

PASTOR'S PATCH

The Prosperity Gospel



When the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth around the middle of the first century, one of the things he wrote was:

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Unfortunately there has sprung from these and surrounding verses the concept of the “Prosperity Gospel”. This (fake) gospel announces that we must give, give, give. The more generously we give, the more we will

be financially, materially and spiritually rewarded. It’s why the preachers of such a gospel fly around in private jets and have huge material wealth, while individuals in their churches often end up in debt, or worse. It’s a false gospel. God is not fooled.

It's where a lot of people outside of church get the impression churches are only interested in their money, not their souls! In many ways who can blame them?

But our giving as Christians is not for what we can receive; it is for what we can offer. In Ephesians 5:25 it says, ***“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy”***. His free gift of salvation is for all who will come to Him in repentance and faith. This free gift must surely be extended as we “carry our cross” and seek the lost just as Jesus did. The tension in this is that such a task does take money, time and other resources. Even one of Jesus’ disciples was charged with being “treasurer”! So it is, that we who believe give of our own resources ***“as freely as we are able”***, for those who need to receive. We received freely, we give freely, others receive freely, they give freely, and the cycle continues. That’s the true prosperity gospel.

“Some give their mite, some give with all their might, and some don’t give who might”

[Taken from ‘A Barrel of Fun’, J.John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books]

The question is, where and how can we participate in that? What (realistic) resources of money, time and skills can we individually bring to the foot of the cross for the salvation of souls in our community? Whatever it is, let’s do it ***“cheerfully”***.

Colin Opie

CARE DAY OF PRAYER : TUESDAY 25TH MARCH 2025



CARE is standing alongside our friends and partners at the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF), Evangelical Alliance, The Christian Institute and Affinity in calling people to pray.

The day for prayer is **Tuesday 25 March 2025**. We are asking you to put aside some time that day, whether alone, with family or friends, or at church, to pray about the Assisted Suicide Bill. We'll also be meeting together online at 12:00 to Pray for Politics and focusing on assisted suicide. For more information and ways to join, click [here](#).

As you will know, Kim Leadbeater introduced her Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill with the aim of legalising assisted suicide for any adult in England and Wales who has a terminal illness and six months or less to live.

That Bill passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons in November last year by 330-275 votes on what was a dark day for our nation.

Since then, the Bill has been before a Committee where MPs have been scrutinising it line by line. Not only is the Committee stacked in favour of the Bill, but reasonable amendments have been routinely rejected.

Ms Leadbeater has also scrapped one of the most significant safeguards in the Bill when she announced High Court Judges would no longer be involved in scrutinising assisted suicide requests.

MPs will vote again on the Bill at Third Reading which we expect to be late April or May. This, realistically, represents the last chance to stop this dangerous Bill becoming law. All that is needed is for 30 MPs to change their minds.

We know God can move hearts and minds. He calls us to pray and bring our requests and desires to him. Will you therefore take some time to pray that the Assisted Suicide Bill is defeated?

You might want to consider the following:

1. Pray for MPs who have already voted no to this Bill that they might turn up at Third Reading and vote no again.
2. Pray for MPs who are currently wavering that the Lord would direct them to voting against this legislation.
3. Pray for organisations like CARE working to stop this Bill from becoming law.
4. Pray that the God who has a heart for vulnerable people would show mercy to the frailest in our communities and protect them from this proposed legislation.
5. Give thanks for the wide range of organisations – Christian and non-Christian – who are opposing this Bill.

Thank you so much for your partnership with us.



JAMES MILDRED
Director of
Communications
and Engagement