

Wolves in Sheep's clothing

St Augustine's, 2 Tim 4 v. 1-5, Matt. 7 v. 15-20

I have to say, at the beginning of this sermon, that due to political events this week, the following words, at least in part, came from the prophetic reaction (my husband) Pete had when he heard the news which, by then, we were all expecting. So much of this comes out of subsequent conversations we had which relate to Tuesday evening(thanks Pete)

On Tuesday morning, as I woke, I could hear the rain outside, as I had done when I had been awake during the night.." *All this rain* " I thought, as I went to the bathroom. Then, just as idly thought" *I wonder if God is trying to show us something?* "

And then it came to me – quite suddenly!

The impression I had was that **God is weeping over this country.**

Tuesday was not a victorious day, as some would have us think, but a **sad** day for Canada. This country used to have its laws based upon the Judeo-Christian laws....but are now choosing to flout the Laws of God and have turned their backs on Him, imposing, instead, ideologies which reflect the *spirit of the age*, and so abandon their Christian/biblical roots

God's heart, I think, is **weeping for this nation..**

Yet at the same time, I believe His righteous anger must be against those who decided to "**sell out**" to the schemes of the evil one...and, one day, these people will have to contend with the wrath of God, the Righteous and Holy One.....I would not like to be in their place when they each stand before the judgement seat.....I am, of course, talking about the bill labelled C-38.

The passage on Tuesday night of Bill C-38, to legalize same-sex marriage across Canada was a defeat for those of us concerned about this country's future and what kind of society we will pass on to our children and grandchildren. We now become only the third country in the world to so radically redefine the core meaning of marriage, an institution that has been fundamental to every successful society throughout history.

On 26 January this year, These prophetic words were given to Pete ;

A testimony to the Canadian leaders

You will be held accountable.

Mark My words.

You will be held accountable.

I will not be mocked.

Do you think that you can tear up my laws?

Turn the world asunder?

Proclaim black is white?

Tear the nation apart as a feast for devils?

Your arrogance be on your own head!

Mark My words.

You, I will hold accountable.

I the Lord have spoken.

But then, (Tuesday morning again) I stopped and thought to myself – *but who am I to judge? What did I do to stop any of this? Did I write to my MP / Did I bother to lobby anybody to put forward my views? Did I do any more than register my disapproval online? No...I just passively sat back and let it happen – sure, I **prayed** about it, and talked about it, but sometimes we need to act - to be God's hands and feet, and by my *inactivity* I joined other apathetic Christians and therefore, without wanting to, condoned this action.....*

The English philosopher Edmund Burke is famous for saying –

“Perpetrators, collaborators, bystanders, victims: we can be clear about three of these categories. The **bystander**, however, is the fulcrum. If there are enough notable exceptions, then protest reaches a critical mass. **We don't usually think of history as being shaped by silence, but, The only thing necessary for the triumph [of evil] is for good men to do nothing.**”

You may well have been different and done something positive.....I don't know.....

*– maybe quite a few of you **did** bother to lobby your MP about this crucial matter.....we can't just be cozy in our little church in our corner of Calgary in our own little world, because if we are, there are consequences – both of **their** action and our **inaction**. This '**thing**' will not just go away if we turn a blind eye and try to ignore it.....it **will** affect us, and there are already cases '**out there**' where people have been persecuted – in subtle ways maybe, through pressure, by having to exercise so-called 'tolerance', even cases waiting to come to court.....*

Legislation is increasingly used as a subtle weapon against [specifically] Christian freedom of speech. Here is one recent example -

VANCOUVER, BC, June 14, 2005 (LifeSiteNews.com) – A ruling handed down yesterday by British Columbia's highest court has upheld the British Columbia College of Teachers' (BCCT) decision to

temporarily suspend the teaching license of Chris Kempling for writing allegedly discriminatory letters to the editor of a local publication.

In 2001, while off duty, Mr. Kempling entered as a practicing Christian into the burgeoning political and social debate surrounding homosexuality and gay 'marriage'. He defended, in a local newspaper, the traditional Christian understanding of the social, physical, and moral evils of homosexual behaviour. Kempling was subsequently cited for professional misconduct by the College of Teachers after a panel determined that his writings were discriminatory against homosexuals. He was disciplined with a temporary suspension of his license.

Mr. Kempling fought the ruling and took the case to the Supreme Court, which upheld the school board decision.

The current ruling marks the second time that Kempling has appealed that decision of the Supreme Court, citing violations of the freedom of religion and expression clauses of the Charter.

Lifesitenews.com spoke with Phil Horgan, president of the Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL), who has been actively taking part in the case. Mr. Horgan expressed concern that the current ruling centered around the supposition that by writing as he did Kempling had in some way damaged the British Columbia school system. The ruling states that Kempling's statements "undermined the core value of non-discrimination by denying homosexual students an education environment accepting of them."

And yet, Horgan points out, "on the contrary, there was no evidence of students who had been harmed by anything that Mr. Kempling had written."

This stubborn unwillingness of the courts to cooperate with Kempling's arguments for freedom of religion, however, makes little difference in the disturbing outcome of the most recent appeal.

(The article then went into more detail ,....)

"The timing is instructive for folks who have concerns about the impact of Bill C-38, generally," said Horgan. "It's virtually impossible to allow government passage of this type of legislation and not expect serious, serious problems in the area of conscience and religious rights. You cannot engage in the affirmation of homosexual marriage without it creating a whole level of future difficulties when it comes time for public discussion of such issues, with or without the church context."

Supporters of the traditional definition of marriage are pointing to this ruling as yet further evidence that freedom of expression is being swiftly eroded by the Federal Government's attempt to ram through the same-sex marriage bill.

The next step for Kempling, should he choose to take it, said Horgan, would be to take his case before the Supreme Court of Canada. Mr. Kempling was unavailable for comment.

And Ted Byfield, writing in the Calgary Sun last Sunday (p.31), had this to say

“ Those few (tory) MPs favouring the bill assure Christians they need fear no unforeseen consequences from [this bill]. Nothing in it will interfere with freedom of speech, they say, or with the rights of churches to refuse to marry gays, or the rights of Christian schools to teach the biblical injunctions against the practice of homosexuality, or the right of churches to read passages from scripture condemning homosexual activity.....”

This sort of legislation and change will creep up on us and catch us unaware if we are not ready for it. This is not just a *'bad decision by a bunch of bad guys'*, not just *'yet another political decision'* but the evidence and result of an **ideological agenda who's author is no human being at all.....**

And in the church, it seems 'We' generally have sat back and let it happen.

Where **is** the voice of the Anglican church in all of this?

Where is our leadership ?

Did **you** hear their voice loudly and strongly refuting C-38?

No, nor did I.....Our leadership seems to have generally failed in their duty to remind the State of the revealed laws of God on which our national laws were based..... It seems the Anglican leaders decided along the lines of *' This isn't a decision on which we need to act right now, this issue is not our issue at the moment'* – so they did not campaign against it.....

There is that well-known 'advice' isn't there, that people often quote; *' don't mix religion and politics'*, [it goes along with the other one *'don't work with children or animals'*]. But this is precisely what is erroneous here, what **has** going wrong – 'religion', or more specifically, *Christian morality*, is being superseded by the State who are legalising an ideology, which in itself is not even based in the natural.....

C-38 stands in direct contradiction to the Charter assertion that *" Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law"*

Only a few have stood up for God's laws, notably and locally RC Bsp. Henry who now faces prosecution by the Human Rights Commission because he 'offended' someone when he categorically and publically stated to his flock that homosexuality was wrong ...for those of you not familiar with the case -

Bishop Fred Henry wrote a pastoral letter to his parishioners last January condemning same-sex marriage. A column based on the letter was also published in the *Calgary Sun* newspaper. *"Since homosexuality, adultery, prostitution and pornography undermine the*

foundations of the family, the basis of society, then the State must use its coercive power to ... curtail them in the interests of the common good," Henry wrote.

The letter and column prompted two complaints against Henry to the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

Henry said while he *expected* there would be complaints about his position, he is disappointed Alberta's human rights commission didn't dismiss them immediately.

It could take a year for the complaints against Henry to work their way through the Human Rights Commission, said Marie Riddle, the agency's director.

Henry said he will fight the complaint to the end.

Other anti same-sex marriage groups were rallying behind Henry.

"We're talking about changing something that's a foundational institution of our society," said Derek Rogusky from Focus on the Family, *" we're not talking about changing the speed limit on the street,"*

"If anyone is successful in bringing charges against Bishop Henry,It shows that the 'religious freedom protections' that the government talks about really aren't there."

" If you feel offended, then you have a right to complain" is how it seems to work now But of course, if you follow *that* way of thinking, anybody could be offended by anything! If you take away the foundation of morality, of moral absolutes, ie **God and His revealed laws**.....then on what are you basing **a new moral code?**

If the *spirit of the age* says one thing, and someone opposes it, they can be prosecuted by a law based on *moral relativism*, not on Judeo-Christian foundations; based on somebody's feelings, not on the Truth of Scripture and the revealed Law of God..

It seems we are becoming a Totalitarian State – which sounds extreme, I know, but if '*they*' think they can change the definition of something as fundamental to our society as the traditional and natural institution of 'marriage', [and therefore of family life too].....*then are we not heading for social disaster and eventually a dictatorial state?*

And yet, people will follow whatever their itching ears want to hear, whether or not they welcome the consequences.....

Listen again to the words of Paul to Timothy in our reading today –

“ For a time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.....[2 Tim 4 v3-4]

And is that not exactly what is happening here in Canada?

In however many years down this road, just what will it mean to celebrate ‘Canada Day’?

It looks as if we have a dual-pronged attack going on here –

1. Attack on the culture
2. Attack on the church.

1. Attack on the culture –

Remember the parable of Jesus in Mtt 7v24 of the wise and foolish builders? They who are wise build their house on the rock – and only the *foolish* build theirs on sand.....The law-makers of *this* country would turn rock into sand. ...

Belief in God gives you a **morality** on which you **base a law**. So if you take God out of the picture, and you take away His Word and therefore his Laws, what is left? Where *is* the Rock on which to build your house?? This will happen bit by bit, as the rock is slowly eroded, and oh so slowly, turns to sand. And we don't notice it. The morality weakens because it now has no base in God and His Word, so it becomes **relativism**,

Laws are then built on the belief system of the *people*, or on the whims of a Government, so the **Rock of God's Word and Law**, is slowly ground into the *sand of the spirit of the age*. And I, for one, would **not** want my house built on the sand of relativism when the Tsunami hits. Would you?

What the liberals *did* does not make sense politically – it was a *risky* thing to do. They *could* and should have called a referendum; it was wanted.....but they chose not to.....how arrogant that THEY think they can go and **redefine marriage** – on a whim! Who do they think they are?!

A CBC headline the other day quoted the PM : “ *Canadians need to move on from this* ” in other words, “*your parliament has decided to do this so therefore move on – get on with your life, this isn't of any significance now*”. Just like that. Such arrogance!

Here is one more prophetic message, given in March this year; hear the poignant words -

Tsunami

19th March 2005 [Is 51 v1-6 Ps 37 Lk 6 v46-49]

I saw a wave in the distance. It looks benign, insignificant right now.

I was made aware that the old house – the house of God as it is currently – cannot withstand what is coming.

What is coming? A tsunami, a storm.

What storm? A storm both of persecution and of revival. And we are ready for neither.

We have to be ready, for it is coming. The old structure will not stand. We cannot run for we are called to stand, but we are called to build the house anew. A stronger, deeper house, built on the Rock of Ages.

[This word was given to me on 21st May 2003: “If you build it, they will come”]

Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord.

2.. Attack on the church –

Jesus said ‘ *I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*’ (Mtt 16.18) **Thank God indeed for that** . But, if the church can somehow be neutralised, while the culture is slowly destroyed, Satan thinks he’s on to a winner. As **SALT**, the church, is the preserver of **The Truth**, of God’s Laws.

Wolves come in sheep’s clothing to water down the Truth – oh they may **sound** good, yet the church is thrown into disarray when the wolves are allowed in and their words and ideas followed.....I’m talking about weak liberal leadership in the church.....and the church is thrown into disarray as it is now – with in-fighting and dissention in the ranks; that’s when Satan is given a foothold into both the church & the culture – to his advantage and his ends, but to the detriment and ultimate destruction of the people.

As the church in North America [ECUSA/ ACC], *with whom are we yoked?* With those who would build their house on the Sand, or with those who would build their house on the Rock of **Jesus and His Word?**

This is part of an ideological war against **God, His Word and Christian believers** – this is the beginning of a war –v.subtle, I agree, but a war none-the-less.

– So where is the hope? What are we to do? How can we meaningfully respond to all this?

We each need to be **very serious** about our faith. This is a wake-up call to the church, a wake-up call for sleepy Christians – you can't sleep for ever! Things are happening which are not good!

Yes we know God is ultimately in charge – and we certainly do **not** hold with dualism; Satan is a defeated foe, but he's a bit like the mosquitoes at the moment which refuse to go away – they are pests, and because they bite we'd rather stay indoors than put on the repellent and go out and fight them! When Jesus died on the cross, he overcame sin and evil and deathand he rose victorious from the grave....and we, as His foot-soldiers need to get out there in the thick of the battle to fight the evil one.....

We should be who God calls us to be – *“soldiers of Christ arise and put your armour on!”* A great hymn, with great lyrics but not a particularly inspiring tune for words which are so important!

We are to be clothed with **power from on high**, as in Acts 1.8. – with the power of the HS, and wearing the full armour of God (Eph 6v.10-18) not ever taking it off, even when we go to bed at night! Read Eph 6 every day; make sure you are fitted with every piece.....

“ 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.”

This C-38, same sex bill is symptomatic of the spirit of the age – it is not actually *'the issue'*- but clearly illustrates that our culture/civilisation can **not** last – if it continues heading in this same way, it will crumble into dust.....

So build a stronger house!!

We have to be ready, for the Tsunami is coming. We cannot run for we are called to stand, and we are called to build the house anew. A stronger, deeper house, built on the Rock of Ages.

Yes, we can pray that a new Government in the future will, if not overturn this legislation, at least **amend** it.....but we can't sit back and wait for that possibility to happen, and anyway, is that enough? As I said a moment ago, this is not *just* about homosexuality, but about something far bigger, something sinister orchestrated and manipulated by the father of lies

And in the meantime our children- in most schools anyway -will be taught along the lines of C38....not only can Christianity **not** be taught, CHRISTmas not be mentioned etc, but homosexuality as a '*normal lifestyle choice*' will by law **have** to be taught, and 'marriage', will have to be understood as the union of two people – whatever gender.....then what we now understand as 'traditional family life' will take on a different and less secure meaning.....and then what?

What is next? Polygamy? Incest? What about the rights of a man to have more than one wife? On what grounds will the '*powers that be*' deny that one? If they have no moral absolutes, there will be no moral grounds for disallowing such an arrangement. SO, where will it stop? Well, maybe it won't, until, as I say, Society disintegrates, children become even more insecure and unsure.....and our morals disappear like dust before our eyes.....

Those of us who confess the faith of **Christ crucified**, who believe and trust in Him and His Word, in the **absolutes** of our Father in heaven who's perfect plan includes the good of **all** mankind, must hold fast to the truth we have been given, and be prepared, as Paul said to Timothy , to *preach the Word, in season and out of season; - to correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction.....[2 Tim 4.2]*

to live lives of obedience to our Father, being prepared to stand up and be counted for Christ.....praying for our politicians, for God to bless them, and for them to hunger only for God and His Truth.....

The thing is – God our heavenly Father is intimately concerned with our lives and he has a plan for us as individuals and as a body; When those who have authority over us turn their backs on God and His plan, God isn't going to say '*oh well that's OK, I forgive them*'. These guys on Parliament Hill have a **huge** responsibility and woe-betide them when they make bad choices & take the slippery path on behalf of the people, the one which leads to destruction.....

There may be a tiny hope that the Queen will not allow this legislation to have her stamp of approval, and so it could, possibly, be stopped at the 11th hour – and that is something to pray for – get her address from Mary and write to her! But the point is this – and I think I've stated it clearly enough – the **general** trend is away from God and towards an evil relativism with no moral absolutes.....I do not want my children growing up in that kind of society. And I dread to think what might be there to greet my grandchildren.....

We must each do what we can to stand against this ; using whatever contacts we have, writing to local councillors, MPs, the media – and praying that God the Father will turn their hearts to Him.....that they would repent of their sins and ask Jesus to be Lord of their lives ...if all of us faithfully and regularly prayed for those in authority, this country *could* be saved and become a beacon of light and hope in the world.

