

THE ORANGE BANNER

"The Protestant Religion and Liberties of England I will maintain"
- William III, Prince of Orange

*"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee,
that it may be displayed because of the truth" - Psalm 60:4*

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Grand Lodge of England Parade in London

The Grand Orange Lodge of England held a very successful parade in the city centre of London on Saturday November 12th 2005 in support of their Brethren within the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

The Deputy Grand Master of England, Brother D. Middleton, laid a wreath at the Cenotaph, and a letter was handed in at 10 Downing Street for the attention of the Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair. The delegation at Downing Street included the Grand Master of England, Brother R. Bather, the Grand Secretary, Brother D. Taggart, the Grand Treasurer, Brother G. Crone, and the Ladies Grand Mistress, Sister L. Hall.

The public response to the parade was positive, and many visitors from Northern Ireland in London for Remembrance Day were supporters on the pavement. Some Brethren from Northern Ireland also walked in the parade. All the Provinces within the Grand Lodge of England had representatives on the parade.

The letter to the Prime Minister read as follows,

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the Grand Orange Lodge of England, parading in the City of London, on Saturday 12th November 2005, do so in support of our colleagues of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and the Protestant Community of Ulster in their quest to display their culture and British way of life within this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Whilst we do not condone the violence, both during and following the Whiterock parade, we believe that the situation was inflamed by the ludicrous decision of the Parades Commission and the brutality of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in their handling of the parade. Whilst the Security forces were heavy handed on this particular day, they showed leniency when they themselves were under attack, by republicans, on the 12th July.

The Parades Commission, set up by your Government, are allegedly unbiased in their decisions; however, we do not believe this to be the case. The Parades Commission are there at the behest of the so-called "Resident Committee's" which are headed by active members of Sinn Fein/IRA, a majority of whom do not reside in the area they claim to represent. We firmly believe that the Parades Commission was set up to bring about the demise of the Orange Order, this they will fail to do.

The Belfast Agreement, we were assured, brought with it a hope for lasting peace in Ulster. Promises and assurances were given by Sinn Fein/IRA, which resulted in concessions after concessions being made to

the republican movement. Time has proved that that their promises and assurances were empty. We have now witnessed the statement from the IRA, in which they have declared that they are now to adopt the democratic and peaceful process, putting all arms beyond use.

This act of decommissioning and the destruction of arms were witnessed by the International Monitoring Commission and two members of the Clergy, a Protestant and a Roman Catholic, acting as independent witnesses. However, following the statement, recently, by the Roman Catholic Clergyman, in which he likened "life for the nationalist community under a Loyalist regime to be the same as life for the Jews under the Nazi's" brings his neutrality into question and has revealed were his true allegiance lies.

The Government's response to the IRA statement was to announce more concessions to Sinn Fein/IRA by announcing that there would be a scaling down of security, the dismantling of Watchtowers and the disbanding of three battalions of the Royal Irish Rangers, much to the applause of Sinn Fein/IRA and the Nationalist politicians.

The recent appointment of Mr Peter Hain as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland gives grave cause for concern, considering his active involvement, in the past, in which he called for the removal of troops from Northern Ireland and his open support for a United Ireland.

Upon his appointment the Secretary of State stated that he wished to meet with both sides of the community. We ask the question, "Why are the Protestant community and the Orange Institution still waiting?"

Does not the Government, and your good self, accept that the future well being of Northern Ireland is at the behest of the majority and that the majority of the Protestant community are totally opposed to the appeasement of this Government to the minority.

We therefore call upon Her Majesty's Government to cease from making any more concessions and. to give an assurance that the appeasement to Sinn Fein/IRA and the republican movement will cease forthwith.

We call upon Her Majesty's Government to disband, immediately, the Parades Commission, which since its inception must take most, if not all, of the responsibility for the mayhem which their decisions have caused. In doing so will help restore the confidence of the Orange Order.

The wishes of the majority are, by this Government, being totally ignored and it is the responsibility of Government to restore the confidence of the majority that their British way of life is not threatened and to help restore their confidence in the Police Service of Northern Ireland, who have, in the past, at the behest of Politicians and bad leadership, been heavy handed, and at times brutal, in their handling of Orange Order and Loyalist parades.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

William Ronald Bather
Grand Master
David Taggart
Grand Secretary

Lodge News

Fund Raising in Hebburn

A fund-raising social evening was held earlier this year in the Hebburn Orange Hall, and I am pleased to report that the proceeds from that event realised the sum of £736.

The benefit night was organised by the Tyneside Brothers and Sisters who attend public worship at St John's Parish Church in Hebburn on Tyne, and was supported by members of the Orange Family from throughout the United Kingdom, together with friends and supporters. The Vicar, the Rev David Osman, and his churchwardens were all in attendance on the night of the function.

On the night of the event the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of England, Brother Donald Middleton, presented a cheque to Walter Armstrong, churchwarden of St John's.

I would like to thank those Brothers and Sisters who supported this worthwhile event.

Bro. Alan Little
Tyne District Secretary

Annual Lodge Dinner of L.O.L. 45

“Unionism must look outwards again” - Burnside

“Unionism is showing all the signs of looking inwards again and missing the opportunity of being a bigger part of the United Kingdom”, said South Antrim Ulster Unionist MLA David Burnside at North Essex Martyrs memorial Loyal Orange Lodge No. 45 at Great Dunmow, Essex on Saturday 29 October 2005. “If Unionism retreats into its provincial home patch it will neither persuade the media nor political opinion at Westminster or internationally of the strength of the unionist case”, said David Burnside.

“The inoperative Northern Ireland Assembly is only going to be operational with Sinn Fein as Deputy First Minister and with a role in domestic policing and justice, which is something law-abiding citizens should oppose.”

“Early 2006 will show massive pressure from the British and Irish Governments to restore Stormont. Ulster Unionists would be better working for a single tier of administration at Stormont and reform of local government.”

“The Ulster Unionist Party after the election of a new Conservative leader should try to recreate a Conservative and Unionist link otherwise we will be bereft of influence at Westminster. The revival of the Ulster Unionist Party will only be achieved by aiming for a role in national politics once again.”

South Antrim Ulster Unionist MLA David Burnside said, “it was a great honour to address an Orange Lodge on the mainland and to see that the Loyal Orders still retained a considerable presence across the Irish Sea.”

King William Dinner in Bolton

Victoria's Pride L.O.L. 788 of Bolton held their annual King William Dinner on Thursday November 3rd when members of the lodge and friends enjoyed a fine evening of food and fellowship at a local restaurant.

50th Anniversary Dinner for L.O.L. 20

Lord Carson Memorial L.O.L. 20 held its 50th Anniversary Dinner in Farnham, Surrey on Saturday 19th November 2005. Although the Lodge now meets in Ash, Surrey, the original Warrant was granted at Farnham, and it was appropriate that the Dinner should be held there. L.O.L. 20 is a small, but active Lodge, and it was pleasing on the night to see almost all of the membership in attendance. Only three of the brethren were unable to attend, two through ill health, and one currently serving with HM Forces in Iraq.

The Worshipful Master, office bearers, and brethren of the Lodge, along with distinguished guests and visitors, had enjoyed an enjoyable evening, and heard a powerful speech from the guest speaker, Metropolitan Provincial Master, Rt. Wor. Garry Mills, on the problems facing the Loyal Orange Institution at this time, and on the way ahead. In his speech he exhorted all present to support our brothers and sisters of the Loyal Orange Institution of Ireland during this time of great difficulty, and to do all in our power to defeat the efforts of this Government to betray the Protestant community of Ulster.

The Worshipful Master, office bearers, and brethren of L.O.L. 20 would like to thank all those who helped to make their 50th Anniversary such a memorable occasion.

Bro. Rory Mackay
Secretary L.O.L. 20

The Heidelberg Catechism

Part Six

Lord's Day 11

Question 29 - Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Saviour?

Answer - Because He saves us from all our sins,[1] and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else.[2]

[1] Matt. 1:21; Heb. 7:25. [2] Is. 43:11; John 15:4, 5; Acts 4:11, 12; I Tim. 2:5.

Question 30 - Do those believe in the only Saviour Jesus who seek their salvation and well-being from saints, in themselves, or anywhere else?

Answer - No. Though they boast of Him in words, they in fact deny the only Saviour Jesus.[1] For one of two things must be true: either Jesus is not a complete Saviour, or those who by true faith accept this Saviour must find in Him all that is necessary for their salvation.[2]

[1] I Cor. 1:12, 13; Gal. 5:4. [2] Col. 1:19, 20; 2:10; I John 1:7.

Lord's Day 12

Question 31 - Why is He called Christ, that is, Anointed?

Answer - Because He has been ordained by God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit,[1] to be our chief Prophet and Teacher,[2] who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption;[3] our only High Priest,[4] who by the one sacrifice of His body has redeemed us,[5] and who continually intercedes for us before the Father;[6] and our eternal King,[7] who governs us by His Word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.[8]

[1] Ps. 45:7 (Heb. 1:9); Is. 61:1 (Luke 4:18; Luke 3:21, 22. [2] Deut. 18:15 (Acts 3:22). [3] John 1:18; 15:15. [4] Ps. 110:4 (Heb. 7:17). [5] Heb. 9:12; 10:11-14. [6] Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24; I John 2:1. [7] Zach. 9:9 (Matt. 21:5); Luke 1:33. [8] Matt. 28:18-20; John 10:28; Rev. 12:10, 11.

Question 32 - Why are you called a Christian?

Answer - Because I am a member of Christ by faith[1] and thus share in His anointing,[2] so that I may as prophet confess His Name,[3] as priest present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him,[4] and as king fight with a free and good conscience against sin and the devil in this life,[5] and hereafter reign with Him eternally over all creatures.[6]

[1] I Cor. 12:12-27. [2] Joel 2:28 (Acts 2:17); I John 2:27. [3] Matt. 10:32; Rom 10:9, 10; Heb. 13:15. [4] Rom. 12:1; I Pet. 2:5, 9. [5] Gal. 5:16, 17; Eph. 6:11; I Tim. 1:18, 19. [6] Matt. 25:34; II Tim. 2:12.

Lodge Cards

LORD CARSON MEMORIAL LOL 20 meets at the Ash Centre, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Surrey, at 2.30pm on the third Saturday of each month (DV). New members and visitors are most welcome. For further details contact the Lodge Secretary Rory Mackay at ruairidh57@hotmail.com.

NORTH ESSEX MARTYRS MEMORIAL L.O.L. 45 meets on the third Saturday each month in Harlow. Membership enquiries and visiting Brethren warmly welcomed.

STAR OF HALEWOOD BISHOP J.C. RYLE MEMORIAL L.O.L. 66 meets the first Thursday of every month at 8pm from February to December at the Orange Hall, Heald Street, Garston, Liverpool. Further details can be obtained via e-mail: -
ianthompson@orangenet.org.

THE IVY L.O.L. 783 meets at 6:30pm on the second Saturday in each month at the Provincial Headquarters, Everton Road, Liverpool. New members welcome.

VICTORIA'S PRIDE L.O.L. 788 meets the third Thursday of each month in the centre of Bolton. New members and visitors most welcome.

CITY OF CHESTER L.O.L. 375 meets second Monday of each month in the centre of Chester. Visiting Brethren always welcome. Membership enquires from Cheshire and North Wales please phone Dave Reynolds on 0151 3563358.

BLACKPOOL FAITH DEFENDERS L.O.L. 2001 meets the first Tuesday of every month in Blackpool. Telephone 07787858614 for further details.

QUEEN ELIZABETH L.L.O.L. 2001 meet on the third Saturday of the month in Corby. Visitors are

always welcome. Any new member enquiries please contact by phone 01536 205450 or by e-mail to Secllo12001corby@aol.com.

BLACKPOOL FIRST FLUTE BAND – for further details see www.freewebs.com/blackpoolfirstflute.

Death of an Old Townsman

(Extract from the Preston Herald, Saturday 28th December 1878)

We have to record the death of a person who will in the future be regarded as an historical acquaintance as far as Preston is concerned and whose memory will be revered by all Loyal Orangemen.

John Grantham who died on the 19th instant was born on the 5th November 1799. He first became an Orangeman in 1827 and ever since that time has stood stoutly by the Order, showing a punctuality and regularity in his attendance at the Lodge meetings that has rarely been equalled. The deceased was carrying the Bible in the procession of 1838 when a Catholic mob headed by the Connaught Rangers, then stationed in Preston, made a sudden attack upon them and in the onslaught the Bible was torn to pieces, the drums were broken, and the Orangemen disorganised by the sudden attack, were forced to take shelter in the shops under the old Town Hall. At the time the riot occurred the Orangemen numbered only a few members and such was the opposition the Order then received, that the members dwindled down to six and some of these going to work in other towns, Brother Grantham was at last left the only known Orangeman in Preston. Such a result would have sufficed to extinguish the spirits of many a Hero but John Grantham took for his motto 'nil desperandum' and by dint of strenuous canvassing he found himself in 1848 at the head of fourteen members, who imitated their leader in their staunch adherence of Orange principles. They persevered and in 1858 John Grantham was elected Warrant Master for the 21st time and on this occasion found himself at the head of 17 members, whose funds amounted to the not altogether imposing sum of 17/-. However, better days had already dawned on the Lodge and in 1862 another Lodge was opened in Preston. Since that time the Orangemen have gone on increasing in numbers until after spending over £1,000 in regalia and having been the means of opening five Districts and 44 Lodges, the funds in Preston District alone amount to over £2,000.

The deceased was devotedly attached to Constitutional principles, was a thorough going Conservative and a great admirer of the late Lord Derby. He was a member of St. Mary's Church for many years and was much attached to this place of worship as well as the men's Bible Class. Though his station in life was humble he was a useful and active member of society and though he has outlived the years allotted to man his loss will be deeply felt among a wide circle of those who were accustomed to look up to him as their leader.

The Orangemen of the town, wishing to pay the last tribute of respect to one who had so nobly fought for them, attended his funeral which took place on Christmas Day. They assembled in St. Mary's School at two o'clock in the afternoon and before proceeding to the late residence of the deceased passed a vote of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen on the death of the Princess Alice. A procession was formed, headed by Greenhalghs Brass Band and the following order was afterwards observed on the route to the Cemetery - Men carrying the splendid Silver Regalia of No. 189 Lodge, the District Officers, Bros W. Howarth, D.G.M. P.G.M. D.M., Bros Shuttleworth, D.D.M. the member of 471 Lodge (of which deceased was a member) the Brethren of Preston District, about 300 in number, two abreast, the Black Preceptory with their Regalia, the hearse, the five mourning coaches containing the relatives of the deceased. Bros T. Parkinson P.D.M. and Bros Hindle D.S. officiated as marshals. The teachers and members of St. Mary's

Bible Class also attended. Although the weather was very severe, the road to the Cemetery was lined with thousands of spectators. The Rev. J.P. Shepherd M.A. Vicar of St. Thomas officiated in the Church and at the grave. At the end of the Service the Reverend gentleman gave a short and practical address and the brethren formed three circles round the grave and performed the last impressive rites of Orangeism. The cortege then re-formed and proceeded to St. Mary's School, where a short address was delivered and the company then broke up.

Banner Pulpit: -

The Parable of the Pounds – Luke 19:11-27

This is a parable of the Lord Jesus Christ to prepare his hearers at the time and you today for his second coming. If you remember a parable is simply an earthly story with a heavenly meaning and this parable describes the world as being in a state of rebellion against God before the return of the Lord and Saviour. A lot of people may well be tempted to despise true biblical religion because so many people in the world reject it today, but this parable of the Saviour puts things into proper perspective.

Some two thousand years ago our blessed Redeemer predicted that the world at large would reject the authority and rule of the creator God before he returned. The root cause of this rebellion against God is, of course, the sinfulness of our human nature. When the Lord Jesus Christ returns in his glory he will judge those people who have rejected him. It is, therefore, a portion of scripture that asks whether you are ready to stand before your creator and to give an account of your life here on earth.

Now the parable speaks to us of a nobleman who was obviously a great man since he was going to be made a king. To do this the nobleman had to leave his country and go to the country where he would be given his kingdom. This may seem rather strange to us today, but it is an historical fact that some kings of Israel actually went to Rome to receive this particular honour from the Caesar of the day.

The parable contains a description of three different classes of people, and I wonder which one of these metaphors or pictures is an accurate description of you? We find that there is a picture of an outright rebel against Almighty God, a picture of a true believer who trades with his money – that is he invests by faith in his gospel knowledge, and the person who hoards his knowledge of the gospel and salvation, and who then sadly ignores it and is condemned on the last day of world history.

So let us begin our examination of God's abiding word of truth as we consider the rebels against God depicted in this parable of the Lord Jesus Christ. We read that whilst the nobleman was away receiving his kingdom some of the people decided to rebel against him and to set themselves up as rulers instead.

“But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this *man* to reign over us.”

In effect they set up their own government and they made their own laws, and they showed utter contempt to their lawful king and ruler. Of course, these rebels were very foolish and stupid for when the king returned they received a terrible punishment.

“But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay *them* before me.”

Whatever these rebellious people did in the absence of their rightful king did not alter in the slightest the fact that he was still their ruler and that they would eventually have to stand before him to give an account of their conduct.

What a picture of the world that is! But why is our world in such a state of rebellion against the creator God? Our Lord and Saviour has returned to heaven to sit at the right hand of his Father, and whilst he is away so many men, women and children turn against him, they mock and laugh at his church, and basically they do whatever they want to do. And so they break his commandments, they will have nothing to do with the word of God, and they will not worship him. In effect they will not have him to reign over them!

Yet you are solemnly warned in this parable of the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, that this rebellion will not go on for ever, but one day he will return to this world as its king and as its judge, and he in his justice will have no alternative but to punish those very same people who have so openly rebelled against him.

In the second place let us now turn our attention to the giving of the money by the nobleman to ten of his servants and how they responded to their responsibility. Note that these ten servants are not to be compared with the general people of the land. Before leaving the nobleman called these servants in front of him and gave each one of them a pound according to the translation in our Authorised Version. In the original Greek language it is a “mina” and this was worth 100 “denarii’s”, and this was nearly four months salary. In other words it was a large amount of money that was given to them, and the servants knew that they were expected to trade with this money and so make more money for their master. This could have been done, for example, in buying seed to grow crops that could be sold for a profit. To make use of the money given would have shown the respect of the servant for their master and their desire to please him and to obey him.

The money is a picture of the word of God and the grace of God to man. It is taught in Romans chapter one that everybody without exception has some knowledge of God; everyone has an awareness that God exists. You hear the voice of your conscience. In the preaching of the gospel there is then the opportunity to obtain further knowledge of God and the way of salvation purchased by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now if that knowledge is truly believed, and obeyed, then it will lead to you receiving even greater knowledge – “That unto every one which hath shall be given”. It is just like money making more money in a building society by receiving interest. If a person is brought by his or hers “pounds worth” of gospel knowledge to repent of their sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation, then they will receive more knowledge.

In simple terms repenting and believing the gospel is investing in the knowledge of God. As you humble yourself before the Lord to seek him as your Saviour, then the net result will be that your knowledge and personal experience of the only wise God will greatly increase. You come to know the Lord through conversion, which is being brought out of spiritual darkness and ignorance into the glorious gospel light, and then you come to grow in the faith. This, of course, is the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

There is a warning in this parable for you to never abuse the knowledge of the gospel that you have, but rather to act upon it. Once a person has been converted and brought from spiritual death to spiritual life, then the more they will give up their life to the Lord Jesus Christ in response to the many blessings that Almighty God gives them, the more God will use them and bless them.

Finally let us now consider the lazy servant and what happened to this man who made no use of his money and came up with some weak and feeble excuses. This individual preserved the money given to him and he merely put it out of his sight. The reasons that he gave for his action were disrespectful and rather rude and basically unbelievable.

He said he was afraid of his master, the nobleman, because he thought that he was a hard taskmaster, a man who forced everything he could get out from his servants, and seizing everything that his tenant farmers worked hard to produce.

“And another came, saying, Lord, behold, *here is* thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.”

And so this lazy man had hidden away the pound because he didn't want to trade on behalf of the nobleman or to get involved in his business affairs.

Now the first sin of this man was that he had made up his mind about the character of his master in being harsh even though that was against all the facts. The nobleman wasn't harsh, he was in fact absolutely fair, he was kind and generous, and he gave very generous rewards to his servants.

In a similar way many people – men, women and children, make up their minds that God is also unfair and unreasonable with what he expects from them. They decide that God is making unreasonable demands on them when he calls them to love him and to serve him. They accuse God of being unkind and they imagine that being a Christian means becoming a miserable slave and living a life without any pleasure. This is the picture that most people have of the puritans in the seventeenth century. They decide like the man in the parable that God is a hard taskmaster.

But this type of thinking is foolish and it is insulting to our God and Father in heaven. Down the centuries all kinds of people – rich people and poor people, famous people and unknown people, clever people and not so clever people, have found by personal experience that the Lord is kind, that he is their Saviour and friend.

Now the lazy man had his money taken away from him and it was given to another servant who would show it respect and make good use of it.

“And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give *it* to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.”

Be warned that those people who ignore gospel knowledge are in danger of having that advantage taken away from them! Taken away so that they are never again touched by the gospel message of saving grace.

So we have three classes of people in this parable. There is the person, who is an outright rebel against God, then there is the person who invests in the gospel knowledge by repenting and believing the Lord, and then there is the person who murmurs against God and who never acts on the knowledge that they have. Which one of these three are you like? Amen.

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” – Acts 4:12