

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday May 17th

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



Look carefully then
how you walk,
not as unwise
but as wise,
making the best
use of the time,
because
the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:15-16

“Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart...”

Walking does not usually grab the limelight but it certainly has recently as Captain (now Honorary Colonel) Tom Moore, the hundred year-old veteran of the Second World War, hit the headlines and became the darling of the media! This intrepid man decided to walk a hundred laps of his garden with his Zimmer frame to raise money for the NHS. We all know how magnificently he succeeded in his aim and in so doing he has shown us the value of putting one foot in front of the other!

However, unlike spectacular activities such as skydiving, abseiling and bungee-jumping, walking causes little comment normally. And yet it is a fundamental means by which we engage in our daily lives. The spectacular is occasional (if at all for some of us!), the unremarkable is the norm.

And so it is spiritually. Some believers seem always in pursuit of the spectacular in their Christian experience, constantly reaching for the next spiritual adrenaline rush. But the overwhelming emphasis in the Bible is on walking. It is true that Paul the Apostle uses many metaphors for the Christian life and that one of those is running a race but I'm pretty certain Paul had in mind a marathon rather than a sprint! And that, like walking, is characterized by steady progress rather than a spectacular spurt.

In biblical terms, walking for the Christian means the settled, steady tenor of his or her whole life. But what characterizes this walk? Well, pre-eminently it is walking before God; remember God's word to Abraham, **“I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless.” (Genesis 17:1).**

In other words, we live in the presence and sight of our Father God and remembering that should radically affect the way we behave.

That inevitably leads to the need to **“walk in the light” (1 John 1:7)**, to have a life that is brought into line with God's truth and law, that shows we have a true relationship with him.

We are also told to **“walk in love” (Ephesians 5:2)**. This love is far from mere sentiment or warm feelings for it is to be patterned on the love of Christ to us. His love was immensely practical, based on no deserving on our part and painfully costly for him. And that is the model he holds up to us.

The King James version renders **Ephesians 5:15** **“Walk circumspectly”** and calls to my mind the picture of a cat making its way along the top of a wall that has pieces of broken glass bottles embedded in it. (Those were pre-Health and Safety days when you could protect your property without being sued by a burglar!) That cat went surefootedly picking his way along the wall with never a bloody paw to show for it! That's how we are meant to pick our way through all the various tricky situations and demands of living in a rebel world.

Of course we can only manage any of this if we **“walk by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16)**. Thank God, we are not left to our own unaided efforts but are promised the grace and help of God's Holy Spirit. So we will walk with hope in our hearts – an everlasting, sure hope - and we will never walk alone.

But it's up to us to walk. You know how to walk, don't you? You just put one foot in front of the other and go!

Dennis R. Read

Psalm 46v4-7

The security that comes in times of extreme Danger.

In verse 4 there is a picture of God's city. The people of God, this one and that one born in her. In God's eyes the people of God are glorious as also Jerusalem is described as glorious.

John Newton's hymn reflects that wonderful truth. 'Glorious things of Thee are spoken' the thought that Jerusalem with it's temple and sacrifice prefiguring our Lord Jesus death and resurrection is glorious to the Lord's people because it speaks of what the Lord has done for us.

Yet in the eyes of the heathen even Jerusalem could not be compared to the great cities of Assyria and Egypt or the great rivers that fuelled the economies of those god-less nations.

The river of Shiloh, which passed through Jerusalem: meant, though the defence seemed small, if God appointed it, it is sufficient. It would seem trivial in the world's eyes but what the world despises makes glad the people of God. God's city is the place of joyful confidence,

Luther paraphrased this verse 4 by saying 'Yet for all the City of God shall maintain its marvellous cheerfulness with its little wells, for there are the holy places of the Most High'.

The channels are little runlets, seemingly insignificant in themselves but together watering the population, feeding them quietly yet sufficiently.

The people receive the Lord's presence gladly in this Psalm. The Lords people are safe when the Lord is with them.

We have here an idyllic picture of God in His temple worshipped while the people of God being fed by the streams of living waters and God protecting His city. The idyllic picture turns sour as the people turn to other nations to protect them which meant apart from the financial cost they received other gods.

God will always help us and He will not be moved. But we have a responsibility, one that the Jews in the city forgot, to have Him Lord of our lives. God is still Sovereign, He did not slink away like some early 20th century King of Europe. As in the past He allowed nations to destroy Jerusalem and even the temple He will in His loving mercy deal with us. As Jerusalem forsook her protector she had to learn a hard lesson to come back to God.

We should fear not even in these seemingly uncertain times as we see the nations shaking.

When the dangers of the night are past then the morning of God's help comes.

'His steadfast love never ceases. His mercies are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness.'

God's faithfulness is effective because He is in the midst of His people..

See the promises, feed on the promises in the end of this Psalm.

**The God of Hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
AMEN!**

David Page



The Beatitudes

~Matthew 5:3-10



- _____ are the merciful:
- Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the _____ of God.
- Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be _____.
- Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the _____.
- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be _____.
- Blessed are the pure in _____: for they shall see God.
- Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of _____.
- Blessed are they which do _____ and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- Blessed are the meek: for they shall _____ the earth.
- Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the _____ of heaven.
- Blessed are the _____: for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are the _____: for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain _____.
- Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the _____: for they shall be called the children of God.
- Blessed are the _____ in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are the _____ in heart: for they shall see God.
- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after _____: for they shall be filled.
- Blessed are the poor in _____: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they which do hunger and _____ after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Prayer based on Psalm 46

**God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
The Lord of hosts is with us!
The God of Jacob is our fortress
God alone is our shelter and strength.
God alone defends and protects us.
Come, see the glorious things that our God can do!
Be still in God's presence.
Know that God alone is the one true God.
He will be honoured throughout the earth;
He will be honoured in every nation.
God alone is our shelter and strength.
God alone defends and protects us**

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He, whose Word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove:
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,
See the cloud and fire appear,
For a glory and a cov'ring,
Showing that the Lord is near;
Thus deriving from our banner
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which He gives them when they pray.

Blest inhabitants of Zion,
Washed in the Redeemer's blood!
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to God;
'Tis His love His people raises
Over self to reign as kings,
And as priests, His solemn praises
Each for a thank off'ring brings.

Saviour, if of Zion's city,
I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name;
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.

Bible Reading Psalm 46 v4-7

There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

6 The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;
He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we turn our hearts to you. You are utterly faithful, and you have never failed us. Grant us hope, strength and mercy in our time of need. Enable us to throw our cares onto you, our mighty God.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those touched by the corona virus, those who face sorrow, fear, illness and isolation. We ask for compassion, love, healing, and kindness. Make us a people living in your perfect love that we may drive away fear.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for wisdom and clarity for those making key decisions, for scientists, medical experts, politicians and public health officials. We pray for acts of kindness to spread in every community. Enable us to be quick to see need and respond in gracious and loving ways. Take us through this time of trial.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

In Jesus' name
Amen

Evangelical Alliance