



The tribe of Issachar understood the times and knew what Israel should do

Issachar Ministries UK seeks to be a people who understand the times, listen to the Lord and know what should be done

Issachar Comments Papers

Expounding biblical concepts on the world scene today

Abolishing Evil

February 2014

It's funny how language changes even in a single lifetime! When I was a boy if something was described as 'wicked' it meant that it was 'evil' or 'no good'; but today, among young people at any rate, 'wicked' is 'good', it's exciting or something to be welcomed.

The Language of Shakespeare

There have been enormous changes in the language since the days of Shakespeare when you complimented a young lady by describing her as a 'buxom wench' - today that would be deeply offensive! There have been great changes in the language over the past 400 years.

So it's not surprising that the Church of England should wish to update the language of some of its services which have remained unchanged for 400 years. But the protests that followed the publication of the new wording of the order of service for infant baptism have been surprising. "ARCHBISHOP ABOLISHES SIN" - was a newspaper headline last month announcing that Archbishop Justin Welby approved the changed wording.

Battle of Words

The old wording of the infant baptism or "christening service" required parents and godparents to "fight valiantly against sin, the world and the devil" whereas the new wording only requires "standing bravely" and "opposing the power of evil". The old wording required a declaration to reject the devil and all rebellion against God and to renounce the deceit and corruption of evil. The new wording simply asks for the rejection of evil in all its many forms and its empty promises.

The Power of Evil

The changed words in the new service appear to reflect a change in the teaching of the Church and in popular theology which is arguably for good. All too often in the past people have blamed the devil for their own bad thoughts or actions. The new wording of opposing the 'power of evil' at least conveys something understandable in the modern culture. But is it enough just to recognise that evil is a fact of life?

The devil went out of fashion sometime last century in the aftermath of two world wars. But when people stopped believing in the devil they stopped believing in everything except material things and the moral standards of the nation have collapsed. So we've seen the rise of corruption, violence, abuse of children and every kind of evil. Maybe it's time to take the presence of evil in our human nature much more seriously and all be "fighting valiantly against sin, the world and the devil."

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