



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"Millions of human beings died on the fields of France, in Russia, in the death camps of Germany, in the fire-bombing of Dresden, in the nuclear conflagration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. By the time of Tolkien's death in 1973, a moral miasma had settled over the spirits of the English, as the disillusionment and the compromises of the century began to take their toll.

What the book ("The Lord of the Rings") celebrates – and mourns – is a world and a tradition that appears to be passing away in a great war, or series of wars. These wars are fought in a good cause, against an enemy that cannot be allowed to win. *Yet the real danger is not that the free world might be defeated; it is that we might be corrupted, brutalised and degraded by the conflict itself, and in particular by the means employed to secure victory...*

Our mistake in the great wars of our own time has been to accept the false idea that the end justifies the means, and that 'if a thing can be done, it must be done'. For, as Tolkien wrote to his son in 1944, the Allies were attempting to defeat Sauron by using the Ring. The penalty would be to breed new Saurons, and to turn "Men and Elves into Orcs – 'Not that in real life things are as clear cut as in a story, and we started with a great many Orcs on our side' (L 66)..."

– Stratford Caldecott in "*Secret Fire: the spiritual vision of J.R.R. Tolkien*", 2003

"From a Social Credit (a Christian policy) standpoint, if we enjoyed a balanced price-system we would not be desperately attempting to generate additional purchasing power through exports – armaments being particularly effective, in that, they generate enormous incomes while not becoming an embarrassing unsaleable surplus of consumer goods in the home market.

If we tended properly to our own affairs, instead of exporting problems to other nations, and acted in an exemplary manner instead of aggressively, I think we would live in a much happier and more prosperous world. We would not be making enmity which might endure for hundreds or even thousands of years.

We may not agree with aspects of other cultures but the way to win them over is not to visit destruction upon them but rather to be a living example of success, which in time, attracts emulation. What is the Christian Law of Love? Is not love more powerful than hatred? We have an obligation to protect our own territory, but, largely for reasons related to our defective financial system, our conduct has gone far beyond that role and responsibility."

– Wallace Klinck, Canada. September 2009

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"ON TARGET"

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JEREMY LEE'S LATEST DVD: THE *PROOF OF THE UNSEEN* by Betty Luks: I have just watched Jeremy Lee's latest DVD. There are two presentations on it:

- "Retell the Story" – a 1999 presentation on world events, up to that time, by Jeremy to a group of young people in Brisbane, Queensland, and
- "A + B: Mending a Mortgaged World" a paper written by Jeremy and – because Jeremy managed to break a hip beforehand – first read by his sister Nancy at the 2009 Inverell Forum and now made into a film. As Jeremy insists... how can the world possibly get out of financial debt by issuing more financial debt?

I want to acknowledge Nancy and Jeremy Lee's commitment to, and years of defence of, their *Christian* faith and the fundamental importance of the individual's freedom (balanced by accountability and responsibility). A freedom that flows from that faith in the grace of God in our lives.

Those who personally know me will not be in the least surprised that I hark back to Tolkien's masterpiece "The Lord of the Rings" for just the right word-scene to express what I believe about these two people. Tolkien's story is a modern parable written for just such a time in which we live.

Those who are familiar with the story will remember that after all their adventures involving the destruction of the Ring of Power, Samwise Gamgee (Sam) is to return home to The Shire and his family. His friend Frodo, who is leaving this world of mortal men, comforts Sam with these words: "... Do not be too sad, Sam. You cannot always be torn in two. You will have to be one and whole, for many years. You have so much to enjoy and to be, and to do."

What do those words mean – or should mean – to those of the Christian faith? In his 1882 sermon "Faith, the Proof of the Unseen" Scotsman George MacDonald had this to say:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

"We have been talking about faith ever since the Lord came. It is not exhausted yet; and God forbid that I should know yet what faith is; although I know a little what it is. I think the meaning of the phrase is this:

Faith is the foundation, the root, the underlying substance of hope. If you have any hope, it comes from some faith in you. Hope, you may say, is a bud upon the plant of faith, a bud from the root of faith; the flower is joy and peace.

Now the evidence of things not seen... the true meaning is the most profound fact in human history; it is the trial or the proving of things not seen...

Now upon that turns the life of every man, especially, perhaps, in the present day. This thing of faith means the whole recognized fellowship of man to God and His fellows; it is the right position of the human soul which is made to understand the truth – the right position of that soul towards the truth; that is faith, partly...

Much, much foolish talk has been uttered about faith.... but if I could stir up a single soul, instead of talking about the meaning even of the greatest things, to go and do the smallest duty, I should say that is the kind of duty for which Christ spent Himself.

Read His life wisely: If you read His life wisely you will see that His constant effort is to turn a man's thought back to himself, and make him do a thing, and not talk about it... Faith is intended to put to the test the unseen world of truth, love, law, hope, redemption..."

Get the picture dear reader?

In their own lives, along with many, many other folk, both Nancy and Jeremy have demonstrated that in spite of all the forces arrayed against them, in spite of all the smears and attacks by public figures, and personal difficulties – and there have been many – they have been *doing* and *being*. The latest DVD is a witness to that fact.

Get your copies direct from them – and we urge you to plan to present copies to your friends and families – why not as Christmas presents? It is their future that is at stake.

Copies of the DVD – \$25 posted, from: J. and N. Lee, P.O. Box 1234, Toowoomba, Queensland, 4350.

MONEY MATTERS – THE PHAROHS AND HIGH PRIESTS: Thought this item was worth including in this week's journal: Please note the author does caution the reader he may not have the proportions of taxes strictly accurate, but the overall picture does present a picture of where the western world is headed. The website (dealing with matters of finance and investment etc.), is titled "Australian market news that matters, in 90 seconds or less," and the article is "Pharaohs and High Priests" by Kris Sayce, Friday, 18th September 2009:

"The pharaoh collected a large amount of taxes that he used for large government projects such as building pyramids and temples. These taxes also supported the wages of skilled workers, scribes, artisans, and military personnel, as well as financing large projects done by peasants during times of flood."

The ancient Egyptians were quite fond of a bit of slavery too. You know slavery, it's where you work and work and work for someone else but you don't get to enjoy the fruits of your labour. Well, if Pharaohs Kevin Rudd and Ken Henry have their way with the upcoming tax stitch-up, chances are you'll be pushed even further into servitude.

Already, the average Australian worker (that's right, the average) has more than 20% of his or her salary confiscated by the government before it even hits their bank account. That's just the beginning. Think about it this way though. If you work a five-day week, every Monday, the work you do is to pay off the Federal government's income tax demand.

Come Tuesday and you have to work half the day to pay off your superannuation guarantee. That's money which is guaranteed to be taken from you, but without any guarantee you'll get it back.

The rest of Tuesday and into Wednesday is taken up with paying off the GST and other levies and surcharges you find yourself paying for every day.

By the time you get to the close of business on Wednesday you should have paid off a raft of other taxes, such as rates, vehicle registration, medicare levy, medicare surcharge (or private healthcare), payroll tax, and don't forget all the company taxes you ultimately pay for through higher prices for products and services.

So, as you roll into work on Thursday morning, it looks as though you're about to earn some cash for yourself... Not so fast bucko. If you've got a mortgage, chances are that's another 20-30% of your income going straight to banks, just to keep a roof over your head. Now, all that by my calculations brings us up to – about right now on a Friday morning.

That means you've got the rest of the day to work for yourself. But as if it couldn't get much worse there's one more hurdle for you – inflation.

By the time you finish work this week and get paid next week (if you're lucky) or next month, the dollars that you worked 40 hours for will actually be worth less to you than the dollars you worked

for last month. Your average salary of \$62,000 at the start of the year, adjusted for inflation will only be worth about \$60,000 by the end of the year.

You need a 3% pay rise just to get back to breakeven. Talk about running just to stand still.

So, at about the time of the two o'clock smoko this afternoon, the money you earn for the rest of the day is yours to earn and spend as you please. But don't worry, if that doesn't sound like much, because you've always got the credit card to fall back on. Out of interest, the total purchases on credit cards in July by Australians was \$19.1 billion.

Look, play around with those numbers as much as you like. Chances are I'm not far off the mark. And what does the mainstream press have to say about any of this? Nothing of course. The best they can come up with is rubbish like, "Rudd helped you hang onto your job."

No! No he didn't. It was your money. You helped yourself hold on to your job. That was the money you worked for which was confiscated by the government and then divvied out to its favourite chums, are handed back as a bribe.

Rudd didn't help anyone. Remember, if you were lucky enough to get the \$900 bribe, it actually cost you around \$4,200 from your taxes to fund the Fairy Ruddfather's spending.

Only, you haven't really paid for it yet, but you will. Because the government has just borrowed the money* and will demand that you pay it back. Even though you've gotten nothing for it, and didn't even ask to go into debt.

But in reality, the Fairy Ruddfather is just one of the Pharaohs. His co-conspirator is the real danger man. That's Treasury Secretary, Ken Henry. Without exaggeration, this man is one of the biggest threats to the individual rights and freedoms of all Australians.

The man is a menace. Maybe you think that's a bit harsh. After all, he is a public servant. And people aren't supposed to criticize public servants. Doubtless he would tell everyone he could be earning much more in the private sector but he's forsaken that to "do his bit" for society.

Let me explain what I mean when I label this man as the biggest threat to individual rights and freedom... Reading the story in yesterday's *Australian Financial Review* (AFR), your editor was stunned by two things. The reporting of the story, and the content.

To quote from the article: "Dr. Henry has invited about 20 representatives of key business and tax groups to attend a meeting in Sydney on October 15 to give feedback on reform directions to him and panel colleagues Heather Ridout and Greg Smith."

The article goes on to quote from the letter of invitation: "This consultation session provides an opportunity for you to provide feedback on the reform directions that the review panel is considering. The views of stakeholders are important to the review panel in ensuring that the possible reforms take business circumstances into account and are sustainable." He's also planning on meeting with other accounting lobby groups.

Anything ridiculous strike you about consulting accountants about tax proposals? It's like asking a butcher if we should all become vegetarians. Tax groups are hardly likely to recommend abolishing taxes, or even making the tax code simpler. It's in their interest for it to be as complicated as possible. But more than that, where's our invitation? Where's your invitation? I mean it's you that contributes every dollar to tax revenue whether it's direct or indirect. Of course, you'll be told, "this is much too complicated to trouble you with. You just get along and concentrate on working, that's a good citizen!"

continued in The Bulletin

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