

The Christian Church Cannot Die

There is a notion abroad that Christianity is on its last legs, or possibly already dead and just too weak to lie down.

This is confidently believed in communist and Muslim countries, and even in so-called Christian countries.

Christianity is being “*side-tracked*” by government and the jurisdiction in this country.

Human rights are always given priority over the rights of our Creator God and His people.

The society today sees the chief proof of the death of Christianity as being her failure to provide leadership just when it is needed he most.

The language of Christian church devotion has lifted certain scriptures out of context.

For example, scripture likens a Christian as a soldier with a full suit of armour.

From this the church looks on itself as an army collected and trained to go out and fight Satan and his demons, with plenty of colour and drama in its hymns and what is taught from the pulpit.

Ephesians 6:10-18 [NIV] *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to **stand**. **Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”*

When we read this carefully we will see this armour is for personal safety against the attack of Satan and his demons, **not** telling us to go out and attack him and his followers.

Even the sword, the word of God, is **only** for defence.

Hebrews 4:12-13 [NIV] *“For the word of God is living and active. **Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

The sword is for laying bare all we need to change in our own life.

1 Peter 5:6-11 [NIV] *“**Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith,** because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.”*

We resist Satan by standing firm in our faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us.

Revelation 12:9-11 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.**”*

We overcome the deception of Satan by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and our own testimony, that is the way of life we live.

A life that is based of love towards other human beings, which is a love towards God. [Matthew 25:40]

A better portrayal of the Christian church is a flock of sheep in the midst of wolves.

Matthew 10:16 [NIV] *“I am sending you out **like sheep among wolves**. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”*

Matthew 26:31 [NIV] *“Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “I will strike the shepherd, and **the sheep of the flock** will be scattered.””*

Romans 8:36 [NIV] *“As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; **we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.**”*

Another portrayal is that of a bride preparing for her wedding and waiting for the bridegroom to arrive.

Matthew 25:1-13 [NIV] *“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. **The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.** “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ “**Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.**”*

Revelation 19:7 [NIV] *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! **For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.**”*

This society is constantly lashing the Christian church because it has no solutions for the problems of society.

Every once in a while some church leader in an acute attack of conscience does penance in public for Christianity’s failure to furnish bold leadership out of a crisis.

“We have sinned,” cries the frustrated prophet. *“The world looked to us to help and we have failed.”*

I’m all for repentance if it is genuine, and I think the church has failed, **not** by neglecting to provide leadership in a crisis but by acting and living too much like the society in crisis.

The society wants the Christian church to add a dainty spiritual touch to its carnal schemes and to be there to help it to its feet and put it to bed when it comes home drunk with fleshly pleasures.

In the first place the church has received no such commission from Jesus Christ its Lord and Founder.

In the second place the society has never shown much disposition to listen to the church when she speaks her true prophetic voice, quoting the scriptures of the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

There **are** solutions to be found to society's crisis and problems in the Christian Bible, but they are solutions that society is **not** yet ready to accept.

These solutions will **not** be accepted by society until the church has fully focussed and used all the power available to it to fulfil its **only** commission at this time.

The commission given by its Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:16-20 [NIV] *“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**”*

Remember baptism **only** comes after repentance and the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

The apostle Peter knew this and applied it.

Acts 2:36-38 [NIV] *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, **“Brothers, what shall we do?”** Peter replied, **“Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”***

It is also **only** after the receiving of the Holy Spirit that the words that Jesus Christ spoke can be understood and applied.

1 Corinthians 2:8-11 [NIV] *“None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: **“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”** but **God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”***

It is the union of our human spirit [see **Job 32:8**] and the Holy Spirit that the mind of the Creator God is opened up to us by His Words the Christian Bible, [**Proverbs 20:27**].

The Christian church is in real need of a reformation and a re-dedication, that will lead to a revival.

[Please download our series of articles on revival under the subheading of 'Revival']

The Christian church is **not** dead, it can never die, neither is it dying, it just needs to be revived from its sleep that is a result of **too much** focus on itself and not out to this society to fulfil the commission it has received.

Matthew 16:13-18 [NIV] *“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”** They replied, **“Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”** **“But what about you?”** he asked. **“Who do you say I am?”** **Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** Jesus replied, **“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by***

my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

The rock on which Jesus Christ was going to build the Christian church was the acknowledgement that He was the Son of God, death would not stop Him doing this.

Jesus Christ is presented as the foundational rock on which the Christian church is built.

1 Corinthians 3:11 [NIV] *“For no-one can lay any **foundation** other than the one already laid, which is **Jesus Christ.**”*

Jesus Christ the foundational rock.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 [NIV] *“For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for **they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.**”*

Jesus Christ provided for the needs of Israel in the wilderness, as the rock that provided physical and spiritual water.

This is why the Christian church will never die.