



2nd May 2005

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# Wake Up Call

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## You Have Heard It Said

**This Wake Up Call is the first in a new series which will run over the next twelve weeks, entitled "You have heard it said". Each week we shall be looking at a phrase which is in common usage both in the workplace and generally. We will attempt to give a Christian perspective on the phrase and hopefully provoke thought about it so that next time you come across the phrase, you'll be reminded of the Wake Up Call. This edition is the 150th Wake Up Call.**

## You Have Heard It Said: Part 1 - Who's to Blame?

Most people at work have encountered a scenario whereby someone who was once successful slowly or even spectacularly fails and falls through a series of mistakes or wrong turnings. As the process unfolds spectators begin to realise that this individual has brought the failure upon themselves through their own actions. Out of pity or sometimes spite some are heard to mutter "he (or she) has only got himself to blame". The failing individual now has criticism and isolation added to the catalogue of woes. The phrase muttered by the onlookers only compounds the agony by distancing people from the problem and placing the responsibility firmly on one pair of shoulders only.

If you are the individual you can find yourself in a very low state and particularly short of one resource, namely hope. But the Christian perspective on such processes exposes the inappropriate nature of the muttered judgement. In many circumstances it is true that you have no one to blame but yourself. This is particularly the case when you stand before God accountable for your life. But the whole point of the Christian message is that there is someone else who will take the blame. God has put upon His Son the faults of us all. Ironically the person who realises that there is no-one to blame but themselves may also be more open to the offer of rescue than the individual who insists on self-justification and defence. The place of despair becomes the place of hope. Jesus announced that he didn't come for the 'right' ones, but the failing people, those who know that they have blown it. In making his announcement, He also knew that he was also setting His own path to take the blame upon Himself. In this sense, He was offering to say that there was no-one to blame but me, something which He could do, not because of His own failure, but because of His own perfection. The only reason the rescue plan works is that someone who didn't fail takes the blame anyway. This is the meaning of the work of Christ.



see below

Quite a few Christians are prepared to celebrate Christ's rescue in relation to the ultimate destiny of their souls. But what about today's disastrous work project or company failure? What about the bankruptcy disintegration or career collapses? What about the job that doesn't work out? Jesus doesn't just take away sin but sins. There is no-one else except you who got you into this mess, but there is someone who will get you out of it. You ask Peter.

## **WORK WELL**

Geoff Shattock, National Director

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### **Here is some Biblical background for this week's Wake Up Call**

#### **Isaiah 53: 4-6**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our infirmities  
and carried our sorrows,  
yet we considered him stricken by God,  
smitten by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

## **Wake Up News**

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- WorkNet is looking for someone to fulfil the vital role of Assistant to Geoff Shattock and Projects Manager. If you are interested in this post, please send your CV to [geoff@worknetuk.org](mailto:geoff@worknetuk.org). If you know someone who may be interested, please make this important need known to them. A [job description](#) is downloadable from our website.
- The [WorkTalk](#) course is based on the seven sayings of our Lord from the cross. If you haven't got your copy, you can order it now from our [on-line shop](#) and use it for your personal meditation as well as a learning programme.

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