

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday May 10th

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



Locked Down But Not Locked Up

It has been quite a steep learning curve for most of us as we have had to come to terms with the lockdown which has been the necessary response to the onslaught of Covid-19. Many things we normally take for granted – the socializing, the ability to travel wherever we want, working with colleagues face to face, even changing our library books, going out for a meal with friends, being able to visit loved ones in hospital, to be able to gather to mourn at a funeral - have become forbidden territory. Even more difficult for people to cope with has been the lack of intimacy with family or friends, the inability to give them a hug or a kiss. It is a strange and demanding time and for some people it is putting a strain on their mental health and general wellbeing.

But, challenging as this time may be, being locked down is not the same as being locked up!

Although the Government has put this system in place we, as individuals, seeing the need for it accepted it voluntarily, even if reluctantly. Being locked down is intended for our safety and protection; being locked up is inflicted upon us against our wills as a consequence of breaking the law and therefore happens as a punishment we deserve.

So we should look for the positives in our situation.

First, we need to remember that though the lockdown may separate us from other people it cannot cut us off from our God. We all know familiar verses of Scripture, such as “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20) and “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5) but perhaps sometimes we quote them too glibly. So we should ask ourselves whether these promises are merely something we acknowledge in our heads or do they bring us comfort

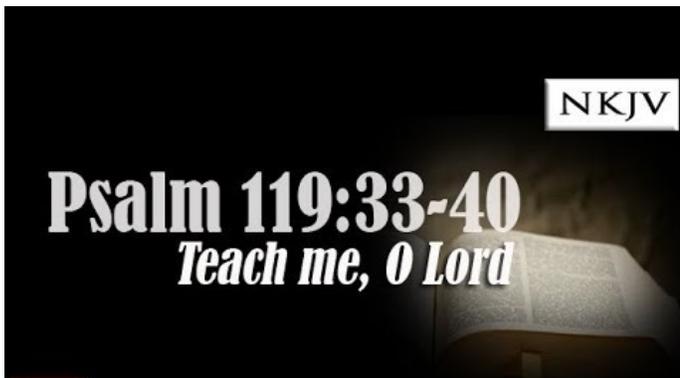
and confidence in our situation? Now is the time to think about what these promises mean, to realize that the God who loves us and gave his Son for us really is here with us, that doors, walls and pandemics can never affect that reality.

Then we need to see that this unusual disruption of our normal life pattern perhaps gives us unusual time to work on our relationship with God. We have the opportunity to evaluate honestly where we are spiritually in our Christian life, what is mere routine and what is real and alive. We may also be able to spend more time in prayer. I’m not suggesting hours at a time(!) but most of us could find in our day several opportunities to have short sessions of praise or intercession - or both.

Sometimes God’s voice to us may be drowned out by the rush of our everyday life. Now we are afforded the opportunity to dig more deeply into his Word. In a recent Bible Society communication I read that during the lockdown in China some Christians were reading up to eighty chapters of the Bible a day! That surely demonstrates the hunger and love they have for the Word through which God speaks to them. Now, I’m not suggesting that we do the same necessarily but it certainly challenges us as to how hungry we are for God’s Word, how much time we are willing to invest to hear God’s voice, how much we **want** to.

Oh, and if we have any time left there are always those little jobs around the house that somehow we’ve never got around to doing!

Dennis R. Read



Having a Teachable Spirit

Psalm 119 v33-40

A good scholar is a person who listens and is willing to be taught. We say that the pupil needs a teachable spirit in order to grow into maturity. This Psalmist understands his spiritual need and makes a plea to the Lord. In this world we will never be satisfied completely with our relationship with the Lord and the need to continually grow in our Christian walk..

The Psalmist pleads with the Lord

'Teach me' v33

'Give me understanding' v34

'Make me walk' v35

'Incline my heart' v36

Each plea for God's help is that he might keep God's teaching and ruling. He wants to be completely committed to them v33 Observing God's word with his whole being v34 and to Revive him to do a new work in his life v40. We can be so busy and yet in these days it has given us opportunity to pause and pray.

He is eager to do God's will because the Psalmist loves God's will and loves God's commandments. It is a sign of being Spiritually live that we love God and keep His commandments.

The Psalmist suggests two ways we may lose heart. In verses 17,22, 23 we read that persecution brought the Psalmist low. Indeed we might feel that we are strong enough in our own strength to withstand the taunts we may experience as Christians, the loss of a job or promotion. It can be morale sapping when this happens but the Psalmist is able to draw upon the Lord's comfort and strength and he makes the plea that he might be delivered from taunts.

The second is the temptations of the world.

Worthless things, emptiness v37.

This can mean worthless conduct, worthless speech, to be deceived by worthless prophecy. In these days on the media many false prophecies can be heard all without biblical foundations. Many see what is happening in the world and try to fit obscure scriptures, out of context, to satisfy the itching ears of their listeners.

We need God's help to see what is of value, 'solid joys and lasting treasures' so that our lives might find what God requires of us V36 just as a servant looks to his master, pays close attention to him and his instructions. The Psalmist asks that he might be turned away from any plan that is not God's plan and that he might not give a half hearted devotion to the Lord.

'Revive me in your righteousness' he asks.

We should long with a great longing for God, for His ways, His word and guidance

If we have fallen away to some degree always remember, as the Psalmist did, that our Lord is persistent and patient.

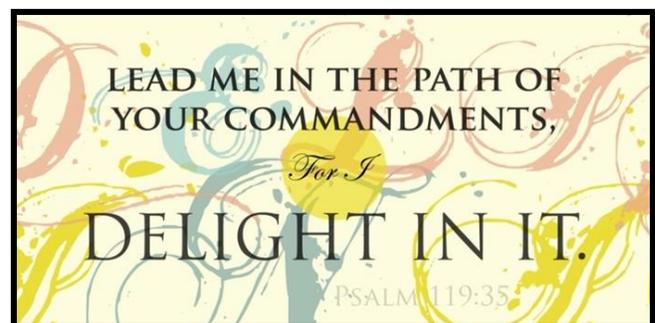
The Lord is able to revive us and to breath new life into our very being, our hearts and minds.

The Psalmist longed for Him, to enjoy His presence and to know His ways. Our obedience to His rule for our life is evidence of His Spirit's working within us.

We see and desire life, His life seen and perceived more within us, more powerfully moving us, and helping others. We look to His Spirit, His righteousness, His goodness, and mercy to continue what the Lord has begun in us.

We are revived and live more fully and abundantly in Him when we have a teachable spirit, a yearning for His word, for holiness and a longing to grow in sanctification.

David Page



Prayers Bible Reading and Hymn

Prayer through Scripture

(From Matthew Henry Method of Prayer)

We give thanks to You, O God; we give thanks to You, for Your name is near. We recount Your wondrous deeds. [Psalm 75:1\(ESV\)](#)

Let our souls bless the LORD, and let all that is within us bless His holy name; yes, let our souls bless the LORD and forget not all His benefits. [Psalm 103:1-2\(ESV\)](#)

We will praise the Lord, for it is good, it is pleasant, [Psalm 92:1\(ESV\)](#) and praise befits the upright; [Psalm 33:1\(ESV\)](#) Yes, it is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning and Your faithfulness by night. [Psalm 92:1-2\(ESV\)](#)

We will extol You, our God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever. Every day we will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever; [Psalm 145:1-2\(ESV\)](#) We will pour forth the fame of Your abundant goodness and sing aloud of Your righteousness. [Psalm 145:7\(ESV\)](#)

We will sing to the LORD a new song and His praise in the assembly of the godly. Let Israel be glad in His Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. [Psalm 149:1-2\(ESV\)](#)

Let the godly exult in glory, and let the high praises of God be in their hearts and in their throats. [Psalm 149:5-6\(ESV\)](#)

We will bless the LORD as long as we live; we will sing praises to our God while we have our being; [Psalm 146:2\(ESV\)](#) and when we have no being on earth, we hope to have a being in heaven, to be doing it better.

Bible Reading Psalm 119 v 33-40

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes,
And I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law;
Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.

36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies,
And not to covetousness.

37 Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things,
And revive me in Your way.

38 Establish Your word to Your servant,
Who is devoted to fearing You.

39 Turn away my reproach which I dread,
For Your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for Your precepts;
Revive me in Your righteousness

Hymn

Verse 1

We've turned from Your ways,
Lord, Your fruit we've ceased to bear,
We lack the power we once knew in our prayers.

Revive us, O Lord;

*And cleanse us from our impurities,
And make us holy.*

Hear our cry and revive us, O Lord.

Verse 2

That gentle voice from heaven

We cease to hear and know,

The fact that He has risen

No longer stirs our souls.

Verse 3

Though we've been unfaithful

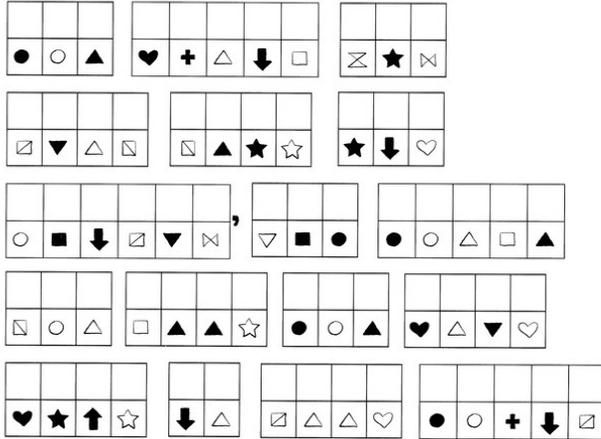
We've never been disowned;

The Spirit that raised Christ from the dead

Compels us to His throne.

GOD MEETS OUR NEEDS

Use the code to fill in the boxes. Then read the Bible verse.

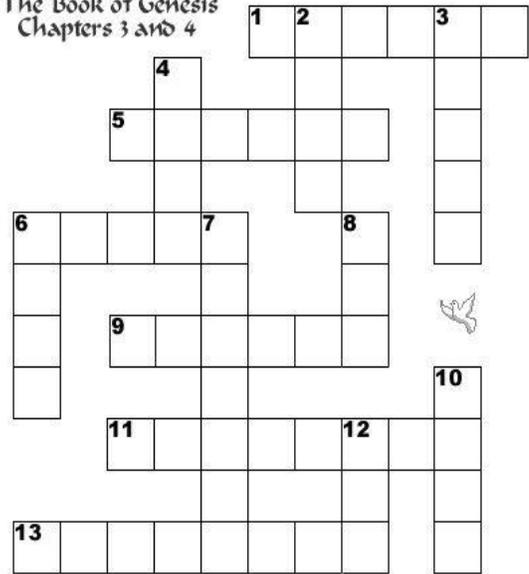


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An extra clue! This is a verse from the Psalms.
 (Niv)

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The Book of Genesis Chapters 3 and 4



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Down

- (2) Adam's second son
- (3) Cain's first son (Gen. 4:17)
- (4) Adam's first son
- (6) Adam's third son
- (7) What creature tempted Eve
- (8) Cain lived in this land
- (10) First man
- (12) First woman

Across

- (1) Cain's occupation (Gen. 4:2)
- (5) The ____ of Eden
- (6) Adam and Eve's first clothes (Gen. 3:21)
- (9) Because of sin the ground was ____ (Gen. 3:17)
- (11) Abel's occupation (Gen. 4:2)
- (13) Cain became a ____ and a vagabond (Gen. 4:12)

There is a prayer meeting for members of Rugby Road every Sunday at 11-00 and 6-30 and Tuesday at 7-30.

It lasts for about an hour and it is on West Worthing Messenger site. We are aware that some would like to participate and don't have computers. So if you would like to join just using your phone sound only please contact me on 01903 786339 and I can arrange to connect you to the prayer meeting.

It lasts about half an hour, the sound quality is good and the prayer works well. It will be a blessing to those already taking part to have more people join us. It is another way to keep in touch.

David Page

