

# EXCERPTS FROM

APRIL - JUNE 1975

# THE LINK

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF

**North Road Chapel** (Evangelical)

**BIDEFORD**

## Internet Edition

"CHANGE AND DECAY IN ALL AROUND I SEE". So runs a line in one of the verses of Lyte's famous hymn "ABIDE WITH ME", but what apt phraseology for 1975. Never in human history have things changed so rapidly. Changes among nations, changes in governments, changes in business, changes in finance, changes in boundaries, changes in law, changes in relationships, changes in behaviour, where do we stop? for the list is endless; but few of these changes turn out for the better, indeed the very changes themselves are so often indicative of frustration and failure. There is on every hand, decay, deterioration and decline; and this does not apply to just one or two nations, - it is global in its scope. The press, T.V. and radio pour the whole wretched story of a chaotic world into our homes, and men are becoming pessimistic, worried, and indeed fearful, and well they might. But is there no word from the Lord, The God of Heaven, The Creator and Sustainer of the Universe? There is indeed. Nearly three thousand years ago an Old Testament watchman was asked "Watchman what of the night"? He gave his reply in ISA. 21.V.11. Nineteen hundred years ago a New Testament watchman cried "Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep ... The night is far spent, the day is at hand" ROM. 13 V. 11.

"KNOWING THE TIME" says the Apostle Paul, do we know the time? or far more correct to ask "do we know the Scriptures well enough to be able to recognize the time"? How true it is that our Lord clearly taught us that the exact time of His return is not revealed. "Of that day and hour knoweth no man" MATT. 24.V.36. Nevertheless, the Scriptures give us very clear indications as to the general conditions that will prevail in this world just prior to His return.

God has not left His people, neither the world for that matter, in the dark regarding His second advent, which will take place as surely as did His first advent, but whereas His first coming was for salvation, His second coming is for judgment.

God is not secretive in His dealings<sup>5</sup> from Adam onwards He has divulged His thoughts and purposes to men whom He could trust. He told His prophets in the Old Testament, who in turn, told the people, of sure and certain happenings, but for the most part the communications were ridiculed and disregarded and Gods prophets all too often despised, and not infrequently put to death; But the fact remains that what God said through them came to pass. Much of Old Testament prophecy is of course now history, for example all prophecies relative to Christ's first advent; ALL found literal fulfilment, so also will all

prophecy whether in the Old Testament or the New Testament concerning His second advent and all the many events and aspects pertaining to that coming be literally and actually fulfilled No, God is not incommunicative, the trouble is man is a born cynic, he has an inherent unbelief in a communicating God. this blinds him to Gods Truth, but the fact remains that the only light for the darkness of this hour is to be found in Gods communication to man, which is His Word - THE BIBLE.

Are we in this day of all days in human history going to set it aside? The Scriptures speak of signs which when they appear we may recognize and understand their significance, and so be perfectly acquainted with the fact that His purposes are fast ripening and the hour is approaching. LK. 21.V.31-32.

During the intense darkness in Egypt it is written "The children of Israel had light in their dwellings" EX.10.V.23. So has the Christian in the darkness of "THIS GENERATION". Let us consider some of the signs mentioned:

1. LAWLESSNESS. This sign should be obvious to all, for rebellion, anarchy, revolution abounds throughout the world. Paul calls it the "Mystery of iniquity or lawlessness" in his second letter to the Thessalonians. This does not mean that there is no explanation for it, for mystery in scripture means, - a secret, or previously hidden truth which will be Divinely revealed at the appropriate time.

The "appropriate time" has undoubtedly arrived for all this is now coming upon us, as the Devil incites men to overthrow law and order at every level, and to undermine all Divine institutions, and completely destroy Gods moral law. It is rife in all parts of the world. Young people are being encouraged to do that which is right in their own eyes, taught to be "revolutionaries" to revolt against authorities and even their parents; rules, regulations, prohibitions, yes and even conscience itself is flung aside in scorn.

This does not only apply to the young, it is true also of the adult, as free love and expression takes the place of the sanctity of marriage, strikes and walk outs take the place of management and control in business! so society breaks down, marriages break up, and industry collapses. This is a world problem, it is at all levels, and is preparing the way for the "Lawless One".

2. TRAVEL AND KNOWLEDGE. A very remarkable word is recorded in the book of Daniel. "Thou O Daniel shut up the words and seal the book EVEN TO THE TIME OF THE END, many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased", DAN. 12.V.4. Surely these words need be shut up no longer, is not the book now unsealed? - yes - again the appropriate time for revealing the truth. One hundred years ago very few people ever left their home country, the vast majority never moved from the area of their birth, but now, - motor ways, cars, tourism, supersonic air flight, life is all commuting and travel.

Increased knowledge - this can best be described as an "explosion", because of the rate of its increase.

3. FEAR. How verily true is LK.21. V.26. in 1975 "Men's hearts failing them for fear". Even men of stout heart are worried and fearful, and there is good reason for it. Again the Lord said that this was a sign of the end time.

4. ECUMENISM. The Scriptures reveal a massive religious amalgamation prior to Christ's coming. A super world church, we see this rapidly taking shape; broken-down Christendom welcomes this, Rome is vitally interested. The whole religious world is geared to it. It will be a massive organisation, but a false church and not the true. Seventeen denominations in the United Kingdom are now officially in the World Council of Churches.

5. APOSTACY. This is a word hated by many Christians and regarded as too strong, true Christians could never be thus classed, they could never be caught up in this say some, but REV. 18.V.4. Contains a call from heaven "COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE", yes Christians can fall away and drift into any and every error. Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians and his second epistle to Timothy deal very particularly with this matter. The Faith once for all delivered to the saints is to be contended for JUDE. V.3, but today there is wide-spread defection, a dismissal of parts, an over-emphasis of some scriptures and total disregard or neglect of others, a delight in soothing ministry, a shunning to declare all the counsel of God. A coolness and indifference to the faithful, sometimes even opposition. Paul foresaw this when he spoke to the elders at Ephesus ACTS 20.V.17 - 38. He says in verse 30 "of YOUR OWN SELVES shall men arise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them".

We have not to look far even in our own area to see amongst what were once regarded as doctrinally sound fellowships, a

softening toward Rome, a passion for the light and frivolous, a very definite Hippy Culture with its 'Rock Music' which originates in heathenism and demonism, and has at the present moment very strong ties with Hinduism, and open involvement with modern charismatic activities which is bringing together all shades and brands of belief. All this is a sad, but startling sign.

These things are with us today, in our generation, it is not coincidence. This is the first time in history that all these things are present together in one generation; they all tell of the same event. THE END. God has not given these signs to mislead, but to inform; He does not want us to be taken unawares, but to be alert to the fact that time is running out, the day of judgment is at hand.

"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the Heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we according to His promise look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore beloved seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye be found in Him in peace, without spot and blameless, and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which also they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore beloved seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

TO HIM BE GLORY BOTH NOW AND FOR EVER. AMEN".

II PET 3.V.10 - 18.

W.H.M.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

We have cause for thanksgiving for the way in which the Lord provides for the material side of our Church life. The offering on Sunday 26 January 1975 towards the cost of modernising the kitchen was £60.50. Through the labours of other members, and kind friends, new book rests have been fitted to all the pews. Further promises have been made by the members for an amount of over £130 toward the cost of upholstering foam cushions for all the pews in the main Chapel, this together with £135 already given to North Road to be spent on the premises, is sufficient for this improvement. At the time of going to print the order has already been placed for this work. We are grateful to the labours of our deacons who faithfully see to this aspect of the Church.

As will be noticed in the Church Calendar, we have two series of ministry on Thursday evenings. Mr Bush continues the study of "The missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul".

The studies on Sunday mornings on the Sufferings and Sayings of the Saviour on the Cross having now ended, the overseers have felt a need for teaching on the subject of the Holy Spirit together with a scriptural examination of the modern charismatic movement. This series will probably have commenced by the time this edition is in your hands.

Special dates in our calendar are Wed. 30th April:- The Annual Bible Convention when Dr Peter Masters of The Metropolitan Tabernacle London will be with us as our guest speaker.

The proposed starting time for the "Drive-in" Church is Sunday 25th May (Spring Bank Holiday weekend).

Hundreds of copies of "SAFETY, CERTAINTY, & ENJOYMENT" have been systematically distributed throughout the district by one of our brethren who has a burden for this kind of work, each copy has an invitation to North Road Chapel stamped upon it, this is a very valuable added witness.

Let us treat all aspects of the work as being of equal importance and STRIVE TOGETHER in both prayer and support for the Glory of God.

## A CHURCH DESIRED

1

How beautiful that Church must be where Watchful is the  
Porter,  
While Prudence has the oversight, and Patience the exhorter.  
Where Harmony conducts the praise, and Reverence the worship,  
Where Loyalty ascribes to Christ the undisputed Lordship.

2

Humility pervades the place, and Piety sweet smileth.  
Where Purity her fragrance breathes, and Gentleness beguileth.  
Simplicity adorns the walls, and Grace all captivating.  
Benevolence is prominent, while Zeal is operating.

3

Here Mercy wears her diadem, and Meekness conquers friction,  
While Truth exerts its influence, Joy adds its benediction.  
Here Righteousness is placed on guard, and Faith is ever  
active  
While Goodness evermore abounds, and Christ is all-attractive.

4

O Lord! Restore Thy Church to this Her primitive position,  
And let us taste on earth the bliss of this divine condition.

Writer Unknown.