

# Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

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*Calling out hypocrisy - finally - kudos to this minister.*

## Church minister reports Scotland's hate crime posters for being a hate crime

Staff writer Thu 11 Oct 2018 3:22 BST

Dear Bigots

(Photo: David Robertson)

A church minister has reported the Scottish Government's public hate crime posters to the campaign's own website over concerns that they are doing more to encourage hate than prevent it.

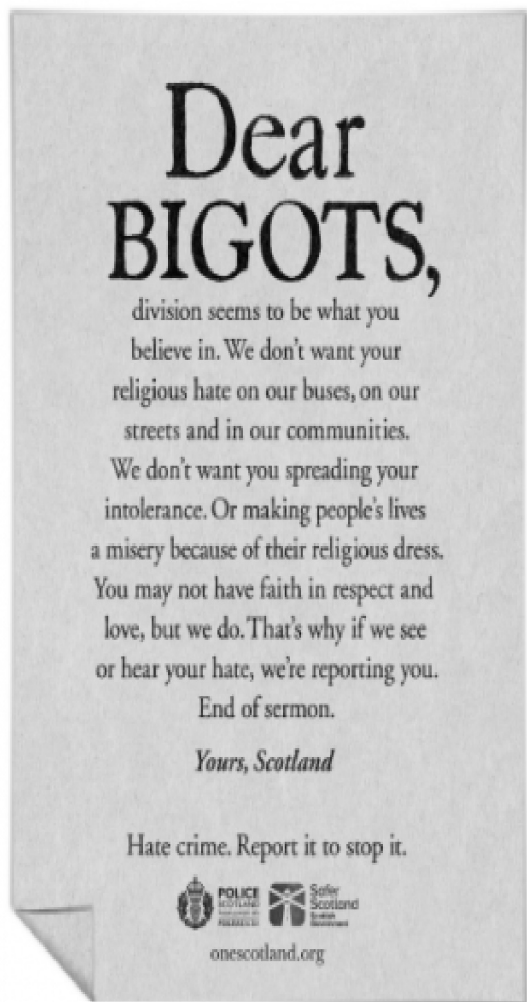
David Robertson, minister of St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, said the posters produced jointly by the Scottish Government and Police Scotland were an 'absolute contradiction'.

The posters are part of the One Scotland campaign promoting a 'truly inclusive' society 'where equality and human rights are respected and every individual and minority group feels valued', the campaign website says.

The Police Scotland website describes hate crime as 'any criminal offence committed against an individual or property that is motivated by a person's hatred of someone because of his or her actual or perceived race, religion, transgender identity, sexual orientation or disability'.

The One Scotland posters display messages warning that people who commit hate crimes will be reported to the police. The accompanying campaign website includes a tab that allows visitors to report suspected hate crimes.

While the website identifies verbally abusing people for their religious beliefs as an example of a hate crime, one of the



campaign posters suggests bigots are people of faith.

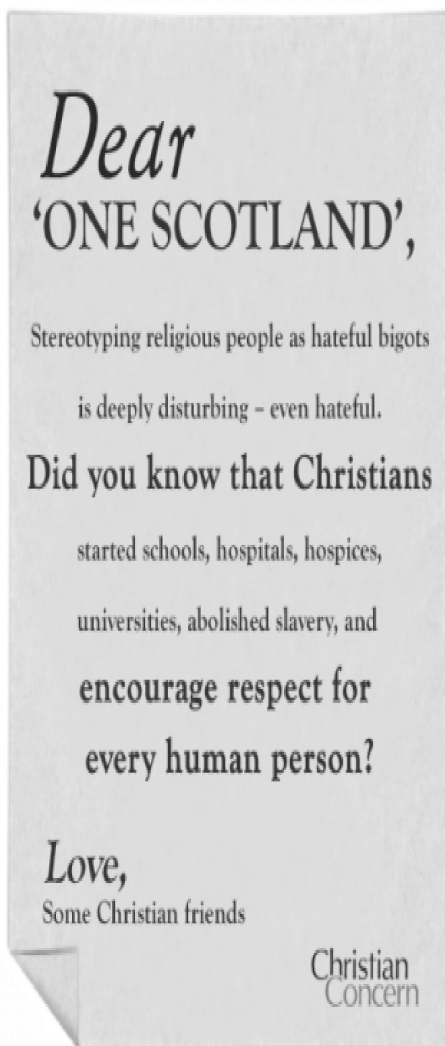
The 'Dear Bigots' poster reads: 'Division seems to be what you believe in. We don't want your religious hate on our buses, on our streets and in our communities. We don't want you spreading your intolerance.'

The message on the poster is signed off: 'End of sermon. Yours, Scotland.'

Mr Robertson has now reported the poster to the Scottish police, saying that it actually encourages hate against Christians.

'By your own criteria your posters, especially the one on religion is a hate incident. I perceive it as being motivated by hate and prejudice,' he said.

'Why? In my day-to-day life I experience a great deal of anti-Christian prejudice, fuelled by ignorance and prejudice. Your poster will just add to that. You imply that it is religious people who are responsible for what you call homophobia and transphobia.'



Dear One Scotland

(Photo: Christian Concern)

Christian Concern's alternative poster

Mr Robertson said he regularly receives hate mail for his Christian views and said that the prejudice against Christians had reached the point where some are 'scared' to admit going to church.

'Your poster only legitimises these attitudes and that hatred. It is based on ignorance and prejudice,' he said.

'The language of the poster is that of hatred, anger, prejudice, exclusion and intimidation. There is within it the implicit threat, if not of violence, at least of criminal prosecution.

'The poster is designed quite deliberately to mock and to stir up prejudice against religious people but especially Christians.'

He added: 'At best what you are doing is virtue signalling – at worst it encourages hateful behaviour. You don't encourage love by promoting hatred of religion.'

Christian Concern has created three alternative posters defending freedom of speech and telling One Scotland that 'stereotyping religious people as hateful bigots is deeply disturbing - even hateful'.

# Facebook Unveils Smart Device to Compete with Amazon and Google in Watching Your Every Move

Facebook has announced a new smart speaker and camera product in an attempt to compete with Amazon's Alexa device and Google Home in observing its owner's every move.

CNBC reports that shortly after Facebook's latest user data leak, the company wants consumers to install a Facebook-manufactured camera into their homes. The new Facebook product comes in two versions, the Portal and the Portal+ and focuses mainly on Messenger video chats. The device functions as a smart speaker similar to Amazon and Google's own smart home devices, but the Portal includes a camera amongst its features. This marks Facebook's first physical product aside from the Oculus virtual reality headset which Facebook acquired in 2014.

The device is controlled via voice commands, users can start a video call with a Facebook friend by saying "Hey Portal, call ..." followed by the name of the Facebook contact they wish to talk to. The Portal's smart camera detects a user's face and frames them within the shot throughout the video call. Dave Kaufman, the marketing lead for Facebook's Portal division, commented on the device stating: "Portal+ and Portal really live up to that idea of helping you feel closer and allowing you to spend more quality time with people, even if they live thousands of miles away from you."

The device can also stream music from Spotify, Pandora and Amazon Music and video from Facebook Watch. Interestingly, Facebook has included Amazon Alexa software in their device, allowing users to ask questions such as "What's the weather?" or "How are my teams doing?" The inclusion of Amazon's software is an odd choice given that this appears to be a direct competitor to the Amazon Alexa line of devices.

Jonathan Collins, director at tech advisory firm ABI Research, stated: "The inclusion of Alexa is certainly an interesting move. It enables the Facebook devices to piggy-back on the back of Alexa success."

Facebook is currently accepting pre-orders for the new devices and will be shipping them next month. The Portal, which features a smaller 10-inch screen, costs \$199 while the Portal+, which has a larger 15.6-inch screen, costs \$349.

## European Nation Microchips National ID Cards For Banking, Voting, Insurance

By RYAN SAAVEDRA

October 8, 2018

The small European nation of Estonia has started embedding microchips into their citizens' national ID cards for the purpose of giving their citizens a "digital identity."

"Since the turn of the 21st century, Estonia has offered each citizen a government-issued 'digital identity' — including a chip-embedded national ID card that can be used for social security, health insurance, voter registration, banking and much more," the Los Angeles Times reported. "It also now offers 'e-residency' for people around the world who want to be part of its digital revolution, allowing them to register a business in Estonia, which is part of the European Union."

Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid told the Times last week that Estonia is "the first digital society that has

its own state," meaning that "all Estonian digital developments operate as a single society."

"We have a single backbone, based on which everybody builds their services," Kaljulaid said. "And this applies for the public sector and the private sector equally. Because of course all of us globally use very many online services, digital services, but they come on platforms without any security, simply because you don't have a digital identity to verify who is doing what to whom on the internet."

"We do have it, and we've had it since the turn of the century, which means we now have one generation which has grown up knowing that the government is at their fingertips," Kaljulaid continued. "And all the banking services like you have here are at our fingertips as well. But what they also have, as an additional asset, is the security of an internet passport, a digital identity, which makes provision and use of these services safe and secure."

Kaljulaid claimed that the system has never been hacked but added that Estonia is under the same threat from Russia that other nations are in terms of being a target for cyber hackers.

### **The pro-Palestinian progressive "Christian" event that calls Israel "occupiers" - can't make this garbage up:**

#### **"Christ at Checkpoint" event to host anti-Semite Stephen Sizer**

Sizer to speak in Oklahoma City this weekend as part of the "Christ at Checkpoint" conference; Movement supported by BDS movement.

The anti-Israel organization "Christ at the Checkpoint" will be hosting a popular anti-Semite and anti-Israel activist, Dr. Stephen Sizer, in Oklahoma City this week.

The conference, which has been held since 2010, is organized by Bethlehem Bible College, an Evangelical, non-denominational Christian college located in the West Bank that is funded by varied organizations in the United States. The conference has been largely funded by the United Methodist Church Foundation in Oklahoma.

The church claims its mission is to "Train people to serve Christ in the world, advocate a Palestinian evangelical perspective and model Christ through community development." The church, however, is known for its anti-Israel agenda and members of the church frequently call for Christians in the United States to not fund or support Israel. It has used rhetoric of hate and anti-Semitism to spread its message while hiding behind its efforts in the West Bank with Palestinian Christians. It has also been a strong voice for the BDS- Boycott, Divest and Sanctions movement.

Dr. Stephen Sizer, a former priest of the Church of England, is a known anti-Semite who has based his philosophy and advocacy in opposition to Christian Zionism. He has used his role in academia to spout hate and anti-Israel rhetoric, targeting Christian communities and using anti-Semitism to monetize his theories. Sizer is most infamous for conspiracy claiming Jews and the State of Israel were behind the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Sizer has participated in anti-Zionism and anti-Israel conferences and events in Iran and frequently speaks at events and churches defaming Israel and the Jewish people.

The BDS movement started in 2001 during the "Durban strategy" which was adopted following the UN Conference Against Racism held in Durban, South Africa. The movement advocates for a Palestinian "Law of Return", calling for Palestinian refugees the same right as Jews to immigrate to Israel. The movement

also sees the State of Israel as an apartheid state and any and all Israelis living in the West Bank as settlers and occupiers.

The movement's main economic strategies have been to gradually advocate and pass for boycott or labeling of Israeli products from the West Bank, several cases of goods in Europe labeled or boycotted as "from occupied territories of Palestine". The movement is focused on the boycott of Israeli goods, academia, sport and culture.

The BDS movement refers to Israel's creation and presence in Palestinian territories as "colonization, apartheid and occupation" constantly referring and comparing Jewish immigration and the creation of the State of Israel as to that of European colonization.

The movement has become most popular amongst celebrities and academics, who have called for an all-out boycott of anything Israeli- from performing in Israel, to using or purchasing Israeli goods, to even removing Israelis and Jews from classrooms.

The United States recently passed legislation creating measures to punish companies or individuals affiliated with the BDS movement. The Foreign Affairs Committee legislature "prohibits U.S. companies from participating in boycotts promoted by international organizations, like the U.N., that target U.S. partners, like Israel."

## Why Do People Mock Bible Prophecy?

Jan Markell

The Bible says that one of the signs of the end times will be people who will mock Bible prophecy.

On our television program, Christ in Prophecy, our guest Jan Markell made a shocking presentation concerning Christian mockery of end time Bible prophecy. Jan is a Messianic Jew who is the founder and spokesperson for Olive Tree Ministries in the Minneapolis, Minnesota area. She has a weekly radio program called Understanding the Times that is carried on over 800 radio stations located all across our nation.

### Pastoral Rejection of Bible Prophecy

Jan Markell: I have a burden for the Church. But, the Church has compromised. Christ died for His Church. We know He loves it. It's just probably in the years and decades that have gone by it has been a little more healthy than it is today.

So, how did the Blessed Hope become the blasted hope? How and why is there such an attack on the greatest message, contained in one-third of the Bible no less, that the King is coming again? How did this happen?

To kind of fully reveal this, I'm going to have to name some names. Some of you may not be fully happy with all the names I name. In the interest of time I've cut my list down a little bit here. Let's go through it really quickly.

Let's consider the following questions: How did this happen? When did it happen? And, who let it happen? How did the greatest news in the Bible become to some last days madness? How is it that Christians are calling Bible prophecy a last days madness?

Tom Hughes is the pastor of Calvary Chapel 412 Church in San Jacinto, California. He wrote an article recently that summed up brilliantly why the Church now rejects Bible prophecy. These are his opinions, but I certainly agree with each and every one of them.

Number one, Tom Hughes feels pastors don't understand Bible prophecy. Perhaps their seminary didn't train them to deal with Eschatology.

Number two, Tom feels that pastors fear offending members. They fear offending those attending their church. Can you imagine that the greatest news that Jesus Christ is coming perhaps today could possibly offend someone? But, in some cases, in fact does. So, pastors don't want to scare away people. Sure, if we look at some of the headlines today they certainly can appear a bit foreboding. Church leadership worries they might lose ties if they talk about the end times. And, if you've got a building program that's going to take ten years to accomplish, and you're saying the Lord is coming back tomorrow, well that doesn't encourage your congregation to give to the project.

A third of Tom's opinions is that Christians worry they might be identified with the loony fringe. Certainly, there has been a loony fringe. Just look at Harold Camping and the other date setters. Christians don't want to be aligned with kooks, and I don't blame them. I don't blame them at all.

These are three of Tom's opinions. And, frankly, I agree with them, having ministered in churches for a long time.

#### A Decline in Dispensationalism

Another reason I believe the teaching of Bible prophecy has declined is that there is a decline in a belief in Dispensationalism. When I was growing up as a teenager to my 20's, pretty much every evangelical church believed in Dispensationalism. They taught the verses that distinguish between the Church and Israel. We believed in a literal Rapture, a literal Tribulation, a literal Antichrist, the Millennium, and the literal Second Coming. But, since then, there has been a decline in Dispensationalist teachings.

Sure, the timing of the Rapture was hotly debated, but afterwards we still could be friends. It's hard if you don't believe in the Pre-Trib Rapture, but we can still be friends. We can debate and not divide over some of these secondary doctrinal issues. Other issues concern the emphasis on Israel's end time role, and that the Tribulation is primarily for Israel and then for the pagan world to shake them up to see Christ.

These basics of Dispensationalism were once widely taught, but now there's a declining interest in the Church concerning this theology. They've been replaced by some destructive theologies. Honestly, I could write an encyclopedia on all the destructive theologies that have come into our churches. For instance, Amillennialism has returned. Amillennialism is very old, and it takes nothing in the Bible literally. It doesn't provide any favorable impression of Israel's end time role.

Also, the Kingdom Now, or Dominionism, has also come back onto the scene. This teaches that if we work hard enough and provide enough social justice programs that we can make the world perfect. How's that working out? That'd take 20 trillion years for the Church to make the world perfect!

Then there's Preterism. How can anybody possibly believe that all of Bible prophecy happened back in 70 AD? We missed it? We missed it! It all happened long ago. It's all history! That's what Preterists believe.

Another destructive theology that is crowding out Dispensationalism would be Replacement Theology. This errant doctrine teaches that the Church is the new Israel. This terrible view is even working its way into once extremely solid denominations and churches.

Then there's Christian Palestinianism. This teaching deserves a message all on its own. Remember Yasser Arafat being lowered from a helicopter to the top of the Church of the Nativity back in 2004? A belief of Christian Palestinianism is that Jesus was a Palestinian and He wasn't even Jewish. Therefore, Christians should celebrate the Palestinian people. What?! There's no such thing as a Palestinian! Even though there's no such thing as a Palestinian race or people, none the less, support for Christian Palestinianism has been steadily creeping into our churches, and some of them that were once sound.