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NAKED BATHING BEACHES

D.B. Knox

"The Protestant Faith"

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NAKED BATHING BEACHES

The New South Wales Premier has announced that he has set aside two harbourside beaches for people to expose themselves to one another naked. For people to act in this way is a breach of the natural law which is written on the hearts of humanity and which we call modesty. Our sexual natures are given to us for the relationship and friendship of marriage and should be restricted to that relationship. This is quite clearly taught in God's word and it is also known through our natural instincts which God has given us. So that all people of every age and nation are agreed that immodesty is wrong. But the permissive society denies this. Its principle is that everyone can follow his own whims so long as he does not offend someone else. There is a contradiction here because people ought not to be offended if there are no grounds for being offended, and they should be told as much, but there are grounds, and people should not do these things, not because they give offence but because they are wrong, and it is because they are wrong that they give offence. But the modern permissive society works on the principle that you can do what you like so long as you do not offend other people, and so the idea is to set aside beaches sufficiently removed so that other people who think they will be offended can keep away from them. But what is offensive is not the sight of naked people but the knowledge that people are breaking God's law, the law of modesty and that we are making provision for this. But we have been so brain-washed by the permissive society's attitude that most people are frightened of admitting this. It is rather amusing to see the points that people are putting forward in their objections to naked bathing **beaches**. Some say that there are no parking facilities, others that there are no lavatory facilities, all these, of course, could be provided. The real reason is that people know in their own hearts that it is not quite right to behave like this. That it is not in line with God's law, even though they are not aware of God as the

lawgiver. God's law is binding on everyone, even though they don't acknowledge it. The resurrection of Jesus is a reminder that it is a very important thing to keep God's law for it is the forerunner of our resurrection. After death comes judgment for God is in control of His own universe and His purpose will certainly be fulfilled and there will be a resurrection of good and bad alike and all will have to give an account of how they have responded to the law of God written in their hearts, and underlined in the Bible. The resurrection of Jesus is the spearhead of this message. Christians should make the resurrection the foundation for their view of life and of the world and should testify to the reality of God's sovereignty and Christ's victory on the cross and the forgiveness that flows from it and the certainty of God's judgment.

For the sake of society Christians must witness clearly, courageously and consistently to the law of God, known to everybody in our consciences and declared even more clearly in Holy Scripture. We are all without exception to obey that law and will be judged by it. It is time we called the bluff of the permissive society for if we do not the device of a moral law outside ourselves will quickly land us into a dictatorship, which will govern us by fear, and not by common allegiance to a law outside ourselves. It is Christians who must be the salt to save society. We must say that exposing our naked bodies to each other for the fun of it when we are not married to each other is wrong, an offence against modesty which God has built into our conscience and we ought not to make provision for it, because it is wrong, and not merely because there are no parking facilities.

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