

UK BIBLE STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

Mid-October 2009

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5: 20).

A sense of mission has always been basic to the Christian identity. Those relieved by faith from the condemnation of sin are driven to pass on the saving news of the Gospel to anyone who will listen. Easier said than done.

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THE PERMISSION OF EVIL AND ITS RELATION TO GOD'S PLAN (Part 2)

Adapted from chapter seven of *The Divine Plan of the Ages*, International Bible Students Association, 1914 edition
All Scripture references in this article are to the New International Version, UK edition

(Part 1 of this article appeared in the end-September 2009 issue of the Newsletter)

Adam already had a knowledge of evil by *information*, but that was insufficient to restrain him from trying the experiment. Adam and Eve knew God as their Creator, and hence as the one who had the right to control and direct them. God had said of the forbidden tree, 'You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die' (Genesis 2: 17). They had, therefore, a theoretical awareness of evil, though they had never observed or experienced its effects. Consequently, they did not appreciate their Creator's loving authority and His beneficent law, nor the dangers from which He thereby proposed to protect them. They yielded to the temptation which God permitted, the ultimate value of which His wisdom had already anticipated.

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In the Rear-View Mirror

Unless a trustworthy and universal agreement upon disarmament, conventional and nuclear alike, can be reached and an effective system of inspection is established and is actually working, there is only one sane policy for the free world in the next few years. That is what we call defence through deterrents. This we have already adopted and proclaimed. These deterrents may at any time become the parents of disarmament, provided that they deter. To make our contribution to the deterrent we must ourselves possess the most up-to-date nuclear weapons, and the means of delivering them.

Sir Winston Churchill, *The Deterrent – Nuclear Warfare* (March 1, 1955, House of Commons)

DRAG-NET

Items of interest from the World Wide Web

Formerly an ice-bound impediment, Canada's Northwest Passage is thawing

<http://www.openpassageexpedition.com/index.html>

Jaw bone created from stem cells

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8290138.stm>

Warding off malnutrition with 85p 'superfood'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2009/oct/11/food-climate-change-famine-plumpy-nut>

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Postal Address: Post Box 0195, Brough, East Yorkshire, England

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