

A WARNING TO ENGLAND, AND ALL THAT PROFESS THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS

Who have the form, but deny the power of godliness, that they sin no more, for fear that a worse thing come to them.

—By George Fox, 1674

As you have received Christ Jesus, the Lord, so walk in him. Col 2:6

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him....

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. 1 John 2:6

For, even our God is a consuming fire. Heb 12:29

And now, for all of you that do not walk as you have the apostles for examples, and do not walk as Christ walked, [which a true Christian is supposed to] as in, *1 John 2:5-6*; what if the Lord God Almighty, who is the Creator of all, and the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom all things were made, should deal with you, as you deal with him, who spend his creatures upon your lusts, and devour them, and consume them immoderately. I say if the Lord God, who created all and gives the increase of all, and upholds all by his word and power, (for the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof); I say, if the Lord God should restrain the earth from increasing, and all other creatures which are your food, for three or four years, what a condition would you be in, you who destroy them so upon your lusts? I say, what if the Lord God should bring a famine and stop the earth from yielding its increase to you; you, who destroys and consumes his creatures upon your ungodly devouring lusts; wasting so much vainly, which could nourish both in clothes and diet so many, who are ready to famish, and starve for want? Have you not seen how the Lord God has brought the sword among you? Are not you as proud and as vain, without his fear as you were, though so many have been consumed by the sword [of God's vengeance]? Then did not he bring the plague, and sweep away many thousands thereby, and scattered you out of your city of London? And then after did not he bring the fire,* to the astonishment of many?

**Site Editor's Comment:* Because of the widespread wickedness of the English Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and Baptists, and because of their massive persecutions of the Quakers, the Lord prophesied and fulfilled the following: 1) the great plague of Black Death on the London area that killed 100,000 people 2) shortly followed by the Great Fire of London, which destroyed most of London, and 3) the Dutch War, in which England suffered great loss.

And what if the Lord should hinder the earth from increasing, how could you but say it was just for the Lord to do so, and to bring a famine upon you, seeing that you do not repent, and amend your lives, and fear and serve him that made you? He has given you all these good outward creatures, and daily gives more in his mercy, that you might serve and fear him, and not to consume them upon your own lusts, and has given you rain and fruitful seasons; now what if the Lord should restrain his hand in those things from you, that do so devour them and consume them, and waste them upon your lusts, could you say any otherwise, but the Lord is just in so doing? Just, because you do not amend your lives, ways, words, and conduct; and are such that feast and are feeding yourselves without all fear, as you may see in *Jude 1:12*, and so are the clouds without water, and trees without fruit. So, if God should send you clouds without water in them, and your trees without fruit. Remember the fig-tree that Christ cursed, that did not bear fruit and think upon yourselves, and you are all as trees; but see what fruits of righteousness, of Godliness, of virtue, and of holiness you bear to God; for, **'without holiness none shall see God.'** Therefore take heed of promising yourselves liberty, while yourselves are servants of uncleanness and corruptions, as in *2 Pet 2:19-22*. And when you destroy, consume and devour God's good creatures upon your lusts, do you think of God? do not you feed without any fear of God? And do not many live after that sort, as they did that said, 'let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we shall die,' as in *1 Cor 15:32*? Does not the apostle say, 'That every creature of God is good, and nothing ought to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving; for God has created them to be received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer?' When you destroy the creatures upon your lusts, with gluttony, greediness, and drunkenness, you are not in a capacity then of praying or giving thanks, but of cursing, swearing, damning, and murdering, and all other evils you are subject to run into, and then often bring misery, and many evils upon yourselves and families.

1 Tim 4:1-5, 'Every creature of God is good, [mark,] and nothing ought to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving;' for God created them to be received with thanksgiving. And the thanksgiving must be given to him that created them; and therefore you ought to receive no creature but with thanksgiving to the Creator, and you ought to give him thanks that created all to his glory, and if you do not, you are of them that feed without all fear of God, your's and their Creator. Those who that take the creatures in God's fear with thanksgiving, will

not destroy them, nor consume them upon their own lusts, and they are sensible of the goodness of the creatures, and of the goodness of God that gave them. Those who eat without the fear are the clouds without water, and the trees without fruit; they devour, consume, destroy, and waste the creatures of God upon their own lusts, destroying their bodies and souls, their own families, wives and children, and bringing themselves to rags and beggary.

Such are not sensible of the goodness of the creatures, nor the goodness of the Creator; and from such God had no true thanks, but his name is blasphemed by such daily; and though many may say, that 'we say grace* before meals and after;' but you should live in grace, and not turn the grace of God into a license for immorality, and walk despitefully against the spirit of grace; for the true giving of thanks to God, is 'with the spirit of grace and supplication.' *Zech* 12:10, *Jude* 1:4.

*Site Editor's Comment: Read and consider the definition of grace, and you will see how "grace" cannot *be said*. Grace is defined by the Apostle Paul in Titus 2:11-14:

For the **grace of God** that **brings salvation** has appeared to **all men**, **teaching us** that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, we should **live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world**, **looking** for that **blessed hope**, and the **glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us**, that he might **redeem us from every lawless deed** , and **purify** for himself his own special **people, zealous for good works**. Titus 2:11-14

(Whoever commits sin also commits **lawlessness**, and sin is lawlessness. 1 John 3:4)

So they cannot truly give thanks to God, those who have turned the grace of God into a license for immorality, and that walk despitefully against the spirit of grace; and therefore 'quench not the spirit.' 1 *Thes* 5:19. And the Lord said, how can you claim my name with your mouth, and hate to be reformed? Everyone that names the name of Jesus, is to depart from iniquity; else, Christ will tell such as do not depart from iniquity, 'depart from him;' this is a sad sentence, for the Saviour and Redeemer and Mediator, to tell them 'depart from me you workers of iniquity, for I know you not:' so, though you may say grace (as you call it), with your lips, yet if you feed without fear, and work iniquity, Christ will not own such.

And James said, 'you have lived in pleasures on the earth, and in wantonness [without restraint of you lusts] you have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter;' Were not such to 'weep and howl?' Therefore, do not doubt that this day will come upon you, who are found in your pleasures and passions; therefore let this warning be accepted while there is still time to change your ways, to repent.

And does not the apostle command you, *Eph 5:16*, 'to redeem the time, for the days are evil.' And therefore see how you can redeem your time that is past; for does not the apostle tell you what the fruits of the flesh are, and what the fruits of the spirit? So see what fruits you bear, and of what sort they are: briars and thorns, or grapes and figs.

And do not you read in *Rom 1* of such that gave themselves up over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. *Rom 1:28-32*. And therefore consider these things, all you who are found in these practices, and amend, for fear that God's wrath and judgments break forth suddenly upon you, before you know it. For, do not you know, that 'the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor adulterers, nor idolaters, nor wantons, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor extortionists, nor railers, shall inherit the kingdom of God:' therefore you must forsake all these things, if you expect to inherit the kingdom of God, as you may see in *1 Cor 5:11* .

And do not you read of some, '**that in words professed God, but in their works denied him?**' Have not those who professed themselves christians, brought a great dishonor to christianity, yes, among the very Turks and heathen, by their drunkenness, whoredoms, and uncleanness, cozening and cheating, and cursing and swearing, thefts and murders. So that among the Turks it has become a byword, 'what! do you think I am a christian?' Therefore, oh, for that holy name, (whose name is above every name), by which you are called, that you should walk so unworthy of it, as to cause his holy name to be blasphemed; while knowing there is no salvation by any other name under heaven, but by the name of Jesus. Oh! Therefore, that everyone that names his name, would depart from iniquity, and might walk as he walked; and let your moderation (you that be called christians), be known unto all men; for the Lord is at hand, and sees all things, and will render unto every man according to his works. Do not you know,

you must give an account for every idle word? Mat 12:36. Therefore, should your words not be gracious, and seasoned with grace?

And whether, therefore, 'you eat or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.' 1 *Cor* 10:31. Now there is no waster, drunkard, glutton, that can eat and drink to the glory of God; but to the dishonoring God, devouring and destroying his creatures, and consuming them upon their lusts, and feeding themselves without the fear of God. If all christians minded this, 'whether they eat or drink, that they do it to the praise and glory of God,' there would be no drunkard, no destroyer, no devourer, nor waster of God's creatures found in Christendom.

And likewise, 'whatever you do, do it to the praise and glory of God.' [Mark,] '**whatever you do:**' in this no christian would dishonor God; in this they would always have the Lord before their eyes, and his fear placed in their hearts.

And therefore, whether we live, we should live unto the Lord, and whether we die, we should die unto the Lord: so all that are true christians do live and die unto the Lord; but '**those who live in pleasures, are dead while they live,**' as in 1 *Tim* 5.

And consider you what the prophet Hosea said to the professing Jews, that did not live according to the law of God, nor the prophets; and may not the same be said unto you, that **profess yourselves christians, but live not according to the gospel?** 'Said the Lord, I gave them corn, wine, and oil, and multitude of silver and gold,... And therefore I will return, said the Lord, and take away my corn in the time thereof; and my wine in the season thereof; and I will recover my wool and my flax, given to cover their shame.'

And therefore, consider this, you christians, 'what,' I say, 'if the Lord should stop the earth from increasing,' for the Lord has given you corn, wine and oil, silver and gold, wool and flax, which you consume and destroy upon your lusts, the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, which is not of the Father, 'so that you should not have so much corn as to feed you, and as much flax and wool as to cover your shame,' think you, would it not be just with the Lord so to do? Let the witness of God in your consciences, and your daily practice, and the scriptures answer and testify against you.

For truly, when I was in Lancaster prison, I looked out of the bars of the window in the tower, and saw the angel of the Lord God, with his drawn glistening sword, shaking it over this nation, to execute God's vengeance, and the court was all as a flaming fire; and I saw this before the beginning of the Dutch war, before the plague, and before the fire. Now I say again, if God Almighty, who created all for his glory, and gives the increase of all, (for the earth is the Lord's, and the

fullness thereof), then, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, you should do it to the praise and glory of God; and if you do not, but instead consume the creatures of God upon your own lusts, and with gluttony and drunkenness waste and destroy them, and live wantonly, wickedly, and in pleasures on the earth, then this is a mark that you are dead from God and Christ while they live. Now, I say, if God Almighty the Creator, should stop the earth from increasing with cattle and other creatures, and bring a famine upon you, how could any but say, the Lord is just in so doing? For, look over Christendom, and see what addictions to pleasures, addictions to sensual gratifications, drunkenness, excess, rioting, debauchery, oaths, cursing and swearing, all which causes the land to mourn! Do you think there were the same conditions in Sodom and Gomorrah, whom God set forth as examples of his wrath, and such as suffered the vengeance of eternal fire, who followed strange flesh? Therefore, dread all you that defile yourselves, and follow after strange flesh; see *Jude* 1:7 Though you may think you sit as queens, and glorify yourselves in your pleasures, and may say in your hearts, you shall see no sorrow; but alas! woe and torment will follow; and therefore, before it is too late, repent, and consider these things.

And remember Esau, that profane person, who for a morsel of meat sold his birthright, and afterwards he would have inherited the blessing, but he was rejected; for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it with tears: and therefore, while you have time, repent; for, know you not, that all that forget God, and do wickedly, he will turn into hell? and therefore forsake your wickedness.

And do not you read, that the Lord Jesus will show himself from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, rendering vengeance unto them that do not know God, and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, [mark,] that do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; people may talk of it, but not obey it; 'who shall be punished with everlasting perdition from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.' Mark this sentence, and take it to heart, as in 2 *Thes* 1:8-10. And see the sad sentence upon the wicked, in *Mat* 24:51,25:41.

And was it not in all ages the sins of the people, and their committing evil and wickedness in the sight of the Lord, that brought the wrath, and the plagues, and the sword, and the famine upon them, as you may read from Moses, in the time of the law, to the days of Christ and after Christ? Is this not the same that brings it upon those called christians now, who make a profession of the new testament, as the Jews did of the old, and do not live according to it? Ah England! Consider these things. Oh Christendom, (so called), consider these things; and walk honestly, as becomes the gospel, and not in gluttony and drunkenness, in lewdness and wantonness, neither in strife nor envy, but put on

the Lord Jesus Christ, and take no thought for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. *Rom 13:13-14*.

'But unto them that are contentious, and disobey the truth, though they may talk of it, shall be indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish will be upon the soul of every man that does evil:' and therefore take heed, for fear that (after the hardness of your hearts, and your impenitency), you heap unto yourselves 'wrath against the day of wrath, and of the Revelation of the just judgment of God, *Rom 2:5*.' Take heed of this, you that deny Revelation; you will find that you will feel it in the end, if do not amend your life.

Therefore, take heed of disobedience, and rebelling against the Lord's good spirit, as in *Neh 9*. For unto them who are disobedient, Christ is a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence; and therefore it is not the professing, but the obedient and believing, to whom he is elect and precious.

'For behold, said the Lord, the day comes, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yes, and all that do wickedly, shall be as stubble; and the day that comes shall burn them up, said the Lord of hosts, and shall leave them neither root nor branch.' *Mal 4:1*.

Therefore consider, all you that are proud, and do wickedly; do you think this day will not come upon you ere you be aware, and neither leave you root nor branch? What good will all your profession do you, if you do wickedly, and are proud, when you are found but as chaff and stubble consumed by fire? Therefore take these things to heart in your private chambers, and see whether you be not as stubble or chaff; 'but upon them that fear the name of the Lord, shall the Son of righteousness arise, with healing in his wings; and they shall grow up as calves in the stall. And therefore, my desire is, that you may all repent, and amend your lives and doings, and turn to the Lord, from all your evil ways, words, lives and conducts, and fear him, which to do, is to depart from evil, that the wrath of God and the Lamb may not come upon you; for I desire the good of all your souls, and the eternal welfare of all people.

And the apostle said in *1 Cor 10:8*, 'neither let us (namely, the christians), commit fornication, as some of them (namely, the Jews), did, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.'

'Neither be you idolaters, (namely, you christians), as some of them were (namely, the Jews), as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.'

Now, all these things came upon them, (namely, the Jews), for example, and they were written to admonish us, that christians should not follow them.

And the prophet said, *Hab 2:15-16*. 'Woe unto him that gives his neighbor drink, that put your bottle to him, and make him drunk also, that you may look on his nakedness; you are filled with shame for glory: drink you also, and let your nakedness be uncovered; the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto you.' Now consider this, you that profess yourselves christians, and live not the life of christianity, whether you are not found in these practices that the scriptures declare against.

Hag 1:6. 'You have sown much, and bring in little, you eat, but you are not satisfied; you drink, and are not filled; you clothe you, but you are not warm; and he that earns wages, puts it into a bag with holes.'

Now, is not this the condition of many called christians, that drink, and are never filled; and eat, and are not satisfied; and earn, but waste their wages?

And in *Amos 3:15,4:1*. 'I will smite, said the Lord, the winter-house, and the summerhouse, and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall be consumed, said the Lord, hear this word, you kine of Bashan, that are in the mountains of Samaria, which oppress the poor, and destroy the needy; and they say unto their masters, bring and let us drink.'

Now, consider this, you that are found in such practices, and see what judgment the Lord brought against such.

And in *Hos 4:18*. there you may see how Ephraim's drunkenness stunk; 'their drunkenness stinks, (said the prophet), they have committed whoredom.

And does not the nominal christians' drunkenness stink, think you, together with other their uncleanness?

And in *Prov 20*, it is said, 'wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.'

So mark, you unwise christians, that are found in this raging with this strong drink; and do you think that you are wise; you, who are deceived with wine, the mocker?

And 'in *Pro 4:14-17*, Enter not into the way of the wicked, and walk not in the way of evil men, and avoid it, and go not by it, but turn from it, and pass by; for they cannot sleep except they do evil; and they cause some to fall; for they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.' Were not these things

judged by the law of God? Are they not judged by the gospel? Do you not think that the Lord will make such to drink the wine of confusion? as in *Psa* 60:3.

And in *Psa* 80:5. 'You have fed them with the bread of tears, and gave them tears to drink in a great measure.' And do you think that you christians, that feed yourselves without the fear of God, and consume his good creatures upon your lusts, must not be fed with the bread of tears, and have tears to drink from the hand of the Lord.

And in *Isa* 56:12. 'Come you,' say they, namely, the shepherds or the watchmen, 'I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow, shall be as this day, and much more abundant.' And were not these reprov'd by the prophets? And are not such reprov'd now by the gospel?

And in *Isa* 26:7-8. 'For all their tables are full of filthy vomit.' Now, look into your houses of drunkenness, you called christians, and see what filthiness is there; and by such doings you devour the creation, and cause the drink of the thirsty to fail, which would do them good, which you destroy, and hurt yourselves hurt with it.

And the prophet Isaiah said, 'but they have erred because of wine, and are out of the way by strong drink: the priests and the prophets also have erred by strong drink; they are swallowed up with wine, they are gone astray through strong drink; they fail in vision, they stumble in judgment.'

Come, try yourselves by these scriptures, you that call yourselves christians, and you priests and prophets; and see whether by strong drink you have not stumbled in judgment, and erred in vision, and are some of you swallowed up with wine?

And does not the prophet cry against the pride and the drunkenness of Ephraim? Do not many now, that are called christians, take a pleasure and pride in making others drunk? Were not such threatened with judgments, and cried against them? Are not such to be warn'd now, as then?

And now take heed for fear that this comes upon you as is spoken of in *Isa* 24, 'the earth shall be clean emptied, and utterly spoiled, the Lord has spoken it; because the inhabitants of the earth have transgressed his laws, and changed his ordinances, and broken his everlasting covenant; therefore the curse devours the earth, and the habitations thereof; then the wine fails, and all that were of a merry heart do mourn; the mirth of taborets [small drum] ceases; the voice of them that rejoice ends; the joy of the harp ceases; the earth laments and fades away; the world is feeble and decayed; the proud people of the earth are weakened; they shall not drink wine with mirth; strong drink shall be bitter to

them that drink it; the city of vanity is broken down; every house is shut up, that no man comes into it: there is a cry for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened. The mirth of the world is gone away. Surely this shall be in the midst of the earth among the people, as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the grapes when the vintage is ended.'

Now, consider these things, you that profess yourselves christians, and are the transgressors of the gospel, and the commands and law of Jesus, as the Jews did, the law of God and his ordinances under the old covenant. Do you think this curse and judgments will not come upon you, that are found in these practices?

And 'in *Isa 5*, Woe unto them that rise up early to follow drunkenness, and to them that continue until night, until wine does inflame them; and the harp, violin, timbrel and pipe, and wine are in their feasts, but they regard not the work of the Lord, nor consider they the works of his hands:' therefore, does not the Lord say, 'he will lay his vineyard waste, and it shall bring forth briars and thorns.'

And therefore take heed, you so-called christians, who practice such things, for fear that your vineyard is laid waste also [your soul is destroyed].

And 'woe unto them,' says the prophet, 'that are mighty to drink wine, and to them that are strong to pour in strong drink; which justify the wicked for a reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him; and call evil good, and good evil. Therefore, as the flaming fire devours the stubble, and as the chaff is consumed of the flame, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their bud shall rise up like dust, because they have cast off the law of the Lord of hosts, and contemned the word of the holy one of Israel. Therefore is the wrath of the Lord kindled against his people, and he has stretched out his hand upon them.'

And now consider you this that profess yourselves christians, and are found in these practices; have not you cast away the command and law of Jesus Christ, and contemned his instructions, who says, 'be you holy, as I am holy; without which none shall see the Lord:' and you ought to walk as Christ walked; and will not he render vengeance in flames of fire against all such as obey not the gospel, and walk not as becomes the gospel?

And did not the Lord bring his judgments upon the Jews for such actions? Do you think he will clear you of such actions, because you make a profession of christianity, and the gospel? No, no, be not deceived! God's wrath and righteous judgments will be revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men? Therefore amend and repent, for fear that these judgments come upon you at unawares: when you and your priests are crying,

'peace, peace,' sudden destruction comes upon you, as it did upon Sodom, and the old world.

And you that are found out of the *power* of Godliness, as the Jews were found out of the law of God; do you think that the stone will not cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer to it, against you, who delights in sin and wickedness?

'This vision is plain, said the Lord; he that runs may read it; and the vision is for an appointed time, but at the last it shall speak.' *Hab. 2:2-3.*

Therefore while you have time repent, and give over pleading for your sin and body of death and wickedness to the grave; for there is no repentance there; and as the tree falls, so it lies; therefore cease to sin and break off your iniquities by repentance. 'For the grave cannot confess to the Lord, nor death cannot praise him and those who go down into the pit cannot hope for the truth; but the living, the living shall confess you, as I do this day; the father to the children shall declare the truth,' thus said Hezekiah, *Isa 38:18-19.*

And you may see these evil works and workers before-mentioned, namely, drunkenness, uncleanness, &c. are the works of such as go into hell; for the scripture said, all that forget God, and do wickedly, shall be turned into hell, as aforesaid; and so into that which burns with fire and brimstone; and therefore said the prophet, hell has enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure; and their glory and their pomp, and he that rejoices among them shall descend into it. *Isa 5:14.* Therefore consider this, all you drunkards and unclean persons, that feed yourselves without fear, and destroy and devour the creatures of God upon your lusts, for fear that hell swallow you up, which has opened its mouth without measure; be sure it will, except you speedily repent and amend your lives and doings, and turn unto the Lord. Though you may call drunkenness and uncleanness, good-fellowship, and call others fools that will not follow you into the same excess of riot, yet it is the bad-fellowship; for the good-fellowship is in the good spirit of God, which kills these evils, and the works of the flesh, which are manifest; as, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, wantonness, envy, murder, drunkenness, gluttony, etc. 'whereof I tell you (says the apostle) that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.' *Ga/ 5:19-21*

George Fox

Written from Worcester Prison, this 1st of the 11th month, 1674

**Site Editor's Comments:* Fox spent 6 /12 years in deplorable, harsh prisons, sentenced 1 year for not removing his hat in court; sentenced many times for failure to swear; sentenced for supposed blasphemy; sentenced for traveling on

the so-called Sabbath of the first-day of the week; sentenced for refusing to pay an unjust fine; etc. See the [Persecutions](#) pages for details.

Do not confuse Fox's many indictments of drunkenness to be a condemnation of alcohol. In Fox's Journal, two lengthy sicknesses of Fox are described, during which the only thing he was able to digest was beer and wine mixed with water; which I am sure he drank with thankfulness and praise to our God. He also mentions drinking beer, as nourishing food, when in prison. Do not let anyone judge you for what you eat or drink; that is the Lord's responsibility, should you need correction. Alcohol is not the problem, abuse of alcohol is the problem.
