

This is the end of the nation



3^d Chapt. St. John 19th Verse.

And this is the Condemnation, that
Light is come into the world, and
Men love the darkness rather than
light, because their deeds
were evil.

The meaning of these words are,
that since God has made known
his will to mankind in so plain a
manner, by sending his own

our Son, to teach us how to live, so as
to please God, and how to escape the
awful punishment of Sin in the
next world. If we despise so great a
mercy, and resolve to shut our eyes
against that Light of the Gospel,
which is designed to direct us in the
way to Heaven and Happiness, and
will not forsake our sins, then
we are to expect no mercy from
God, but the severest sentence

of Condemnation.

Those Christians that have any kind
of Seriousness will naturally
desire to know what God expects
from them, how they may obtain
everlasting happiness, and escape
the wrath to come.

Jesus Christ by the gracious light
of his Gospel, has made
known to us, that many

Perish it is from his own
wilful obstinacy, that God
desires not the death of a
sinner, but that he should
turn from his sin and be
saved, and because we
are not able of ourselves
to do our duty to God, This
Blessed Saviour has made
known to us, that he will
give the assistance of

his Holy Spirit to those that
ask him, to enable them
to know, and do their duty,
and to overcome the tempta-
tions of the world, the flesh,
and the Devil. And because
people are but too apt to
think all time lost, which
is not spent on their worldly
business, God has appointed

appointed, one day in
seven, which ought to be
employed, in learning
their duty, in praising to
their Creator, and praying
for such things as are
requisite and necessary,
as well for their bodies,
as their souls, and that
they, employ their time
after this manner, are
sure to be no losers by it.

This then is the light and
knowledge, which God has
given us, by the light of his Son,
and it concerns every one who
hopes to be saved. We pay
serious attention to it.

But God knows, this is not
the way, that the generality
of Christians take, for instead
of being awakened into a
deep fear for themselves,
instead of asking that

important question: What
must I do to be saved; instead
of this, they take the sure
~~the sure~~ way to be miserable
for ever, they hate, and avoid,
that light which would shew
them their danger. And it is
as true, at this day, as it was
when our Saviour spoke
these words. For though the
light of the gospel, has been

So long in the world, yet
men love darkness rather
than light, and for the same
reason," because their deeds
are evil. -

Infinite is the number of those
who, though the glad tidings
of the Gospel are held forth to
them, will not embrace them,
but deny the Lord that bought
them, and despise his gracious
offers of Pardon and happiness.
Others there are, who dare not
go so far as to deny the Lord
Jesus

and the Gospel he has given
them, yet hold the truth for
unrighteousness, and lead
a careless and ungodly
lives, as the greatest infidels.
There are too many who are
utter strangers to the very
design of Christianity, who know
not why they are baptized,
why they promise to renounce
the Devil, to believe in God,
while they live, and seem to be
careless what will become of them
when they die —

It is very strange that men
should avoid, and hate, that
light, which would shew their
folly, and their danger. But
our Lord has given us the
reason. Every one that doeth
evil, hateth the light, neither
cometh to the light, lest their
deeds should be reprov'd.
Wicked People hate the Gospel
because it holds forth a
standing light, which sheweth
the deformity of their actions,
and declares at the same

time, that without holiness
no man shall see the Lord.

In short, they who are engaged
in wickedness of any kind,
will have an aversion to every
thing that belongs to God, His
House, his Day, his Word, and
his ordinances, and by this
they may know, that they
are in darkness, and
in the way of destruction.

From what has been said it
is plain that if men have no
religion, it is, because they will
not. It is not for want of light
to show them the way they should
go, but because they are
resolved not to part with
their sin. And those who
pretend to believe the Gospel,
and yet lead an ungodly life,
would do well to consider,
that every man, who lives in
any known sin, is advancing
towards Atheism. That is,

that is, to a state, which will
force him, first to wish, and
then to say, there is no God.
And the Scripture Says, If men
will not retain God in their
knowledge, and live like
men that know God, God will
give them up to a reprobate
mind, to work all iniquity
with greediness, as a punish-
ment, of making so ill an
use of the grace of God, and
the light of the Gospel.

But is it not blindness, that
has seized the heart of Christians,
who pretend to pity these poor
Heathens, who want the light
of the Gospel, and yet make
so little use of it themselves.
How glad would a serious
Heathen be to know, how he
might be freed from the guilt
of his sins. How thankful
would he be, to be informed,
what becomes of men, when
they die. Whether there be
rewards ^{in heaven} and punishments

In another life, and how
they may be escaped, and those
obtained. Heians may know
these things, and be as well
assured of them, as they are
alive. and yet few value
the blessings of knowing them,
or make a right use of this
knowledge. Can there be any
blindness equal to this,
People thank God, they are
Heians, and that they believe
the Gospel, and yet live

as if every word were false. They
do not consider that to believe
the Gospel, is to be convinced
of the certainty of the rewards
and punishments of the life to
come, of the absolute necessity of
holiness, in order to escape eternal
misery, and to obtain everlasting
happiness. It is to be concluded
that nothing in this world ought
to tempt us to displease God. For
what can a man give in
exchange for his soul. It is
to be convinced that we are

are in real danger, and
that we ought to be on our
guards, for we have many
Enemies to deal with, a
Powerful evil spirit, a bewitch-
ing world, and a corrupt heart.
To be a Christian is also to be con-
vinced of the necessity of making
use of all those means of
Salvation, which are appoi-
nted in the Gospel, such as
reading, or hearing the word
of God, and Praying to God

For light to know, and Power, to do
What will. Please him. Say you
are resolved by Gods helps to
live, as if you did in truth
believe them, and then you will
have reason to thank God,
that you are a Christian, and to
Praise him, who has called
you out of Darkness, into his
marvellous Light. They who
live uprightly, and desire to
serve God, are pleased with
that light, which shows them
their duty, and give them

them the satisfaction of knowing
the way they are in, is, I
according to His will, and in the
End will bring them to Heaven.
He that doth the truth says our
Lord, cometh to the Light, that
his deeds may be made
manifest, that they are wrought
in Gods Word the Gospel left
perfect than it is, or left known
to the world. Sinners would
have more to bleed, in their
own behav^r. But since they
want no light to direct
them,

them, no assistance to support
them in doing their duty, they are
left without excuse for their
disobedience.

Were the Gospel merely matter
of advice, which men might
follow or let alone, as they
found most ~~convenient~~ for their
own purposes, they would
then have less to answer
for, if they neglected it.
But, the Gospel is a Law
proceeding from the best
authority given by God.

Good to his Creatures, and
We are bound, at our Peril
to regard it. If we will not
walk in Gods Law, when it
shines so bright before our
Eyes we shall be condemned,
for choosing Darkness
rather than light.

There are but two sorts
of men who can hope to
escape punishment.
The Righteous who have

have no reason to fear
Judgment, and the sinners
who offending through weak-
ness, or Ignorance, have
some Plea to make for
mercy and forgiveness.

But sinners who know their
duty, and were so assisted as
to have been able (had they been
but willing, to perform it, have
nothing to expect but Punish-
ment.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ being
recommended to us as founded

In the Express Revelation of
God, carries with it such an
authority as cannot with
safety to ourselves be disputed
or neglected. It is not an indiffe-
rent matter, whether we ac-
-cept it or not. For if the Gospel
be truly what it really is, whether
we will receive it, or whether
we will reject it, we shall
most certainly be judged by it.
And if we pervertly refuse
the gift of God, this will be our
condemnation. That light is

come into the world, and we
loved darkness rather than light.

Let all those who hope to be saved
walk in the light of the Gospel
and let none think that their
want of knowledge will excuse
their living in sin. For sure
there cannot be that want of
knowledge in a Christian settle-
ment where the Church doors
are open one day in seven,
where the Gospel is, or may be,
in every bodys hands, where the
great truths and duties

Of Religion are explained,

But they that are Unwilling
to hear their duty, or to have
their faults reproved, may
depend, they are in a bad way.
This is the case of all such
as are careless & hearers of
Gods word, who seldom pray
either at Church or at home
for Gods grace to enlighten
their minds, with the saving
truth of the Gospel. Let us all

Then who have any concern for
Eternity ~~will~~ give glory to the Lord
our God by living, as become his
faithful servants. Let us work the
work of him that sent us, while it
is day, lest the night of Death
cometh, when no man can work.
Eternity is a matter of too great
concern to be neglected, or deferred
to the last. To be forever happy, or
miserable will be the certain
Portion of every one, who has made
use of, or turned his back upon

Upon that light which God has
afforded him bring him
to everlasting life God grant
we may all think of this, that
we may walk as children of light
and that the Prince and Powers of
darkness may have no share
in us, but that we may obtain
everlasting life and happiness
in the Kingdom of Heaven, Through
Jesus our Lord —

To whom with the Father and the
Holy Ghost be all honour and
glory world without end Amen

Watton 18 Jan 1789

Burnham Thorne

10 April 1791

Clare Mevins

28 July 1833