

Vicar's Pastoral Letter

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Subject : Looking the right way and seeking the right things

Dear Friends.

The General Election is over and a Coalition Government has been formed for the first time since the Second World War. Party policies have been changed for the 'Good of the Nation.' It would seem that fairness, openness and trust are now at the forefront of the Coalition thinking. Many critics say it will not work, I say, give it a chance. I feel sure that many of us were confused as to which was the best political party to vote for. In truth, I suppose all parties are like the 'Curates Egg', good in part. The country did not vote for one set of political policies, it has voted for a hung parliament and who knows, this could be the best thing that has happened for a long time in government.

God, I believe, created each one of us to have freedom of thought and speech. It is right that we should have our own ideologies and thinking, but Jesus said that there should be consensus and that together all things are possible. Often we can become so set in our own way of thinking that we become destructive rather than constructive. Often we lose sight of where we want to be and find ourselves looking the wrong way and seeking the wrong things, though at the time we are not aware of this. So, where do we look for those things that are honourable, just and fair?

I am reminded of an experience in my life in seeking an answer to this question. When my mother and father celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, Bernice and I took them on holiday to the city where I was born, Plymouth. We stayed at the Grand Hotel, situated on Plymouth Hoe overlooking Plymouth Sound. On the evening we arrived, as we sat down for our evening dinner, the weather was very misty and damp. We sat over looking the Sound and I said to my father 'If it was a clear night we would be able to see the light of Eddystone Lighthouse on the horizon,' pointing to the right as I said this. My father replied: 'I didn't try shooting down German planes bombing Plymouth during the war stationed on board my ship in Plymouth Sound and not know where Eddystone Lighthouse is, as he pointed to the left. Thinking better of it, I decided to let the subject lie.

The next morning, mother and father were down to breakfast before us. As we sat down, sitting at the same table we had sat at the night before, the sun shining and the horizon very clear, my father welcomed us with these words: 'Do you know what my son; somebody has moved Eddystone Lighthouse some fifty miles across the horizon over night'. All we could do was sit back and laugh. The point of this story is this, so often in our lives we are looking in the wrong direction in our lives and become confused and lost about the very purpose of life itself.

The reason Eddystone Lighthouse is there is to guide sailors and their ships around the rocks to avoid danger and death. Jesus came into the world to be the 'Light of the World' to show us the way to live our lives, that we should be concerned for one another, that we should love God and our neighbours, and to seek forgiveness for our mistakes and through the death and resurrection of Jesus to live our lives in eternity with God himself, and avoid eternal death.

If we are to achieve these, then we must change. We have to work at them; we must want them and believe. I believe that life eternal and sharing in God's love, which he freely offers to us all, is worth the effort. It is something like the Lotto slogan, 'You have to be in to achieve it.' It might not be easy, your values of life will change, your understanding of God and his Will will change you for ever, but it is well worth it and God will be there for you.

So it is for the new Coalition Government. It will be difficult; the people have voted that politicians should work together for the good of the Nation and the people they seek to serve, and may they always seek to look in the right direction to achieve what is honourable and fair for all people.

Your friend in Christ,

David

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