

You're Never Against The Wall



By Philip E. Busby

Some very disturbing news came out of the UK recently. A government backed study shows that schools are electing to drop the Holocaust from their history lessons because they fear it will offend Muslim students who have been taught Holocaust denial, by their parents and/or religious instructors. When it comes to the Holocaust, one of the main cries is that we will never forget so that we may never repeat the atrocities of those dark days. However, that lesson has obviously not been learned well, if at all, and the evidence of this sad fact is clearly seen in this report!

The report shows teachers are afraid of the anti-Semitism that may result in the classroom if they teach the Holocaust. Teachers and schools fear the reprisal of Holocaust denying students and their families. Thus, they feel the best thing to do is simply stop teaching the Holocaust altogether. What they do not seem to understand is this kind of fear is exactly why the Holocaust was able to happen in the first place! People in Germany, and eventually a large part of Europe, were also afraid to stand up against those who were willing and desirous to carry out the Holocaust. In those days,

people were afraid the government would do the same to them as they were doing to the Jews, and many refused to do even those things in their power to do. So, instead of standing with the Jews, many chose to take giant steps backward from them. In doing this, people not only left the Jews to face the fight alone but they exposed the Jews! When the government told people to stop buying from Jewish merchants, the people said, "We don't want any trouble" and they stopped. When the government wished to separate Jews from the everyday man, the everyday man was more than willing to point out who was a Jew, so there would not be non-Jews mistaken for Jews. Thus, slowly and then not so slowly, Jewish neighbors and friends were taken right from their homes and detained, while a large non-Jewish population simply stood by and watched, just hoping the cruelty would not reach out and effect them!

People accepted step after step in escalation of these events because they believed trying to "keep the peace" was more important than standing up against the wrong. Eventually, trains were packed so tight with Jews, even in the heat of summer, that many of them died of suffocation and dehydration long before they ever made it to the death camps. Community after community was afraid to say anything because they failed to understand that evil is not stopped by attempts to appease it. Evil is a consuming force; and when you try to simply appease, it takes advantage after advantage.

You see, the lesson of the Holocaust is not one which tells us to sit back and do whatever keeps the peace. True peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice. The lesson of the Holocaust is that we must be proactive in our communities and in our world. When a teacher stands up in a classroom, they have one of the best and greatest opportunities, especially when there are students who have been taught lies! When teachers have students sitting in their classroom who have been taught to deny the Holocaust, it's not the time to stop teaching the truth. Instead, we should recognized it's more important than ever that teachers take the opportunity to teach the Holocaust. We need to appreciate the fact the classroom may be the only

place those students will ever get the chance to hear it!

When will we understand that children are not best served by denying them historical truth, but by confronting them with it? People should be free to believe what they want and have whatever feelings they want about the Holocaust, but those feelings will never change the historical facts of the event! Thus, our decision to teach those facts should not be affected by individual feelings or reactions. Let them hear the stories of those who suffered through the Holocaust. Let them see the photographs. Let them read the laws penned by the hand of the Nazi regime, and let them choose for themselves if it was all an elaborate hoax. No matter what their conclusion is, it will at least have the chance to be based on the evidence not just the propaganda.

The generation which suffered through the Holocaust is disappearing fast, but many are still with us. They not only tell us the Holocaust is fact, but they bear the scars to prove it. This makes the facts of the Holocaust more solid than ninety percent or more of the events of history we teach on a regular basis. So, if before that generation ever passes, we find ourselves allowing those who hate Jews to, once again, intimidate us into being silent, then what hope is there for future generations? It has been said when we forget the past we are destined to repeat it, but this new report should cause us to wonder if repeating is really the issue. If this generation can be so easily bullied into standing back, one has to wonder if the Holocaust has ever really stopped or if it has simply taken a short reprieve?

Holocaust Remembrance day for 2007 has passed, and many people outside of the Jewish community may have never known it happened. It's a fact that outside of Israel this event is not widely recognized. This is sad, because while it was mostly Jews who suffered the atrocities of the Holocaust, it was by the world that suffering was afflicted. Thus, the Holocaust holds lessons for us all, every year, all year long. Jesus tried to teach us these lessons as He walked this earth, and the importance of these lessons are shown even more by recent events at Virginia Tech here in the United States!

Recent events have shown us, once again, just how desperate people in this world feel. Many people feel the walls of life are closing in on them, that their backs are against the wall and there is no place to turn and no place to hide. Because of this we should recognize that now, more than ever before, what this world needs to see, is believers in the One True God who have a zeal for the truth that is unquenchable! (Jer. 20:7-11) Not a zeal which makes them violent or obnoxious loud mouths but a zeal which causes them to study to show themselves approved. (II Tim. 2:15) A zeal which makes them able to give an answer to every person who asks them of their faith. (I Peter 3:8-17) A zeal which makes them able to handle with love, the fact men may hate them, revile them, sue them, physically injure or kill them for what they believe. (Matt. 5:1-16)

The best symbol to this world that we have found something real, is not found in the busyness of our activities or in the loudness of our mouth, but in the unwavering steadiness of our trust in God through everything this world throws at us! Thus, I want to encourage every believer to hold on! The fact we have found something worth living for, is shown best in the fact we find it worth suffering or even dying for. When things go wrong, true believers should not respond as the world responds. We should never feel our back is "against the wall." We must understand that with God there is no wall. Only the opportunity to serve and the promise that what lays beyond is better than what we could have in this world, even under the best of circumstances. (Phil. 1:1-21)

"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I Corinthians 9:25-27