

TRAWLED TREASURE

I have compiled this collection of mainly Christian Quotations over more than 30 years of involvement in ministry

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Gareth Bolton
April 2007

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BIBLE (Cont)

"In regard to this great book, I have got to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Saviour gave to the world was communicated through this Book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of this, a knowledge of the Bible. When you have read the Bible, you will know that it is the Word of God, because you will have found it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty."
WOODROW WILSON

"Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; The Book widens and deepens with our years."
CHARLES SPURGEON

"The Bible, the whole Bible, & nothing but the Bible is the religion of Christ's Church." IBID

"Education is useless without the Bible." NOAH WEBSTER

"Scripture is the manger in which we find the Christ child." MARTIN LUTHER

"I have done nothing; the Word has done and accomplished everything." IBID

"It is a miracle how God has so long preserved His Book! How great and glorious it is to have the Word of God!" IBID

"My conscience is captive to the Word of God." IBID

"I will put down all apparent inconsistencies in the Bible to my own ignorance."
JOHN NEWTON

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CHILDREN

'When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments: tenderness for what he is and respect for what he might become.'
LOUIS PASTEUR

'The happiest little girl I ever knew was a Christian - although only eight years old and blind.'
J. C. RYLE

'It is a sacred joy for me to know that boys and girls are praying for me. I have more confidence in the spiritual life of the children I have received into this church than I have in the adults.'
C. H. SPURGEON

'Matthew Henry was 11, Richard Baxter was 6, Robert Moffat was only a young boy, Helen Cadbury (founder of P.T.L.) was 12, Rosalind Goforth was 11, Countess of Huntingdon and Isaac Watts were only 9, Catherine Booth's eight children were all under 10, Jonathan Edwards and Mary Slessor were 7, Amy Carmichael was 9 and Jim Elliot was 6when they were converted to Christ.'
ROGER CARSWELL

'Never under rate the under eights.'
HUDSON POPE

'There is everything in our Saviour to charm and attract children.'
F. B. MEYER

'If men do not keep on speaking terms with children they cease to be men and become merely machines for eating and earning money.'
JOHN UPDIKE

- (1) Pray for them.
- (2) Love them.
- (3) Teach them
- (4) Take time with them.
- (5) Write to them.

(Five-fold plan to be a blessing to children)
ROGER CARSWELL

CHRISTIANITY

‘Christianity was born in Palestine. They took it to Greece and they made it into a philosophy. They took it to Rome and they made it into an institution. They took it to America and they made it into a business enterprise. They took it to England and they made it into a tourist attraction.’ TONY CAMPOLO

‘We tolerate no one in our ranks who offends against the idea of Christianity. In fact, our movement is Christian.’ ADOLPH HITLER

‘Once sever the fundamental root of conversion to Christ from the Christian message and it becomes a broken and lifeless plant, however beautiful the flowers of Christian concern and social involvement it displays’. MICHAEL GREEN (EIEC)

‘A growing army of more contemporary Christians, comfortable with technology and in tune with modern culture have grown impatient with the status quo. They are making their way across the landscape, meandering between the new language and values with such consummate ease that their distinctive features may not always be easily identified at their first glance. They are comfortable in cinemas and theatres, they may even smoke and use words their parents would not approve of. They do believe the Bible, but they may not believe it like most people who call themselves evangelical. In fact, they may prefer to be called ‘post-evangelical’, if they use the label at all. JOEL EDWARDS

Today with the foul miasma of evangelism rising up to engulf us from every corner of God’s poor earth, it is hard to remember that good Christian lives were once lived without words like ‘outreach’ and ‘salvation’ being dragged into general conversation. God was a dignified generous father and Christ his beautiful liquid eyed son; they loved you even when they saw you on the lavatory or caught you stealing sweets. That was Christianity, something quite unconnected to hymns, psalms, anthems & the liturgy of the church.’ (‘Moab is my Washpot’) STEPHEN FRY

“No-one in charge of Christianity seems to be that convinced about the product” TIM RICE

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CHRISTIANITY (Cont)

'There is such a dichotomy between what we Christians profess and the way we behave that it makes me wonder whether our profession is really genuine. I am sure the world wonders too.'

MIKE WAKELY

'Extremes always excite people; even when they are thoroughly wrong, you'll find people excited by extremes.'

JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

"The cultural captivity of Christianity in the West is almost complete. And with the religion tamed, it is now open season on the West's Christian heritage. I worry about a West without a moral centre, especially as it faces a politically resurgent Islam".

Christianity Today, PROF. LAMIN SANNEH (African Missions Scholar)

"A root cause of the problems identified, is that the century's long assumption that Western Christianity exists within a cultural context, compatible with the faith of Christ. That long term understanding has meant we have largely failed to recognise the changes brought about by modernity. So we have ended up in the Western church with an advanced state of syncretism".

BISHOP LESSLIE NEWBIGIN

"European Christianity has lived for so long in a state of peaceful coexistence with the post-enlightenment culture that it is almost impossible for us to recover the standpoint of a genuine missional approach to that culture".

BISHOP LESSLIE NEWBIGIN

"So much popular Western evangelical religiosity is so shallow and selfish. It promises so much, it demands so little. It offers success, personal happiness, peace of mind, material prosperity but it hardly ever speaks these days of repentance, sacrifice, self denial, a holy life style and a willingness to die for Christ".

PETER KUSMICK (Balkan evangelical leader)

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CONVERSION

“After being persuaded by the Word, we renounced demons. We now follow the only begotten God through His Son. Those who once rejoiced in fornication now delight in self control alone. Those who made use of the magic arts now have dedicated themselves to the good and unbegotten God. We who once took most pleasure in increasing their wealth and prosperity now bring what we have into a common fund and share with everyone in need. We who hated and killed one another wouldn’t associate with men of different tribes. Now after the manifestation of Christ we live together; we pray for our enemies, we try to persuade those who unjustly hate us so that they live according to the fair commands of Christ and therefore share with us the hope of receiving the same things”. JUSTIN MARTYR

“While I was still lying in darkness and gloomy night, I used to regard it as difficult matter and especially difficult in respect of my character at that time, that a man should ever be capable of being born again? How, said I, is such a conversion possible? That there should be a sudden and rapid divestment of all which, innate in us, has hardened in the corruption of our material nature or, acquired of (by) us, has become inveterate by long accustomed use. These things have become deeply and radically engrained within us. When does he learn thrift that has become used to liberal banquets and sumptuous feasts?” DONATUS

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DEVIL

'The devil is a better theologian than any of us and is a devil still.' A W TOZER

'No present day system of philosophy gives any place to the "Diabolos" (the devil) of scripture.' EDGAR BRIGHTMAN

'If the devil cannot pull you back and make you unkeen, he will try to push you forward to unhealthy extremes.' SANDY BRADLEY

'Satan's purpose was not to make Eve as ungodly as possible but to make her as godlike as possible without God.' DR BILLY GRAHAM

'The devil doesn't fear potential.' P T SMYTHE

'The devil is the enemy of all moderation and balance.' JOHN R W STOTT

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EVIL

'God permits evil, uses evil and overcomes evil ultimately for a greater good than would have been had evil not appeared.'
J I PACKER

'God is not the author of evil, but neither is evil running loose in God's universe outside of His sovereign purposes'.
TERRY L JOHNSON

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HUMANISM

'By the year 2000 we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential, not
God.'
GLORIA STEINEM (founder of Ms magazine)

'Not God but man himself has life in his own hands.'
DUTCH POLITICIAN

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HUMILITY

'Never once did he tell me of the way he had been used among the Lisu.'
(Wife of) JAMES O FRASER

'The God who can do for and through a poor shoemaker the much He has done for and through me, can bless and use any. The very humblest may trust Him.' WILLIAM CAREY

'There was a day when I died, utterly died to George Mueller, his opinion, preferences, tastes and will - died to the world, its approval or censure, died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends - and since then I have studied to show myself only approved unto God.'
GEORGE MULLER

'God will never be disillusioned with you because He never had any illusions at the start'.
GERALD COATES

'You need to know a great deal to find out how little you really know'. ALISTER BEGG

'It is not denying the power and abilities you have, but admitting they come through you and not from you'

'He that is down needs fear no fall, he that is low, no pride;
He that is humble ever shall have God to be his Guide.'
JOHN BUNYAN

"It's amazing what can be accomplished if you don't worry about who gets the credit."
CLARENCE W JONES

"Rather than being an instrument of the Lord, all I was, was an adoring spectator"
ROBERT MURRAY MCSHANE.

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HURRY

'God is not in a hurry. He cannot do things with us until we are trained and ready for them. Hurry means worry.'
JAMES O FRASER

'He took off his watch and found that he'd got all the time in the world.'
ANONYMOUS

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LOVE

'It is not a victim of our emotions but the servant of our will.' JOHN STOTT

'Agape' love is a steady direction of the will towards another's lasting good'
BISHOP STEPHEN NEILL

'Love is not a means to an end, it is an end in itself.' LEON MORRIS

'More flies are caught by a jar of honey than a bottle of vinegar'. ALISTAIR BEGG

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MEANING OF LIFE (cont)

‘Who could have imagined that life could be so sad?’ VAN GOGH

‘What’s the bl**y point?’ KENNETH WILLIAMS (last recorded words)

‘Most people are like a shaving of wood which is curled around its central emptiness.’
THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE

‘The human heart cries out for personal significance. We were created that way. We have a visceral need for our lives to have meaning. When this need remains unmet, an almost unbearable, soul destroying emptiness engulfs us. It fosters compulsivity and addictions of all kinds’.
GEORGE MILEY

“You don’t choose to be like that. It can just be that you feel that your life is so empty that all you can do is try and change yourself to kind of put meaning there” KASIA on ‘anorexia’
BBC website 060107

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MISSIONS (cont)

‘Mission tends to attract people who are oriented towards a task, who want to get the job done, and who are not primarily concerned with, or even aware of, their own needs’.
GEORGE MILEY

‘Those of us who are calling people to mission carry a responsibility to describe the implications clearly and soberly...we must be truthful and responsible.’ GEORGE MILEY

‘On Sunday, June 25, 1865, unable to bear the sight of a congregation of a thousand or more Christian people rejoicing in their own security, while millions were perishing for lack of knowledge, I wandered out on the sands alone, in great spiritual agony, and there the Lord conquered my unbelief, and I surrendered myself to God for this service...I returned home with a heart enjoying rest such as it has been a stranger to for months’
HUDSON TAYLOR

‘World evangelisation is the responsibility of the whole church and God has placed a huge proportion of the resources required to solve this problem in local churches.’
PRESIDENT OF A MISSIONS ORGANISATION

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PERSECUTION

'We've lost our nerve in affluence, they've discovered it in persecution.' ANONYMOUS

'Every Christian knew that sooner or later he might have to testify to his faith at the cost of his life.'
STEPHEN NEILL (A History of Christian Missions)

'Don't pray for the persecution to stop. We shouldn't pray for a lighter load to carry but a stronger back to endure.....if persecution stops, I fear we will become complacent and fall asleep.'
BROTHER YUN

'The persecution of Christians in Western society will only worsen as the idea of absolute tolerance is promoted over absolute truth.'
PATRICK JOHNSTONE

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship or observance"
UN UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. (Article 18)

'Punishment was inflicted on the Christians, a body of people addicted to a novel and mischievous superstition'
(from the 'Life of Nero c. AD 120) Suetonius

'Persecution is not sweet, but it's useful.'
ERITREAN CHURCH LEADER

'The unprecedented growth of the Chinese church has happened under ceaseless persecution'
BOB FU President of CAA (China Aid Association)

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PRESSURE

'It does not matter how great the pressure is. What really matters is where the pressure lies - whether it comes between you and God or whether it presses you nearer His heart.
HUDSON TAYLOR

'Blessed are those who are flexible for they shall not break' ANON

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PRIDE

‘A proud faith is as much a contradiction as a humble devil’ STEPHEN CHARNOCK

‘How strange that people feel the need to boast about their travels as though God ’specially honours the globe-trotter.’ MIKE WAKELY

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RELIGION

'The tendency to claim God as our ally for our partisan values and ends is.....the source of all religious fanaticism.' American theologian REINHOLD NIEBUHR

'Religions tend to be based on the premise that we are all evil and will remain so until we give ourselves up to a redeemer.....I find I can't agree with that.' TERRY WOGAN

'It was when I became a Muslim that I found peace.' YUSSUF ISLAM aka CAT STEVENS

'The appropriate question to a traditional Hindu – or a modern New-Ager for that matter – is not “What do you believe?” but rather “What do you deny?”.' REV RICHARD BEWES

'Alien world views are not to be appeased but opposed.' REV RICHARD BEWES

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SIGNS AND WONDERS

'A Christian who is far more enthusiastic about miracles than about prayer, far more excited about dramatic guidance than about reading the Bible is a believer who is running a temperature - it may make him feel warm but it is not an indication of spiritual health.' (Signs and Wonders Today) DONALD BRIDGES

'Interpretation of prophetic word doesn't equal prophetic word' WALL GRAFFITI

'The Bible teaches us that there are many forces and powers that can produce phenomena and results and some of these forces and powers are evil spirits, so how do you decide?phenomena do not decide. You arrive at your conclusion on Biblical grounds." DR D M LLOYD-JONES

'I don't wonder apostolic miracles have died. Apostolic living certainly has.' AMY CARMICHAEL

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VISION

'You see things as they are and ask "why?" But I dream of things that never were and ask "why not?"
G B SHAW

'Institutions guard their boundaries; movements are always crossing them'.
DENNIS LENNON

'What could be worse than being born without sight? Being born with sight and no vision'
HELEN KELLER

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WARFARE

‘In the heart of every believer there is peace with God, but constant war with sin.’
ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

‘God has appointed this whole life to be a battle. The state of rest, wherein we shall have no need of watching and fighting, is for another world.’
JONATHAN EDWARDS

‘I have never known what it is to be out of Romans 7 nor out of Romans 8 either; the whole passage has been solid truth to my experience.’
C H SPURGEON

‘Coming under attack is a constant experience in enemy occupied territory and the attack sometimes comes when you least expect it.’
IAN MAYO

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WITNESSING

'This generation of believers is responsible for this generation of unbelievers.'
KEITH GREEN

'Christians are little Christs.'
C. S. LEWIS

'We are the best disguised set of pilgrims the world has ever seen'.
A W TOZER

"Christianity is enshrined in the life; but it is proclaimed by the lips. If there is failure in either respect, the gospel cannot be communicated."
MICHAEL GREEN (EIEC)

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