

UK BIBLE STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

End-October 2009

THE LIFE OF MADAME GUYON

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life (Revelation 2:10, NIV-UK)

Madame Guyon was a seventeenth-century French evangelist. She lived and died in the Roman Catholic church and yet is championed by Protestants. By the time of her birth in 1648, Europe was divided politically and religiously, the effects of the Reformation which had begun in earnest a century earlier. The Bible, newly translated into the vernacular, was in the hands of the people and the widespread migration from Catholic teaching and practice, set into motion by Martin Luther's public denunciation of Rome, was well under way. Many turned from the corruption in the church to tread the old and trusted paths then brought back to light. The papacy asserted its authority and met reformation with counter-reformation.

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THE PERMISSION OF EVIL AND ITS RELATION TO GOD'S PLAN (Part 3, final)

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 2 of this article appeared in the mid-October 2009 issue of the Newsletter)

Life everlasting is not promised to any but the obedient. Life is God's gift, and death, the opposite of life, is the penalty He prescribes for the disobedient. Eternal torture is nowhere suggested in the Old Testament Scriptures, and only a few statements in the New Testament can be so misconstrued as to appear to teach it. 'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6: 23). 'The soul who sins is the one who will die' (Ezekiel 18: 4).

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In the Rear-View Mirror

'[Winston] Churchill's life was virtually synonymous with the history of the country during the heroic years 1940 to 1945. To a degree hardly paralleled in recent centuries – certainly to a greater extent even than with Lloyd George in the first war. Perhaps we should have to go back for a parallel to Pitt's leadership and inspiration in the Seven Years War; or, in more recent times, we may think of Lincoln's heroic Presidency, without whom the [American] Civil War might never have been won. These years were the apogee of our country's history, when its purpose reached the fullest and ripest development. In its resistance to Nazi Germany – for what seemed at the time of going through it an age, alone – it rendered a grander service to Europe than even in its resistance to the Spain of Philip II, the France of Louis XIV and Napoleon, the Germany of Bismarck and William II; for though Britain's existence was at stake, more was involved for others – the survival of European civilisation.'

A.L. Rowse, *The Churchills* (London: Book Club Associates, 1970), 524.

Dragnet

Items of interest from the World Wide Web

Britain

Anglican priests consider joining Roman Catholic church
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8324124.stm

Police follow up 'hate crime'
<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2009/oct/09102707.html>

United States

President Obama signs 'hate-crime' legislation into law

<http://unitedfamiliesinternational.wordpress.com/2009/10/28/update-obama-signs-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-hate-crime-bill/>

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

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