

Minister's Message – December 2007

New Leadership?

'It's time for a change'. Years ago this slogan worked to get a change of government. 'New leadership' was the slogan that did it this time. People are always looking for something new. There is this perpetual hope that someone or something new will solve all our problems and make our life much happier. But does it ever happen? If it did we would not be wanting someone or something new!

The new leadership has ratified Kyoto and said 'Sorry'. They may spend money on education and health, and we may get more money in our pocket – but will we then be contented? Will we say that we have such wonderful leaders we want them to stay forever?

Jesus spoke about putting new wine into old wineskins. We can elect new political leaders – we can make new wine as it were – but what about the wineskins. What about the society in which we all live. Our political leaders are products of this society. Even if they wanted, their ability to change society is limited. Sure they will make new laws. They will legislate about corruption and immorality – in which way we do not yet know. There will be more laws to govern an increasingly corrupt and immoral society.

'New wineskins' means a fundamental change in how we think about ourselves, especially in relation to our creator God. Sinful men, women and children that we are, we go on living in rebellion to God. We keep looking for someone or something new to bring us contentment and happiness. This new person or thing may do so for a while, but soon we need another new thing.

What we need today is not new leadership but true leadership. We never saw that word in the election campaign! But it is the word the best describes the leadership of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Jesus called people to follow him saying *I am the way, the truth and the life* (John 14:6). Jesus spoke the truth always. Jesus told us what our true problem is – it is sin. He told us the true and only way to get victory over sin – repent and believe in Jesus. Jesus made one simple promise to those who do this – you will be forgiven and have eternal life. If you want a true leader who you can trust day after day and year after year into eternity then follow Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

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