

## THE WEST AND THE REST

By Rod

*This sketch looks at what being 'better off' really means in a spiritual setting. Has the ease of being a Christian in the West led us to be lukewarm in our faith? Reference is made to Romans 5 vv 3-4.*

### CAST

*W Represents a member of the western world. Allusions are largely towards being British.*

*R Represents a member of the rest of the world. Some allusions to a setting more akin to Africa, but others are more generic.*

*W and R are standing side by side.*

W I live in the West.

R And I represent the Rest.

W I am better off than him. That is why I support missionary societies which send people to help the likes of him.

R I am grateful for the contribution missionaries have made.

W I live in a four-bedroomed house which I share with my wife and two children.

R I live in a one-roomed house which I share with my parents, my wife and our six children.

W My house has two bathrooms.

R My village has one water tap.

W My village has one church.

R My local area has one church.

W I drive to church in my four-wheel drive vehicle.

R I walk to church.

W It can be difficult for me to get to church on time because of parking restrictions on Sundays. Parking is a nightmare.

R It can be difficult for me to get to church on time because it is a ten mile walk on rough roads.

[Type text]

- W Last week we had thirty-three people for communion at our sung Eucharist.
- R Last week we had over a thousand people at our praise and worship. Thirty-three people gave their lives to Christ.
- W My church was built in the twelfth century and represent the Early English style of architecture, with examples of Early Perpendicular. It is a listed building.
- R Our church was put up last year from pre-fabricated materials. Some of the walls are far from perpendicular. It is a listing building.
- W Our church is expensive to maintain. I give generously to help with its upkeep.
- R I have no money.
- W I have a large mortgage, two cars, three TVs and several home computers.
- R I have no valuable possessions.
- W I work long hours to pay for all my possessions.
- R I work long hours to provide food for my family.
- W I am very stressed because I work so hard, and have so many financial worries.
- R I trust in the Lord to provide my daily needs; as He promises in the Bible.
- W I have several Bibles in my house, as well as one on my Kindle and two versions on my ipad.
- R My home has one Bible.
- W I can't quite remember when I last read one of my Bibles.
- R My family read the Bible together every day – morning and evening. This strengthens me to live as a Christian day by day.
- W I don't talk about my church involvement at work. I would find it embarrassing.
- R I can't help talking about Jesus because I love my Lord.
- W I don't really feel the need to do such things because I live in a Christian country.
- R I live in a Moslem country.
- W Although I live in a Christian country, our society is tolerant of all faiths.

R In my country, Christians are persecuted.

W There are some laws banning the wearing of Christian symbols in the workplace..

R I know of brothers and sisters who have been attacked, beaten and imprisoned without trial for being Christians.

W I don't think I would want to take my Christian commitment that far.

R Jesus told us to expect to share in his sufferings.

W Yes, but there are limits.

R And suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character, and character, hope.

W I'm not sure.

R Perhaps we in the Rest of the World should be sending missionaries to you in the West to explain to you the true gospel.

W Maybe you are right. Because it seems that spiritually you could say..

R I am better off than him.

*THE END*