

My thoughts on 'JUST THINKING'

Another "enemy of the cross" (Philippians 3: 18)

Last week a Facebook friend sent me details of a web site that had 'appeared' on his own Facebook feed and he gave brief details of the current content of the web site, content that clearly troubled my own Facebook friend. This is the link to the web site in question –

<https://sites.google.com/view/justthinking/home>

The man behind the web site is called **PAUL CAMERON** and this is what he has to say about himself –

I am married to Marie and have three grown-up children. I belong to a Baptist church in Belfast. I am not a professional theologian although I did graduate from Belfast Bible College with a Diploma in Theology in 1988. After that, I served as Primary Schools Coordinator for Scripture Union Northern Ireland for thirty years until my retirement in 2019.

The views I express here are entirely my own. Many of you will disagree with me on some issues and that's fine by me! **As long as I can provoke you to think through what the Bible teaches on each topic** and consider how it applies in today's world for yourself. **That's what this website is about.**



At the outset can I say that to the best of my knowledge I have never met **PAUL CAMERON** but, to his credit, he has publicly invited 'scrutiny' of his views and so what I now plan to write will be in that context.

Currently there are 3 subjects that Mr Cameron has commented upon –

- **Women In Leadership**
 - **Israel-Palestine**
- **An Alternative To Penal Substitution**

My sole focus will be on the '**Alternative to Penal Substitution**' as it is absolutely and inextricably linked to the whole subject of **SALVATION**. In relation to '**Penal Substitution**' Mr Cameron makes his views quite clear. In Part 1 called '**What's Wrong With It?**' he starts by writing –

I don't believe in Penal Substitution. There - I've said it. My cards are on the table; my neck is on the line; my evangelical credentials are up for dispute ... Let me be clear - I believe in the cross of Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement **without which** I could never be reconciled to God because of my sinfulness. I just don't believe it is true to say that the Father poured out His wrath on His Son; or that Jesus took the punishment I deserve in order for me to be forgiven ... There are differing accounts of what exactly is meant by Penal Substitution and it may be that your understanding of it is different from mine. So please bear in mind that when I use the term, I am referring to the understanding of the atonement ... that God punished Jesus instead of punishing me. It is to the problems associated with this understanding of the atonement that I will be referring in this section.

So, how do I respond to these views, and also to what Mr Cameron goes on to write? I would simply refer to a lengthy article I wrote back in 2009. It was titled as follows and my views are very clear in the title itself –

**Those that deny 'penal substitution' are
"the enemies of the cross of Christ"**

[Philippians 3:18]

The article can be accessed via this link –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2009/July/enemies-of-the-cross-of-christ.pdf>

Towards the very end of my article I wrote the following –

Those headlined and highlighted in this article, by their rejection of **penal substitution**, are producing a harvest of “**bad fruit**” (see Matthew 7: 18-20) and show themselves to be “**the enemies of the cross of Christ**” [Philippians 3:18]. A line in the sand has been drawn when it comes to **penal substitution** and according to God’s Word, the side of the line on which people take their stand, indicates whether they are “**natural**” [unregenerate – see 1st Corinthians 2:14] or “**spiritual**” [regenerate and so able to judge in the light of God’s Word – see 1st Corinthians 2:15].

Those in heaven sing a new song – “**Thou [Christ] art worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals; for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood**” [Revelation 5:9]. This song, focussing firmly on Christ’s **penal substitution**, echoes the praise of the beloved disciple John that is recorded earlier in **Revelation 1:5** “**Unto him [Christ] that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood**”. Such praise in heaven could not and will not come from the lips of those who reject **penal substitution** – let any such, as might read this article, “**take heed.**”

A shorter article that I wrote in 2024 covers much of the same ‘ground.’ It was titled

HARBOUR FAITH COMMUNITY: Outright “enemies of the cross of Christ” (Philippians 3:18)

and it can be accessed via this link –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2024/January/harbour-faith-community-outright-enemies-of-the-cross.pdf>

Earlier I quoted the following written by Mr Cameron – I believe in the cross of Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement **without which** I could never be reconciled to God because of my sinfulness.

In contrast I believe in the cross of Jesus Christ as a sacrifice of atonement **by which** I have been reconciled to God despite my sinfulness.

In his '**Dictionary of Theological Terms**,' the late Dr Alan Cairns, under a heading '**The Characteristics of the Atonement**' wrote this –

1. It is *vicarious* or *substitutionary* It was rendered by the Lord Jesus Christ FOR His people i.e. not merely for their benefit but “in their place” (Matthew 20: 28)
2. *Suffering* is an essential element in the atonement (Luke 9: 22; 24:26; Matthew 16: 21) In Matthew 27: 34 Christ on the cross refused to have His pain deadened. His sufferings were PENAL on account of His bearing our sin (1st Peter 2:24).
3. It is *objective* – i.e. it makes its primary impression on God, to whom it is offered.
4. It is *necessary*. God has decreed it as the only way whereby He could be just and yet save sinners. Thus the necessity of the atonement is based upon God's nature and God's will. By nature He is holy and must punish sin; by His gracious will He has decreed the salvation of His elect; Christ's work of atonement is the only way to execute that gracious purpose. **The Son of Man must be lifted up**” (John 3: 14).
5. It is *definite* – i.e. Christ made atonement with a definite purpose in view. That purpose was to save sinners. This view is in sharp contrast with the Arminian view that Christ's death merely made salvation possible. Definite atonement emphasises that in His death Christ was actually the substitute and surety for all for whom He died.
6. It was *particular*. It was made specifically for God's elect ... Christ died to make atonement for all the sins of His elect, His Church, His sheep – those given to Him by His Father (John 6: 37; 17:2, 6, 9, 19).
7. It is *successful*. What God aimed at in the atonement is exactly what He accomplished. And what He accomplished is exactly when He aimed at. Isaiah 53: 11 tells us of the Lord's entire satisfaction of His sacrificial work. The great anthem of Revelation 5 allows no room for the thought that Jesus tried to accomplish a lot more than He actually did ... Christ did not merely attempt to bear away our sins He did it **(Cecil – like the 'scapegoat' of Leviticus 16: 21-22)**; He did not seek to redeem us; He did it. **(Cecil – “it is finished” John 19: 30)**

Do I regard **PAUL CAMERON** as an **‘enemy of the cross’** because of his expressed views? – despite his detailed and referenced arguments in favour of his position, the answer to that is **‘yes’** and I plan to notify him of this when my article is posted to the ‘Take Heed’ Ministries web site. May God be pleased to open his eyes to the error of his ways and may the influence of his views (**‘views’ that are shared by a rather motley, unscriptural group of ‘theologians’ as detailed in my articles**) be utterly minimised.

Here is a table detailing the **‘rather motley, unscriptural group of ‘theologians’** who reject **‘Penal Substitution’** and a few details in brief of some of their other **‘blind beliefs.’**

Name	Other ‘heresies’ in brief
Steve Chalke	Vehemently denies 6-day creation: Supports SSM: Mr Chalke said, ‘the church should “consider nurturing positive models for permanent and monogamous homosexual relationships”.’ He also said he had ‘conducted a dedication and blessing service following the civil partnership of two wonderful gay Christians,’ at Oasis Church, Waterloo, in London, where he is minister.
Brian McLaren	Leading ‘emergent’ guru. Rejects the Biblical truth about ‘hell.’ On homosexuality said there should be a 5-year moratorium ‘to allow the wind of the Spirit to set our course.’ The Christian Post of 25/9/2012 reported ‘The son of author and speaker Brian McLaren, who is often identified as part of the controversial emergent church, married his same-sex partner this past weekend. Trevor Douglas McLaren, 28, wed Owen Patrick Ryan on Saturday in Washington, according to The New York Times. The marriage ceremony was officiated by a Universal Life minister, and his father, Brian McLaren, led a commitment ceremony with “traditional Christian elements” afterward. Concerning ‘original sin’ he has stated ‘The church latched onto that old doctrine of original sin like a dog to a stick ... the gospel became a little bit of secret information on how to solve the pesky legal problem of original sin. ’
Jeffrey John	Jeffrey John was a ‘gay’ Anglican clergyman that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams wanted to elevate to be Bishop of Reading in 2003 but because of opposition he was forced to shelve the plan
Michael Wakelin	Mr Wakelin was a Methodist Lay Preacher (and sometime producer of BBC TV’s ‘Songs of Praise) who in a broadcast service on Radio 4 said that ‘Penal Substitution’ was a novel sectarian view put forward by John Calvin and some Protestant churches.
Johnston McMaster	You can read about his ‘ecumenical credentials’ on https://www.margaretaylwardcentre.ie/event/celtic-spirituality-and-social-justice-with-johnston-mcmaster/ This is the web site of Margaret Aylward Centre for Faith and Dialogue, Holy Faith Sisters
Giles Fraser	Giles Fraser said: “Homosexuality is not a sin. It is the way many people love each other and is a gift from God. Ordinary people in the pews know this.”

Brennan Manning	From Mike Gendron's article on Mr Manning – 'He teaches that Jesus has redeemed all of mankind. His "good news" is that everyone is already saved. Among those Manning believes he will see in heaven is "the sexually abused teen molested by his father and now selling his body on the street, who, as he falls asleep each night after his last 'trick' whispers the name of the unknown God ... Possibly the most dangerous practice and teaching of Manning is his New Age mind-emptying method of meditation. This is an open invitation to satanic activity"
William Paul Young	Mr Young wrote the controversial 'Christan' book called 'The Shack.' Pastor Gary Gilley in his critique of the book wrote - 'The Shack, like many books today, decries theology on the one hand while offering its own brand on the other ... The question is, does Young's theology agree with God's as revealed in Scripture? The short answer is "sometimes" but often Young totally misses the mark ... The Shack, while occasionally getting things right is, in the end, a dangerous piece of fiction. It undermines Scripture and the church, presents at best a mutilated gospel, misrepresents the biblical teachings concerning the Godhead and offers a New Age understanding of God and the universe.'
Steve Ames	Mr Ames is 'pastor' of the liberal/ecumenical/progressive Harbour Faith Community in Carrickfergus. As well as robustly rejecting 'Penal Substitution' Mr Ames is a universalist – he wrote this in 2023 'The Gospel message is not that you need to "get saved" by believing the correct things about God, it is that salvation is already given - whether we realise it or not. You are already a beloved and 'saved' child of God - completely, objectively and forever. The only differences are the extent to which you know it, you draw upon it and you consciously believe it.' Mr Ames publicly expressed a desire to conduct the first so-called 'Same-Sex Marriage' in Northern Ireland and got his wish. At Pride Parades he often sets up a 'communion table' decked with a 'Pride' flag and offers elements to all and sundry

Before finishing this article I want to pass comment on two of the very first 'people' to identify with Mr Cameron's web site. **It's often said that you can judge people by the company they keep** and the following are two 'people' that I personally would not want to be theologically identified with.

GORDON McDADE: Mr McDade has had what you might call a 'chequered career' in professed Christian ministry and service. Starting off as a Congregational Minister in Belfast (John White Memorial). Then moving to become Assistant Pastor in Strandtown Baptist Church in Belfast. Subsequently he became Pastor in Ballynahinch Baptist Church but after some years moved on 'under a cloud.' For a period he was involved with Causeway Coast Vineyard church and then later had connections with Journey Community Church in Downpatrick. In recent years his views would be increasingly 'Ecumenical' and 'Progressive' like the following

All Souls Church, Belfast

♥ Service of Blessing ♥

We were absolutely delighted to welcome Soul Space to All Souls this evening for a blessing service for **Patricia Whiteside**, who is a very much-loved member of our congregation. Patricia is embarking on an exciting new role as Community Pastor, and we know that she will make a wonderful contribution to the pastoral and spiritual leadership in this organisation. **Rev Chris Hudson** (Minister of All Souls that has hosted a 'Prode Service' for many years) and **Rev Alister Bell** (Assistant Minister at All Souls and who has a 'husband') **were joined by Community Pastor Gordon McDade and Rev Karen Sethuraman** (see 'bio' on <https://belfastmedia.com/rev-kare-isdaklj#:~:text=The%20Reverend%20Karen%20Sethuraman%20isn,female%20Baptist%20minister%20in%20Ireland.>) **for a special blessing as Patricia enters into this special ministry.** The first photo is of All Souls at Belfast Pride 2025 –



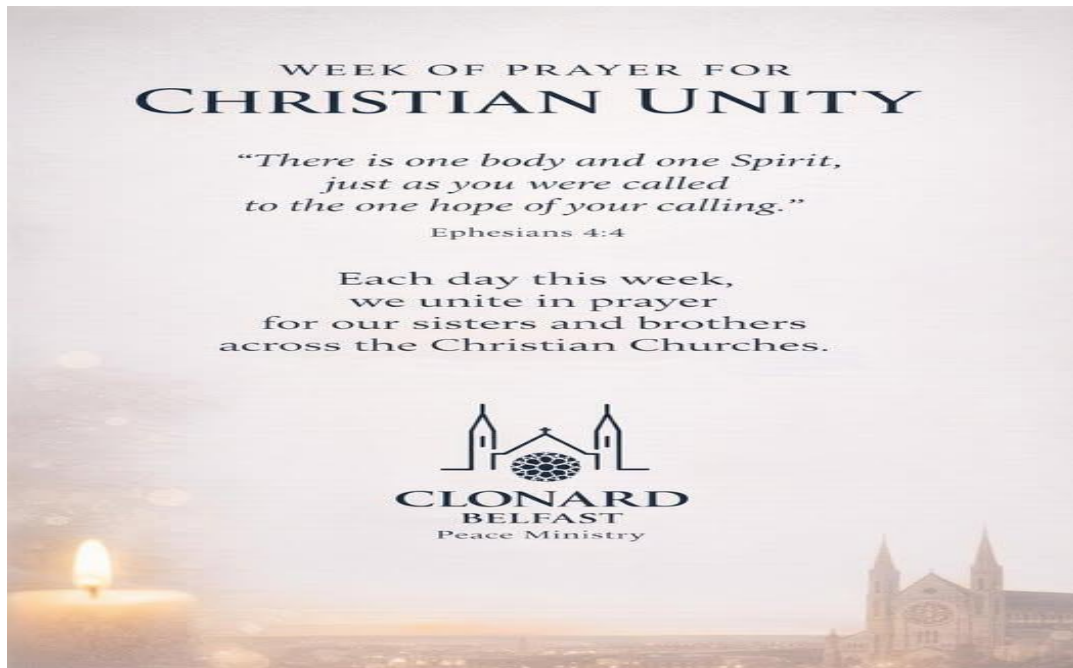
This second photo is of the blessing service at All souls for **Patricia Whiteside** (Gordon McDade is wearing the green top) –



Blessing Service for
Pastor Patricia Whiteside



(Mr McDade on Facebook) - What a privilege to be prayed for by my brothers in Clonard in this week of prayer for Christian unity.
Thank you so much.



Clonard Monastery

[20 January at 09:25](#) ·

Day 3 (Tuesday 20) - We pray for the Baptist Church in Ireland, for **Pastor Gordon McDade**, Pastor Neal Gordon in Shankill Baptist (Cecil - Neal Gordon is no longer the Pastor in Shankill Baptist), **Rev Karen Sethuraman**, and for all the Baptist congregations with whom our Unity Pilgrims have joined in worship.

[Gordon McDade](#)

[11 January at 21:25](#) ·

The **[The Corrymeela Community](#)** annual rededication service is always a significant moment of focus, perspective and commitment, my privilege to belong to such a loving **inclusive**, adventurous community of reconciliation.

This is from the Corrymeela website under 'Faith and Inclusion' -

Through retreats, public meetings, the development of resources and dialogue with major Churches, Corrymeela addresses the impact of exclusion of LGBT people in Northern Ireland society. We work with individuals who are feeling isolated and targeted because of their sexuality, as well as provide training for individuals working for inclusion in the faith sector. **We run 'Blessed are the Brave,' an annual retreat for members of the LGBT community and clergy who are LGBT affirming.** This retreat takes place during the latter part of January.



DAVID PORTER: David also, like Gordon McDade, had past connections with Strandtown Baptist Church, as I detail in the article on this link along with multiple concerns—

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2022/January/four-corners-festival-belfast.pdf>

This photo of **David Porter** is from that article —



The fact that Gordon McDade and David Porter were very quick to ‘sign up’ to Mr Cameron’s postings, for me, does not additionally speak at all well of his views – “Take Heed.”

In closing, I was struck by how so many of the rejectors of **‘Penal Substitution’** whether as individuals or as organisations are **‘LGBT-affirming’** and it reminded me of the Lord’s words concerning His second coming as found in **Luke 17: 28-30** **“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; BUT the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed the.** Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

Can anyone truly deny that we are living **“in the days of Lot”**?

One final thought on Mr Cameron’s beliefs – in his bio he wrote – **‘I served as Primary Schools Coordinator for Scripture Union Northern Ireland for thirty years until my retirement in 2019.’**

From the 'Scripture Union Global' web site, part of their Statement of Faith reads as follows –

We confess Jesus Christ as Lord and God; as truly human, born of the virgin Mary; as Servant, sinless, full of grace and truth; as only Mediator and Saviour, dying on the cross in our place, representing us to God, redeeming us from the grip, guilt and punishment of sin

The fact that Mr Cameron was able to work, 'high-profile,' for 30 years for Scripture Union Northern Ireland and yet it would appear that he did not hold to the Scripture Union view of Christ's substitutionary death on the Cross is, to say the least, disturbing. Did no one at SUNI check out in detail his beliefs? As the Lord warned in **Matthew 24: 4** **"Take heed that no man deceive you."**

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 27th January 2026