

# Letter from Babylon



## Reflections on living in a land under judgment

by 'Mishael'

**A**ddictions are strange things. One of the strangest parts is that addicts tell themselves, and others, all kinds of lies to persuade themselves they're anything *but* addicted. Speak to any alcoholic and he'll tell you he just likes the taste, or is actually drinking much less than he was, or more desperately that he's tried and failed to stop so he may as well get on with it. The mind games get more and more pathetic the deeper the addiction gets.

There's a good case for saying that all sin has the character of addiction – dependence on something other than God for satisfaction, when only He can satisfy. So it's worrying to think how immersed in self-deception each of us, as a sinner, must be. Listen to an addict justify his addiction, and then look in the mirror to see how we use the same arguments about our sin! The best mirror to look in is, of course, the Word of God. The Bible cuts through addict-speak like a sword through marrow, which is why it's hated so much.

One of the biggest dangers for Christians is to take on board the besetting lies of our society, and so share in its judgment. Perhaps the Bible's main purpose is to enable us to stay free in a world full of addicts. Take society's addiction to sex, for example.

Teenage pregnancy increases along with the abortion rate and epidemic sexually transmitted disease. The answer is said to be more sex education. Yet at the same time children's novelists justify explicit sexuality on the reasonable basis that kids know more about that stuff than adults. Both can't be true – it's addict-speak.

Experience in places as diverse as Uganda and the USA shows that these problems decrease if abstinence is taught. Yet media 'experts' have only to say that abstinence 'doesn't work' and the debate is closed – addict-speak.

Dramatic pictures show that a 14 week foetus is every bit as human as we are. Any outsider would expect society to be saying, 'Hey, maybe we've had this abortion thing completely wrong.' Instead, there are half-

hearted moves to limit abortion after 13 weeks (no ultrasounds available yet, you see), whilst rushing to increase vivisection of human embryos. It's a pro-sex issue as much as a pro-choice one: 'We need the sex, so don't bother us with the results.' Addict-speak, once more.

Until less than a generation ago homosexuality was biologically perverse, medically harmful and in

most societies traditionally immoral. It is one of the wonders of the modern world that, without any significant new evidence, it has become perverse, harmful and immoral even to discuss the matter in these terms. How does wrong become right and right wrong overnight? Only through addict-speak.

Every now and then, by the grace of God an addict will wake up and say, 'I'm living a lie – and I'm dying because of it. This addiction must go, whatever the cost.' Truth is the only antidote to addict-speak, and it's a rare bird. Since we have it in the Word of God, let's champion it, proclaim it – and most of all, let it transform us so that people can see what it is like to live as free men. #F



**GOD**  
with us!