, who disdains change - *be careful*! A lifetime is a long time to be bored.

BILL & LYNNE HYBELS

'You don't marry a person you can live with; you marry a person you can't live without'

RACHEL SIMONS

'Some marry because they are in love with love.'

LOIS PINNEO

'Marry in haste, repent at leisure'

OLD ENGLISH PROVERB

'Living intimately with another human being is the greatest challenge in the world'
BILL & LYNNE HYBELS

The key to a healthy marriage is to keep your eyes wide open before you wed......and half-closed thereafter.'

ANONYMOUS

You are free to abandon your wife when Jesus abandons His.'

JOHN PIPER

MARRIAGE (3/3)

'A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.'
MIGNON MCLAUGHLIN

'Marriage (a publicly pledged, permanent, exclusive, heterosexual union) is not a human but a divine institution, which therefore in itself is not affected by a changing culture.' J R W STOTT

A report from the Family Matters Institute, an organisation sponsored by both the Commons and House of Lords. It states that the current rate of births outside of marriage is 38%, four times the rate of 1976. In 1979, 11% of all unmarried women between 18-49 were cohabiting. By last year, this figure had more than doubled to 29% and I guess will soon reach one third. A USA study showed that cohabiting women are more than twice as likely to be victims of domestic violence as married women. Yet at the beginning of this month, Tessa Jowell, former minister for 'employment and women' is quoted as saying that the government should not promote marriage as the best context for bringing up children. 30% of school children will have seen their parents' divorce or separate by the time they are 16.

'Anthropology tells us that no human society, ancient or modern, primitive or civilised, has ever sustained itself with a buffet-like family model. If marriage is deconstructed, society will face profound and painful consequences.'

NOLA LEACH (Gen Dir of CARE)

'If becoming a Christian means your whole view of life changes – different values, different ambitions, different ethical standards and most importantly a different authority in your life – how can you share your life intimately with someone outside God's family? How can you be at one?'

Quoted from 'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

In the Bible, there is no indication of God giving a one-flesh union to same sex couples. I wish more people were aware of this.'

TONY STONE

'A good father is one of the most unsung, upraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.'

DR BILLY GRAHAM

MARTYRDOM

"The effect of martyrdom on evangelisation over the centuries has been profound. The 19th and 20th centuries saw more mass martyrdoms of 100,000 or more than all previous centuries put together. Martyrs are not just a handful of special saints and heroes, they are 500 ordinary Christians being murdered every day for their witness."

Dr DAVID BARRETT

'(Annas the younger)...convened a judicial session of the Sanhedrin and brought before it the brother of Jesus the so called Christ – James by name – and some others, whom he charged with breaking the law and handed over to be stoned to death.'

(From 'The Antiquities of the Jews', Book XX, 200)

FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS

Modestus threatened Basil with "confiscation, banishment, torture and death." Basil replied: '[N]one of these can reach me. A man who has nothing, is beyond the reach of confiscation; unless you demand my tattered rags, and the few books, which are my only possessions. Banishment is impossible for me, who am confined by no limit of place, counting my own neither the land where I now dwell, nor all of that into which I may be hurled; or, rather, counting it all God's, whose guest and dependent I am. As for tortures, what hold can they have upon one whose body has ceased to be?...Death is my benefactor, for it will send me the sooner to God, for Whom I live, and exist, and have all but died, and to Whom I have long been hastening'.

AD372 BISHOP BASIL of CAESAREA

You can put me to death but you can't do me any real harm'.

JUSTIN MARTYR

MEANING OF LIFE (1/2)

There will be no major solution to the suffering of mankind until we reach some understanding of who we are, what the purpose of creation was, what happens after death.

Until these questions are resolved, we are caught.'

WOODY ALLEN

'I never had the answer to anybody's life. I don't have the answer to my own.'

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

'Now God had gone, what have I left to cling to? I cling to nothing.' JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

'Man, a being in search of meaning.'

PLATO

'Here we are, all of us eating and drinking to preserve our precious existence and there is nothing, absolutely no reason for existing.

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

'Does anyone know what we are living for?'

FREDDIE MERCURY

There remains deep in the soul (if I dare use that word) a persistent and unconscious anxiety that something is missing, some ingredient that makes life worth living.'

PRINCE CHARLES

The gods had given me almost everything, but I let myself be lured into long spells of senselessness and sensual ease ... Tired of being on the heights, I deliberately went to the depths in search of new sensation. What the paradox was to me in the sphere of thought, perversity became to me in the sphere of passion. I grew careless of the lives of others. I took pleasure where it pleased me and passed on. I forgot that every little action of the common day make or unmakes character, and therefore, what one has done in the secret chamber, one has someday to cry aloud from the housetop. I ceased to be Lord over myself. I was no longer the captain of my soul and did not know it. I allowed pleasure to dominate me. I ended in horrible disgrace.'

'If a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live.'

DR MARTIN LUTHER KING

'I must die, abandoned of God and abandoned of man; I wish I was never born.' VOLTAIRE

"People see the celebrity lifestyle and assume that everything is perfect, but we're just like everyone else. Everyone is battling something emotional behind closed doors – that's life. Fame doesn't make you happy.' (Late UK Reality TV Star) CAROLINE FLACK

'You made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you'.

SAINT AUGUSTINE

'Not at all. I don't know what that would mean. I'm unfulfilled as a human being otherwise why are these large holes here? Everything I do is because I'm frightened of being bored because I know what is down here in these holes. I'm frightened of it. It makes me depressed' (On being asked, 'Are you satisfied?') BOB GELDOF

MEANING OF LIFE (2/2)

'Who could have imagined that life could be so sad?'

VAN GOGH

'What's the bl***y point?'

KENNETH WILLIAMS (last recorded words)

'Most people are like a shaving of wood which is curled around its central emptiness.'

THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE

The human heart cries out for personal significance. We were created that way. We have a visceral need for our lives to have meaning. When this need remains unmet, an almost unbearable, soul destroying emptiness engulfs us. It fosters compulsivity and addictions of all kinds'.

GEORGE MILEY

"You don't choose to be like that. It can just be that you feel that your life is so empty that all you can do is try and change yourself, to kind of put meaning there" KASIA on 'anorexia'
BBC website 060107

'I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of, so they can see that it's not the answer'.

JIM CARREY (US actor, comedian)

The picture that science presents to us is.....uncomfortable. Because what we have learned is that we are more insignificant than we ever could have imagined...and in addition, it turns out that the future is miserable'. PROFESSOR LAWRENCE KRAUSS (anti-Christian scientist)

'It's a bittersweet symphony this life. Try to make ends meet, you're a slave to money, and then you die.' RICHARD ASHCROFT, (The Verve, c. 1998)

We are the flotsam of a cosmic explosion, biological survival machines – wet robots – clinging to an insignificant rock, hurtling through a meaningless universe towards total extinction. But still, the new flavoured latte from Starbucks is *incredible*. And have you tried hot yoga? And we're renovating the kitchen. So, you know. That's nice.....as the annihilating tsunami of life bears down on us as we obsess over our sandcastles – the promotion, the holiday, the new gadget – and we dare not look up.' GLENN SCRIVENER (Rev)

'Humans always try to make sense of the world *(through stories)*. Our culture is going through a number of enormous changes: globalization, the internet, huge political, economic and cultural changes all around the world, different ways of thinking about identity, sexuality and the family, new modes of warfare and violence, and ongoing/imminent huge changes in climate, which will presumably make our world utterly different in the course of our lifetimes'.

Dr EMILY WILSON, (Author & Translator)

'When the whole world is running towards a cliff, the one who is running in the opposite direction appears to have lost his mind'. C S LEWIS

MEDIA

The media does not always represent the Christian tradition and faith well. It finds extremes and presents them as a norm, when they're not'.

JOEL EDWARDS

On average we spend 12 years of our lives watching television. By the age of 6, a child has already spent one whole year in front of the TV. One major study in the Journal of the American Medical Association came to the stark conclusion that 'If...television technology had never developed, there would today be 10,000 fewer homicides each year in the United States, 70,000 fewer rapes, and 700,000 fewer injurious assaults. Violent crime would be half of what it is. The psychologist Aric Sigman says that television 'has unleashed a worldwide cultural force equalled in history only by religion...if you were on your deathbed and someone could give you back those missing 12 and a half years to be with people you loved, and maybe do things differently, would you take their offer? Or would you say, 'No thanks. I am glad I spent the time watching TV?' EN, July 2007

MINISTRY

'Never sacrifice depth for area'

DR GRAHAM SCROGGIE

'I have always found that the greatest comfort and effectiveness in my ministry for the Lord is in direct proportion to the depth and reality of my communion with God' DR ALEXANDER MCLAREN

'We are called upon not to be successful, but to be faithful.'

MOTHER TERESA

'Lethargy of the pastors is the great drawback.'

SAMUEL ZWEMER

'Too much applause is a dangerous thing to a young minister' ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER

Some of the troubles which the great Jonathan Edwards encountered at Northampton might have been avoided if he had spent less time in the study and more time with people'.

(UCCF – not verbatim) MIKE REEVES

'Ministry, like housework, is never finished, but it's no excuse to work until we collapse'.

JIM GRUBB (OM CFO)

The person who does not serve God where they are would not serve God anywhere else'.

C H SPURGEON

'A job you can quit, a dream you can give up on, but a calling will chase you forever...'

STEVE CHALKE

'The want of a divine call (is) a main cause of failure in the Christian ministry'.

CHARLES BRIDGES



MIRACLES

"Elijah ate food miraculously delivered by ravens, but his water supply from a brook was completely natural. When the water dried up, the Lord could have made more spring from the ground, but He didn't. Sometimes God uses ordinary means to move us in a new direction. The curtailment of his water supply opened the door for Elijah's next "assignment." When the Lord withholds miraculous intervention and lets your brook dry up, He has something else planned for you".

MISSIONS (1/2)

"We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God."

JOHN STOTT

'90% of all mission workers receive their 'call' between the ages of six & twelve!'
(June 1988) MANNA CHURCH MAG

'Any church which relegates mission to being the peripheral activity of a lunatic fringe of enthusiasts is doomed to self-destruction.'

DR. MICHAEL GRIFFITHS

'He would be a missionary simpleton who expected plain sailing in any work of God.'

JAMES O FRASER

'Being a missionary is hard but most of the alternatives are dull.'

TONY CAMPOLO

'There has been a long tradition which sees the mission of the church primarily as obedience to a command......If one looks at the New Testament evidence, one gets another impression. Mission begins with a kind of explosion of joy.' BISHOP LESSLIE NEWBIGIN

'There is no calculating the value of a missionary who comes to the field and is prepared to do whatever needs to be done.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'Sentimentality, romance and do-good will never hold you on the mission field - only obedience will.'

'Missionary life is full of unsatisfactory arrangements'

IBID

I think it takes a deep spiritual encounter with the cross before we are really qualified to call ourselves missionaries'. IBID

'The biggest trial of a missionary is often another missionary.' FORBES JACKSON

'Before I appoint a missionary, I seek to discover if they have learned to wrestle with the evil one; if they have not, then they will wrestle with their fellow missionaries'. D E HOSTE

If it be the duty of all men to hear the gospel then it be the duty of those entrusted with the gospel to endeavour to make it known to all nations.'

WILLIAM CAREY

The most critical issue in missions at the start of the 21st Century is theological.'

PETER MAIDEN

'Change is embraced more slowly in many mission organisations. Also, the dynamic of competition and market forces seem to be much less of a pressure for Christian organisations, and this can lead to drift rather than diligence'.

GEOFF KNOTT



MISSIONS (2/2)

'Mission tends to attract people who are oriented towards a task, who want to get the job done, and who are not primarily concerned with, or even aware of, their own needs'.

GEORGE MILEY

Those of us who are calling people to mission carry a responsibility to describe the implications clearly and soberly...we must be truthful and responsible.' GEORGE MILEY

'On Sunday, June 25, 1865, unable to bear the sight of a congregation of a thousand or more Christian people rejoicing in their own security, while millions were perishing for lack of knowledge, I wandered out on the sands alone, in great spiritual agony, and there the Lord conquered my unbelief, and I surrendered myself to God for this service...I returned home with a heart enjoying rest such as it has been a stranger to for months'

HUDSON TAYLOR

'World evangelisation is the responsibility of the whole church and God has placed a huge proportion of the resources required to solve this problem in local churches.'

PRESIDENT OF A MISSIONS ORGANISATION

They came with a Bible and their religion, stole our land, crushed our spirit and now tell us we should be thankful to the Lord for being saved' PONTIAC (Ottawa Indian Chief)

"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become."

HENRY MARTYN

This is our commitment. We will press forward until every creature has heard the gospel. We look beyond the thousands to the millions; beyond the cities to the countries. The world is our goal. Impenetrable areas will be reached for Christ, no matter what the cost.' They signed it – 25 students in love with Jesus Christ'. MADRID MANIFESTO, OM, 1961

'Mission cannot be regarded as the hobby of a few fanatical eccentrics in the church. Mission lies at the heart of God and therefore at the very heart of the church. A church without mission is no longer a church'.

JOHN R W STOTT

'Crazy people (a title of respect for those who are sufficiently different in their abilities and passion to change the world and who create irreversible shifts) prefer passion to paperwork, impact to introspection and results to rules'.

GREG KERNAGHAN (OM CDN)

"The Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of Missions, and the nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become."

HENRY MARTYN

'One of the difficulties is the word 'missionary' used as a noun rather than as an adjective...... the essence of the church is that it is a community on mission'

DAVID DEVENISH (What on earth is the church for?)

MONEY (1/2)

'The poorest man I know is the man who has nothing but money.' J D ROCKEFELLER

'How much did Rockefeller leave?' 'He left it all.'

Answer given by Rockefeller's accountant after his death

'Give according to your income unless He makes your income according to your giving!

WALL GRAFFITI AT CENTRE

'Earn all you can; save all you can to give all you can.'

JOHN WESLEY

'God's extra provision is usually not intended to raise our standard of living but to raise our standard of giving.'

RANDY ALCORN

'Giving should be regular, generous and sacrificial.'

STEVE BRADY

'Hey honey, I just put in a \$20 bill into the offering instead of a dollar bill' said BILLY GRAHAM to his wife. 'Don't worry darling, I'm sure God will mark it down as a \$1 bill!'

'Why don't people look around at what they have instead of what they haven't?'

ROY CASTLE

The dollar is the only standard that many people recognise'.

ANONYMOUS

We trivialise our longing for God by putting consumer goods in its way; we replace it with things that are merely good. Yet marriage, family life, holidays & friendships cannot bear the burden of being God to us.' ROY MCCLOUGHRY (in *Third Way* magazine, June '93)

'I will place no value on anything I have or possess except in its relationship to the Kingdom of God.'

DAVID LIVINGSTONE

'God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.'

HUDSON TAYLOR

'How much does it take for a rich man to be satisfied? Just a little bit more!'

NELSON ROCKEFELLER

'All my possessions are just for a moment of time.'

QUEEN ELIZABETH I

'Hollywood is where they will pay you a l000 dollars for a kiss and fifty cents for your soul.'

MARILYN MUNROE

'I gain all I can without hurting either my soul or my body. I save all I can, not willingly wasting anything, not a sheet of paper, not a cup of water....yet by giving all I can, I am effectually secured from "laying up treasures upon earth."

JOHN WESLEY

'The only 'glue' that keeps a diverse secular society together is joint enjoyment of prosperity.'

JOHN BENTON

MONEY (2/2)

When Jesus uses the Aramaic term Mammon to refer to wealth, he is giving it a personal and spiritual character. He is personifying Mammon as a rival god. Mammon is a power that seeks to dominate us'.

"Money, Sex and Power" by RICHARD FOSTER

"All of us are shocked by the poverty of millions and disturbed by the injustices which cause it. Those of us who live in affluent circumstances accept our duty to develop a simple lifestyle in order to contribute generously to both relief and evangelism.' LAUSANNE COVENANT 1974

Prosperity leads to materialism, which leads to a strong desire to get more for ourselves – selfishness. Our selfishness causes us to get so wrapped up in our own needs, wants and issues that we forget about others. Tragically, when we forget about others, we often drift away from our core values'.

The WAL-MART Way' by DON SODERQUIST

The major issue (re the failure of the financial institutions) is a breakdown between ethics and finance'. KEN COSTA (former chairman of UBS Investment Bank and now chair of Alpha)

Beginning in the United States, and heralded in the 1940's by Henry Ford, consumerism has become the dominant cultural force of the last half of the (20th) century......after WW2, rising standards of living, full employment, technological advance and innovative marketing, spearheaded the American revolution that has led to its cultural dominance and imitation ever since'. (Telling the Story: Gospel Mission and Culture 2004) ANDREW WALKER

'Resources will always follow your mission activities. If there is no mission activity, your resources will not come to you. Start the work from where you are, with what little you have. You will be amazed at how God raises the resources, and soon you will be able to do more. He will never fail you, no matter how far you have to go. Look at the feeding of the 5000'.

BEN KWASHI



MORALITY

'A man not honourable in his marital status is not usually honourable in any other.'

PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN

'Christians busy themselves upon earth but their citizenship is in Heaven. They marry and have children but they don't kill unwanted babies. They are persecuted by all and yet they love everyone. They share their table with everybody but they don't share their bed with everybody. They are poor and yet make many rich. They are short of everything and yet have plenty of all things.....those that hate them cannot tell the reason of their hostility.'

LETTER TO DIOGNETUS 2nd CENTURY

"I am a moral person, but I think, like most people, my moral values tend to be pretty fuzzy"

MICK JAGGER

'She was facing some emotional difficulties and the advice she was given by the university counsellor was to sleep with her boyfriend. She replied that she was a Christian and she knew that this would be wrong, to which the counsellor replied, "If it's functionally helpful, then it's legitimate."

Quoted from 'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

"I marvel at Jesus' tenderness in dealing with people. John gives the account of Jesus' conversation with a woman at a well. In those days the husband initiated the divorce: This Samaritan woman had been dumped by five different men. Jesus could have begun by pointing out what a mess the woman had made of her life. Yet he did not say, 'Young woman, do you realize what an immoral thing you're doing, living with a man who is not your husband?" Rather he said, in effect, I sense you are very thirsty. Jesus went to tell her that the water she was drinking would never satisfy and then offered her living water to quench her thirst forever. I try to recall this spirit of Jesus when I encounter someone of whom I morally disapprove. This must be a very thirsty person, I tell myself." PHILIP YANCEY

NATIONALISM

'Nationalism, as an ideology, is in conflict with Biblical norms because it assigns more worth and importance to one people and nation over others.'

JIM WALLIS

The slave trade was banned in 1807 and abolished across the British Empire in 1834 and yet is still with us today. Men, women and children are forced to work, made to fight and sexually abused. Across the world, there are between 21 and 30 million slaves today. In the UK, there are probably between 4200 and 4600 people in slavery.' UKEA, 01/14, DANIEL WEBSTER

OBEDIENCE

'Obedience is my responsibility but the results are God's'.

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'Obedience is the key to everything.'

OSWALD CHAMBERS

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PAST

'He who forgets the past is condemned to repeat it.

GEORGE SANTIANA (Spanish Philosopher)

PERSECUTION

'We've lost our nerve in affluence, they've discovered it in persecution.'

ANONYMOUS

'Every Christian knew that sooner or later he might have to testify to his faith at the cost of his life.'

STEPHEN NEILL (A History of Christian Missions)

'Don't pray for the persecution to stop. We shouldn't pray for a lighter load to carry but a stronger back to endure.....if persecution stops, I fear we will become complacent and fall asleep.'

BROTHER YUN

The persecution of Christians in Western society will only worsen as the idea of absolute tolerance is promoted over absolute truth..'

PATRICK JOHNSTONE

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship or observance" UN UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. (Article 18)

'Punishment was inflicted on the Christians, a body of people addicted to a novel and mischievous superstition' (from the 'Life of Nero c. AD 120) SUETONIUS

'Persecution is not sweet, but it's useful.'

ERITREAN CHURCH LEADER

'The unprecedented growth of the Chinese church has happened under ceaseless persecution' BOB FU President of CAA (China Aid Association)

"...those that hate them (i.e. Christians) cannot tell the reason of their hostility."

LETTER TO DIOGNETUS 2nd CENTURY

PERSEVERANCE (1/2)

'The secret of success is constancy of purpose'

BENJAMIN DISRAELI

The mark of a certain kind of genius is the ability and energy to keep returning to the same task relentlessly, imaginatively, curiously, for a lifetime. Never give up and go on to something else; never get distracted and be diverted to something else'.

EUGENE PETERSEN

The Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation...Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free...but if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age...let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."

'Never give up; never, ever give up; never, ever, ever give up.'

IBID

'I can plod. That is my only genius. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything.'

WILLIAM CAREY

'No matter how hard you work or how well you do, you can always do better' MEL GIBSON

'Nothing of lasting value is ever achieved without hard graft.'

STEVE CHALKE

They say that hard work never hurt anybody, but I figure, why take the chance?'
(attributed to) RONALD REAGAN

I am beginning to think that unless something is hard to achieve, it is not worth aiming at in the first place. Yet, the effort usually seems to ensure some degree of success'. G BOLTON

When you are trying to accomplish something, you should first decide what is the final objective you are seeking to attain, and then never lose sight of it.'

(19th Century manual on naval strategy) ANON

'Every successful man was an unsuccessful man who did not give up.'

ANON

'Pray that I will not come to a wearied end—an exhausted, tired, old preacher, interested only in hunting a place to roost. Pray that I will let my Christian standards cost me something right down to the last gasp!'

Dr A W TOZER

'Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success.'

ERNEST SHACKLETON

'My story is not about luck or a fairytale. It is about hard work...and determination. I found I had a talent and I have worked as hard as possible to develop it so that I can be successful and, in the process inspire others, if I can, to achieve a dream.' LEWIS HAMILTON (My Story)

'Your commitment to (this kind of) ministry has to be longer than your emotions. You have to be in it for the long haul.' (Founder of Metro Church Sunday school).

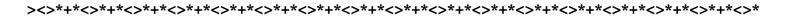
BILL WILSON

PERSEVERANCE (2/2)

'Remember it is a (re)mark of old and experienced men, that very few men and very few ministers keep up to the end the edge that was on their spirit at first'.

ANDREW BONAR (1810-1892)

'Even the snail by perseverance reached the ark!' C H SPURGEON



POOR

'We have responded to all the scriptures say about the poor by pretending it just isn't there. We have cut the poor out of the Bible.'

POSTMODERNISM

Contemporary culture is being overtaken and submerged by the spirit of postmodernism. Postmodernism begins as a self-conscious reaction against the modernism of the Enlightenment, and especially against its unbounded confidence in reason, science and progress. The post-modern mind rightly rejects this naïve optimism. But then it goes further and declares that there is no such thing as objective or universal truth; that all so called 'truth' is purely subjective, being culturally conditioned; and that therefore, we will all have our own truth, which has as much right to respect as anybody else's. Pluralism is an offspring of postmodernism; it affirms the independent validity of every faith and ideology and demands in shrill tones that we abandon as impossibly ignorant any attempt to convert somebody (let alone everybody) to our opinion'.

"Are we hearing the cultural norms & values of our day challenged from a Biblical perspective or are we having those cultural norms affirmed and given some sort of religious veneer?"

BERGER

"What you consider to be an inappropriate relationship may not be inappropriate to others"

Advice in 'NEW REALITY' UK Girlguiding packs

'Here it is again: the absolute antithesis. Either we can know God exhaustively, or we are restricted to the mysterious'. DON CARSON (Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church)

'Postmodern theory begins to unravel simply because it cannot responsibly address the toughest moral questions of our time.'

The postmodern ethos ends to be anti-absolutist, suspicious of truth claims and wide open to relativism. It tends to adopt therapeutic approaches to spirituality.'

'Secularists are usually very keen to dismiss the idea of moral absolutes, yet this very position leaves them all at sea when trying to find a basis for universal human rights'.

TIMOTHY KELLER (as adapted by JOHN BENTON in EN)

'In this society, caring deeply for anyone is becoming synonymous with losing.'
HERBERT HENDIN, psychoanalyst in 1975

This is the first time a civilisation has existed that, to a significant extent, does not believe in objective right and wrong'.

DR DAVID WELLS

You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist.'

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

PRAYER (1/4)

'Solid lasting missionary work is done on our knees.'

JAMES O FRASER

'Time and energy are always saved by prayer and wasted without it.'

D E HOSTE

'Always respond to every impulse to pray....I would make an absolute law of this - always obey such an impulse.'

DR D M LLOYD-JONES

'I confess freely that I have often found it difficult to start praying in the morning.' IBID

'You are crying to me to do a big work among the Lisu; I am wanting to do a big work in you yourself.'

JAMES O FRASER

'In waiting rather than calling he had received a great deal in prayer.'(of)JAMES O FRASER

'One of the greatest blessings of his life has been his unanswered prayers.'

(of) DR STUART HOLDEN

'Is this not the secret of many unanswered prayers that they are not fought through?'

JAMES O FRASER

'Try to find God's balance between prayer and work.'

JAMES O FRASER

'Sometimes we think we don't have time to pray. But that's a big mistake because to pray means to gain time.'

C H SPURGEON

'The worst sin is prayerlessness.'

P T FORSYTH

'Few are converted unless in conjunction with someone's prayers.'

R A TORREY

'If I am going to do any great work for God, first I must be mighty on my knees.'

C H SPURGEON

"I strongly suspect that if we saw all the difference even the tiniest of our prayers make, and all the people those little prayers were destined to affect, and all the consequences of those prayers down through the centuries, we would be so paralyzed with awe at the power of prayer that we would be unable to get up off our knees for the rest of our lives."

(Professor of Philosophy, Boston College) PETER KREEFT

'It is a consoling thought that Christ is praying for us, even when we are negligent in our prayer life.'

(Systematic Theology) LOUIS BERKHOF

'Our prayer life stinks most of the time.'

(Gentle and Lowly) DANE ORTLUND

PRAYER (2/4)

'When we become too glib in prayer we are most surely talking to ourselves.' A W TOZER

'When man works, man works; when man prays, God works.'

ANONYMOUS

'Work as though everything depended on you and pray as though everything depended on God.'

HUDSON TAYLOR

'He did not come to answer all our prayers as we wanted'.

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'God's refusals are amongst His greatest gifts.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'Without God, we cannot; without us, He will not'

AUGUSTINE

'Prayer does not prepare us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work.'

OSWALD SANDERS

'Prayer and pains through faith in Christ Jesus will do anything'

JOHN ELIOT

'Courage is fear that has prayed.'

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

But how can you pray, really pray, I mean – with one against whom you have a grudge or whom you have been discussing critically with another? Try it. You find it cannot be done.'

AMY CARMICHAEL

'God does not have favourites but he does have intimates'

FRANCOIS VOSLOO

'Prayer is a discipline as well as a privilege.'

MIKE WAKELY

'79% of 18-25 year olds pray regularly.' Survey result in the DAILY TELEGRAPH, 2002

'In magic, humans are attempting to exert control – to bend unseen forces to become their servant and bring about their desired will. *They* are in the driving seat...Essentially, it is God who is in the driving seat. In no way is he there as our servant; we are his servants co-operating with his set purposes by prayer.'

REV RICHARD BEWES

"To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love."

JOHN CALVIN

"Prayer is the privilege of sons, the proof of sonship."

SAMUEL CHADWICK

"Prayer is where the action is. Any church without a well organised and systematic prayer programme is simply operating a religious treadmill."

PAUL BILHEIMER

"From this day on, the prayer meeting will be the barometer of our church. What happens on Tuesday night will be the gauge by which God blesses us."

JIM CYMBALA

PRAYER (3/4)

"Prayer in the NT is stressed over and over again as a vital prerequisite for the release and experience of God's power." (Commentary on II Corinthians) by PHILIP HUGHES

"Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan."

JOHN BUNYAN

"Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure."

D.L. MOODY

"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers."

J. SIDLOW BAXTER

"...the power of prayer is not in the words I pray, the place I pray, the way I pray, how loud I pray, or how long I pray, but in the One to Whom I pray."

ANNE MURCHISON

"You will never be able to pray everywhere, all the time, until you have learned to prayer somewhere, some of the time."

MARK WATER

"I have not prayed one prayer in 45 years without getting an answer. I always got an answer and the answer was always 'yes'."

KENNETH HAGIN

"To pray successfully is the first lesson the preacher must learn if he is to preach fruitfully; yet prayer is the hardest thing he will ever be called upon to do and, being human, it is the one act he will be tempted to do less frequently than any other."

A W TOZER

"Guard against all ambition to excel one another in expression. Remember the most spiritual prayer is 'a groan which cannot be uttered,' Rom. 8:26; or a cry of 'Abba, Father,' Gal. 4:6."

ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

'Prayerlessness is practical atheism'.

GORDON FEE

'The more helpless you are, the better you are fitted to pray, and the more answers to prayer you will experience'.

OLE HALLESBY

'In prayer, God allows us to be involved in activities that are eternally important.....the work of the kingdom is advanced'.

WAYNE GRUDEM

"It is not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many they are, nor the rhetoric of our prayers, how eloquent they are; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they be; nor the music of our prayers, how sweet our voice may be; nor the logic of our prayers, how argumentative they may be; nor the method of our prayers, how orderly they may be - which God cares for.

Fervency of Spirit is that which avails much."

WILLIAM LEE

"Throughout history and in movements all around the world, every time there has been a significant movement of the Spirit, the Lord seems to first prepare the soil by prompting the prayers of His people."

RUPERT LEARY

"I have been driven many times up on my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

PRAYER (4/4)

Believers do not pray with the view of informing God about things unknown to him, or of exciting him to do his duty, or of urging him as though he were reluctant. On the contrary, they pray in order that they may arouse themselves to seek him, that they may exercise their faith in meditating on his promises, that they may relieve themselves from their anxieties by pouring them into his bosom; in a word, that they may declare that from him alone they hope and expect, both for themselves and for others, all good things.'

JOHN CALVIN

'By our praying ... we are instructing ourselves more than we are him'. MARTIN LUTHER

"It matters little what form of prayer we adopt or how many words we use. What matters is the faith which lays hold on God, knowing that He knows our needs before we even ask Him. That is what gives Christian prayer its boundless confidence and its joyous certainty."

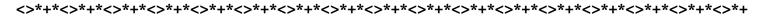
DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

'I want thought, in my ignorance, that most people said their prayers, and many people prayed. I have lived to think differently. I have come to the conclusion that the great majority of Christians do not pray at all'.

J C RYLE

'We should never give up praying for it until we get it, or until God makes it very clear and definite to us that it is not his will to give it'.

R A TORREY





PREACHING (1/9) – Quotations from Dr D M LLOYD-JONES

The preacher should never be apologetic, He must be free in the act of preaching, He must not be too tied to his preparation and by it, Often the best things one says are not premeditated, Preaching is designed to do something to people.

The preacher must be a serious man...the preacher must be lively...you can be serious and lively at the same time!

There is something radically wrong with dull and boring preachers. I would say that a dull preacher is a contradiction in terms. If he is dull, he is not a preacher. If he has not been gripped, nobody else will be. He may stand in a pulpit and talk but he is certainly not a preacher.

The apostle tells us himself that he preached with tears. Whitefield, it seems, almost invariably as he was preaching, would have tears streaming down his face. There should be intimacy of contact between the preacher and his congregation.

Preaching must always be characterised by persuasiveness.

What is preaching? Logic on fire! Eloquent reason! Are these contradictions? Of course they are not...preaching is theology coming through a man who is on fire. Light & heat!

What is a preacher? The first thing obviously is that he is a speaker. Preachers are born, not made. The greatest need today is to restore this authority to the pulpit.

The preachers first and most important task is to prepare himself not his sermon.

There is nothing like it. It is the greatest work in the world. It is the most thrilling, the most exciting, the most rewarding and the most wonderful. Preaching is the highest and the greatest and the most glorious calling to which anyone can ever be called.

Preaching should make such a difference to a man that he is never the same again..... something has taken place in him and in his experience and it is going to affect the whole of his life......preaching is designed to do something to people.

Be aware of the danger of just frittering away your time, particularly in the morning....one of the great rules for a preacher is to safeguard the mornings.

The preachers great difficulty is to find sufficient time for reading; it is a constant battle.

"Know thyself" was the advice given by Greek philosophers of old; and there is till no more important injunction for preachers.

On the whole I would say that one should not preach on subjects as such.

PREACHING (2/9) - Quotations from Dr D M LLOYD-JONES

We must be honest with our texts; and we must always take them in their context. That is an absolute rule.

Preaching which is nothing but evangelistic is obviously inadequate.

People are not as interested in preaching as they used to be.

We are not concerned just to influence people or to move them; our desire must be that the truth should influence them and move them. The preacher is called primarily to preach the positive truth.

Natural humourists always trouble me because I feel that they tend to go too far and allow their humour to run away with them.

The man who tries to be humorous is an abomination and should never be allowed to enter a pulpit.

Ten minutes from some people seems like an age while an hour from another passes like a few minutes.

You are a man 'possessed', you are taken hold of and taken up.....and I know of nothing on earth that is comparable to this feeling that when this happens you have a feeling that you are not actually doing the preaching, you are looking on in great astonishment and enjoyment.

It is not your effort. That is what the preacher himself is aware of. Are you expecting it to be the turning point in someone's life? Are you expecting anyone to have a climactic experience?

I would say that the only man who is called to preach is the man who cannot do anything else, in the sense that he is not satisfied with anything else. This call to preach is so put upon him, and such pressure comes to bear upon him that he says, "I can do nothing else, I must preach."

What the preacher always needs is a stimulus."

The first object of preaching the gospel is not to save souls; it is to glorify God

'The supreme need of the hour is preachers, not just teachers..."

(Opening of LTS, 1977 Dr. D M LLOYD-JONES)

'I can forgive a preacher almost anything as long as he leaves me something of God.'

D M LLOYD-JONES

Method of preaching: (a) Mind (b) Conscience (c) Will (d) Emotions

D M LLOYD-JONES

PREACHING (3/9)

'I know a minister who is great upon the ten toes of the beast, the four faces of the cherubim, the mystical meaning of badger's skins and the typical bearings of the staves of the ark and the windows of Solomon's temple. But the sins of business men, the temptations of the times and the needs of the age he scarcely ever touches upon. Such preaching reminds me of a lion engaged in mouse-hunting.'

C H SPURGEON

'I can't teach a man to preach; if he can preach, I can make him better; if he can't preach, don't bring him to me.'

'If God has made you a preacher, never dwindle to become a king.'

IBID

'We must not come to our congregations as if we were half-asleep. Our preaching must not be articulate snoring.'

'The preacher is particularly vulnerable to doubt and depression.'

JOHN STOTT

'Study both the Word and the world in order to relate the one to the other with honesty, courage, conviction and meekness.'

'Of 112 references to preaching in the Bible, only 6 are about formal, pulpit, church preaching.'

KORKY DAVEY

'A sermon is not made with an eye upon the sermon but with both eyes upon the people and all the heart upon God.'

JOHN OWEN

'I go out to preach with two propositions in mind. First every person ought to give his life to Christ. Second, whether or not anyone else gives Him his life, I will give Him mine.'

JONATHAN EDWARDS

'Preach for the glory of God and not for the congratulations of the congregation.'

TONY SARGENT

'Preaching should rank as the noblest work on earth.'

ANDREW BLACKWOOD

'Never think of giving up preaching! The angels around the throne envy you your great work.'

ALEXANDER WHYTE

'God Himself speaks to us by the preacher.'

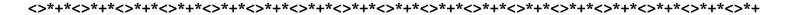
CHARLES SIMEON

'I do indeed live by preaching.'

JOHN WESLEY

'It is the most excellent way because it tendeth to work on many....the public preaching of the Word....it is no small matter to stand up in the face of a congregation and deliver a message as from the living God in the name of our Redeemer.'

RICHARD BAXTER



PREACHING (4/9)

'Wherever we see the Word purely preached and heard, it is not to be doubted a church of God exists.'

JOHN CALVIN

Those who have not spoken or preached to any great extent may not realise how demanding and exhausting speaking can be, physically, emotionally and spiritually.'

DR BILLY GRAHAM

'The highest service that men may obtain to on earth is to preach the Word of God.'

JOHN WYCLIFFE

'The nine properties and virtues of a good preacher are:-

- 1. Teach systematically.
- 2. Have a ready wit.
- 3. Be eloquent.
- 4. Have a good voice.
- 5. Have a good memory.
- 6. Know when to make an end.
- 7. Have a good doctrine.
- 8. Venture and engage body and blood, wealth and honour, in the Word.
- 9. Suffer himself to be mocked and jeered of everyone.'

MARTIN LUTHER

'Preaching is the communication of truth by man to men. It has in it two essential elements, truth and personality. Neither of these can it spare and still be preaching.... preaching is the bringing of truth through personality......the truth is in itself a fixed and stable element: the personality is a varying & growing element.' BISHOP PHILLIP BROOKES

'To love to preach is one thing; to love those to whom we preach is quite another.'

RICHARD CECIL

'My endeavour is to bring out of scripture what is there and not to thrust in what I think might be there. I have a great jealousy on this head never to speak more or less than I believe to be the mind of the spirit in the passage that I am expounding. I do therefore not sit down to the perusal of scripture in order to impose a sense on the inspired writers but to receive one as they give it to me. I do not claim to teach them. I wish like a child to be taught by them.'

(From the introduction to 'Horae Homileticae') CHARLES SIMEON

'We don't present the gospel well enough for the non-elect to reject it.' A CALVINIST

'His throne is the pulpit; he stands in Christ's stead; his message is the word of God; around him are immortal souls; the Saviour unseen is beside him; the Holy Spirit broods over the congregation; angels gaze upon the scene, and heaven and hell await the issue.

What associations and what vast responsibilities.'

MATTHEW SIMPSON

PREACHING (5/9)

'Preaching is in the shadows; the world does not believe in it'

SANGSTER

'When the word of God is faithfully preached, the Word of God is truly heard'

ALISTER BEGG

'Preacher's Kid 1: 'My dad can preach without notes'.

Preacher's Kid 2: 'Oh that's nothing, my dad can preach without thinking!"

STEVE BRADY

Theological substance that stirs the heart transforms the life.'

ALISTER BEGG

'Preaching is the art of speaking in someone else's sleep.'

ANON

'Preaching is not restating the gospel in cultural terms; it is refashioning the culture in gospel terms.'

WILLIAM WILLIMON

To preach a sermon.....what skill is necessary to make the truth plain; to convince the hearers, to let irresistible light in to their consciences, and to keep it there, and drive all home; to screw the truth into their minds, and work Christ into their affections; to meet every objection, and clearly to resolve it.....and to do all thisas is most suitable to the capacities of our hearers. This.....must surely require a great deal of holy skill. So great a God whose message we deliver, should be honoured by our delivery of it. It is a lamentable case that in a message from the God of heaven.....we should behave ourselves so weakly, so unhandsomely, so imprudently, or so lightly, that the whole business should miscarry in our hands, and God should be dishonoured, and his work be disgraced......and all this through our weakness or neglect! How often have carnal hearers gone home jeering at the palpable and dishonourable failings of the preacher! How many sleep under us, because our hearts and tongues are sleepy, and we bring not with us so much skill and zeal as to awake them!

RICHARD BAXTER (from 'The Reformed Pastor')

'Sermons, whether evangelistic or not, are more popular with ministers than with other people.'

JOHN DRANE

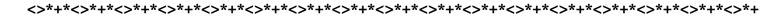
'Is it worth saying? i.e. Is there a real message here, something vital, relevant, gripping? Is it well said? i.e. Has it gone across – or was it too heavy, too complicated, too boring, etc JOHN R W STOTT

The first aim of a sermon is to say a bit of God's word memorably'

JOHN WENHAM

'Preaching is a sacred relic, a dubious thing of withered skin and dry bones enclosed within a reliquary of fond remembrance still encrusted with the jewels of a former glory.'

GEORGE TARGETT (USA Trend Observer)



PREACHING (6/9)

'Preaching: to exhort in an officious and tiresome manner.' WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY

'The church rises or falls by her preaching.'

P T FORSYTHE

The hour can ripple the dancing currents of the Creator's voice – it is a dangerous place to be'

JEREMY MIDDLETON

'An echo from an abandoned past'

ANON

The Christian preacher has a boundary set for him. When he enters the pulpit, he is not an entirely free man. There is a very real sense that the Almighty has set him his bounds that he shall not pass. He is not at liberty to invent or choose his message, it had been committed to him; moreover it is for him to declare, expound and commend it to his hearers. It is a great thing to come under the magnificent tyranny of the gospel.' COGGAN

'Old and experienced Christians complain that a vast quantity of modern preaching is so foggy and hazy and dim and indistinct, hesitating and timid and cautious and fenced with doubts that the preacher does not seem to know what he believes himself.'

J C RYLE

'Authentic Christian preaching should be Biblical and contemporary, (relating the ancient texts to the modern context), authoritative and tentative (i.e. dogmatic and agnostic), prophetic and pastoral (combining faithfulness with gentleness), gifted and studied, (divine gift and human self discipline), thoughtful and passionate (i.e. mind and emotions).'

JOHN R W STOTT

'Preaching should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.' CHAD WALSH

'Courage is the indispensable mark of any true ministry. If you are afraid of men and a slave to their opinion, go and do something else. Go and make shoes to fit them. Go even and paint pictures which you know are bad but which suit their bad taste but do not keep on all your life preaching sermons which will say not what god sent you to declare but what men hire you to say. Be courageous and independent' BISHOP PHILLIP BROOKES

I shall state my own view as to what this text means freely but each of you must form his own judgment.'

CALVIN'S COMMENTARIES

I think it is a safe rule that there should be no appeal without an exposition and no exposition without an appeal.'

JOHN R W STOTT

'If there were two changes I would make, I would firstly study three times as much as I have done for I have preached too much and studied too little and secondly, I would give more time to prayer.'

DR BILLY GRAHAM

PREACHING (7/9)

'No one will be a good minister of the word of God unless he is first of all a scholar, that is a student.'

JOHN CALVIN

'He who no longer sows in the study will no more reap in the pulpit.'

C H SPURGEON

There must be light as well as fire. Some are all fire and no light and some are all light and no fire. What we need is both'.

C H SPURGEON

'Learn to study for the sake of truth then your sermons will be like the leaping of a fountain and not like the pumping of a pump.'

BISHOP PHILLIP BROOKES

You will always find that the men whom God has used signally are those who have studied most, know their scriptures best and have given time to preparation.' D M LLOYD-JONES

'First light, then heat.'

RICHARD BAXTER (Reformed Pastor, 1665)

Bewildered by seductive voices, nursing wounds life has inflicted upon them, anxious about matters that do not matter, they come to listen to a clear word from God that speaks to their condition.' (Biblical Preaching)

HADDON W ROBINSON

'His throne is the pulpit; he stands in Christ's stead; his message is the Word of God; around him are immortal souls; the Saviour, unseen, is beside him; the Holy Spirit broods over the congregation; angels gaze upon the scene, and heaven and hell await the issue. What associations, and what vast responsibility!' (Preaching Lectures) MATTHEW SIMPSON

"Either read or get out of the ministry!"

JOHN WESLEY

"It is strange how sweet and precious it is to preach directly about Christ, compared with all other subjects of preaching."

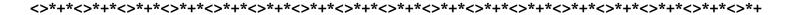
ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

"...he carefully avoided the too common mode of accommodating texts, of fastening a doctrine on the words, not drawing it from the obvious connection of the passage. He endeavoured at all times to preach the mind of the Spirit in a passage; for he feared that to do otherwise would be to grieve the Spirit who had written it. Interpretation was thus a solemn matter to him'.

(Andrew Bonar of) ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

'My endeavour is to bring out of the scripture what is there and not to thrust in what I think might be there....take for your subject that which you believe to be the mind of God in the passage before you'.

CHARLES SIMEON



PREACHING (8/9)

Whenever a human being, Bible in hand, stands up before a group of other human beings invites the gathered assembly into a particular text of the Bible and as faithfully as possible tries to say again what the living God is saying in the text, something always happens.

Something transformative, empowering, life-giving happens......it is the glory of preaching'.

(From "The Glory of Preaching") DARRELL JOHNSON

"In Africa, God's people survive on what preachers want them to hear, even if it has little to do with the Bible passage that has been read. Platitudes have replaced exposition – often by preachers who scold and shout. Is it any surprise that churches are largely malnourished? As long as this is the staple diet, there is no hope for the African church". CONRAD MBEWE (Pastor of Lusaka Baptist Church, Zambia)

'He is the best orator who can turn man's ears into eyes'. ARABIAN PROVERB

Christian preaching is not the proud ventilation of human opinions: it is the humble exposition of God's Word. Biblical expositors bring out of Scripture what is there; they refuse to thrust into the text what is not there. They pry open what appears closed, make plain what seems obscure, unravel what is knotted, and unfold what is tightly packed. In expository preaching the biblical text is neither a conventional introduction to a sermon on a largely different topic, nor a convenient peg on which to hang a ragbag of miscellaneous thoughts, but a master which dictates and controls what is said.

JOHN R W STOTT

Beyond doubt, preaching was their favourite weapon. They wisely went back to first principles. They preached everywhere. If the pulpit was open to them they gladly availed themselves of it [but] they were equally ready to preach in a barn. No place came amiss to them. In the field or by the road side, on the village green, or in a market place, in lanes, or in alleys, in cellars or in garrets, on a tub or on a table, on a bench or on a horse block, wherever hearers could be gathered [they] were ready to speak...They were instant in season and out of season...' The men and the means God used to transform a nation

Christian Leaders Century J C RYLE

'While a good sermon might impress and inform, good preaching penetrates and transforms. It is not merely about winning the argument; it is about addressing the heart'. TIM KELLER

'Prepare the preacher more than you prepare the sermon'.

TIM KELLER

The concept of the 'Big Idea' within the text.....is a bit artificial. We must be careful of a kind of 'expository legalism' – in which it is assumed there can be only one exegetically accurate sermon and sermon theme on any one passage'.

From 'Preaching' by TIM KELLER

'An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching'. MAHATMA GANDHI

PREACHING (9/9)

Am I addressing God's people in their places of need, showing them concretely how their new identity in Christ transforms everything, and how God gives them what they need to live out this new identity for his glory and the good of their unbelieving neighbour? CARRIE SANDOM

Some preachers need to put more fire into their sermons, or more sermons into the fire.

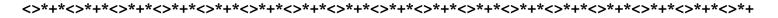
VANCE HAVNER

Preaching should never be a 'trivial flaunting of learnedness and idle parading of words. The highest ideal in solid preaching is to speak out the deepest thoughts so simply and so naturally that even the casual labourer understands you'.

HERMAN BAVINCK (1854-1920)

Preach 90% law and 10% grace'.

JOHN WESLEY



PREDESTINATION/ELECTION

"I have no sympathy with those men who try to limit God's salvation to a certain few. I believe that Christ died for all who will come. I have received many letters finding fault with me and saying I surely don't believe the doctrine of election. I do believe in election; but I have no business to preach that doctrine to the world at large. The world has nothing to do with election; it has only to do with the invitation, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." That is the message for the sinner'

D L MOODY

'Who are the elect? You, if you wish.'

ST AUGUSTINE

If anyone with carefree assurance breaks into this place, he will not succeed in satisfying his curiosity and he will enter a labyrinth from which he can find no exit.' JOHN CALVIN

"He saw no inconsistency in preaching an electing God, who "calleth whom He will," and a salvation free to "whosoever will;" nor in declaring the absolute sovereignty of God, and yet the unimpaired responsibility of man".

Biography of Robert Murray McCheyne by ANDREW BONAR

We have to confess the doctrine of election is difficult to finite minds. But it is incontrovertibly a biblical doctrine. It emphasizes that salvation is due to God's grace alone, not to man's merit; not to our works performed in time, but to God's purpose conceived in eternity. Thus understood, God's purpose of election is bound to be mysterious to men, for we cannot aspire to an understanding of the secret thoughts and decisions of the mind of God. However, the doctrine of election is never introduced in Scripture either to arouse or to baffle our carnal curiosity, but always for a practical purpose. On the one hand, it engenders deep humility and gratitude, for it excludes all boasting. On the other, it brings both peace and assurance, for nothing can quieten our fears for our own stability like the knowledge that our safety depends ultimately not on ourselves but on God's own purpose of grace. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

JOHN R W STOTT

PRESSURE

'It does not matter how great the pressure is. What really matters is where the pressure lies - whether it comes between you and God or whether it presses you nearer His heart.

HUDSON TAYLOR

'Blessed are those who are flexible for they shall not break'

ANON

PRIDE

'A proud faith is as much a contradiction as a humble devil'

STEPHEN CHARNOCK

'How strange that people feel the need to boast about their travels as though God 'specially honours the globe-trotter.'

MIKE WAKELY

'Self-righteousness is the normal human condition' JONATHAN HAIDT (social psychologist)

There is a prevailing preoccupation in evangelicalism with numbers skill and self-congratulation. We are riddled with it. The issue is endemic.

ALISTAIR BEGG

PROSPERITY THEOLOGY (1/2)

The tragedy is that millions do not appear to have the discernment to understand that it is a false gospel. Many pin their hopes on a God who will solve all their problems and give them whatever they want in abundance. When they do not get what they have been promised, the result is either self-blame and discouragement or a downward spiral into cynicism and unbelief...but it does often make me despair of the people of God, who are so easily duped and so easily led astray.'

"One afternoon in 1998, the voice of the Lord came to me as I sat in my office, praying in the Spirit.......I heard Him say: I want you to buy a brand new aeroplane - right now. His words surprised me. To begin with, I didn't think I needed a new aeroplane. I liked the one I already had.....When I asked the Lord why he wanted me to buy a new one, He said, 'I am tired of this old aeroplane, old house, old car, old clothes mentality among My people.'"

Mike Wakely in his book 'Generosity' comments, 'How can the writer justify this passion for prosperity? Look at this fascinating Biblical justification. It comes from Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey'.

KC again: "Notice that this was not some old, worn-out swayback donkey that no-one wanted. No, Jesus specifically said it was one that had never been used. That's what he needed - a 'new' donkey, not a used one".

KENNETH COPELAND

"It is a cancer in the church"

DR MARK HOPKINS

"God is most intent on giving us himself, not giving us things. At the end of the book of Job, he doesn't get his things back. Job gets God back. It's a whole reorientation in our relationship with God to see him not as a provider who gives us things, but to see him as intent on giving himself to us"

MICHAEL CARD

'A much stronger sense of individual responsibility for one's circumstances has made Americans more inclined to see personal wealth as a sign of divine approval. Lacking the traditional British embarrassment about money, Americans are more likely to see wealth as something to be invested and exploited...it seems a reasonable assumption that the marginalisation of the Word of Faith movement in the UK is largely attributable to cultural factors of this nature.' Faith, Health and Prosperity, UKEA ed. ANDREW PERRIMAN

'Begin to act prosperous and that's what you will end up being.' REV CREFLO DOLLAR

'If they stop buying cheap stuff – the polyester dress, the supermarket cologne – they will begin to lose their 'discount mentality' and put themselves in a position to be blessed. If you are ever going to receive God's best, you are going to have to break through the wall of containment and think big.'

'The Word of Faith movement has its own peculiar rhetoric, and it seems likely that some confusion has arisen because critics have failed to distinguish between what is being said and how it is being said.' Faith, Health and Prosperity, UKEA ed. ANDREW PERRIMAN

PROSPERITY THEOLOGY (2/2)

"...this lopsided emphasis...has bred the scandal of the present day televangelism culture which offer words of prosperity and blessing without the cross, without justice, without sacrifice, without social and personal transformation...it teaches that if we are truly following God, we will be materially blessed. The implication of prosperity teaching for those who are suffering material deprivation is that there is either something wrong with their faith or their relationship with God." (On the Side of the Angels) DR D'SOUZA and BENEDICT ROGERS

It teaches both the Word of God and gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord in a self-serving manner. It places its emphasis on consumerism, suggesting that the possession of material things is necessary to show Christianity and God's approval."

Dr KWABENA ASAMOAH-GYADU, Trinity Theological Seminary, GHANA

It is nothing less than seduction into a false delusion. It is an unrealistic solution to the challenges of daily life and reduces God to the "genie in the bottle." It causes havoc among impoverished communities as it often wears the mask of advocacy for the poor, but is hardly good news. It is the shepherds fleecing the flock. The poor who sow the seed are not the ones that get richer. It is leaders and pastors who wear better suits, drive better cars and acquire bigger homes. We need to embrace those living in poverty with realistic solutions by taking the plight of the poor seriously enough to reject this 'gospel' and work at better ways of meeting their needs, not offering false shortcuts'.

FEMI ADELEYE, IFES, NIGERIA

"It may move us in the moment, but it cannot sustain us through the storm". JEN WILKIN (from the poem 'Beware the Instagram Bible')

PROVIDENCE OF GOD

'Accidents? Accidents? There are no accidents in the life of a Christian. This is just an incident in God's perfect leading.'

ROWLAND BINGHAM (in hospital after an RTA)

'First, I had never been robbed before.

Second, I was robbed and not the robber.

Third, he took my wallet and not my life.'

(From his journal after being robbed) MATTHEW HENRY

Everything is needful that he sends; nothing that can be needful that he withholds.'

JOHN NEWTON

REALITY

'There is a chorus which says, "*And now I am happy all the day*." I do not believe that; it is not true. There will be times when you will be unhappy.'

DR D M LLOYD-JONES

'I enjoy my walk with Jesus - it's not just a journey, it's an adventure.' JONI EARECKSON

'Much of today's teaching and preaching communicates Christianity as an instant fix to all our pains and struggles. Consequently we begin to think of our faith as a sparkling Magic Wand; we wave it and presto, our problems are gone in a puff of smoke....this is, bluntly put, heresy.....it not only makes Christians incredibly naive in approaching complex problems but it can shatter the fragile faith of the believer who expects the Magic Wand to work every time. When those problems don't disappear...he questions whether his spirituality is faulty. The result is guilt....if we trust this fairy tale brand of Christianity, we eventually fall victim to its consequent paralysis...as we confront our own repeated sins and failures and also as we encounter the stumblings of those to whom we minister.'

CHUCK COLSON

The mark of authentic spiritual experience is that you become satisfied with God for who he is, not for the benefits he gives you.'

JONATHAN EDWARDS

RELIGION

The tendency to claim God as our ally for our partisan values and ends is......the source of all religious fanaticism.'

American theologian REINHOLD NIEBUHR

I suspect religion was some random by-product of mammalian reproduction, a necessary evil in the childhood of our species...but why was it more evil than necessary? Isn't killing people in the name of God a pretty good definition of insanity? ARTHUR C CLARKE (UK SF writer)

'Religions tend to be based on the premise that we are all evil and will remain so until we give ourselves up to a redeemer, and I find I can't agree with that.'

TERRY WOGAN

'It was when I became a Muslim that I found peace.' YUSSUF ISLAM aka CAT STEVENS

The appropriate question to a traditional Hindu – or a modern New-Ager for that matter – is not "What do you believe?" but rather "What do you deny?".' REV RICHARD BEWES

'Alien world views are not to be appeased but opposed.'

IBID

Religious people are often good at playing religious games. Offering respect but keeping at a distance; flattering but not embracing the ministry being offered' DR PAUL ADAMS

'Religions are illusions. They are fulfilments of the oldest, strongest and most urgent wishes of mankind. There is a terrifying impression of helplessness that comes in childhood and it arouses a need for protection through love which was provided by the father. Thus the benevolent rule of divine providence allays our fears of the dangers of life'. SIGMIND FREUD

REPENTANCE

'The Christian who has stopped repenting has stopped growing.' JOHN BLANCHARD

'Repentance is not just a momentary act, it is a constant attitude of the heart.' ANON

'I have sinned and I repent. I know that is more than just saying sorry, I need to change'.

FORMER US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

'There is one friend at the gate of heaven I will be sorry to say farewell to – repentance. He has served me well.'

'Our churches are graveyards of people who......"opened the door" but have never repented; they have never come to terms with Christ's Lordship.'

JOHN CHAPMAN (1985)

REVIVAL

'Season of glorious disorder'

C H SPURGEON

'If we find a revival that is not spoken against, we had better look again to see if it is a revival'

JOHN WESLEY

'A new beginning of obedience to God.'

CHARLES FINNEY

'(a) confess all known sin (b) deal with and get rid of anything 'doubtful' in your life (c) be ready to obey the Holy Spirit instantly (d) confess Christ publicly' (Wales) EVAN ROBERTS

If we do not make the Lord Jesus glorious; if we do not lift Him high in the esteem of men, if we do not labour to make him King of kings and Lord of lords; we shall not have the Holy Spirit with us. Vain will be rhetoric, music, architecture, energy, and social status: if our one design be not to magnify the Lord Jesus, we shall work alone and work in vain.'

C H SPURGEON

'Revivals are always spurious when they are got up by man's device, and not brought down by the Spirit of God'

GARDINER SPRING (1866)

There is a sovereignty in all God's actions. He has never promised to bless *in proportion to* the activity of his people. Revivals are nor brought about any the fulfilment of 'conditions' any more than the conversion of a single individual is secured by any series of human actions. The 'special seasons of mercy' are determined in heaven'

IAIN MURRAY

SACRIFICE

'If Jesus Christ be God and died for me then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.'

C T STUDD

'Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paying back a small part of a great debt owing to our God which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings it own best reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the word in such a view and with such a thought. It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say, rather it is a privilege.' DAVID LIVINGSTONE

The five-word slogan of the Jesus family encapsulated their commitment to Christ and their pattern of frugal living: "Sacrifice, abandonment, poverty, suffering, death". BRO YUN

'We died before we came out here'. JAMES CALVERT (on being told by the ship's captain as they neared Fiji that the inhabitants were cannibals!)

SALVATION

'All of my life I have been seeking to climb out of the pit of my besetting sins, and I can not do it; and I never will, unless a hand is let down to draw me up.' (Nero's Tutor) SENECA

Though I am not what I ought to be, nor what I wish to be, nor yet what I hope to be, I can truly say that I am not what I used to...by the grace of God I am what I am.'

JOHN NEWTON

SERVANT

'It is not the business of the servant to decide which work is great, which is small, which important or unimportant - he is not greater than his master.'

ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'I am not in this for personal gain; I am not seeking glory; I am not trying to boost my ego or enhance my reputation. I am carrying out this ministry as your slave.'

Quoted from 'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

SEX

'All healthy men (and I would add women), ancient and modern, Eastern and Western, know that there is a certain fury in sex that we cannot afford to inflame, and that a certain mystery and awe must ever surround it if we are to remain sane'. G K CHESTERTON

'75% of British parents believe their children will lose their virginity at the age of 16 or younger and most allow their teenage children to have sex within their homes'.

SUNDAY TIMES (02/15)

One in three ten year olds has seen pornography on the Internet; 81% (more than 4 out of every five) of 14-16 year olds regularly look at explicit photographs and footage on their home computers'.

www.SAFETYNET.org.uk (02/15)

The people who say 'sex is a basic human right' also say that 'rape culture is everywhere' @pegobry

SICKNESS

'Welcome, welcome Jesus, whatsoever way Thou come, if we can get a sight of Thee. And sure I am, it is better to be sick if Christ come to the bedside and draw by the curtains and say, "Courage, I am thy salvation", than to enjoy health, being lusty and strong and never to be visited of God.'

SAMUEL RUTHERFORD

There are reasons in the divine counsel of God for believers' sickness and believers' health'.

ALISTAIR BEGG

SIGNS AND WONDERS

'A Christian who is far more enthusiastic about miracles than about prayer, far more excited about dramatic guidance than about reading the Bible is a believer who is running a temperature - it may make him feel warm but it is not an indication of spiritual health.' (Signs and Wonders Today)

DONALD BRIDGE

'Interpretation of prophetic word doesn't equal prophetic word'

WALL GRAFFITI

'Certain people by nature are afraid of the supernatural, of the unusual, of disorder. You can be so afraid of disorder, so concerned about discipline and decorum and control, that you become guilty of what the scripture calls 'quenching the Spirit'; and there is no question in my mind that there has been a great deal this....some of us are so dignified that dignity is the one thing that matters; everything must be ordered and dignified and orderly, working like a clock with all the mechanism and mechanistic characteristics of a clock or of a machine. So if we start with ourselves and what we like and our experience, we will already go wrong. No, we have got to start, all of us, with the New Testament and its teaching.

DR D M LLOYD-JONES

The Bible teaches us that there are many forces and powers that can produce phenomena and results and some of these forces and powers are evil spirits, so how do you decide?phenomena do not decide. You arrive at your conclusion on Biblical grounds."

DR D M LLOYD-JONES

'I don't wonder apostolic miracles have died. Apostolic living certainly has.'

AMY CARMICHAEL

SIN (1/2)

'Politics without principle; wealth without work; commerce without morality; pleasure without conscience; education without character; science without humanity; worship without sacrifice' (Seven social sins (internal forces) that could destroy a nation)

(Canon Frederic Donaldson or) MOHANDAS MAHATMA GANDHI

'He died for sin that we might die to sin'

JONI EARECKSON TADA

'We are most like Christ when we hate sin'

JONI EARECKSON TADA

'We aren't sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners.'

ANON

'Nineteen of the past twenty-one great civilisations of the world were not destroyed from without but rather were destroyed by moral and spiritual decadence from within.'

ARNOLD TOYNBEE

That the scriptures are brim full of hustlers, murderers, cowards, adulterers and mercenaries used to shock me. Now it's a source of great comfort.'

U2's BONO

'Sin can bring pleasure, but never happiness.'

R.C. SPROUL

'Everything that used to be a sin is now a disease.'

BILL MAHER

"a deep-rooted tendency to selfishness which taints all and implicates us all in the web of human evil." Doctrinal Report, quoted GEORGE CAREY

"One might almost say that Jesus introduced us to Freudianism before Freud. At least what he called the 'heart' is roughly equivalent to what Freud called the 'unconscious'. It resembles a very deep well. The thick deposit of mud at the bottom is usually unseen, and even unsuspected. But when the waters of the well are stirred by the winds of violent emotion, the most evil-looking, evil-smelling filth bubbles up from the depths and breaks the surface -- rage, hate, lust, cruelty, jealousy and revenge. In our most sensitive moments we are appalled by our potentiality for evil".

JOHN R W STOTT

'Doors are not enough; we have to lock and bolt them. The payment of fares is not enough; tickets have to be issued, inspected and collected. Law and order are not enough; we need the police to enforce them. All this is due to man's sin. We cannot trust each other. We need protection against one another. It is a terrible indictment of human nature'. IBID

"Britney Spears is not a sinner; she's just confused". JOEL OSTEEN

SIN (2/2)

"I don't think that anything has been done in the name of Christ and under the banner of Christianity that has proven more destructive to human personality, and hence counterproductive to the evangelistic enterprise, than the unchristian, uncouth strategy of attempting to make people aware of their lost and sinful condition".

ROBERT SCHULLER

'Guilt is to the soul as pain is to the body'.

ADAM HEARN

The common human sense of being lost is witness to the reality of the fall.' JOHN COLLINS

'If people could see into my heart I would almost feel shamed'.

W A MOZART

'If you saw what my heart was like, you would spit in my face'.

JOHN BLANCHARD

If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?' ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN (1918–1956 (from the Gulag Archipelago)

SOCIAL ACTION (for Societal Change)

'Social action in mission can be traced from the time of the apostles...the itinerating missionary carried with him a bag of medicines, new or better seeds and plants, and improved livestock. Nevius introduced the modern orchard industry into Shantung. The Basel missionaries revolutionised the economy of Ghana by introducing coffee and cocoa grown by families and individuals on their own land. James McKean transformed the life of Northern Thailand by eliminating its three major curses – smallpox, malaria and leprosy. Wells and pure water often came through the help of missionaries. Industrial schools were stressed through the nineteenth century and industries were established. In addition, the missionaries were constantly the protectors of the native peoples against exploitation and injustice by government and commercial companies...they played a very important part in the abolition of forced labour in the Congo. They resisted blackbirding in the South Pacific. They fought fiercely for human rights in combating opium, foot-binding and exposure of girl babies in China. They waged war against widow-burning, infanticide, and temple prostitution in India.

DR R PIERCE BEAVER

The view that if we can only get people to accept Jesus Christ everything else in their lives and societies will fall into place completely negates the principles of intentional action that is needed to bring both personal and societal transformation. Evil is present in the world not only in our individual hearts but also in structures and systems designed to oppress, degrade, abuse and kill others. If we are not intentional about bringing change and transformation into both lives and societies, it will not happen. To love people is to act on their behalf. In the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, Bible believing Christians ignored a great and crucial opportunity in history for genuine, ethical action'.

(On the Side of the Angels) D'SOUZA and ROGERS

'It is unique to see a church focused on building people's lives instead of just preaching from the pulpit'. POOR PAKISTANI MOTHER

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

'I never try to reconcile friends'. (God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility) C H SPURGEON

There is not even one maverick molecule'.

R C SPROUL

SUCCESS

'Success has always been a great liar.'

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

The opposite of success is not failure. The opposite of success is never trying. The only real failure is not trying.'

HILARY BRAND

'Life's real failure is when you do not realize how close you were to success when you gave up.'

UNKNOWN

'For every person who climbs the ladder of success, there are a dozen waiting for the elevator.'

UNKNOWN

'Every successful man was an unsuccessful man who did not give up.'

ANON

'I don't know the key to success but the key to failure is trying to please everybody'

BILL COSBY

'Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm'.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

'Success is the product of dedication to a cause greater than oneself and, above all, a surrendering to the will of God'.

KEITH JONES (CEO, MAF)

"I am not afraid of failure; I am afraid of succeeding at (in) things that don't matter".

WILLIAM CAREY

Orienting all Christian action to visible success as its goal, a move which to many moderns seems supremely sensible and business like, is thus more a weakness in the church than it is a strength; it is a seedbed both for unspiritual vainglory for the self-rated succeeders and of unspiritual despair for the self-rated failures, and a source of shallowness and superficiality all round......In the final analysis, we do not and cannot know the measure of success as God sees it. Wisdom says: leave success ratings to God and live your Christianity as a religion of faithfulness rather than an idolatry of achievement.'

'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

'Fame is an addiction – stronger than most and it is very passing, once its usefulness has ended'.

BOB MONKHOUSE

"Stop looking at social media websites, and instead work out what contribution you can make to the world, and go and do it...find your niche, find what you are good at, and focus on that. And be a good person along the way - if you try to take shortcuts it will just come back and haunt you."

THOMAS FLOHR (Swiss Multimillionaire)

SUFFERING (1/2)

'The Bible has much to say about suffering but most of it is encouraging.' A W TOZER

'Paul was a better man for his thorn.'

A W TOZER

'It is doubtful God can use anyone greatly till he's hurt him deeply'.

A W TOZER

'Much suffering is caused by our inability to forgive those who have hurt us.'

'No other religion deals so straightforwardly with suffering.' ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'God may hurt us but will never harm us.'

'There must be room for death, suffering and unanswered prayers in our theology.'

HOWARD NORRISH

'The blood of the martyrs is the seed (of the church).'

TERTULLIAN

'Suffering will always reveal the core of who we are.'

JONI EARECKSON TADA

'One of the missing elements in evangelicalism is a well thought out theology of suffering.'

ALISTER BEGG

'Lord help me never to be indifferent to pain'

JACK DEERE

'Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved.'

Dr HELEN KELLER

'The reason for Job's suffering isn't the lack of his faith, but the depth of it.'

STEVE CHALKE

"...the minister is called to recognise the sufferings of his time on his own heart and make that recognition the starting point of his service.....his service will not be perceived as authentic unless it comes from a heart wounded by the suffering about which he speaks."

HENRI NOUWEN

The person who never suffers is he who never experiences God's intimate presence'.

BRO YUN

"The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying."

JOHN FLAVEL

'What can't be cured can be endured'. COTTON MATHER (1663-1728)

'It was the best thing that could have happened to me.' FANNY CROSBY (on blindness)

'Calamity clarifies.' KEVIN TURNER

SUFFERING (2/2)

Because God works incredible good out of unspeakable tragedies doesn't mean he orchestrates the tragedies. Because he uses something does not mean he caused it or needs it to accomplish his purposes...that only leads to false notions about God. Grace doesn't depend on suffering to exist but where there is suffering one can find grace in many facets and colours.'

Adapted from 'The Shack' by WM. PAUL YOUNG

The issue is not why an all-powerful God chooses to allow someone to be subjected to evil, but how that person, with God's help, responds to the evil.' (Burnhams, USA Today, adapted)

'Suffering equips us to mediate God's comfort'. BETH REDMAN

'All the world is full of suffering. It is also full of overcoming'. Dr HELEN KELLER

'Some form of suffering must result from authentic Christian living.....and it will increase in direct proportion to the measure of our faith, obedience and heavenly-mindedness'.

DON CORMACK (Killing Fields, Living Fields)

When asking 'Why?', the New Testament emphasises the response to suffering, rather than its cause.'

PHILIP YANCEY

'A Christian has not learned his A, B, Cs in Christianity who has not learned the lesson of the cross.'

JOHN BRADFORD

The extreme greatness of Christianity lies in the fact that it does not seek a supernatural remedy for suffering, but a supernatural use for it'.

('Meditations on the Christian faith') SIMONE WEIL

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TEMPTATION

'Pray that opportunity and temptation will not meet you at the same time.' LAWRENCE TONG

'Pornography is one of the most powerful weapons that Satan has ever used to enslave Christians'.

DAVID PARTINGTON

TIME

'Time that is not scheduled will always flow to your area of greatest weakness'
PRINCIPLE OF TIME MANAGEMENT STUDY

Time spent on a job is no substitute for work done in the job'
(PRINCIPLE OF TIME MANAGEMENT STUDY) JOHN MAXWELL

Time is not a commodity that can be stored for future use. It must be invested, hour by hour or else it is gone forever.'

THOMAS EDISON

'Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils.' HECTOR BERLIOZ

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery but today is a gift – that's why it is called 'present".

ANON

Time neither subtracts nor divides but adds at such a pace it seems like multiplication.'

BOB TALBERT

'A man may be young in years but old in hours if he has lost no time, but that happeneth rarely.'

FRANCIS BACON

'If an hour seems long, I remind myself that it will never return and it immediately becomes terribly short.'

PAUL-HENRY SPAAK

'Gather ye rosebuds while ye may, old-time is still a-flying:

And this same flower that smiles today, tomorrow will be dying.'

ROBERT HERRICK

"We shall have all eternity in which to celebrate our victories, but we have only one swift hour before the sunset in which to win them."

ROBERT MOFFAT

"...the feeling that God must be honored in everything, that no business of life can proceed without Him."

JAMES W ALEXANDER

TOLERANCE

'To recognise and respect (others' beliefs, practices, etc) without sharing them.'
WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY

Today's doctrine of tolerance goes far beyond the dictionary's definition...the new tolerance is defined as the view that all values, beliefs, lifestyles and truth claims are equal.'

JOSH MCDOWELL

'(The new tolerance involves) the elevation of all values and beliefs to [a position worthy of equal] respect' (Dean of Boston University's School of Education) EDWIN J DELATTRE

'Any culture with tolerance as its greatest absolute must eventually come apart at the seams.'

JOEL EDWARDS

TRADITION

'Many of my colleagues would make fine 17th or 18th century pastors or evangelists but are rather hindered by the fact that they have been called to churches of live people rather than to churchyards of dead ones. Many people are constantly claiming that Jesus is alive when their buildings, church structures, hymns, translations and church behaviour all unite to give the impression that He died with Queen Victoria. In some churches, the tyranny of the old ensures that yesterday is kept alive on a life support machine while today is kept under numerous restraints and tomorrow is aborted on grounds of social inconvenience. All this conspires to project an image of a paralysed church, an irrelevant God and a world which has progressed far beyond the need for such an outdated deity. Modern man speeds toward his star-trek while Jesus of Nazareth is kept plodding behind on a donkey. How can such a Christ be the Saviour of such a society? And as for the church: how can it save the world when it cannot save itself? PETER LEWIS

'Instead of just perpetuating certain practices we must ask: Why should I do this? How did this custom start? As we do so we shall find that so many of these things which are regarded as essential were only introduced and for the wrong reasons towards the middle of the 19th century.'

D M LLOYD-JONES

'.....the leadership of any church should review, at least once a year, the whole pattern of services, meetings and organisations. Ruthless questions need to be asked in an attitude of prayer and submission to God who alone is head of the church. Are the meetings achieving anything today? Are they the best use of time and money today? Are they helping to build up the body of Christ today? Are they assisting the church in evangelism today? Are they God's best plan for today? Their value yesterday is not the important point. Christian work is constantly crippled by clinging to blessing and traditions of the past. God is not the God of yesterday. He is the God of today. Heaven forbid that we should continue to play religious games in one corner when the cloud and fire of God's presence have moved to another. Sometimes I speak at rallies or conventions which doubtless were times when God gloriously displayed His power yesterday. But today the word "Ichabod" is manifestly written over the whole affair: 'the glory of the Lord has departed'.'

'We seem to expect new converts to abandon their contemporary behaviour and to adopt a new lifestyle which turns out to be not new but very old. He has to learn the language of the pulpit, he has to learn the old hymns, he has to share in some conservative political opinions, he has to dress a bit old fashioned. In brief he has to step back two generations and undergo a painful cultural circumcision.'

Early Christians could not be distinguished by their speech or clothing but by their conduct and the quality of their characters'. RAY BAKKE (from a letter to Diognetus)

'Even that which is allowed is forbidden here'.

STEVE BRADY

To treat trifling things as serious matters, as matters of conscience, is degrading and demoralising.

A B BRUCE (1894)

TRUTH (1/2)

Everything has become relative and only one absolute truth remains – the one that says there is no absolute truth. The postmodernist stares blankly at any claims to truth and shrugs, 'OK if it works for you'. My truth is mine and your truth is yours. Fact and fiction have become blurred'. No ethical or moral code can provide the final word. No people can avow their truth is valid for anyone other than themselves.

CLIVE CALVER

There is no external, objective, revealed standard written in scripture or on tablets of stone that will govern our ethical behaviour for all time'.

BISHOP SPONG ("Theses of the Christian Faith" - No 9 of 12)

'O Truth, Truth, how intimately did even the very marrow of my mind sigh for you'.

AUGUSTINE (of Hippo)

The different sources of inspiration for moral values are, in principle, equally respectable.'

DUTCH POLITICIAN

"20% of my students are no longer prepared to say that what the Nazis did to the Jews in World War II was wrong because they will think, "Who am I to make such a statement?" PROFESSOR SIMONS

'Out of nothing, nothing comes.'

SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLE

'We should always listen to our best friends and worst enemies, as they both tell us the truth, but from different angles.'

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Without courage there cannot be truth; and without truth there can be no other virtue.'

WALTER SCOTT

Truth to the postmodernist is purely subjective; it is merely what happens to make sense to me. Something quite different may make sense to you; then it becomes your truth.'

J R W STOTT

Two ideas today about truth come across loud and clear: firstly, it is *relative* – any truth is stated within the context of culture and is shaped by its culture and environment. Truth is personal, not transcendent or absolute. Also, it is *plural* – because truth is relative, all claims to truth are equally valid. Judging between competing truth claims becomes meaningless by this definition and is replaced by a pick and mix approach to belief. These two concepts largely constitute the movement in thought known as Postmodernism.'

MARCUS HONEYSETT

'Modesty has moved from the organ of ambition and settled upon the organ of conviction, where it was never meant to be'.

G K CHESTERTON

We must ensure we do not define our identity by what we do or what we possess or what we accomplish but only by who we are.'

Quoted from 'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

TRUTH (2/2)

'One senses that, in an effort to be magnanimous, the pendulum swing now makes it almost impossible to pronounce condemnation on any position or stance or habit of life'.

DON CARSON

"...the homosexuality issue is becoming one of those triggering issues that is forcing upon us some profound reflections on whether we will submit to scripture or not."

DON CARSON

"When God's people failed to take a stand on truth e.g. the resurrection, secondary issues started to take over, women's ordination followed later by gay ordination."

RANALD MACAULAY

The persecution of Christians in Western society will only worsen as the idea of absolute tolerance is promoted over absolute truth.'

PATRICK JOHNSTONE

By the time of Christ, Greeks had lost confidence in logic, turning rather to a scepticism that denied any ultimate truth. It was only the Judaeo-Christian concept of the *logos* – that the ultimate reality behind the universe is the rational word of a personal God – which preserved faith in reason. And as thus ultimate reality is rejected today, we find again a greater concern with style, experience or mysticism than with reason. Will a civilisation built on reason ultimately forget to think?'

(adapted) VISHAL MANGALWADI

'Your Hindus certainly sound delightful. But what do they 'deny'? That has always been my trouble with Indians - to find any proposition they would pronounce false. But truth must surely involve exclusions? (in a letter to Dom Bede Griffiths.)

C. S. LEWIS

'Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfil many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism...for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.'

DR RICHARD LEWONTIN

VICTORY

'There is no such thing as spiritual victory if it is not in the present tense.'

JAMES O FRASER

'We have all eternity in which to enjoy our victories but only one short life in which to win them.'

ROBERT MOFFAT

'If we are content to be victims and enjoy the comfort which others give to us, we will not know the joy of being released to follow Jesus'.

DR PAUL ADAMS

VISION

'You see things as they are and ask "why?" But I dream of things that never were and ask "why not?" GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

'Institutions guard their boundaries; movements are always crossing them'.

DENNIS LENNON

'What could be worse than being born without sight? Being born with sight and no vision' HELEN KELLER

'Employment, vision and enjoyment = passion' (as quoted by) ANDY HAWTHORNE (WMT)

WARFARE

'In the heart of every believer there is peace with God, but constant war with sin.'
ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

'God has appointed this whole life to be a battle. The state of rest, wherein we shall have no need of watching and fighting, is for another world.'

JONATHAN EDWARDS

'I have never known what it is to be out of Romans 7 nor out of Romans 8 either; the whole passage has been solid truth to my experience.'

C H SPURGEON

'Coming under attack is a constant experience in enemy occupied territory and the attack sometimes comes when you least expect it.'

IAN MAYO

'More soldiers and civilians have been killed in wars in the twentieth century than in the previous 5000 years of recorded history combined and four times as many in the previous four centuries. Over 112 million people were killed in the century that is just behind us'

PETER KUZMIC

To make converts in Tibet is similar to going into a cave and trying to rob a lioness of her cubs'. (1892) HUDSON TAYLOR

WEAKNESS

'Weakness is not an excuse for opting out, it's a requirement when/for opting in'.

GARETH BOLTON

'(God) receives and graces human weakness...after all, human weakness is all He really has to work with.'

GEORGE MILEY

"In Christian history, as in contemporary experience, weakness is invariably the soil in which the power of God, mediated by the Spirit, is most fully and gloriously demonstrated."

(Canterbury Tales) GEORGE CAREY.

'God's purpose is not to bypass weakness and difficulties, but to transform them.'

Quoted from 'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

'If weakness has no other purpose than to turn us to God in prayer. it has performed a valuable function.'

Quoted from 'Integrity' by JONATHAN LAMB

The weaker we feel, the harder we lean'.

JAMES PACKER

WISDOM

'It is unwise to accept any argument, however apparently convincing, until you have heard both sides of the question'

JOHN WENHAM

'The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook'.

WILLIAM JAMES

'We cannot solve problems with the same thinking we used when we created them'.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

'Nearly all wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves. (Intro to 'Christian Inst.') JOHN CALVIN

WITNESSING

'This generation of believers is responsible for this generation of unbelievers.'

KEITH GREEN

'Christians are little Christs.'

C. S. LEWIS

'We are the best disguised set of pilgrims the world has ever seen'.

A W TOZER

"Christianity is enshrined in the life; but it is proclaimed by the lips. If there is failure in either respect, the gospel cannot be communicated."

MICHAEL GREEN (EIEC)

WOMAN

'A temple built over a sewer.'

TERTULLIAN

'Something defective and accidental.'

THOMAS AQUINAS

'A deformed man.'

ARISTOTLE

'A woman may represent the people to God but not God to the people.' ELIZABETH ELLIOT

'I thank thee God that I am not a heathen nor a woman.'

(Ancient prayer of) RABBI

'Men find what they think of as fulfilment in their achievements, women find it in relationships.'

Adapted from 'The Shack' by WM. PAUL YOUNG

In 2014, Women's Aid UK reported that 2 women a week die due to intimate partner violence and a woman is assaulted in her home every 60 seconds.' UKEA, GETHIN RUSSELL- JONES

WORSHIP (1/2)

'The highest worship of God is the preaching of the Word; because thereby are praised and celebrated the benefits of Christ.'

MARTIN LUTHER

'Christians don't tell lies, they sing them in hymns.'

A W TOZER

'Q. What is the chief and highest end of man?

A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God & enjoy Him forever.'

WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH (1646)

'I did not see that it is in the process of worship that God communicates His presence to men and yet this vital truth has been neglected.'

C S LEWIS

'Worshipping God is the great essential of fitness. If you have not been worshipping when you get into work, you will not only be useless yourself but a tremendous hindrance to those who are associated with you.'

OSWALD CHAMBERS

'Man was created for this end; to praise, reverence and serve the Lord His God. Man's first duty is adoration; his second duty is awe; only his third is service.' ST IGNATIUS LOYOLA

'Worship is the missing jewel of evangelicalism. We're organised; we work; we have our agendas; we have almost everything but there is one thing that the churches, even the gospel churches, do not have: that is the ability to worship. It's the one shining gem that is lost to the modern church and I believe that we ought to search for this until we have found it.'

A W TOZER

'Many Christians worship work, work at play and play at worship.'

MUNRO

'If we look upon worship only as a means of getting something from God rather than giving something to God, then we make God our servant instead of our Lord and the elements of worship become a cheap formula for self- gratification. When worship becomes pragmatic, it ceases to be worship.'

WARREN WIERSBE

'When we believe that we should be satisfied rather than that God should be glorified, we put God below ourselves as though He has been made for us not we for Him. There is no greater blasphemy than using God as our servant and there is no worse place to do it than in the realm of worship; where we make the worship of God to end in ourselves rather than in God.'

STEPHEN CHARNOCK

'Christ can only be appropriately honoured by receiving praise from every nation.'

GEORGE MILEY

'It is my chief duty every day to ensure that my soul is happy in God.' GEORGE MUELLER

WORSHIP (2/2)

'Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of Biblical worship.

True worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine.'

JOHN PIPER

'Worship is gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of His worth'

IBID

'Giving everything you are in response to who He is'

ANON

Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God; it is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; nourishment of mind by His truth; purifying of imagination by His beauty; opening of the heart to His love; and submission of will to His purpose. All this gathered up in adoration is the greatest of expressions of which we are capable.'

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM TEMPLE

'Beware equally of an undevotional theology and of an untheological devotion'
(as quoted by John R W Stott) BISHOP HANDLEY MOULE

Worship and the Christian's daily life of obedience are not two separate spheres, but two concentric circles of which worship is the inner and gives to the outer its content and character.'

JIM WALLIS

With whatever needs we come to worship, whatever the hopes or fears we bring with us, worship should lift us from the shifting sands of our ever-changing moods, to the bedrock of a faith which has nothing to do with what we are or how we feel.'

Former moderator of the church of Scotland, PROFESSOR ROBERT DAVIDSON

There is a danger that some worship songs are mainly human centred so that we concentrate more on how we feel than who God is'. DAVID DEVENISH (What on earth is the church for?)

YOUTH

'If your youth group is boring and apathetic, then it is because of you.' STEVE CHALKE

'Our youth today love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority, disrespect for older people. Children nowadays are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food and tyrannise their teachers.'

SOCRATES (400BC)

'High School students today learn visually, are drawn to experiences, desire meaningful relationships and are hugely tolerant of others.' RICHARD P WAGER (D. Min. Project, USA)

ZEAL

'James sometimes commented on the dangers of Christian workers fitting less into their time than those in secular employment.' (of) JAMES O FRASER

'Zeal without knowledge is like a sword in the hands of a lunatic.'

JEAN CALVIN

'Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion'. G W F HEGEL

'I never lost the wonder.'

GYPSY SMITH

'It is easy to determine when something is aflame. It ignites other material. Any fire that does not spread will eventually go out'. ANON

Oct 13th, 2021 Gareth P Bolton