



7 November 2005

Welcome to

# Wake Up Call

your weekly email support from WorkNet

## Whose Market - 4th Birthday Edition number 172

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

This is the ninth wake up call in a series based on Psalm 37. Follow the Bible Reading link to read the Psalm

The global market place contains staggering contrasts. In a major city, a business leader can earn millions in any of the most valuable currencies, whilst a child can work twelve hours per day, seven days a week, for a few pence a day. Some are capable of toppling and replacing governments while others can barely walk to find drinking water. Everyone, however, is a believer in wealth and power. The wealthy and powerful are invited to the most prestigious events and offered the best deals. As a result they become wealthier and more powerful as time passes and assets accrue.

It is commonplace in pious circles to criticise the rich and powerful for simply being that. It is not unusual for words to be written in envy or malice, designed to pressurise them or bring them down. Envy goes hand in hand with disdain and ambivalence results.

Closer to home, we compare ourselves to our managers, directors or colleagues wondering what pay scale they are on or aspiring to out-do them.

The issue here is that this is simply not the way to live. Life is not about wealth or power. They are not irrelevant, of course, that would be foolish to propose - nor are they automatically wrong, that would be naïve to believe, they are just not the yardstick.

David's argument is that life is about righteousness or being right with God and being upheld by Him. It is about a two-way, open, truth-centred, dynamic relationship with the Lord of all that there is. So it can't be about what you have, but must be about relating to Him. It is not about the power you wield but the power that supports you.

I have an image in my mind of a child labourer chopping stones for the construction industry. It is easy for me to say that power and wealth don't matter when I have enough of both. But truth is not altered by injustice or global inequalities. To have little yet to be right with God is better than having wealth and being wicked. To be held up by God is better than wielding wicked power.

*Birthday  
appeal  
month*



*see below*

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Bible Reading

The Son of David followed the same A to Z when He told us to seek first the rule of God and the right relationship with God.

Today, this week, or this month make it your aim to be right. Make it your stance to be reliant on the support of God. It will help you take your eyes off the wealth and power, divert you from envy or dissatisfaction and enable you to work for good. This can change the way you see your colleagues and undertake your tasks. It may help you get out of bed on a winter morning to do good, be right and explore being upheld when you are tired, under-resourced and resentful.

You may also find that as you seek these right priorities, other things will be added to your life which will enable you to use more wealth and power for the purposes of God. Unlike the other power, this one cannot be broken because it is upheld by the Lord.

In Jesus' Name,

Geoff Shattock

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## **Here is some Biblical background for your Wake Up Call**

### **Psalm 37:1-40**

Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;

<sup>2</sup> for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

<sup>3</sup> Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

<sup>6</sup> He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.

<sup>9</sup> For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

<sup>10</sup> A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.

<sup>11</sup> But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

<sup>12</sup> The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them;

<sup>13</sup> but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming.

<sup>14</sup> The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.

<sup>15</sup> But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.

<sup>16</sup> Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;

<sup>17</sup> for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.

<sup>18</sup> The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure for ever.

<sup>19</sup> In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.

<sup>20</sup> But the wicked will perish: The Lord's enemies will be like the beauty of the fields, they will vanish—vanish like smoke.

<sup>21</sup> The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;

<sup>22</sup> those the Lord blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be cut off.

<sup>23</sup> If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm;

<sup>24</sup> though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

<sup>25</sup> 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

- Thank you to those of you who have been the first to donate this month responding to our WakeUpCall fourth birthday appeal. If you would like to join them and help us to make November a time of resourcing for us so we can better resource you visit the [donate on line](#) page. Thank you.
- **We have now fixed a date for a conference under the theme of "Doing the work you were born to do" for March 4th 2006. See [this link](#) now for details -we expect high demand for this conference so visit the page now.**
- Hear Geoff Shattock at the [FaithWorks Conference](#) at Eastbourne 5th November.
- 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.
- 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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