

I do not have a television. This has been my habit for at least twenty years. I find that I have a gift of time to read, do crafts, even paint and latterly 'book binding.' There are good programmes on the television, of course there are, and much can be learnt thereby. However for most people the television is there to stop them having to worry about thinking what to do. It aids laziness particularly for children for whom it stops them doing things that would be much more beneficial. I remember growing up without a television and having to think of something to do. To start with one is bored, but soon an idea comes, and one is soon immersed in it. This has formed me.

From time to time somebody says: You simply must watch so and so. So I was invited to see the first episode of 'Christianity, a History'. What I saw was deeply shocking. I was propelled into writing a letter to Channel 4, the channel which showed the programme, which will be appended to the end of this month's letter for magazine readers.

First a word of explanation! Controlling the media of our nation is no individual or group of people who direct what we see, rather a mood, or an attitude that if you do not share, you will not get a job, and if you flaunt will make you lose your job. The attitude is never written down, and certainly would be hard to describe, but is there as the background to whatever is said, written, or portrayed. This 'mood' or 'attitude' is deeply hostile to Christianity in its traditional form. This mood or attitude is also held by many in the church. It gives all, and instead of taking what is offered, surrenders. It lays down like a dog and shows its tummy. It hands over all the precious things, our faith, the integrity of the Bible, our cultural values like equality before the law and respect for women, and it openly flouts them in the surrender to cultures which do not have these values.

So Channel 4 puts on a programme on Christianity. However it is not objective, rather highly subjective, a series of personal views. The first was by a Jew who obviously hated Christianity with every fibre of his being; the second continued the assault as a self confessed ex-Christian gave a highly subjective and quite frankly ill-informed presentation of Constantine as the ruiner of Christianity, along the lines of Dan Brown and his Da Vinci Code. It wasn't history, it was prejudice, and it was, as you will see below, both unfair and disturbingly manipulative. It is time for us to kill this mood, this attitude that is destroying our cultural and religious heritage. I look forward to any crisis that looms ahead so that we may have opportunity to confront and destroy it. I think both political parties (Portillo the presenter of the second in the series was a Conservative minister after all) are ridden with it, and ultimately both need to be replaced. Perhaps the time has arrived for Christians to openly go into politics to stop them killing our faith and our nation.

Sir

I am gravely concerned about your moral integrity in putting on the first two in the series, "Christianity, A History" on Sunday Evenings. To start with, would you do a similar series on Judaism, or Islam? The answer of course is no you would not for the damage to your image and the response by the nation. We know that any such programme that deconstructs Islam would be likely to unsettle the nation, and any deconstruction of the Jewish psyche along the lines of the destruction of the Christian psyche in the first of the series would cause a barrage of outrage labelling your company 'anti-Semitic'. As it is, like all cowards, you choose to attack the one least likely to respond. So you attack the mother religion of this land.

To have a Jewish man say repeatedly (three times before I had to turn the programme off) like a refrain that he was told at the age of seven that he was a Christ killer as if this was a thing that happens on a day to day basis for the average Jew, to be told that St. Paul was a destroyer of the message of Jesus, to be told that the whole history of anti-Semitism has its roots in a Jew destroying

Testament by a Church which has sacrificed the true teachings of Jesus for the abnegation of St. Paul (and I suppose St. John), is offensive above all to my sense of intellectual integrity.

As a vocal supporter of the state of Israel, with scores of close Jewish friends, I can only assume that most of these brothers and sisters of mine would be equally offended at the base parody of the foundation of the world's overriding and leading religious faith. It says more about Howard Jacobson's and his peers' jaundiced view of the world in which the culture of victimhood will not budge even when the state of Israel blasts a Gaza or a Lebanon to smithereens and a victim ration of 100/1 in Israel's favour. A victim is a victim is a victim is a Jew! It is now wearing thin. I've no doubt that he would call me an anti-Semite for writing this, even though I am chairman of the East London Three Faith Forum and work tirelessly to create understanding between Jews, Christians and Muslims. Having also spent three months in Palestine in 2006 and frequent visits to Israel too I can see that his sense of victimhood is the chief impediment to any progress in the peace process in the Middle East. To have it paraded so blatantly before my eyes on your programme was saddening in the extreme.

I decided not to write immediately, but to wait for the next programme assuming the best as to your integrity and a more balanced view. To my horror I find a man who introduces himself as a former Christian do another deconstruction of the later development of the faith. Again we have the same parody of St. Paul the destroyer, to which is added Constantine the destroyer. We even have a piece of filming of which Joseph Goebbels's would have been proud. When speaking of the new wealth and riches of the church a nice long table of men, one assumes clerics, was portrayed eating in a refined way, like Goebbels chose rats when speaking of the Jews. The inference being, look at this wealth loving gourmet loving deniers of their simple (perhaps too simple!) founder as if Portillo himself hasn't attended thousands of such suppers in his career even when he still attended Church as a believer, and thought it not amiss.

I would like to give you the chance to redeem yourselves. I offer to write a script for an orthodox look at the founding texts of Christianity which will have intellectual integrity, which will show how St. Paul and Jesus have not undone each other but rather have spoken the same message. It will show St. John's Gospel as giving a picture of the man Jesus that is in every way compatible with St. Paul's teaching. It will show St. Paul as a man whose energy as a human being and intellectual vigour place him alongside the most creative and intelligent human beings who have ever existed. Of course it will require us to place these figures in their historical context and not make crass culturally bound remarks and modern preferences based on the welfare state tinted spectacles of post modern Christian hating Media men and women.

Will you dare, or will you merely write me off as another crank and continue with your cultural suicide?

Yours faithfully,

Revd. Robert Hampson