



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

SCUMBAGS AND LOW-BORNS



'SCUMBAG'

For a couple of years I worked with an American pastor in my very early twenties. He was a great guy, let's call him Pastor Lawrence. He was living over here in the UK as he married a lovely British young woman. I was present at their wedding held at the Africa Centre in central London. (it may have moved location since that time!)

It was an inspiring wedding. Someone gave a prophecy after prayer at the end and it said that the Lord had put them together and they would have many children and bear much fruit for His glory. It turns out they are still married today and had seven or eight children and already have numerous grandchildren. They remain wonderful people for the Lord.

I learned a great deal from him, who was a few years older than me, and when you are young even a few years is quite a bit, remember? We often used to drive around London on the Lord's work. He had a dry and insightful sense of humour and

at the same time was a very merciful and kind man and always willing to go the extra mile for someone, especially a servant of God.

His idea of sin or sinners were that we were all 'scumbags' which apparently is/was at that time a common American term even though we can also find it in our language in the UK, with slightly different connotations!

In America, it meant, at least at the time, a person who had



nothing good going for him/her, couldn't be trusted, and was both a moron and a nuisance, or a combination of all that and other things! So it was in fact a euphemism and used regularly

in a joking manner at the time.

Whenever I didn't do something correct or he felt I was being silly, he would use that word.

Then burst out laughing! 'Jerry, you're such a scumbag, you know that don't you?'

In fact I found it funny myself (being young and still foolish, and only slightly less foolish now)

It was a way for him to express something euphemistically, and yet at the same time point out a change could be made (in me).

In a strange way it helped me to realise that I had a lot of spiritual growing in the Lord to do! Of course, he wouldn't use this word every day, that may have been too much!

Why am I telling you all this? I am sure a few of you may find the idea or word a bit repulsive. Others may think 'well, the thoughts of the Lord are always good to me, and God would never call ME a scumbag! Yes, I know that every man in his best state is totally vanity, but it's a new day

now, our righteousness have gone beyond the filthy rags part now, we are under grace.

But it really is true.

I live in a country now, where very few Christians admit to



Isaiah 1:
18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

being a scumbag, It's rare you would hear someone in a church or meeting acknowledge a sin or even a mistake. They might ask for prayer for a sprained ankle, their aunty's cat which got lost, OR perhaps they got angry and need prayer, but that would be the rarest event. To go so far as to say, 'I am weak and need prayer for my sins, or I am a scumbag' (or similar word) well, that's about unheard of.

It is amazingly refreshing for Christians to hear their elders or pastors admit mistakes (within reason of course!) Pastors sharing things they got wrong or failed in, and needed the Lord's mercy in, these are in fact great to hear, because it is an example to us who are meant to be following in their footsteps, of what we all should be like. 'He that confesses his sins shall prosper and find mercy!' Proverbs 28:13

Personally I love these verses here below, but they actually mainly apply in a direct relationship with us and God, but it's worth sharing them first before I continue.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

1 John 1: 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Praise the Lord, so I became, over time, quite comfortable being a scumbag for a couple of years under Pastor Lawrence, because his love and kindness were just like the Lord's, constant and faithful. It made me realise how I looked to the Lord and yet at the same time, had been forgiven for all my sins by Jesus' blood. So if I meet you one day, and happen to call you a scumbag, or some similar word, don't recoil and say 'what did you say?' and be all offended in your modern western Christian mindset!

What am I trying to say here? Well, what I have just said and the following: It is OK if Christian people who know and love you enough to call you a scumbag or similar word. Such people, you will invariably find, would be quite willing to ask for prayer and help for their own sins and mistakes. So I pray we should move more to this Truth, that it's good to confess our sins and ask for prayer, especially to our pastors, or other close friends. I think that is the main point I am trying to share in this article!



Secondly, in another light, Paul called himself and his workers and others the 'off-scouring of the world' Let's consider these quite well known verses:

1 Corinthians 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

1 Corinthians 4:10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place;

12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

So you see, here Paul uses a word similar to scumbag and you can see this very clearly in the Amplified translation of verse 13:

13 When we are slandered, we try to be conciliatory and answer softly.

We have become like the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.

BUT in this case, it is worldly people calling him and his followers 'scum', but there it is, as plain as day!

It all depends on who is calling you Scum! If it is your brethren in Love, then that's quite OK, and if it is the world and the scoffers, then we are also in good company with Jesus and the Apostles and every one else in the Bible.

On a parental side of this, my son, now 11 years old, loves for me to tell him stories from my life, the more naughty or full of mistakes the better, as far as he is concerned!

Last night he asked me to tell him for the umpteenth time, the story of when I travelled from Vienna to Athens by train with two other missionaries when I was 24 or somewhere thereabouts. (I think it was a journey of at least two days and nights)

How I got on the wrong section of carriages somewhere on day two in Communist Yugoslavia, fell asleep and the carriages I inadvertently slept on, (where I was not suppose to be on that section) ended up being shunted into a Yugoslav train

depot. Soldiers came on the train and arrested me with rifles pointing, and took me to the Commandant of the nearby army base,



who when he finally could understand my German, just kept calling me 'you stupid Englishman! You stupid stupid Englishman!' my son just cracks up, and the louder and sillier I make the 'stupid Englishman' part, the more he loves it! I think he has it all memorised by now and of course it has a happy ending. I did make it to Athens a couple of days later!

Or when, at 12 years old, I balanced that metal bucket of water over the door crack, waiting for my Latin teacher to come up the stairs to the classroom, and for it to fall on his head! Tee hee! Oh yes, the worse the mistake, the more fun he will be sure to find it.

Somehow there must be something in all this that will make sense to a few of you!! I don't mean we should all suddenly start calling each other names!



Why not pray about all the above and meditate about what if anything it may mean to you. God bless you.

'Low-born'

This week also, I came across this Bible verse in 1 Corinthians chapter 1, which has the word 'Low-born'. I knew this was an actual word in the English language and perhaps we'll start with the dictionary definition on this one:

What does it mean to be low born? /ˌləʊ ˈbɔːrn/ (old-fashioned or formal) **having parents who are members of a low social class** opposite high-born. ignoble, ungente, untitled. not of the nobility. Antonyms: noble.

What does low-born mean in the Bible?

1 Corinthians 1:27 for God selected (deliberately chose) what in the world is foolish to put the wise to shame, and what the world calls weak to put the strong to shame.

28 And God also selected (deliberately chose) what in the world is low-born and insignificant and branded and treated with contempt, even the things that are nothing, that He might depose and bring to nothing the things that are,
29 So that no mortal man should [have pretence for glorying and] boast in the presence of God.

Now the cool thing here is that God has deliberately hand picked and chosen low-born people to represent Him!

I used to think my family had a lot of fancy dancy history, but having received from a friend my family tree recently, I see that there are an awful lot of low born ancestors in there! Even my parents did not become relatively rich until I was about ten years old.

And I also know a great deal of colleagues, friends and great men and women of God who are low born. That is they came from poor families, or some background where they had to struggle physically and financially to survive when they were small, and even now in some cases.

We have everything to rejoice about in that we are low born people! It is also another confirmation that we are chosen by God as it says in the verses right above here!

As we close let's consider these verses that show unequivocally, that God has chosen both the Scumbags and Low-borns of this earth to do great things! Hallelujah!

Revelation 5:10 And You have made them a kingdom (royal race) and priests to our God, and they shall reign [as kings] over the earth!

Psalms 40 I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, (out of the Scum) out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness (and low-born and scumness) into His marvellous light.

James 2: 5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and in their position as believers and to inherit the kingdom which He has promised to those who love Him? (scumbags and Low-born)

6 But you [in contrast] have insulted (humiliated, dishonoured, and shown your contempt for) the poor (Scumbags and low-born) . Is it not the rich who domineer over you? Is it not they who drag you into the law courts?

Let's close in prayer:

Dear Jesus, we truly Thank You for choosing us, we who are Low-born people and Scumbags, just as Job has said; 'I am a worm.'

But because of your great kindness to us, you have chosen us, to put to shame the rich, the rulers and the heathen and all those who exalt themselves against you. Thank most of all for choosing us to be witnesses for you and that you have given us the privilege to rule the world with You in the days to come. Let us never be ashamed or intimidated by those who seem to be strong now and who wish to make us feel low and weak and of no value. We thank You Jesus that

things will all be reversed in a very few years,, when You reign on the earth. May we rejoice in our hearts just to belong to You now. Amen!'

a precious new week for the Lord, all you fellow low born people and scumbags, Let's rejoice together!

Love Jerry for the WCF TEAM



[OFFSCOURINGS Synonyms: 25 Synonyms & Antonyms for OFFSCOURINGS | Thesaurus.com](#)

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BUT GOD CHOSE THE

FOOLISH THINGS

OF THE WORLD TO

SHAME THE WISE;

GOD CHOSE THE WEAK THINGS OF THE WORLD TO SHAME

THE STRONG

.....

1 CO 1:27 KJV

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