



12th September 2005

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# Wake Up Call

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## No time to Fret

**Note: we are still looking for an Assistant see news below.**

Have you noticed that the market place is well populated with people who bend and break the rules? Whatever the standard, their behaviour can only be described as unethical. A little dishonesty here, a white lie, pretence of expertise or stealing of credit. Deals are oiled with bribes, friends favoured over talent and reputations ruined by gossip. Some flagrantly flaunt the rules, other have developed a subtle habit of twisting them out of shape.

The result is less than fair deals, a distortion of values, poorer relationships and an increasing lack of trust. It creates a culture where honour is a rarity and the prevailing concept is that of each person out for themselves.

There is a very irritating aspect of this culture in that inevitably there are a number of individuals who seem to have climbed the ladder of success and ended up with status, position or rewards even though they do wrong. This creates a double annoyance because not only have they acted poorly - which is annoying - but they seem to have prospered, which is also annoying.

Those who observe this progress often find themselves reacting in one (or both) of two ways. Some get very angry and will use phrases like 'it makes my blood boil' or 'it gets me hot under the collar'. Others see the success and react with a jealousy or envy which covets the rewards that such people have obtained. To put it graphically, some see red and others turn green.

David wrote a psalm which literally provides an a-z of how to navigate in a world like this. Each of the stanzas in the psalm starts with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. His opening advice is to warn against turning red or green. 'Do not fret' (literally get hot with anger or worry) 'because of evil people or be envious of those who do wrong'. His reasoning is very simple. It won't last. Prosperity built like that will wither and will die like grass in the sun or annual plants. They don't need your heat to stop them growing. Your energy will be better applied in other, more heavenward directions. David is arguing that we must get a perspective on these people and these behaviours which will enable us to react in much more creative and fruitful ways - as we will see as we move through the alphabet. In the meantime, don't fret.

In Jesus' Name,

Geoff Shattock

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

**Psalm 37:1-40**



*see below*

Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;  
2 for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.  
3 Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
4 Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:  
6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.  
7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.  
8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.  
9 For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.  
10 A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.  
11 But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.  
12 The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them;  
13 but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming.  
14 The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.  
15 But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.  
16 Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;  
17 for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.  
18 The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure for ever.  
19 In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.  
20 But the wicked will perish: The Lord's enemies will be like the beauty of the fields, they will vanish—vanish like smoke.  
21 The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;  
22 those the Lord blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be cut off.  
23 If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm;  
24 though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.  
25 I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or

their children begging bread.

<sup>26</sup> They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.

<sup>27</sup> Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land for ever.

<sup>28</sup> For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected for ever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off;

<sup>29</sup> the righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it for ever.

<sup>30</sup> The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is just.

<sup>31</sup> The law of his God is in his heart; his feet do not slip.

<sup>32</sup> The wicked lie in wait for the righteous, seeking their very lives;

<sup>33</sup> but the Lord will not leave them in their power or let them be condemned when brought to trial.

<sup>34</sup> Wait for the Lord and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

<sup>35</sup> I have seen a wicked and ruthless man flourishing like a green tree in its native soil,

<sup>36</sup> but he soon passed away and was no more; though I looked for him, he could not be found.

<sup>37</sup> Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace.

<sup>38</sup> But all sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off.

<sup>39</sup> The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

<sup>40</sup> The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

## Wake Up News

Online News

Prayer

Retreats

Group Register

- WorkNet is looking for someone to fulfill the vital role of Assistant to Geoff Shattock. A reworded Job and Person description is now available on the online news page follow the link on the left to view or download. 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. Short term we are looking for a typist -if you have experience and would like some temporary work please be in touch.
- We are thinking of doing a conference under the them of "Doing the work you were born to do" likely to be early 2006. Please email [info@worknetuk.org](mailto:info@worknetuk.org) if you would be interested

in such a conference.

- 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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