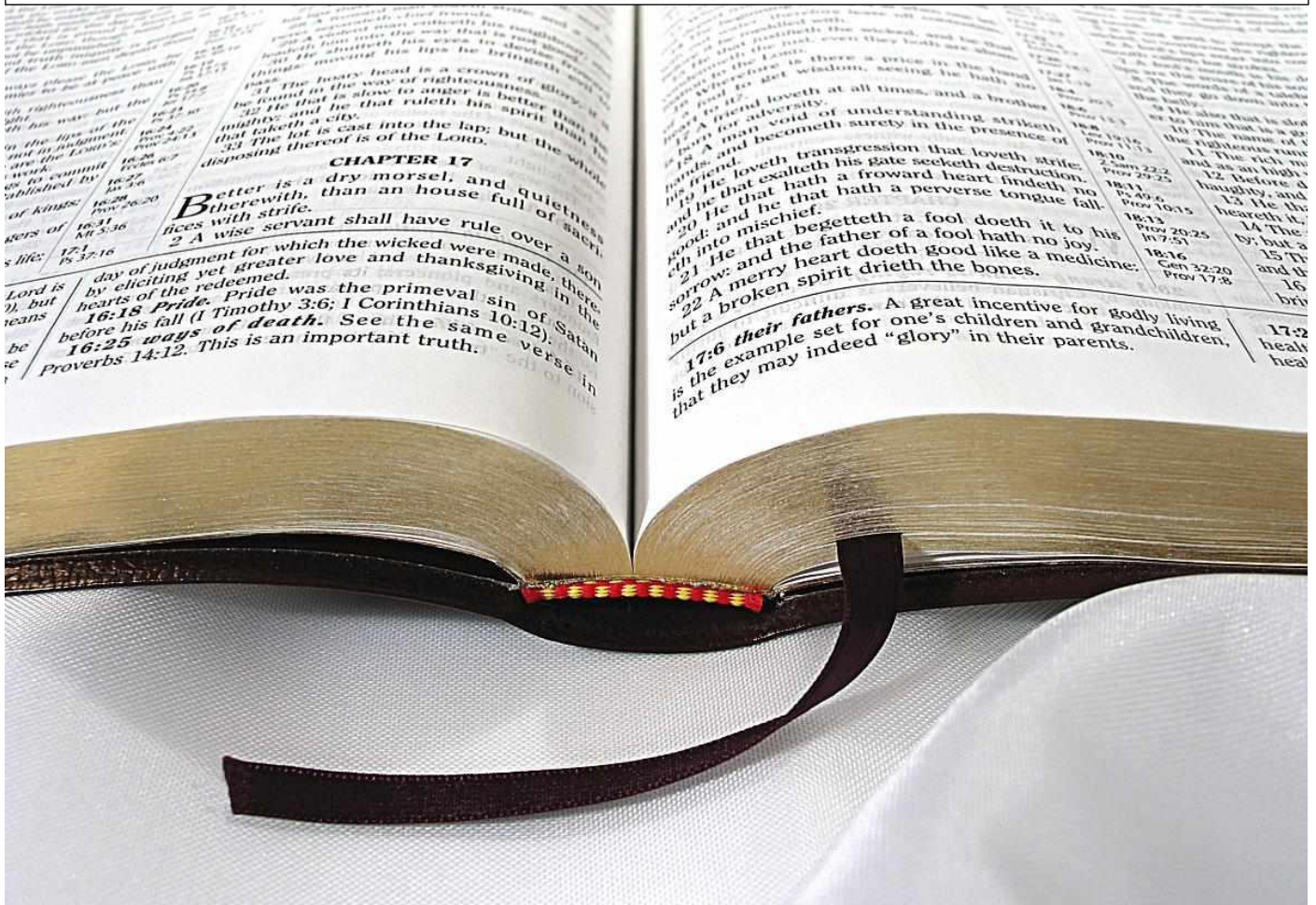




Truth To Wonder

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Living In Thankfulness

We are greatly blessed as a family to have a good-sized garden to enjoy. In my fallen nature however, I often complain about the constant upkeep it requires to keep it all safe and respectable (we live near a public park where nettles, weeds, thorns and the like sneak into our borders). As September began, I looked out onto the garden and saw how the large trees lining the road outside our garden were beginning to shed their sea of leaves. It's the time of year I dread as the sheer volume of leaves to rake up is challenging! A few days later, as I stiffened the sinews to tackle the lawn of leaves, I was much relieved to see what had developed overnight. On looking out onto the garden, I saw that the vastly strewn leaves had been blown together into a very convenient row along the pathway. This meant that the back breaking work had been significantly reduced, all because of a favourable wind overnight. As trivial as it all might sound, I was grateful to God for easing the load on my already struggling body.

As we walk through autumnal days, we are greeted by occasions of which we are to be greatly thankful unto God to enjoy. There is the season of harvest, with many churches coming together for happy times of fellowship as we thank God for the food with which we eat every day. There is Bonfire Night, a time of right thanksgiving unto God for His protection of King James and his parliament. This protection being against the murderous treachery of Guy Fawkes and his Jesuit led co-conspirators. Through God's protection of this government, the AV/KJV Bible was gifted unto the world. A supreme translation of God's Pure Word that has brought light and life to countless millions across the centuries. There is of course the fast-approaching celebrations of Christmas and New Year. The first, a time when we can come together as believers in great and awe filled thanksgiving for the sending of the Son of God in the flesh of man. This He did so that through His death and resurrection, we might live in glory with Him. The second in New Year celebrations, is a chance to give heartfelt thanks for the blessings and provisions of God for each of us in the past year. It is also a time to seek His loving provision and guidance for the upcoming year, in fullness of trust that He is with us always.



As we hurtle through the calendar and hurriedly fulfil each occasion, we are to be disciplined of heart. In this discipline of our hearts, we are to question ourselves as to whether we do ever really stop and give real, true thanksgiving to God for all His mercies? Too often I hurry through such times, with one eye already fixed on preparations for the next event. You may be the same. By living in such a manner, we harm ourselves and deny God His due glory. A heavy thought indeed, but one that holds true when investigated.

When we hurry through our thanksgiving to God for all His tender mercies, we rob ourselves of blessed moments of respite and relief. This relief being peaceful times of coming away from the stresses, strains, demands and expectations of modern life. We are to be at rest in God, and this is done most effectively in true, heartfelt thanksgiving. For in such times of grateful reflection, we are reminded of our own frailties and God's immensity of love towards us. It rightly humbles us and glorifies God. We are reminded in the

gentlest and most loving of ways, that we are greatly limited in what we can ever accomplish through our own efforts. We are reminded that we stumble in our walk with God with too great a frequency. Yet we are also reminded of how eternally good He is in that despite all of what we are, He seeks to draw us close to Him each day.

In short, we are reminded, through thanksgiving, of how loved we are by Almighty God. This is the beautiful fulfilling of Acts 20:35, where we are told it is more blessed to give than to receive. What a heavenly truth this is to revel in! For when we offer simple but true thanks unto God for the daily wealth of mercies He grants us each day, we see how much mightily loved we are by Him! And isn't that all that we all are looking for? To be loved! How we can know that we are loved by a thrice holy Living God through such a simple act as heartfelt thankfulness!

In thankfulness we bend our knee in willing, joyful ease of spirit, because we see with our own heart that we are not owed anything by God. All is given to us in His grace, despite of ourselves, not because of ourselves. We see that only a truly gracious, generous, merciful and loving God can move in such majestic ways. And He does not do this for just one soul, but for all who would call on Him! We see that He has opened our eyes to the glorious truth. That it is by His only Begotten Son Jesus Christ that we are able to know and enjoy His everlasting love. To revel in this truth is to profess with the most ardent of affirmations that you believe that He is all that He has said He is, and that the fullness of His glory has been revealed in the Son, Christ Jesus.

In thankfulness, we are preached to our own hearts the truth, the purity, the faithfulness, the strength and the love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not by the tongues of men but by the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. He who confirms to our heart that Christ Jesus is the Son of God and the Redeemer of repentant hearts. He confirms to us that we are loved with an everlasting love and that our end is an expected end. That end being a place prepared for us in our Father's house, where we will dwell with our Saviour and bask in His glory forevermore. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Coping With Rejection

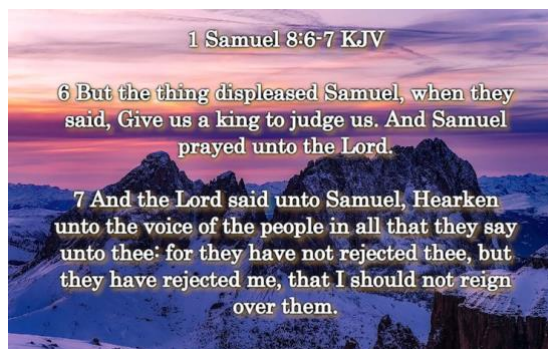
1 Samuel 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

In the closing of the age of the Judges in the Old Testament, we read of how Samuel's sons did not follow the Lord as Samuel had done so faithfully. Instead of seeking the Lord's leading that He might provide them with another wise and Godly leader (as He had done for centuries), the people asked Samuel that they might have a king over them.

One can only imagine the deep wound that such a request would've made to the heart of Samuel. He had devoted his life to serving the Lord and His people. He had led his nation faithfully in God's name throughout, only for them now to turn their back on it all. Bitterness, confusion, anger and maybe even resentment may have bubbled in the blood of Samuel at this thankless request.

However, God is kind to His faithful servants, and assures Samuel that it is not him that the people have rejected, but the Lord. God was to lift the wounding from Samuel's weak and mortal shoulders, and take the heavy pain onto His own mighty, eternal shoulders. In doing so, the Lord healed Samuel's wounds, restored his peace, and showed His incredible meekness and longsuffering nature to a nation who were turning away from Him.

The longsuffering response of God to His people the Israelites, reveals to us the great gulf between the heart of man and the heart of God. The Israelites had known the Lord's provision for over 400 years, as God had sent them Judges to lead them as a nation before Him. Yet as the sons of Samuel failed to follow the faithful steps of their father, the nation showed exactly where their faith truly lay. They had put their hope in Samuel and his offspring, rather than in the Lord. A great fault repeated many times through history, as people put their faith in God's servants over the God that gave them the servant.



The Lord had given them all the faithful Judges they had been blessed under for many centuries, all without fail. Yet their hearts yearned for a kingly dynasty, in unity with the rest of the world. The Lord however, was faithful throughout. When Israel had drifted away from Him and His loving commandments, He called out to them to return unto Him. He blessed them with good and Godly Judges to lead them in the days of their infancy as a nation. God's desire was consistent throughout, that His people would stay with Him always, and desire no one else but Him to rule over them.

Yet when the people turned away from God, and instead desired to be as other godless nations in having a fallen and sinful man rule over them instead, God warned them of their folly. He warned them of the miseries that they were inviting into their lives. The Israelites though persisted in their wish for a king, and so God in His longsuffering nature, gave them what they wanted. Here we see the faithfulness and patience of God in stark contrast to the fickle, ungrateful and impatient nature of humanity.

The enormity of God's wondrous nature continues to be discovered further though, even in this sad hour of abandonment by His people towards Him. In the pain of this rejection, God shows His unending, unswerving love towards His faithful servants. Though God is the one rejected, He is not selfish of heart to sit in a wounded state as is the preserve of the false gods of pagan nations. Countless tales in pagan mythology speak of jilted gods hastily pouring out their anger against humanity for even the slightest failure to please their fickle natures. Instead, God sees the pain of rejection Samuel was suffering at the hands of this thankless request from the people. So, God moved to soothe the hurt heart of Samuel, seeking to care for His beloved adopted son.

When we face similar rejection, though we have served faithfully in the name of God, we are to remember this gracious interaction between God and Samuel. We are to be humble and remember that the rejection is of God, not us. So, we should not take the blow that was aimed at God. When we do so, we admit our own human weaknesses and our need for the Lord to fight our battles for us. Herein is a wonder of God's own nature that we are drawn close to see in such painful times. That being His longsuffering nature; His strength in the face of rejection; His compassion to those who experience such wounding events. We see how He truly knows our struggles and moves to bring us comfort and healing. Truly there is no god that can ever compare to the majesty of the Living God. Let us not seek after 'worldly kings' to lead us through our days of life. They will always fail us and wound us. Let us learn from Holy Scripture, that when Christ Jesus is our King, then peace will be ours always.

By Jonathan Badger

The Timid Will Speak

Deuteronomy 32:1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

Many times, we are timid in our speech. We fear the opinions of others and lose our voices over worry that we will lose people's respect. How many times has a helpful and God honouring word been choked down by such fear of man?! You likely know this to be true, as fear of man may have paralysed your tongue from speaking a good and kind word of faith. All for fear of losing respect, of losing a good reputation amongst the people. Such a wounding this is to the one who needed to hear the truth of God's Word that stirred in your heart. It is also a great wounding to your own heart, as you walk away knowing that a chance to speak of Christ was not seized. You may have gained the temporary pleasing of others, but you have sacrificed the pleasing of God in its place. This is a mighty wound to the spirit of the believer in Christ, one that can even haunt a lifetime.

However, see in the opening words of Deuteronomy 32, how Moses, a self-declared man of slow tongue (Exodus 4:10) and meekest in all the earth (Numbers 12:3), commands the very heavens and earth to pause in their continuing vocations. He does so so that they may hear the name of God glorified. What manner of boldness is this that's stirred within the once timid heart of Moses? It wasn't anger, frustration, ambition or any other fallen trait of man. It was a fullness of awe; a deep spirit held joy in the goodness and grace of the Lord God Almighty.

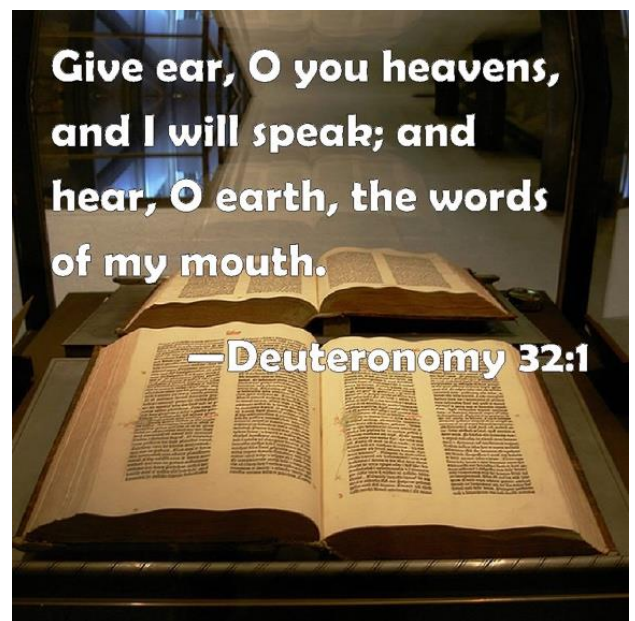
The Holy Spirit testified to Moses' spirit that all Creation is made by the Lord, through the Lord and for the Lord (Colossians 1:16). So then, as all Creation groans under the weight of sin (Romans 8:22), will it not delight to hear of the goodness of the one who will make all things new?! (Revelation 21:5)

The Holy Spirit employs the redeemed soul to magnify the Lord God (Luke 1:46), by calling upon the mightiest elements of Creation to tremble in awe before the name of Christ Jesus. This is the boldness, the very assurance of God that drove Moses to speak so commandingly, yet so adoringly of the Lord.

May we speak with such boldness; with such conviction of heart, that we may bid all to pause and hear the name of the Lord Jesus be glorified by the tongue of redeemed mankind.

When we consider how good He is to stir up His name to be sung by the lips of those He has made clean (Isaiah 6), we cannot help but marvel further at the immensity of His grace and love. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He who is our Lord and Master, as testified to our spirit by the Holy Spirit Himself, all to the eternal glory of our Heavenly Father. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger



Not Forgetting Others When Joyful

Back in the summer of 2006, two European football heavyweights faced off in the World Cup Final. France, filled with players who had already cemented legendary status, went up against a strong and skilful Italian team.

Come the end of a pulsating match, the Italians stood victorious. The victory was sealed by a goal from the great Italian striker Alessandro Del Piero. The French team were crestfallen, having led the match early on. Not long later however, they were forced to play the remainder with 10 men, due to Zinedine Zidane's violent head-butt on Marco Materazzi (who had been vulgarly provoking Zidane all match).

As the wild celebrations began at the full-time whistle, Del Piero was seen rushing over to his strike partner at club level, David Trezequet, who was sunk low in defeat as part of the beaten French team. He consoled his friend and reminded him of previous triumphs, before assuring him that other triumphs would come in later days. All this whilst Del Piero's jubilant teammates celebrated loudly around them.

Quickly after this, Del Piero disappeared down the players tunnel and found the heartbroken Zidane, who was stood alone in his despair in the dark corridor. Surprised to see Del Piero (an old teammate at Juventus), Zidane asked, "You left the celebration to come here?" Del Piero responded, "Joy won't make me forget my friend." Zidane hugged him, took off his shirt, signed it and said in Del Piero's native Italian, "Thank you my friend. You're the best I've played with. You deserve this win."

This scene of a man not selfishly indulging in his moment of victory, but instead seeking out his heartbroken friends to comfort them and give them hope, is a reminder of the very love of Christ Jesus. That love that was witnessed by all Creation that blessed Easter Sunday morning. As the frightened and confused Mary Magdalene wept over what she thought was the loss of the body of her beloved Master, Christ Jesus came to her. It was His moment of triumph, His glorious victory over sin and death. Yet His joy did not make Him forget His friend. Instead, He came to her and broke her tears with a loving speaking of her name. So, Mary was comforted, as she gazed upon the friend of sinners, and her heart declared that He alone is the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.



As believers, we are to follow such an example given to us by our Lord Jesus. During a joyful event or moment, we are not to forget the suffering of others. We are to rejoice with them that rejoice, and weep with them that weep (Romans 12:15). Thereby, we may live the compassion of Christ, giving a witness to the heartbroken of the hope that can be found in Him alone.

It is also a marker of the goodness of God, that He sets out such little reminders of His love towards sinners. This being done through such everyday events as seen in

the interaction between Del Piero and Zidane. If we are nothing but a soulless assembly of cells that have come together by mere accident, why are we moved to such displays of compassion? Such actions of love declare the chemistry alone cannot form even the most basic of heartfelt emotions.

There is ample evidence of the existence of God, and daily witnesses of how He has revealed Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ. If we look for them with earnestness, we see them surround us every day. Thus, we are moved from faith to faith, and our passion and desire is to be more like our Lord and Saviour every passing hour, all to the glory of God. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

A Refiner of Silver – Malachi 3:3

A group of women were studying Malachi 3:3, and they were puzzled by the image of God sitting as a refiner and purifier of silver. So, one of the women volunteered to find out about the process of refining silver from a silversmith.

The woman went to see a silversmith go about his work but did not explain why she was studying his craft. She sat quietly observing the silversmith as he held a piece of silver in the middle of the fire. He explained that he had to place the silver piece in the hottest part of the fire to remove all the impurities of the precious metal. This caused the woman to reflect on how God often holds us in the midst of testing times to remove our sinful ways, drawing her mind back to Malachi 3:3.

She later asked the silversmith if he had to sit there with the silver piece the entire time? He responded that he not only had to remain holding the piece the entire time, but also keep a very close eye on the metal. That was because if the silver was left in the fire a moment too long, it would be damaged. The woman questioned further by asking how did he know when the silver was fully refined? The silversmith replied, 'When I see my face in it.'



Our Lord works just like a silversmith, exactly as depicted in Malachi 3:3. He refines His children in the same expert manner. Not only that, but He has worked in the same manner with His Word the Holy Bible. As the generations passed, the refining fires of persecution, caused the creating of the Pure Word of God to be gifted unto mankind as seen in A.V/KJV Bible. He watched over the whole process, and when He saw His perfect image in the text, He pulled it from the fires and gave it unto mankind. We hold a refined treasure in our hands, so we must use it with awe and reverence, for it is the very Pure Word of God. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Lazarus And The Rich Man – Luke 16:19-31

This sobering tale given by Christ is well known by many. The account speaks of a poor beggar called Lazarus, who sat at the door of a rich man each day, hoping to gain the crumbs from the table of the sumptuous feasts put on by the wealthy man.

This man's wealth was significant, as he dressed in the most expensive and regal of fabrics that was 'purple and fine linen'. The man's affluence was plentiful enough to provide poor Lazarus with all the things that he needed, all without making any indentation to the pockets of the rich man. However, the rich man never made any attempt to bring any aid or relief to poor Lazarus. Such a wilful refusal to share his abundance with those who were lacking, goes against the nature of God, who 'withholds no good thing' from those that walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11).

Yet, some may argue that maybe the rich man was simply unaware of poor Lazarus, and that had he known about the sad plight of this broken-down beggar, he would've helped him. Sadly, the evidence speaks otherwise. As we see in verse 24, the rich man has died and gone to hell for his defiance against the Word of God. Here he implores Abraham to send Lazarus down to him to bring him just a finger drop of water. This minute amount of cooling liquid was so longed for, out of the intensity of torment that the rich man endured persistently in hell.

As you may have noticed, the rich man asks for Lazarus by name to be sent to him. To know Lazarus' name, he must have been familiar with the man and therefore known of his sad situation when he lived in mortal days. So, we see that the rich man's refusal to help suffering Lazarus was tragically a knowing refusal, all whilst he had ample resources to aid the poor beggar.

Now some may say that whilst the rich man's refusal to help Lazarus whilst the two were alive was awful, it's still not as bad as eternally punishing him for a crime done in the briefness of time on Earth. Isn't there some imbalance of justice here? An interesting thought, but before anyone races after this idea that God may judge unfairly, let's review the details of the case further.

Lazarus had been a beggar at the door of the rich man for a long time, long enough for the rich man to know of him and indeed his name! Lazarus' condition was so severe, that the rich man's guard dogs (hardly known for their gentleness!) took pity on him by licking his sores to offer some relief. Here we see one level of condemnation against the rich man. That even the guard dogs, who lack the conscientiousness of man, could discern that Lazarus was suffering and moved to bring some small degree of relief to his plight. How selfish and cruel must have the rich man been, at his very core, for even aggressive guard dogs to be more compassionate to Lazarus than he was?!

When Lazarus dies, he is taken up by angels to be embraced by Abraham and thus be comforted after all the years of pain and misery he suffered. Whereas the rich man, awakens to find himself in hell, forever tormented for his wilful disregard of God's Word. Let us remember, that the Levitical Law gave clear instruction for the wealthy to provide necessary care for the impoverished. That Law had been established for 1500 years by this point, so the rich man could again, not plead ignorance on the matter. He lived in knowing defiance of God's command to care of the poor and lived instead for his own pleasure. Now the time for reckoning on his crimes had come.

The rich man thus finds himself in hell for his actions and wilful refusal to submit to the Word of God. The torment is so severe, as previously mentioned, that when he throws his eyes upwards in agony, he sees Abraham embracing Lazarus. Between them however, is a large chasm that cannot be closed, as the time for repentance has closed.

The rich man cries out for Abraham to send Lazarus with a drop of water and place it on his flame dried tongue. Do you notice something here? Something that speaks of the still truly wicked heart of the rich man...Something that God knows and has judged to be worthy of eternal punishment. It is the wilful refusal to change. The rich man, though in the torment of hell, can still see those in Paradise. Part of the torment of the wicked seems to be that they are made aware of the glory that they spurned whilst they lived in sin on Earth in their mortal days.



The rich man can see Lazarus in the comforting arms of Abraham, and yet the rich man does something that confirms that God's seemingly harsh judgment of Him is truly just and wise. The rich man knows Lazarus by name and had likely seen him many times in the flesh. However, he had never laid eyes on Abraham before as Abraham would've lived nearly 2000 years before him. The rich man does not cry out to the man he knows, but to Abraham. Why? Remember that Abraham was an extremely wealthy and powerful man, a man who kings gave respect to. The rich man was quick to recognise the prestige of Abraham, a man he'd never seen before, over the recognition of a poor beggar that he'd known in the flesh. The rich man, even in this torment of hell, could not bring himself to recognise the humble and lowly Lazarus. That coldness of pride and refusal to do God's will still sat deep in his heart, and so his punishment would continue on to match his continuing pride.

Furthermore, note how the rich man, still wilfully refusing to speak directly to the once beggar that is Lazarus, instructs Abraham to use Lazarus as a servant and place the requested water on his tongue. Again, the superior nature of the rich man is on full display and refuses to be quenched even by the fires of hell! Thus, the chasm between hell and paradise is fixed, because the proud hearts of those in hell will never move one inch towards the selfless love of God.

As we can see then, God's judgment of the rich man is wise and just. An eternal punishment to fit an eternal crime. The rich man even in the deepest of torments, would not relinquish his superiority and pride of heart. As a result, his own actions would dictate his placing in hell for eternity.

It is a sobering tale to all those who live in wilful defiance of God's Word, and instead entrench themselves in their own proud ways. We must thank God that He broke our pride, so that we will not cry out for water in our thirst but we will be in Paradise just like Lazarus. In that spirit of thankfulness, let us seek to warn others of the peril they face, and that the hour of salvation is now! Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

History of *Jesus Lover Of My Soul*

The tenderness of song can sometimes be the surest expression of a heart's belonging unto the Lord God. A man who knew this well was Charles Wesley, the great hymn writer and brother of the world-famous preacher John Wesley.

Both Charles and John were greatly blessed to have been born into a faithful Christian family. Their father Samuel was a preacher, and their mother Susannah worked faithfully to support her husband's work and teach their children of the Lord and His Word. Yet despite this wonderful blessing of God to all the Wesley children, Charles and John both grew up wrestling with whether their sins were forgiven and the great question of assurance of salvation.

It was by the witnessing of the Moravians, namely Peter Bohler, that opened these great minds to the heart known truth of justification by faith alone. At last, the constant strain of trying to achieve God's love and acceptance through holy living and righteous deeds had been brought to rest. On May 21st 1738, Charles Wesley found peace with God through the full and final atonement of sin made by Christ Jesus on the Cross at Calvary. After years of pursuing Christ, joy eternal had entered Charles' heart (and not much later, his brother John's). Emboldened with the zeal of salvation,

Charles preached the Gospel with passion, boldness, truth and love. Yet his greatest gift of the expression of the glory of Christ Jesus, would be found through his musical ability, namely hymn writing.

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul

Words by Charles Wesley
Music by Joseph Parry

With feeling ♩ = 90

1. Je - su, Lover of my soul,
2. Ode - er - ref - uge have I none,
(Times 3 and 4 see Book lyrics)

let
my
to
help
Thy
less
bo - som
on
fly,
Thee;

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On the first anniversary of his conversion to Christ Jesus, Charles wrote the opening words to the hymn *Jesus Lover Of My Soul*. The opening lines of that much loved hymn speaks eloquently of the joy that Charles had found within Christ Jesus. Those words sing:

**Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!**

Within these opening lines, we see the surging joy of the redeemed heart in Christ. How it yearns with unrivalled passion to sing the praises of the One who has delivered it from death and unto life eternal. We see the humility of the reborn heart, as it claims no victory outside of knowing Christ Jesus. We witness a life that delights in magnifying the glory of God. This being in the same manner that Mary sung in humble adoration of God, when she was told that she would carry God Incarnate in her womb.

Such God glorifying words formed part of some 9000 hymns that Charles would write. Yet strangely this beautiful song of praise would not be published in its fullness until 9 years after Charles' death. Some claim that this was due to his brother John believing that the song was too sentimental to be used as a hymn.

Similarly shrouded in mystery is the inspiration for this moving hymn. One popular thought is that a little bird flew in Charles' room one day seeking refuge from the harsh weather outside. Not content with this shelter, it then sought further protection in the folds of Charles' coat. This scene gave Charles the picture of a believer flying to the Lord's embrace for their protection. Whether or not this tale is true is unknown.

Perhaps this mystery is the greatest testament to the truth of the words of the hymn. Such is the rich emotion of the hymn that its origin is known only to the hearts of both God and Charles. That wonderfully sheltered relationship between Redeemer and redeemed is known singularly and uniquely between each of God's children and Himself. There are many moments of delight in God company that my tongue can never do justice to. They are quietly kept in my heart and known by Him and that is all that is needed to bring right and good praise to God. Come the eternal days of glory in Heaven, the tales of these grand days of happy communion with God will fill air peaceful air. Come Lord, speed that blessed day we pray! Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Abandon Genesis, Abandon Hope

As the darker nights draw in, its parallel is easily found reflected in many Western nations. Hardly a day goes by without some deeply troubling news story filling our minds. Whether this be economic woes; the healthcare crisis; the housing crisis; immigration control; social disorder; wars and rumours of wars etc, etc. In short, our nation is reeling.

The speed of this downturn, from the days of New Labour dancing onto the stage in 1997 to the song 'Things can only get better', to the turmoil we are witnessing every day is striking. As a child of the 80/90's, the optimism that filled many in the late 90's has been completely lost. Instead, many of my generation are sat reflecting on the world that was and how it was lost.

To spare the reader a book length sociological treatise on the matter, I shall instead provide an answer to this question with a shorter theological response. The reason why we are seeing such a widespread collapse on all fronts of society, is because the nation has abandoned Genesis 9:1-17. That's the reason, pure and simple. There will be some experienced believers, who on reading that statement, will know exactly what I'm trying to say in just that very brief observation. For others though, let's explore why I have come to such a succinct conclusion on such a widespread matter.

In Genesis 9:1-17, we have the Noahic Covenant established by God with Creation. This covenant has never been revoked by God but will last for 'perpetual generations' (Genesis 9:12). The sealing or 'token' of this covenant is the implementing of the rainbow. A 'token' as correctly translated in the A.V/KJV Bible, is an item or thing that points to something greater. The rainbow is a token that is engineered by God. Its purpose is so that all who gaze upon one, are reminded of the mercy, provision and faithfulness of God. How gracious a God is the God of the Holy Bible, that even after the tremendous evil of the Pre-Flood world, and the continuing fallen nature of each generation of mankind (Genesis 8:21), that He still offers a stable environment in which we might come to a saving faith in Christ Jesus! The rainbow, therefore, is the clear sign to all Creation throughout the generations, of the very nature of God.



The rainbow is God's bow in the sky, a token of His loving and provision filled nature. Interestingly, many false gods, often associated with Satan (such as Nimrod), also depict a god carrying a bow. Their bow is not a bow of peace and hope however, but one of war. This corruption of the bow of God, is a direct spiritual attack against the throne of God by the forces of darkness.

As Satan looks to usurp the throne of God, he looks to pervert the Word of God and His ordinations. Within Genesis 9:1-17, we have God's provision for a stable and fruitful society. They are safeguards against confusion, division, lawlessness and wickedness. These safeguards are established by God through the Noahic Covenant as a means of ensuring the welfare of mankind; a mankind God loves so deeply that He have His only Begotten Son to redeem. Yet Satan hates all that God loves, and he goes about as a roaring lion seeking to devour what God has given life and provision to (1 Peter 5:8). So, Satan has set his bow of war against the safeguards established by God in Genesis 9:1-17. His aim, to corrupt God's Word, usurp His throne and enslave the crowning glory of God's Creation that is mankind. This is the immensity of battle we face. A battle not against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities, rulers of darkness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

In Genesis 9:1-17, we read of a society that is to be established and upheld by the Word of God. A society founded and continued upon His safeguards for our good and His glory. Firstly, that we should be fruitful and multiply through relationships that are able to naturally procreate. Secondly, enjoy the wealth of God's provision through the consuming of meats. Thirdly, oversee a justice system that recognises and enforces the sanctity of life. Fourthly, responsibly utilise the resources of the earth for the benefit of mankind and have dominion over God's creation through effective stewardship of it.

These clear, easily understood guidelines for a God blessed society, have been enjoyed by many western nations for centuries. When these societies/nations have adhered to God's ordination for mankind and the structuring of a society, it has enjoyed consistent provision and blessing. This is the world we had known for many years. A world some of us can still remember the last flickering embers illuminating our lives. Those of us who never dreamt of existing in a land where people would be questioning 'What is a woman?' A land where it is a literal crime to upload a comment that some faceless stranger somewhere takes offense at because of their personal sensitivities and life choices. A land where shoplifting is rampant and violent crime is seen as a far lesser blight on society than the aforementioned 'hate speech'. A land where elderly patients are left to die alone and in terrible condition in hospital corridors, as people rush past to and fro without time to offer help. A land where the populace is made to feel guilty for utilising resources such as oil for our

wealth of everyday comforts, or meat for our physical nourishment. A land where it is legal to assist someone in taking their life when they are deeply vulnerable. A land where funding is being used to bring about procreation via three persons. We could go on and on. The world my generation remembers would be aghast by what we are embracing today. All this has taken place because of an abandoning of God's safeguards against rulers of darkness in high places. The safeguards given in the Noahic Covenant as seen in Genesis 9:1-17.

How can we know that such societal developments are being led by the powers and principalities as warned against in Ephesians 6:12. As ever, we can know this through the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. In His interaction with the demoniac of Gadarene, we see alarming similarities between the behaviours of the legion of devils that possessed that poor man, and the movements we see in modern societies.

The Gadarene demoniac, otherwise known by the name given as 'Legion' when Christ asked the man's name, displayed key corruptions of many of the safeguards given in the Noahic Covenant seen in Genesis 9:1-17. Indeed, those enslaved to such dark forces demonstrate these same behaviours with strange consistency. This points to an overarching battle unseen by our eyes but very real.

Firstly, those enslaved to darkness often have a fascination with death. The Gadarene demoniac, or Legion, spent many of his hours in the graveyards of the region. What do we see today in our society but an ever-increasing fascination with death, often violent death. Much of streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+, etc are loaded with shows and films such as *Squid Games*, *K-Pop Demon Hunters*, *The Walking Dead*, *Wednesday*, *Final Destination*, *Saw*, *The Conjuring*, etc, etc. What was once the preserve of underground, seedy cinemas and theatres, is now the predominant genre of mainstream entertainment. The expanse of this demonic wave is so widespread amongst even children now, that the latest toy craze of Labubu dolls, is an open, barefaced reimagining of elves and sprites from Nordic paganism (bearing many hallmarks of demonic worship).

Secondly, those so plagued by demonic forces, can have an enforced desire for celibacy. Whilst there are those called to be single in service of the Lord (such as the Apostle Paul), they are the exception, not the rule. The rule has never been revoked from the Noahic Covenant, that mankind is to be fruitful and multiply. Satan remember, seeks to pervert or invert the ordained Word of God. So, where God says 'multiply', he says 'decrease'. A widely popular ideology amongst many of the intelligentsia and elite, is for human depopulation (David Attenborough supports this idea for example). The belief is that for the good of 'Mother Earth', the global population needs to decrease. This stands against the Holy Bible and God's ordination as seen in Genesis 9:1-17.

This increasing push for depopulation has been furthered by a growing crisis in many developed countries. Many of the younger generations are shunning normal human relationships, in favour of 'relationships' with AI based identities. This problem is particularly prevalent in Japan, where many young men are refusing to enter human relationships with women, because they are 'too much hard work'. They contend that AI based 'women' do not argue with them, but instead support and encourage them and do not demand and 'nag'. In their minds, what benefit is to be found in engaging in a relationship with a modern woman? One who refuses to listen, is constantly demanding, and offers little in return. As a result, there is a huge population crisis that means that in the not-too-distant future, Japan's economy could collapse. All because the aging population cannot be supported economically by the dwindling numbers of the young.



Widespread celibacy creates significant problems for humanity, a longstanding goal of Satan. Hence, many who walk in such darkness, whether knowingly or not, engage in a life that is devoid of secure, marriage-based family that offers a consistent framework for the continued benefit of a society/nation. As a little side note, consider how many of the world's false religions enforce celibacy amongst their priestly ranks! Interesting thought isn't it!

Thirdly, those ensnared by Satan's darkness, often seek to invert God's ordination that mankind is to eat meat. What have we witnessed in the last decade in our own supermarkets? The explosion of veganism! No longer a preserve of the 'eccentric' few, veganism has become something akin to a moral 'crusade'. We are told consistently that what's best for our bodies and for 'Mother Earth' (her again!), is to abandon meat eating and dairy consumption. Instead, we are to live on fruits, vegetables, lentils, nuts etc. If we refuse to do so, we are effectively made to feel guilty that we are harming

ourselves and the Earth! Recently, a veganism festival was held two miles from my door, in a local church! The inverting of God's Word was taking place in what is meant to be His house!

Also, Satan has a fascination with bringing everything together as 'one', as witnessed in the events of the Tower of Babel. Why? Because it subverts the ordination of God as seen in the unrevoked Noahic Covenant of Genesis 9:1-17. The command to fill the earth and subdue it.

If you are over the age of 35, you will likely remember a world very different to the one we live in today. Each little town was distinct from the next. Communities were smaller and facilities/services were smaller but more plentiful. For instance, the local doctor's surgery had actual doctors (not 'associate physicians') that would come out to you when ill! When I told my teenage daughter this, she didn't believe me! Also, each little suburb had a post office, bank, butcher, baker, corner shop, hairdresser etc. This meant that a family could easily live day to day within a mile radius. As a result, communities were nurtured, traffic was calmer, life was less hectic and Biblical principles of life were upheld through the common application of them. The demise of smaller communities has seen the increase in much larger 'hubs'. These quite characterless places serve a much larger area and are often devoid of that social framework that people of my generation knew when they were growing up. With little common enterprise to uphold the traditional Judeo/Christian values that often follows such 'hub' developments, societal standards have rapidly declined.

As we can see, the demonic realm moves like an accomplished military force (consider the name 'Legion' of the demoniac of Gadarene, a military term). It attacks numerous areas of society at once but with a united purpose, the corruption and subverting of God's Word. We Christians often get fixated on one topic of debate with non-believers. This may be the LGBTQ+ movement; environmentalism; capital punishment; health and diet, education, etc, etc. We focus our energies on one field, and we forget that our enemy (those revealed in Ephesians 6:12) is attacking God's Word in multiple fields all at once!

What hope do we have then as believers in Christ Jesus against such coordinated attacks? (remember, evil works in 'one accord' too as seen in Acts 7:57). We are to do as we are always to do in battle against the forces of darkness, 'contend for the faith' (Jude 1:3) and lean on the Word of God, for the battle is not ours but the Lord's! (1 Samuel 17:47).

These incursions of demonic forces into our world have risen dramatically since societies have abandoned the safeguards given by God against such attacks, as seen in Genesis 9:1-17. The Noahic Covenant came swiftly after a world had been destroyed for its utter wickedness. God in His goodness gave the Noahic Covenant and the unrevoked, unaltered structure for a blessed and strong society for our welfare. It was given so that fallen humanity had some God ordained structure to resist the lures of evil that Satan is all too eager to trap the world within. As we have dismissed this blessed provision of God, the forces of darkness have been allowed free entry into all generations of our societies. The result being the increased lawlessness and terror that fills our news feeds, local and national, every day!

We must return to a staunch defence of the Word of God. Not just some of it. All of it! One of the greatest and most effective entry points for the demonic to undermine and afflict our societies, has come from churches/preachers who have sidelined and questioned the historicity and truth of the Book of Genesis! As the Founder of Answers in Genesis, Ken Ham frequently observes, the Book of Genesis is **foundational to the Christian faith!** And as Holy Scripture reveals, if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?! (Psalm 11:3). Such churches/preachers have led the abandoning of God's Word, and now wonder why much of Western society thinks Christianity is an irrelevance to society (see numerous secular news articles decrying the weak and limp state of western Christendom).

Satan has been brilliant in his patient and subtle attacks on God's Word. After centuries of trying to wipe out God's Word literally, he moved to patiently perverting/diluting it over generations. In recent years, as the Church has become so uneducated in the Word of God, Satan has moved to highlight to non-believers how weak Christianity has become in the face of societal issues. For example, $\frac{3}{4}$ people in the UK don't care who the new Archbishop of Canterbury will be and 84% of UK 'Christians' have no interest even. This is because modern Christendom has become an irrelevance. This has fuelled the rebellion against God's Word and His provisions for a strong, secure society, and left nations such as ours reeling under the weight of increased demonic attacks/infiltration.

Churches/preachers have become too accomplished at 'pleasing people'. They want people in the seats (an understandable desire) but their lack of faith in the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to bring the people to hear the Word of God boldly preached, has meant that they have given people what they want. Our task as Christians is not to give people what they want but what they need! Did you or I 'want' to hear the Gospel when we were lost before God? Of course not! It offended us! Praise the Lord however, that He strengthened the resolve of His faithful servants to give us what we needed (forgiveness of sins and peace with God) over what we wanted (a pleasant life in the flesh). That was

done through trust in the Word of God! Those who were won to Christ by another witness who truly believed **all** the Holy Scripture, will be predominately those who are most committed to the Word of God now!

This is what our society needs now. Christians who are committed to Christ. Not just in charitable deeds (as good as they are) but in a defence of His Word! As David Norris observes, Christ **is** His Word, and so if we are to claim that we truly love Him, we are **compelled** to love and adhere to **all** His commandments (John 14:15). In this defence and sharing of the full Word of God, the barriers and safeguards against demonic attack and infiltration are once more erected and patrolled! They are to be defended by we Christians, for we are the salt of the earth! We are to preserve society, as this was the purpose of salt usage and thus the reason for its value in the ancient world. It was to guard against corrupting elements so that valuable food commodities would be preserved longer and thereby sustain people for longer and on a greater scale. The Holy Bible is the daily nourishment that the world is crying out for, yet much of Christendom has 'lost its savour' (Matthew 5:13). As a result, we are failing our Master who has entrusted us with contending for the faith. All so that it's goodness and substance is shared with a world He loves so deeply that He gave His only Begotten Son for it! (John 3:16).

Considering all this, we can begin to see why Christ Jesus is so angry with many Christians today. We can begin to see why our lukewarmness will have us being spewed out of His mouth (Revelation 3:16). We see that many of us are allowing friends, neighbours, colleagues, relatives, loved ones to be lost to Hell, because we want an easier life. We don't want sacrifice and denial of the self. We want 'fulfilment' of the flesh and 'our best life now'. Yet our selfishness is literally costing lives. Consider how many lives are being lost to persecution of Christians in places such as Sudan, Syria, Armenia, China, Nigeria etc. How many lives are lost to abortion and euthanasia. How many lives are lost to suicide and substance abuse. These awful afflictions on societies have arisen after the abandoning of the Book of Genesis. As a result, evil has prospered and humanity and suffered, and will continue to do so in ever greater levels and numbers.

Let us pray for our Lord's forgiveness. That He would forgive our spiritual apathy. That He will forgive our desire to fulfil our wants, and our distrust that He knows our needs and will supply them. Let us pray that He will refresh our hearts and embolden our spirits so that we return to His Pure Word once more. Let us pray that we will treasure and uphold all His Word, so that our labours mirror our belief that He is His Word. Let our works be monuments and living testimonies that we truly know Christ Jesus and that we know our end. An end that is a glorious one. An end where all evil and darkness will be vanquished, and we who have contended vigorously for the faith, will walk in peace and glory with our Saviour Christ Jesus forevermore. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Lessons From The Shunamite Woman - Part One

The account of Elisha and the Shunamite woman is not well known amongst many Christians. Yet in this often-overlooked passage of 2 Kings 4:8-37, we have an account that is so relevant for our troubled modern age.

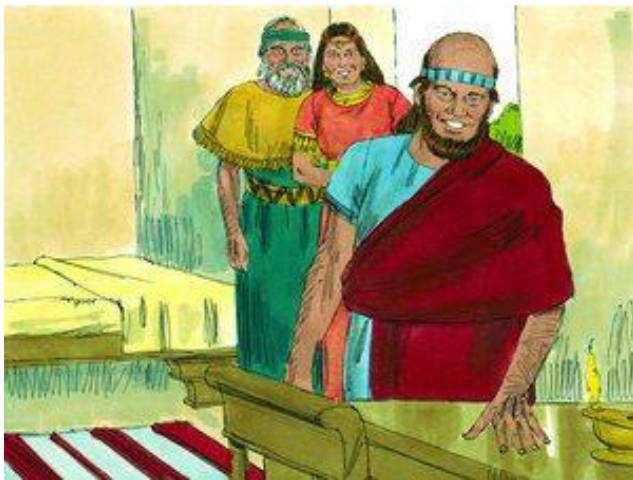
The account begins with a brilliant piece of narrative that is great material for any preacher. The text reads in 2 Kings 4:8, 'And it fell on a day,'. This almost casual opening describes so majestically and yet so concisely, the consistent movements of God in His dealings with humanity. The events that are about to unfold, events that will dramatically change the life of the Shunamite woman and her family, don't occur on a feast day, the Sabbath, or any day of spiritual significance or symbolism. Instead, it occurs on a seemingly insignificant day of the week. Isn't this often the case with so many glorious provisions of God, in that they are given to us when we least expect it.

I know this case very well. My wife was brought into my life after ten long years of prayer, on a day that I was not expecting my life to change. I was going about my business with a very sick body and a weary heart, with no hope or expectancy of joy. In truth, I was in quiet despair, yet I told no one. However, on a day seemingly quite inconsequential, God moved to bring joy to my troubled days. Maybe you have known such a development in your own days? Think on this deeply and see how your life may not be that dissimilar to those recorded in Holy Scripture. For we see in 2 Kings 4:8, that this situation was to come to the life of the Shunamite woman.

The Shunamite woman had noticed that Elisha busily passed by her home regularly as he went about the Lord's work. The text describes her as a 'great woman'. This would usually mean that she was a woman of wealth. Yet in the A.V/KJV Bible, the term 'great' also has another significant meaning, that being great of character and heart. This correct use of

language accurately reflects the nature of the Shunamite woman, as she goes about to provide for a busy and likely weary Elisha.

The Shunamite woman 'constrained' (verse 8) Elisha to come and eat with her household. Her manner was one of determination that this diligent servant of God that was Elisha, would be cared for whenever he passed her home. Such earnestness and determination to aid and serve another brother or sister in Christ, reflects why she is described as 'great' by the Word of God. She holds a clear passion to care for her brethren, not only once but 'as oft as he passed by,'. Many of us will feel very pleased with ourselves for doing isolated good deeds. We will pat ourselves on the back and indulge in a degree of self-righteousness. Yet such vain efforts will not hold us as 'great' in the eyes of God. Non-believers will happily give to good causes when their conscience is triggered. As believers in Christ Jesus, we are to love the brethren as we love ourselves. We are consistently good to ourselves and so we are to be consistently good to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Yet most of us are not. We give sporadically, grudgingly, hesitantly or even proudly. Does such a manner speak of God? Does such an approach cause the eye of God to look upon our works and declare us 'great' of heart? No, it doesn't. Such a blessed title as being 'great' in the eyes of God is gained through consistency of generosity and openness of heart, without selfishness or guile. Why so? Because this reflects what He does for us in His giving to us every day.



Later on, the Shunamite woman goes to her husband and tells him what she has 'perceived' of Elisha, in that he is a holy man of God (verse 9). If she was just 'great' in terms of physical wealth, she could not have seen or 'perceived' such a truth. Such things are not seen with the eyes of the flesh but with the eyes of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 4:18). Therefore, we can rightly deduce that her 'greatness' is twofold. Yes, she is materially wealthy, but her true wealth, her most God glorifying wealth is in the wealth of her faith. This wealth of faith moves her to go to her husband and seek his permission to build a small room on the outer wall of their home, so that Elisha may have somewhere to rest when he passes by. Her wealth of faith is now 'constraining' her to use her material wealth to care for a servant of God. In this we must ask ourselves, do we use our wealth for the service and care of other servants of God? As we have seen

from the text, 'greatness' does not always narrowly mean material wealth. For each of us has been blessed by God with gifts. Gifts that are for the care and support of the brethren and for the glory of God. You may have a wealth of knowledge in Holy Scripture. Are you sharing it or sitting on it and wasting it? You may have a wealth of time. Are you utilising it to help and care for your brothers and sisters in Christ? You may have a wealth of heart in that you are kind, outgoing, encouraging and generous. Are you using it for the good of the brethren who need such help? Or are you hiding it for fear or rejection, being hurt, or even just plain laziness? Be as the Shunamite woman and use the wealth you have been gifted by God for His servants good, so that He might be glorified. Such acts speak of a life seen as 'great' in the eyes of God.

Note also how the Shunamite woman behaves in relation to her husband. She is moved to act and use their wealth to care for a servant of God, whereas it appears that the husband has had no such inclination. In looking at the text, it would appear that the husband has not even 'perceived' that Elisha is a holy man of God! However, the earnestness of the Shunamite woman has not empowered her to overrule the leadership of her husband as head of the family. This structure is established by God and He will not subvert His own Word, for as The Word (Jesus Christ) says, 'if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.' (Mark 3:25) Within this adhering to God's ordained structure for a household, the Shunamite woman acts with respect to her husband, even if he does not see what she rightly sees in Elisha. In doing so, she is living out the New Testament instruction that believing wives are to respect the leadership of an unbelieving husband, in the hope that her ways will win him to Christ (1 Peter 3). Again, her application of the Word of God as ministered to her own conscience by the Holy Spirit (remember she lived long before Peter wrote his words on marriage structure in 1 Peter 3) is what marks her out as 'great' before God.

The Shunamite woman's request of her husband is respectful and wise. She asks him to build a room on the outside of the walls (so no 'invasion' of his home and thus grounds for the husband to refuse her request) so that Elisha may have somewhere to rest on his travels and labours for God. She asks for the simplest of provisions, a bed, a stool, a table and a candlestick. Their wealth meant that such an outlay would not have caused her husband alarm. She gives no 'stumbling block' so that her request will be declined. Her request is reasonable and so the husband sees the respect given to him and the reasonableness of her request, and thereby allows the room to be built. It is a wonderful testimony of how hearts can be moved of even non-believers, to use their resources for the good of God's servants. They can be moved when we

live in meekness and Godly fear, so that it is plain to see that we mean no harm, only the seeking of God's blessing and provision for those around us.

Through the actions of the Shunamite woman, we see the Gospel being lived centuries before its full revelation by Christ Jesus. This is what marks her out as 'great' in the eyes of God. She looked upon a servant of God walking the dusty roads of Galilee (where Shunem was located), all in the willing service of God. And so, she sought to build him a humble place in which to dwell. That little room that was built was a tremendous picture of the Gospel itself. For another would walk those same dusty streets of Galilee. He who sought to bring light and life to the lost, in fulfilment of the will of the Father. He sought and still seeks those who are willing to have Him come into them and dwell with them. That dwelling is humble, much like that little room made for Elisha. For what is humbler dwelling for the glory of God than a repentant heart! Let us 'constrain' Christ Jesus to not move on past our heart, but to come in and dwell with us. Not just for a day, but for all eternity. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Wise As Serpents, And Harmless As Doves

On September 12th, 2025, Britain saw the 'Unite the Kingdom' march fill the streets of London. Well over 100,000 people stood in unison protesting the demise of Britain and the erosion of British identity and society. Many at the march carried large crucifixes and demanded the defence of 'Christian Britain.' Not long later, violence erupted as clashes between some of the protestors and counter protestors caused numerous police officers to be injured in the altercations.

Such troubled times were always coming. For many, many years, Scripturally sound preachers have warned the people of Britain that if it continued to remove God and His Word from their lives, His blessing would be removed from the nation. Lone voices of Spirit led wisdom cried out for this once Godly nation to seek the forgiveness of God and return unto Him. Yet these voices of wisdom were mocked and dismissed, shunned and lambasted for being bigoted and repressive. Many good and Godly men were labelled as 'anger filled' speakers, as weak, liberal 'Christians' led Christendom into a world of diluted preaching, corrupted worship and flimsy faith. This liberal fluff has been found out in recent years. Its undermining of the authority of the Word of God has meant that it cannot claim any authority in



which to lead a crumbling nation back to the light of Christ Jesus and His Gospel. This has led many believers in this land to feel crestfallen and dejected. They see a nation crying out for deliverance and leadership, but refuse the goodness and mercy of Christ Jesus.

This is where it is so very easy to see such events as the carrying of crucifixes and the demands for the return to 'Christian Britain' and be stirred up to thinking that the tide is turning. Could the abandonment of God be in reversal? I pray so. But we are to as always see all things through the words of Holy Scripture. Our Lord instructs us to be 'wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.' (Matthew 10:16) As we enter a world filled with wolves, we are the sheep of Christ Jesus (Matthew 10:16). We are clear targets for the enemy, the forces of darkness, and are often oblivious to the many threats that surround us daily (hence the repeated reference to believers being as sheep, who are often oblivious to threats).

As we read and watch the news reports of the demands for a return of 'Christian Britain', we must be careful and wise to not snatch at the immediate sense of joy and relief that comes for believers at the hearing of such news. We are to be as wise as serpents, and much like the serpent, we are to test the air, assess the surroundings and scan for dangers before we proceed. In this instance, the danger is being so relieved of heart to hear such societal/political developments, and rush into joining their ranks or throwing our approval behind such events.

Firstly, did the early Church rush to fill the streets to protest the corruption and constant attacks against their society by their Roman oppressors? This would've been an understandable move in light of our fallen, human nature, but it is not what's done by the simple yet truly faithful early Christians. They did not first pursue the implementation of Biblical legislation in government (let it be said that such legislation is a good and God honouring endeavour). They first pursued the heavenly task of winning souls to Christ Jesus. They understood that for a people to change and for a society to embrace Godly societal structures (see earlier piece on the Noahic Covenant), the hearts of people need to be reborn. This is the crucial foundation upon which every God blessed nation in history has built its structure upon. A nation of hearts that are truly won to Christ, not just a nominal acceptance of some of His laws and commands.

As is often noted, previous generations attended church each week in far greater numbers. Whilst the numerical size is important, the key aspect is the true faith of the people that went to church each week. It wasn't just a nation that paid lip service to God, it was a nation that truly knew God through His Son Jesus Christ. This is a massive difference. This was a land that understood what 'Christian Britain' meant. It meant a full adherence to the full Word of God. That the Word of God is the final authority in all matters; that all Holy Scripture is profitable and true, and that salvation is by faith alone through grace alone. Simple, concise and truly powerful. Today, many wouldn't even know what the term 'Christian Britain' even really means! Most people today, even some Christians, lump Roman Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons etc into one homogenous group. As long as 'you love Jesus' you're a Christian, according to the majority of people today. And there is the danger that will be missed by a great, great many people. We saw such dangers played out at Charlie Kirk's memorial service. Here Protestant, Evangelical Christians shared the stage with rosary carrying Roman Catholics, all promising to work together to return America to God. However the God of Catholics is not the God of true Bible believers, and so this combined enterprise will never lead a people back to the Living God.

The undermining of 'British identity' and 'British values' has led this charge for a return to 'Christian Britain'. Yet what these protestors are demanding is not for a 'return', but for an 'implementing', and they don't even see it! In reality they are beginning the push for a coming together of the nation under a form of 'Christianity'. A form that past generations would not ever recognise as true Biblical Christianity; the kind of true Biblical Christianity that reaps the abundant blessings and provisions of God as seen in years past.

In their understandable fear of the demise of the nation, they are pursuing a course of action that will setup a Christendom that is more akin to the system that this land knew during the time of the Crusades. A time governed by Papal Rome. A time when the Catholic Church was the state. A time when the working class revolted against high taxation, abuses of power and the downward spiralling standards of living (all sounding familiar?!). At this time, John Wycliffe, a powerful and influential voice for the Lord, was sought for his support in the uprisings that became known in history as the Peasants Revolt. This he refused to do, and even spoke out against the violence employed by many of the rioters and protestors. His stand remains for all true Christians to follow to this day, that the battle is the Lord's and He does not use sword and shield to achieve His victory (1 Samuel 17:47). His victory is established in the authority of His Word, a truth ignored by many in the masses that chant for a return to 'Christian Britain.'

So, we have been wise as serpents, and see that the recent social/political events aren't all that they might appear to be on the surface. Now, how are we to be harmless as doves considering such heightening social unrest? Simply by returning to what true Christianity is all about, the salvation of sinners. We can witness the increased calls for a return to 'Christian Britain' and endeavour to teach others of what being a Christian is truly. We can seize the moment joyfully as an opportunity gifted by God in His mercy. An opportunity to show that the many 'community outreach' projects that are the mainstay of churches today, are lovely but limited. They are limited because they are leading precious few to true repentance of sin, true faith in the risen Lord Jesus, and true adherence and defence of His Pure Word. This is all achieved by strong, bold and Scripturally sound preaching. It is led by faithful men declaring the Word of God with power and conviction, to show the masses that what they proclaim is real, fresh and vital! That this message that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is open to all and that He truly desires that none should perish, but that all should find salvation in Him! (John 3:16).

We faithful few, in these times of wolves that Christ Jesus spoke of in Matthew 10:16, are indeed to be wise as serpents. We are to note the fruits of those who claim to speak and work in God's name. We are to be sober minded and judge all things by His Pure Word. We are to remember that in these last days, great deception would come. Corrupting and deceptive voices that 'if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect' (Matthew 24:24). Such words should humble us all, that the coming deception will be so deep and convincing that if it were possible, the children of God would be ensnared also. We must put on the armour of God daily and be furnished with the sword of God's Word. It is by such provisions of God that we are made ready for the battles ahead.

We faithful few, are to be harmless as doves. We are to be aware of these dangers and deceptive spirits and seek to lead those who are crying out for peace and security of days, to the one who is the Prince of Peace. We are to stand against the powers and principalities of darkness, but be tender to the broken hearted sinner. We are to remember that we were like them not so very long ago. We are to speak to them clearly but powerfully of the one who is uniquely able to free them from the troubles and burdens of their sins. That being our precious Lord Jesus. He whom our soul loves, and once this nation loved. Let us pray that if it be the Lord's will, that He will indeed lead this land back to Him. But let it be to Him alone, and that He may guard us against those who seek to deceive us. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

The Man That Time Forgot – Part 3

Other Fascinating Facts From Colonel Fawcett's Expeditions

1. He encountered a people like apes who looked little more than beasts, though they were human. They had small pig-like eyes with large overhanging brows, were covered in hair with long arms and high foreheads plus stained teeth.
2. One particular group of cannibals were short black people covered in hair who spitted their victims on a pole over fires.
3. There were real troglodytes, a group of people who lived in holes in the ground, Fawcett speaks of them being ugly and impossible to deal with.
4. He speaks of another people who were courteous with good morals. They evidently had delicate features and small hands and feet. They could make pottery. Fawcett comments, 'In every way they indicted a fall from a state high in man's development rather than a people evolving from savagery'.
5. A tribe of Indian's who were white, well-built, having red hair and blue eyes.
6. He tells of how many of the Indian's were clever with their hands and intelligent, but rapidly degenerate physically and morally. Here he mentions a German named Winkelmann who having purchased a young savage girl, had her educated in Germany and married her. She was well-mannered spoke four languages and she was a mother of a lovely family. Her people were usually shot on sight as dangerous animals.
7. Fawcett says, 'Some of the most developed tribes preserve the marks of a superior civilization. They had organised government, a god, around a square, with a sanitary system which is ahead of that common in England in the nineteenth century, they were monogamous and observed marriage ceremonies. Marriage was the basis of family life and children were carefully brought up. Diseases were few and a strict code of morality was enforced under pain of death'.
8. Near Candelaria the bones of mastodons were dug up from close beneath the surface of the ground. Some of the animals had seemingly existed there until relatively recent times. He says, 'One wonders what monsters might yet be found in the less accessible places'.
9. In the Paraguay river was a freshwater shark, huge but toothless, said to be able to swallow a man whole.
10. There was report of a river creature that in a single night could tear out a huge section of riverbank. The Indians had often reported tracks of some gigantic animal in the swamps but had never seen it. Colonel Fawcett was of the opinion that a few giant monsters, remnants of extinct species, were possibly still living.
11. To the Northeast of Leucois, great bones of antediluvian animals were scattered in huge numbers.
12. In the forests of Madidi, some enormous beast was said to live, tracks had been seen and they were far bigger than any known species of animal. Similar creatures had evidently been reported in other parts of the continent.
13. He states, 'Some of the flying fruit bats were so big they looked like pterodactyls'.
14. He tells of a strange bird, like a huge peacock butterfly when its wings were outstretched in flight.
15. Giant Anaconda snakes, he had personally killed one 62ft long. But there were others who spoke of one's over 80ft and a giant snake called 'The Sleeper' that was said to be huge.
16. A strange creature called a Lobo lived in the waters that crocodiles were afraid of.
17. The Bufo, a mammal said to be of the manatee species that was rather human in appearance with large breasts. It followed boats yet was neither helpless or inoffensive and would attack and kill crocodiles.

18. Bones of large animals showed in the high red sandstone bluffs bordering the river, where the banks had collapsed. There were petrified tortoises in perfect state. Protruding from the hardened clay deposit in a riverbank was the skull and some bones of a petrified Saurian. The skull was over five feet long. Not far away was the skeleton of an even larger creature, it could be plainly seen at the bottom of a deep quiet pool.

19. On the high Chapada, or plateau which was once the coastline of an old island, had been seen large animal skeletons, petrified trees and foundations of ancient ruins.

Yet despite all the above and more, Colonel Fawcett writes, 'Unfortunately I cannot induce scientific men to accept even the supposition that there are traces of an old civilization in Brazil. I have travelled much in places not familiar to other explorers and the wild Indians' have again and again told me of the buildings, the character of the people, and the strange things beyond'. Colonel Fawcett's story is a sad one in a way. I believe he had uncovered much, but the scientific establishment was wrapped up in evolutionary ideas and thus I believe much of his work was purposely ignored. At the age of 57 in 1924 and shortly before his final disappearance in 1925, Colonel Fawcett wrote the following personal reflection on his labours in a Lost World.

If the journey is not successful my work in South America ends in failure, for I can never do anymore I must inevitably be discredited as a visionary and branded as one who had only personal enrichment in view. Who will ever understand that I want no glory from it – no money for myself – that I am doing it unpaid in the hope that its ultimate benefit to mankind will justify the years spent in the quest. The last few years have been the most wretched and disillusionary in my life – full of anxieties, uncertainties, financial stringency, underhand dealing and outright treachery.

My wife and children have been sacrificed for it, and denied many of the benefits that they would have enjoyed had I remained in the ordinary walks of life. Of our twenty-four years of married life only ten have been spent together. Apart of four years in the Great War, I have spent ten in the forests, yet my wife has never complained. On the contrary her practical help and constant encouragement have been big factors in the success so far gained, and if I win in the end the triumph will be largely due to her'.

There we leave then 'The Man That Time Forgot'. However, I do not think that we should forget him, for clearly, he stumbled on evidence that matches with other revealed facts from around the world. The evolutionist may do all he can to suppress such evidence but clearly the world of a former age was destroyed by an horrendous cataclysm, the only answer to which is The Genesis Flood.

By Dr David Badger

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

The hair on our heads is like most things in life, something we take for granted until it's gone! Yet there are amazing properties of hair that speak to us of the awesomeness of God's design seen throughout creation. Furthermore, within the incredible properties of human hair, there is a wonderful daily symbolic reminder of the depth of God's intimate care for us.

Human hair is immensely strong. Each strand is able of supporting up to 100 grams in weight. Now if we were to take the average amount of hairs on a person's head to be around 100,000 to 150,000, and times the strength of an individual strand by this average, we get staggering results! When a full head of hair is calculated regarding its weight bearing capacity, we see that an average person's head of hair is capable of supporting 5,400 kilos. That's equivalent to the weight of two full grown elephants!



This amazing strength is gained from hairs hierarchical structure (interesting when we consider the strength Creation gains from the hierarchical structure of the family ordained by God throughout Old and New Testaments). The inner cortex of each hair strand is protected by an outer cuticle, with keratin being an important component of this structure. Keratin is a very strong protein and gives hair it's amazing strength and resilience in all manner of environments.

Hair holds astonishing levels of tensile strength (around 150-270MPa), yet also has surprising elasticity. Each strand of hair can stretch up to 30% of its length without breaking and still return to its original size. Such incredible duality of

extraordinary tensile strength combined with significant levels of elasticity, demonstrates the Evolution defying claims that such marvels of engineering have come together by random chance. Furthermore, it speaks of the very manner of God. It does so by utilising excellence of design and engineering, so that we humans can express our God given creativity. This ability can be seen in the creation of beautiful hair styles that display the full scope of God's incredible design that is hair! Thus, why Scripture reveals that a woman's hair is her glory (1 Corinthians 11:15). For in the utilising of its full potential, it acts as a quiet but beautiful display of God's power of creation and His selfless provision for us.

Due to hairs remarkable physical properties, it can last centuries or even millennia when kept in suitable conditions. Many will be familiar with Egyptian Mummies that have been unearthed and have seen how despite the thousands of years that have passed, the hair and teeth often remain. Long after many other parts of the body have faded to dust, hair can remain. Within this long-standing strength and resilience of hair, we see a tremendous, little witness of the power and faithfulness of God unto each of us. Our Lord moved to assure us that Our Heavenly Father knows the number of hairs on our head (Luke 12:7), such is the extraordinary levels of care and interest He holds for each of us. This wonderful reassurance also speaks of how His care for us continues long after our mortal frames are placed beneath the soil. Our bodies may be asleep in the dust of the earth for centuries, but much like the hair that remains, so too does His great faithfulness. That great faithfulness that ensures that one day known unto Him, He will call out our mortal frames from their sleep beneath the soil, so that at long last we will have a body like unto Christ's own! As the hair endures, it reminds us of the enduring nature of God's love and faithfulness to His beloved.

Yet having said all this, hair can be damaged, much like our own faith in Christ Jesus, by our actions and choices. It is a familiar conversation between parents and their children, that if the child (or adult even) constantly overworks their hair with chemicals or styling products such as curling irons, it will have lasting implications. So too is our walk with God adversely affected when we seek to add unneeded and unrequired additions to our faith. This may be the embracing of weak and incorrect teaching of the Holy Bible. It may mean the attempt at trying to combine the world with our faith in Christ Jesus. Such unwanted additions may hold a short-term appeal, but the lasting affect is a damaging one!

Stress too can greatly alter the strength of hair. Many a person can enter a period of strain and stress with luscious, colourful hair, only to see it grow brittle and grey/white from the burdens they have been battling. My own head of hair testifies to this truth! As the old hymn says 'What a friend we have in Jesus' says, 'O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer.' How true this is, and how many of us carry that witness on our very heads!

As that great hymn is rightly entitled, we have the greatest of friends in Christ Jesus. He whose own hair speaks much of who He is. We read in Revelation 1:14 that Jesus' hair in glory is 'white like wool, as white as snow'. In this we see the eternal perfection and wisdom of Christ Jesus, for no spot or blemish is to ever be found in Him. He who has taken the sins of the world upon His mighty, gracious shoulders, stands forever the epitome of all that is pure and good.

The next time your washing/styling your hair, consider all that we have studied today. Look at it and see the excellence of God's design. See His gracious provision in giving us a means to use this exquisite design to create styles that display the beauty of what He has given us for our good. See how this long-lasting part of our houses of clay, is intricately known by God, and that He will ensure that one day it will be returned to life of eternal glory. See how when we care for it as the gift that it is, we can be reminded of an even greater gift. A gift that was delivered to us by the nail pierced hands of Christ Jesus. He who now sits in glory at the right hand of the Father, with hair white as snow to show all Creation His eternal purity and perfection. See how in His purity, our own sins though they be as scarlet, have also been washed clean from us, so that we are pure and white as snow before God (Isaiah 1:18). Praise the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Saviour and Redeemer. To the glory of the Father, by the witness of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

A Familiar Experience, A Unique Hope

There is a song back from the 2000's that I used to often listen to as a young man. In these younger days I found the soaring strings and steady beat to be a soothing and relaxing sound to my weary body. Twenty years on, I found the song again and listened to it and for the first time properly heard and understood the lyrics. They go as follows:

Sometimes life can be a burden
Trying to stay one step ahead
I feel the world upon my shoulders each time
I'm standing out on the edge
And my hopes have all deserted me
Like they washed away in the sand
And it's hurting my pride, trying to survive
But I know I stand a chance
When you lay your hands, oh yeah
'Cause it's the only thing I have
That still makes sense

Give me love and affection
Keep telling me, show me the way
(Oh, if you see me falling down)
Lift me up from the shadows
Will you take me away to a better place
(And when I'm in my darkest hour)
You're by my side to turn the tide
Until the suffering fades
When life is getting me down, getting me down
I'm close to defeat
Come and lay your hands on me

Feel this road is getting longer now
And I'm too far away from home
Still I gotta keep on moving on
But I can't do it on my own
Baby, keep my head above water
Help me swim for my life
'Cause the game is getting harder
The strain is getting stronger
And I can only face the fight
When you lay your hands, oh yeah
'Cause it's the only thing I have
That still makes sense

Give me love and affection
Keep telling me, show me the way
(Oh, if you see me falling down)
Lift me up from the shadows
Will you take me away to a better place
(And when I'm in my darkest hour)
You're by my side to turn the tide
Until the suffering fades
When life is getting me down, getting me down
I'm close to defeat
Come and lay your hands on me

'Til I'm healed again
Rediscovered my strengths
Those bitter blues are gone
Oh, gone

Give me love and affection
Keep telling me, show me the way
(Oh, if you see me falling down)
Lift me up from the shadows
Will you take me away to a better place
(And when I'm in my darkest hour)

You're by my side to turn the tide
Until the suffering fades
When life is getting me down, getting me down
I'm close to defeat
Come and lay your hands on me

The tired, weary but hopeful and faithful believer in Christ Jesus can understand many of the thoughts contained in this song. Of course, the singer of the song, Simon Webbe, likely had little intention of delivering a song that many Christians will relate to surprisingly well. But in this reality, a hopeful truth emerges from amidst the weary tears that many shed hearing the very relatable lyrics. That whilst Simon writes in respect to the comfort that comes from a compassionate and loving human interaction, there is one who uniquely able to fulfil all the longings expressed in this song.

We believers, we strangers in a foreign land, we citizens of Heaven, often feel the weight of the world on our shoulders. We feel it as we stand out on the edge of it all as we experience derision, mockery, shunning, even persecution from those around us for our faith in Christ Jesus. Many of us know what it is like to have our hopes and dreams seemingly dashed, as our spirit is laid low. But as the song observes, we have a chance of enduring, an assurance of hope when we plead for our Lord Jesus to come and hold us once more with His nail pierced hands. Those wounds He endured knowing the tremendous frailties of our own weak and fallen nature. He knows that our mortal minds and hearts are easily brought to weariness and despair, and so He picks up our slumped spirits and reminds us of His love through His Pure Word. For His Word is the indeed the only thing that makes sense in a world of a thousand voices all claiming to be true.

The faithful, persevering Christian indeed does call on their Lord to give them love and to keep showing them the way forward to Paradise. Having known His faithfulness in the light of their own weakness, they do indeed call on Him to lift them again from their stumbles of faith, those slips into the shadows of sin. The faithful Christian calls on Christ daily to take them to a better place, that Heavenly city seen afar by Abraham. They know that in their darkest hour, Christ is by their side, standing next to them amidst the fires of the trials of life, just as He was in the furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They know He is with them through it all, until the end of the world, when all the suffering will fade at long last. They know that as beautiful as this promise is, they sometimes felt that it's all so far away, and they have felt close to defeat in their battles with the powers and principalities of the air. So, they pray that He will be close to them in their weakness, and never fail to stretch out His hand to refresh us anew and steady us on our journey to glory.

The faithful Christian knows that feeling that the road to Heaven seems to stretch further away into the distance. Those days of doubt that we might be one who is too weak of spirit, too little of faith to march on to glory. They know well the feeling that as we dwell amongst a land that does not desire Christ Jesus as we do, our heavenly home seems so very far away. Yet they also know well that unshakeable strength of the Holy Spirit. He who powers the true Christian to march on when they feel they have no strength left to give. He is the one who empowers them to stride ever onwards. He is the one who reminds us that we cannot do this heavenly task on our own, we require the sustaining of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ every hour of every day. The Holy Spirit is the one that witnesses to us that whilst the strain is very much getting stronger, in our weakness the strength of Christ Jesus is made perfect.

How the true, faithful and committed Christian knows all these moments well. The likelihood is that whilst Simon Webbe sang this lovely song, he had no idea as to whom his heart truly needed. In that is the greatest tragedy. That so many are blind as to how close the Lord is to them and how deeply He longs for them to look upon Him and see Him for who He is, their gracious and loving Saviour.

There is a line from another song that says, 'The saddest thing that I've ever seen is smokers outside hospital doors'. Whilst this is a tragic sight filled with heavy irony, there is a sadder sight. That being that so, so many lives go through each day missing a thousand different moments God is witnessing to them of their need for a Saviour. A Saviour who selflessly gave Himself for them so that they might escape eternal damnation for their sins, and instead be lifted to eternal glory with Him.

To close, there is another song that sings in its first line, 'Feeling the moment slip away.' If you do not know Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, take this moment gifted to you in the grace of God to seize Christ Jesus as your own. Call on Him to forgive you for your sins, and trust that He is uniquely able to free you from the heavy burdens you are carrying every moment of every day. Believe that He gave Himself on the Cross and took the penalty for your sins, so that you might escape death everlasting in Hell. Believe that as the Son of God, He took up His life after three days and rose again to life and glory, conquering that great enemy we all fear being death. Believe that as He lives, He shall restore you

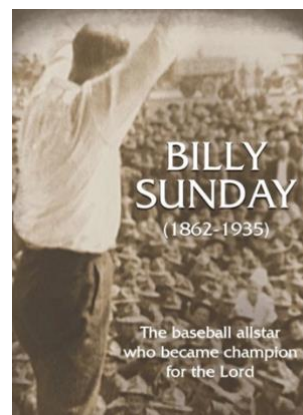
to life also. Believe and delight in His promise that He will call you home to Heaven one day, and you will know His peace and provision in perfection forevermore. Do not let this ‘moment slip away’. The time for salvation is now.

By Jonathan Badger

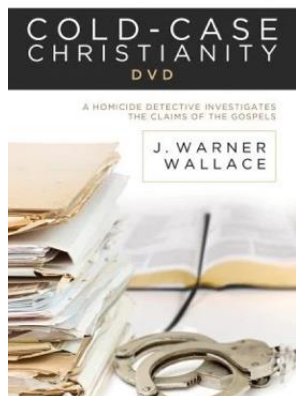
Resource Corner

Billy Sunday (DVD)

William Ashley “Billy” Sunday (1862-1935) began his career as a baseball player for the Chicago White Stockings, but later became one of the most influential American evangelists during the first two decades of the 20th century. Between 1896 and 1935 he gave an estimated 20,000 sermons and saw more than a million people publicly confess their acceptance of Christ. This 1964 documentary presents scenes of Billy Sunday’s major league baseball career, his conversion and ordination to the ministry, his tabernacles and tremendous crowds, the sawdust trail, his war against liquor, his friendships with the great men of his time, and some of the results of his colorful ministry. It also includes scenes of evangelist Billy Graham in one of his crusades. In black and white. Available from Re-vived.com



Cold Case Christianity (DVD)



In this eight-session DVD, with facilitator’s guide, viewers will learn how to employ ten important detective skills as they watch Detective Wallace test the accuracy and reliability of the New Testament Gospel accounts. They’ll follow along as he investigates the historical evidence and “questions” the witnesses, teaching viewers how to become good Christian case makers. Designed to accompany the original book and all-new participant’s guide, and facilitator’s guide, these videos are perfect for small groups and leaders. This series will help small groups grow in their confidence as they investigate the accuracy and reliability of the Gospel accounts and learn how to defend the truth. Available from Re-vived.com

Tyndale (free to stream through Trinitarian Bible Society YouTube Channel)

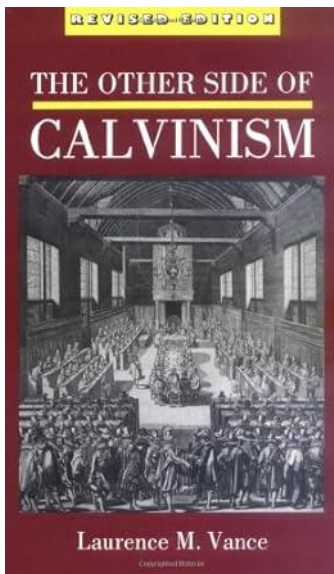
<https://youtu.be/KEv6aOfDVjk?feature=shared>

A well-produced overview of the work of William Tyndale. This 40 minute documentary focuses on William’s God blessed endeavours to free England from the spiritual darkness of Roman Catholicism.

A solid entry point to those looking to know more about a giant of the faith, Tyndale’s faithful labours are still the backbone of the supreme translation of God’s Word that is the AV/KJV Bible.



See how God can use one man to show the world that it is by His providential hand that even the greatest forces of darkness cannot withstand the light of the Word of God.



The Other Side of Calvinism (book)

A definitive treatment of the subject, this book provides an intensive, detailed examination and analysis of the philosophical speculations and theological implications of Calvinism. Both an introductory and historical survey of Calvinism is furnished as well as a comprehensive doctrinal, theological, and exegetical investigation of the Five Points of Calvinism.

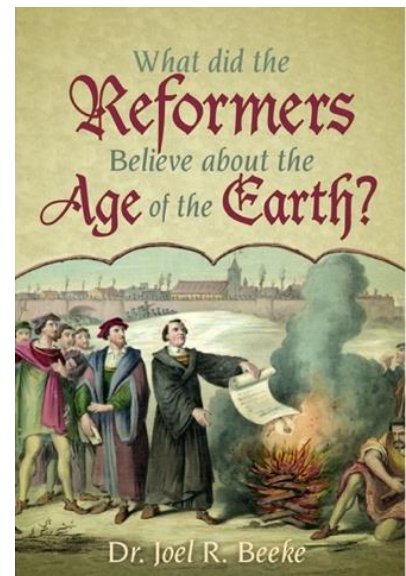
The deductions and conclusions drawn are both interesting and informative, challenging and controversial. Extensively documented, this work includes upwards of 1700 quotations from over 250 Calvinistic authorities. This Bible-based critique also incorporates over 2000 Scripture citations. The book contains ten chapters, along with a preface, epilogue, three appendixes, and bibliography. It is further enhanced by subject, name, and Scripture indexes. Available from Amazon

What did the Reformers Believe about the Age of the Earth? (booklet)

During the Middle Ages, an allegorical approach to the Bible prevailed. Many theologians abandoned a literal understanding of Scripture and instead began looking for spiritual parables, often turning history into allegory. The Reformation changed all that as the Reformers called the church back to the authority of Scripture. They championed a return to sound biblical interpretation - reading the Bible carefully in context.

In this booklet, Dr. Joel Beeke examines the writings of Reformers such as Martin Luther and John Calvin to determine what they believed and taught about the days of Genesis 1, arguing that a robust doctrine of creation provides a strong foundation for our faith!

The content in this booklet was originally published as a chapter in the *New Answers Book 4* in 2013. Available from Answers in Genesis UK



Verses of thanksgiving for the months past and the months granted ahead

[1 Thessalonians 5:18](#) - In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

[Ephesians 5:20](#) - Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

[Psalms 136:26](#) - O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

[Psalms 106:1-2](#) - Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

[Psalms 103:2](#) - Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

[Philippians 4:4](#) - Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

[Matthew 7:7](#) - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

[Psalms 100:4](#) - Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

[John 6:11](#) - And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

[1 Timothy 2:1](#) - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Truth To Wonder Ministries

My thanks to the Lord for His continued enabling of the production of this magazine and the accompanying website. What started out five and a half years ago as a brief newsletter aimed to bring some sort of encouragement and strengthening to believers during the Covid lockdowns, has grown to a multi-faceted ministry.

The Truth To Wonder website now has an extensive array of magazines back issues, devotions, articles, short videos, resource guides and church meeting information.

I don't receive any income from my work as I hope that for as long as the Lord enables it, that the resources produced by myself are free and available to all who are seeking after our precious Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His loving hand, that He has taken an ill, frightened, shy man and moved him to begin and continue this work in His blessed name. Whether this work is great or small, let it all be for His glorious name.

Please take some time to explore our ministry at truthtowonder.org, and if you would like to support this work, any donation you can make to further our efforts would be gratefully received. Thank you and God bless.

<https://gofund.me/06ff1373f>

Truthtowonder07@gmail.com