

## Publishing Editor's column

*AT the time of writing, the election campaign in Britain is nearing its end. The result looks certain, a heavy victory for the Labour party under Tony Blair; but the result is immaterial to these remarks, for of course we take no part in the politics of this age. Many of us, looking for Britain to leave the EU, might have had a sneaking desire for the Conservatives, as the main party least favourable to Europe, to emerge victorious, but if that is Britain's destiny then God can manipulate any party to fulfil His designs.*

*For me, as a detached observer, elections have a certain fascination. It is interesting to note the issues that are brought out, and the manipulation of the facts as the parties seek to score advantages over each other. Three major issues have been education, health, and law and order. Labour claims to have made great strides in improving things after many years of Conservative mismanagement; Conservatives claim that Labour has not fulfilled its promise. More and more people are becoming apathetic about politics, voting for the party they least dislike, or abstaining from voting. Despite growing standards of living over the years, there is much discontent. Democracy is not in very good shape at present.*

*Regarding health, education, and law and order, the politicians do not address the real issues. They compete in promising more money, but money is not the real solution. New initiatives come thick and fast from whomever is in power, seldom achieving what they are supposed to achieve, and inflicting ever-growing burdens on those who have to try to carry them out. The real problem is, of course, sin, and politicians are not qualified to deal with sin. It is human wickedness that means hard-pressed police forces are struggling to contain a rising tide of crime with sophisticated modern technology. It is the fact that increasing numbers of children have no stable family background, with even more lacking in basic instruction in Biblical morality, which makes the job of teachers in achieving high educational standards so difficult. As for health, whatever improved treatments emerge for the various ills that afflict us, we are mortal, and death, often accompanied by suffering, is inevitable. And in this area, human sin and human weaknesses make the burden on health services much greater than it would otherwise be; think of the cost of dealing with accidents and illnesses resulting from drugs and alcohol misuse, for example.*

*We have in our prosperous Western world growing problems in meeting people's expectations, raised high by promises that politicians cannot keep. There are growing difficulties for those who try to fulfil these expectations in their working lives, caused by increased bureaucracy and increasing aggression from those they are trying to help. We have increasing disillusionment with the political system. Far from things steadily improving, as thinkers said they would with the application of scientific know-how, they are getting worse. Elections are a time to reflect on man's inability to rule himself properly, to be thankful for the sure promises of God's coming Kingdom, and to pray that it may soon be set up.*

**Tony Benson**

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*Publication of articles in The Testimony does not presume editorial endorsement except on matters of fundamental doctrine, as defined in the Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith.*