

# TTW

# Truth To Wonder

## Ministries Magazine

Volume 2 Issue 1 April 2021



## Welcome to Truth to Wonder

A warmest welcome to all our readers at this most miraculous time of year as we ponder the mystery and majesty of the atonement of sins accomplished by the shedding of Christ Jesus' perfect blood.

So much has passed since last Easter, where the nation spent it's Easter celebrations in fearful lockdown. It is by the grace and mercy of God that we are here today on the cusp of another joyous remembrance of the sacrifice made by Christ Jesus so that we might be restored to Our Lord God. Complacency of faith in our modern world of plenty is all too easy to fall into, for Satan is happy to provide us with a gilded cage in which to ensure us. Friends, at this blessed time of year we must mark our hearts with a daily remembrance that we are separate from the world, citizens of heaven, bought wholly and completely with the blood of Jesus. You are the Lord's own and so endeavour to serve Him with every ounce of your being.

Doubtless such exertions will fail at various points, as our sinful fleshly nature's cause us to stumble into sin. Yet this is not a cause for despondency and doubt, all we need do is look at the One who was made sin on our account, so that we might be freed from it's deathly grip on our eternity. Look up and see His eternal love poured out on the cursed tree and cry out to Him that He might restore you once more, and lead you on to glory in His wonderful name.



So with this being said, let us begin our worship and study of the Lord and His eternal Word at this blessed time of Easter.

## Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we give our heartfelt thanks for your eternal plan of salvation. A plan crafted in your own heart, a plan born of the love that is your eternal being, a plan so wonderfully fulfilled by the loving servitude and obedience of your blessed Son and Our Glorious Redeemer Jesus Christ.

Lord we are left in reverent awe at the depth of mystery of the triumph over sin and death that you accomplished on that day in Israel 2000 years ago. Lord forgive our failing attempts to comprehend the majesty of your plan of redemption for mankind, for we are still prideful, arrogant beings, seeking to know the very mysteries of God. Lord be gentle with us we pray, for we fear your mighty power and strength, as the Israelites who begged Moses to speak on their behalf before you for they feared your presence so greatly. Lord you answered their pleas by providing them with Moses, yet how much more blessed are we whose Mediator between we wretched sinners and your Holy name is no less than the Christ Jesus.

Lord we ask that you will make our heart's weep with both repentance and joy as we look upon the cross, that cursed tree that bore up your only begotten Son as the perfect sacrifice unto your righteous anger towards the sin of mankind. Lord let our tears flow in our repentance that we brought the lash onto the back of Our Saviour, we drove the nails into His hands. Yet Lord we ask that the tears continue to rain from us but in joy, a joyful peace that you have forgiven us of all our sins, because of Him alone, because of His loving sacrifice for those who sought to strike Him down. Oh Lord, you are a marvel to our hearts, a joy to our souls, for you bring the proud to humility and the heartbroken to peace and joy. Blessed be your name forever, amen.

# What a friend we have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

# A History of What a friend we have in Jesus

Joseph Scriven of Northern Ireland brought this pain filled yet hopeful hymn to the page after a seeming unending life of tragedy. On two occasions, Joseph was engaged to be married and yet on both occasions, the bride to be died before the wedding took place (the first died on the night before the ceremony).

Seeking a fresh start, Joseph set to emigrate to Canada, yet he was forced to return home after only two months due to ill health. Poor health would blight his life from there on in. He did however move to Canada where he became a private tutor, only to experience the heartbreak of his second fiancée dying as previously mentioned.

Joseph's Faith never faltered however, so much so in fact that became known as the local 'Good Samaritan' of Port Hope, Ontario, Canada, helping the poor and needy at every opportunity.

The hymn began as a simple poem intended to bring comfort to Joseph's dying mother (whom he was unable to travel to see due to his own ill health). It was never intended to be published, yet during Joseph's last bout of illness, a visiting friend noticed the poem and asked as to who wrote it. Joseph replies in typical modesty, "The Lord and I did it between us." The friend had it published in the local paper and as a testament to the overriding hand of God in all matters, that same local paper was used as parcel wrapping for an item destined for New York, USA. The recipient of the parcel noticed the poem on the paper and arranged to have it published.

German-American composer Charles Converse read the poem and composed the melody that sits wonderfully alongside the beautiful words of hope in Christ. Christ blessed these words by having this humble offering sent across the world for generations to echo its words of faith in Him.

*By Jonathan Badger*

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

## 409 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - fei - t, oh, what need - less pain we bear,  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
in His arms He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

WORDS: Joseph Scriven, 1855  
MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

COMPOSITION  
8.7.6.7.1 D  
Alternate tune, BEAULIE SPRING



# Look, that's all you need do

"Look. Look. That's all you have to do. A beggar can look, a king can look; anyone can just look."

These words were driven into the heart of a depressed, anxious, weary 15 year old who had by the world's estimation no reason to be so low of spirit. He was part of a loving family, wanting for nothing, but his heart was troubled in a manner no one knew, leaving him lost and alone. A bitterly cold January day in the Norfolk Fens had prompted this sad teen into the nearest option of shelter from the cold, the nearby church. As he sat seeking warmth for his freezing body, God had led him there to warm his frozen heart. As the teen listened to the simple truth of "Just look on Jesus", from the lips of the country preacher, a radiant light burst through into his troubled heart and at last the burden of a sinful heart was washed away. Who was this troubled teen, one so lost and alone, one found in the isolated darkness by the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ. A certain Charles Haddon Spurgeon; a young man who would be moulded by Christ into becoming the man who would be known as 'The Prince of Preachers.' A man whose work still leads many a sinful, repentant heart to Christ Jesus 150 years after his own life.

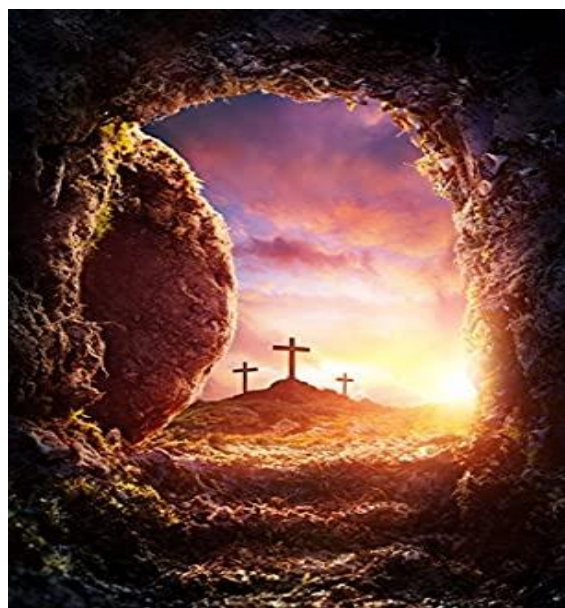
If you are reading these words with a heavy heart, a soul brought low by a weight of sadness and guilt you can barely understand yet you feel without fail each day, then friend just look on the cross and see the Lord Jesus. Look on His pierced body and see the most wondrous outpouring of love this universe has ever witnessed. An outpouring willingly and joyfully done so that you might be freed from your misery and slavery to sin.

The message whilst gracing the pages of the New Testament, is found also in the pages of the Old Testament. Turn to Numbers 21:7-9 and read of the miraculous deliverance of the

sinful Israelites from the righteous judgement of God by the simple act of looking on in faith.

In this passage, we see that the Israelites were being judged by God for their ill judged anger against God and Moses for supposedly leading them into pain and death in the wilderness. This rebellious and defiant collective spirit against the mercy and provision of God coming after the numerous stunning miracles of God in leading His people out of slavery in Egypt and overcoming numerous perils on their journey to the Promised Land.

Such was their ingratitude and rebellion against the will of God that God sent fiery serpents to afflict the Israelites, an act of righteous judgement from a just and Holy God. These serpents bit and killed many defiant and rebellious Israelites, leading to cries of repentance to fly out from the people, who pleaded with Moses to speak with God and pray for the removal of these venomous beasts and healing of the dying.



In the mercy of God, He pitied His now repentant people of Israel, and commanded Moses to make up a brass snake and hang it up on a pole in the middle of the camp, so that any who looked on the brass snake would be healed. This Moses did, and many were saved, those who flung their eyes in faith on the deliverance put in their midst, trusting in

the ability of God alone to save them from death. Yet tragically, many did not. They refused to look on in faith, refusing to submit themselves and so died in anguish and perish forever in Hell.

The truth is the same friend, for the brass snake was but a preview, a foreshadowing of the One who would be made sin so that we might be freed from sin and granted eternal life. The snake, a symbol of sin and judgement, hung up on a tree, is a direct reflection of Christ Jesus, who himself was made sin (although Himself perfect and without sin) and took on the eternal weight of righteous anger against sin from The Heavenly Father. This was all done so that you might be made whole once more, so that you might be snatched from eternal death and placed in heaven in glory alongside Christ Jesus himself.

Friend, I implore you to just look. Jesus has done it all for you, just look on Him and believe. When you do this the painful venom of the snake of sin that rots your heart and soul this moment will be removed from you and placed as far away from you as the east is from the west. It will have no grip on you for sin had no grip of Christ Jesus, so in triumph He rose again three days after being lifted up in atonement for man's sin. He lives now in triumph and glory, with a name above all names, with the heavenly beings singing His praises with hearts of fire and tongues of blessing.

Friend you can live also. No doubt the tears and shame are attempting to paralyse you, drive your head downwards to the ground. Satan has no desire to have you gaze up, he has no wish to see your eyes filled with repentant tears. Yet this is what must be done. Lift your eyes up and look on the cross, look on Jesus and see your redemption. Let the tears flow like a torrent, do not try and control them, let them stream down your cheeks. In this pain do as the Israelites did, those who were healed when they looked on the brass serpent were in great agony, yet they believed that by simply looking on the hope placed in front of them, they would be

restored. Look friend, look on Christ and He will wipe away those pain filled tears and give you peace. He will speak those blessed words of salvation to your heart and gift you a new heart, a heart crafted by His own pierced hands and washed in the righteousness of His precious blood. Do not delay friend, the hour is at hand, call out to Him this Easter and look upon the cross and know salvation in Christ is free to you and that all you need do is look and believe.

By Jonathan Badger

## One Small Step....

An interesting news item slipped out into the press on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2021. A new government bill was passed that changed the wording of the maternity leave regulations so that Tory Attorney General Suella Braverman could maintain her position and not resign (a strange requirement for current female governmental employees who are expecting).

The House of Lords objected to the amendment using the term 'person' in the maternity leave bill and supported the use of the term 'mother' instead. The government relented to this objection and has conceded that the term 'mother' is "legally acceptable."

Whilst it is obviously good news that the important wording of 'mother' to reflect the uniquely female blessing of childbearing, and that this term is applicable during pregnancy not just at and post birth. The governments suggested continuation of the usage of 'person' concedes far too much ground to the anti-Biblical motivations of the liberals who promote same sex/transgender parenting. So it is a blessing of The Lord that the House of Lords intervened and required the more accurate rendering of the role that is motherhood.

No doubt this matter will be challenged in the near future as being 'discriminatory', so believers must be vigilant to such developments and be vocal on such matters. It is not that such matters anger our opinions,

our personal interpretations of life, our lifestyle choices; such matters are an attack against the laws of God so clearly laid out for all mankind in His word the Holy Bible.



**"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."**

Psalms 139:14 KJV

There is a further implication of this bill amendment that must be put to the government. A mother is only a mother because they are carrying a child. If the government has rightly passed a bill that protects the employment rights of pregnant mothers so that leave can be taken early on if needed for medical purposes for example; how can it condone the abortion of children in the womb of mothers? They may argue it's down to the right of the mother to decide on this matter. Yet we are rightly told elsewhere in society that 'every life matters'. If every life matters and mothers are only mothers because they are carrying children regardless of their age or stage of development, then why doesn't that poor little one's life also matter? Such is the hypocrisy of the world. Only the application of the word of God in all areas of society will result in a world where 'every life matters.' Whilst such a hope will never be fulfilled by the proud and sinful hands of man, even when fuelled by the bile of Satan himself through the Antichrist; it can and will be realised by the triumphant return of the Lord of Hosts who will govern justly from the throne of David, vanquishing evil at the final hour, before presenting His kingdom to the Father for all eternity and the ushering in of the new heavens and earth.

By Jonathan Badger

## Book of Ruth – Part 6

We recommence our look at the Book of Ruth with a most beautiful of continuances, the grace of Christ as represented in the acts of Boaz towards Ruth.

In verses 15-17 of chapter 2, we see a continuation of the care extended to Ruth by Boaz, even when she is unaware of the careful provision he has made for her welfare. We see that Boaz instructs his workers to allow Ruth to glean in the thriving fields without rebuke (a rare privilege not given to gleaners), whilst to also deliberately leave choice grain so that Ruth may benefit from this richness of harvest for both herself and Naomi.

As a result of this wonderful generosity, Ruth ends the day with an amount of barley equal to 8 pounds or 3.6kgs of barley! We the reader of this wonderful account of God's sovereignty and provision are aware that this wondrous blessing is from the generosity and grace of Boaz towards Ruth and Naomi; a generosity motivated by his just nature and Godly heart. Yet dear Ruth is unaware of the source of this immense generosity and care for herself and Naomi. Isn't it so with ourselves when a wonderful blessing is brought into our lives and we sit in almost disbelief at its richness and how it came to be. However we know from James 1:17 that "every good gift and every perfect gift, cometh down from above from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Every blessing, every good and perfect gift comes from the hands of God, this we are clearly told by God's revealed word; however we all too often leave it at joyous bemusement on receiving the blessing and do not give due thanks to the one who sent the blessing, namely God. Oftentimes it takes another to rightly point out to us that the source of the tremendous blessing is no mystery, or it's not purely due to the individual who God has used to deliver His blessing to us, it's from The LORD himself.



**Naomi and Ruth marvel over Boaz's grace**

Such a gentle correction is seen in verses 18-20, as Naomi, seeing the bounty that Ruth has returned home with, enquires of Ruth as to how did she come about such an abundance? Ruth recounts that it is from the generous giving of a man named Boaz. Ruth is obviously unaware of the close connection that Boaz holds to Naomi through the house of Elimelech. Again though weren't we all unaware of the grace constantly extended to us day after day by The LORD when we were yet sinners and blind to His wonder? On so many occasions, the blind whose hearts whilst being stirred by the Holy Ghost, are ministered to by servants of Christ, bringing the light of the Gospel to them in their spiritual darkness. This is our need to preach the Word of God boldly, for He has purposed us to be the vehicle of the spreading of His word to all corners of the world.

Naomi on hearing that the welcome blessing of plentiful food has come from Boaz, immediately recognises the scope of the enormity of God's grace and provision. Naomi bursts into praise of The LORD, marvelling at how he "hath not left off his kindnesses," (verse 20) and that He has delivered His gifts through her kinsman Boaz. She sees that God in the richness of His love, grace and wisdom has moved all things so that both herself and Ruth have been offered relief through her own bloodline. A bloodline that originally brought her house in tragedy of death, now through another offers her peace and contentedness. So as Boaz is Naomi's

kinsman, a relative delivered by God to provide for the house of Elimelech, so to is Jesus Christ our deliverer from the house of death into which our ancient parent Adam first led mankind into. Boaz represents the glory of God's redemption, for Jesus is our relative also, for He lived as a man of flesh and blood, born from the bloodline of Adam as are we all, so that He might provide the sanctuary for those who submit themselves to Him, as Ruth so wonderfully did earlier in the account of her life.

Ruth then relays how Boaz has instructed her to remain gleaning in his fields, under his protection. There may have been understandable doubt as to the motivations of Boaz in Ruth's mind. This doubt often appears in the mind of those curious of faith in Christ, or even young in faith, in that how can it be freeing to serve? It is a logical question and only experience can provide a full answer. Experience in living as a servant of Christ shows the heart that all labours, all trials, all pain, when endured for His sake and out of service to Him, will be rewarded. It is this hope, this promise that Paul speaks of when he observes that trials lead to experience, experience to patience, patience to hope. This experience that builds Godly wisdom in being patient for the reward is displayed by Naomi's reply to Ruth.

Ruth notes that Boaz has instructed her to remain with his workers, so that she is protected. This instruction is confirmed by Naomi to be a wise instruction in that Ruth will be cared for and watched over by those that Boaz has trusted with working for him. So to does Christ instruct us to take strength and spiritual protection by having fellowship with other Christians, so that we are kept safe in the fields of this world where there are lions of Satan looking to devour us.

We end chapter 2 seeing that Ruth obeys the instruction and confirmation of instruction to stay within the fields of Boaz. However all too many Christians do not listen to this instruction to remain within the safety of Jesus' instruction and commands. We wonder



out into other fields, owned by Satan, lured away by false promises of sweeter gifts brought to us by our efforts and not the Lord's supply. As Naomi, the elder wisely advised her daughter in law to listen to the instruction of Boaz, those experienced in life and more importantly the Word of God are to instruct the younger of years that if they want continued blessing, they are to remain within the loving boundaries so clearly displayed in His eternal word.

By Jonathan Badger

## In The Footsteps of Abraham

This is the title of an intriguing article on The Guardian Newspaper website that looked at the Papal visit to Iraq in early 2021.

Pope Francis' visit to Iraq to meet with the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's leading Shiite cleric and of the most influential Muslim leaders in the world, has raised high hopes in the ecumenical community for greater "inter-faith tolerance and solidarity." To achieve this goal, the two leaders will come together at Ur, the birthplace of Abraham, to offer 'United prayers.' This prayer service will also see the coming together of Iraq's other minor religions under the ambition of Pope Francis to make the Catholic Church "a field hospital" for the world's spiritually wounded.

The choice of having the prayer service at Ur is at best ironic and at worst sheer blasphemy. Blackly Ironic in the simple fact that both the Catholic Church and the Muslim faith have both exerted great resources and energy for centuries in the effort to eradicate the Jewish people, the descendants of Abraham.

It's blasphemy in that God called Abraham out of Ur, a location of great idolatry, mysticism and worship of false gods, so that God



**Ziggurat of Ur, reconstruction of temple at Abraham's ancient homeland**

might raise up a people unto Himself so that His Word and only begotten Son could be delivered to mankind in purity to offer salvation unto fallen man. The going back to Ur of two false religions does nothing more than highlight the truth that these two religions are descendants of the mystery religions of Babylon, the very Satanic evil that God called Abraham to come out from by leaving Ur.

Whilst such political developments are certainly unprecedented, it should not surprise the Bible believing Christian one bit. The objective of Pope Francis to make the Catholic Church a uniting point for the world is nothing but consistent with its ancient objective, an objective motivated by Satan himself so as to usher in the one world government under the leadership of the AntiChrist.

Make no mistake friends, such developments are inescapable markers that the age of the Gentiles is close to culmination and Our Lord is not far away. We are to be vigilant and keep watch for His return but all the while be busy warning the world of the coming judgement. We are very much in the days of Noah, and we are to do as he did, preach and witness with passion and boldness, displaying the hope of the Gospel in our lives and words, so that as many as possible according to the will of God may escape the wrath to come.

By Jonathan Badger



## Historians Wrong...Again!

Secular history has long taught that the arch was invented by the Romans. The triumphal arches of the many Roman ruins led historians to this conclusion, likely based on the evolutionary assumption that such 'advanced' engineering feats were far beyond any more ancient people.

Yet a discovery in Northern Israel, in the city of Laish, the city that would be conquered by the tribe of Dan and would then be renamed as the city of Dan, has turned this assumption on its head.



**Arched gate of the city of Dan— circa 1700 B.C**

In the staggeringly well preserved ruins of this ancient city, archaeologists unearthed a beautifully crafted arched city gate, that predates the Roman equivalent by some 1000 years. Such a discovery stunned the secular world who had assumed as previously mentioned, such engineering skill was too complex for ancient man.

Sadly many secular historians fail to remember the old saying, 'history is written by the victors', and so ascribe many advances in technology, science, engineering, literature, recording of history to the Romans. They forget that Rome, as any victorious nation is, was quick to highlight themselves as the light of civilisation and all others as savages. This is not accurate in the slightest however, as such archeological discoveries have shown. Rome has long had a desire to be exalted, to be lifted up high in man's adoration and

adulation. The classic tactic to bring about such lofty praise and worship is to crush opposition and then rewrite history so that it is kind to victor. Such an approach is contrary to the teaching of Our Lord, that He will use the weak of this world to humble the strong and that the weak shall inherit the earth.

As my father's articles on the history of The Bible in pre-Roman Briton has shown, accurate history marries up beautifully with Biblical record. So much so in fact that Satan will do as much as he can to hide these evidences and encourage man to assume supposed wisdom that is based on their own preconceived assumptions that support the innate desire of man to dispense with God.

However as Winston Churchill once remarked, "truth is so valuable that it is often surrounded by a bodyguard of lies." The truth of history is one that will be revealed fully in all its heavenly wonder before the judgement seat of Jesus Christ. At that point all lies will be swept away and every knee will bow before the one who is truth.

By Jonathan Badger

## Early Briton and Beyond

As stated in our last article, by the time the Roman legions leave our land there was a British Church. Had that Church existed for years without the Word of God? How did the early British Church grow without a Rule of Faith, without a Standard? Do we really think that as the centuries passed the Britons had no copy of God's Word?

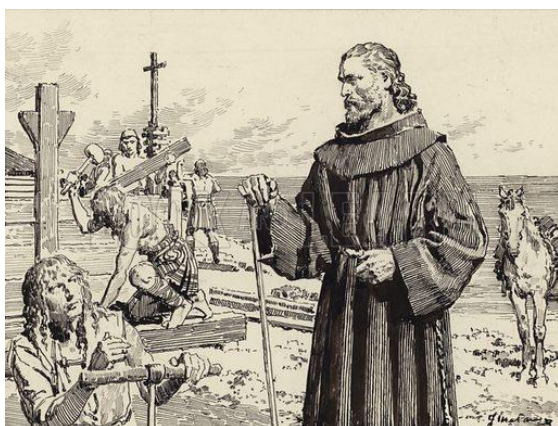
By the early part of the fourth century the shadows were falling over and a sense of security is quickly passing from Roman Briton. As Rome (Pagan) declines there is a growing fear and insecurity in these isles and by the end of the fifth century the legions are gone.

Whilst I have no wish to labour a point in this series, yet the point is vital. As back in Bible lands only by a faithful transmission of God's revelation could the human race be

guaranteed an authoritative statement of everything which had been revealed and believed by the first recipients, so God I believe through early missionaries in Roman times did not leave His Church 400 years without His Word.

Further, assuming a true revelation has been given us by God in the first place, could such a revelation be preserved without a pure Scripture? Also knowing the Church to be an institution of Christ, what for example could the British Church know of the foundation, laws, ordinances and doctrines of that Church without the Scripture? Finally, assuming the end of salvation is to be holiness, and growth in knowledge and grace in the believer, how could spiritual life be perceived, described, and Christian character be built in these isles, without the Scripture?

With the barbarian invasions, Briton descends into darkness. We then witness the disappearance of the language of the Britons. When the light dawns again things are very different. The land is barbarous, poverty and degradation are everywhere. Markets, cities, temples, academic places of learning are gone, it would seem most likely the art of writing was lost. The original Church of the Britons which had fled West, appears to have lost evangelistic zeal though doubtless there were still some faithful souls.



**Columba's missionary work in Britain**

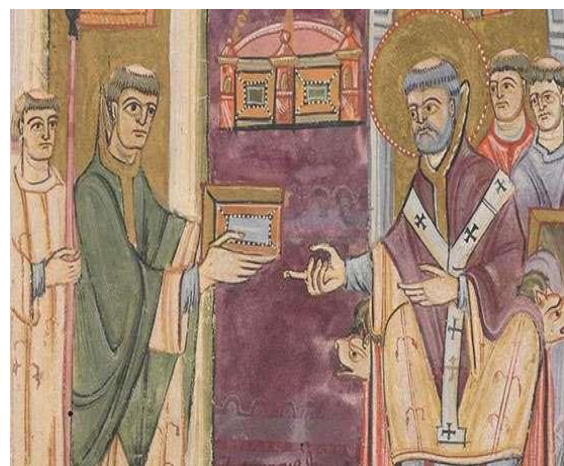
The seeds of Christianity now were spread from Ireland after Patrick brought Ireland in touch with Churches in Western Europe. Later Columba went to Scotland. However there

was a difference in the Christianity brought to England. It wasn't Roman in form. The Celtic Christians were communities of monks (not the Catholic type), further their preachers were not controlled by the Papacy. Do note reader that we have moved on in history to the time of Papal Rome.

The Celtic Church stood against the growing power of the Papacy. Irish and old British Christians saw no reason to accept the boasting claims of Rome. It will come as no surprise then that Rome viewed them as heretical. It was the Roman Catholic, Mr Arthur O'Clery, K.C. who wrote, 'It was undoubtedly on the charge of heresy, that the Columbine monks were, in Bede's words, 'exposed and eliminated.' The Celtic Church rejected a European controlling Church, thus Rome was not going to tolerate that impudence.

The year 1997 saw the 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Augustine in the Isles. Landing at the Isle of Thanet, this Roman Bishop had been given a direct commission from Pope Gregory. Thus it was that the Roman form of 'Christianity' that had conquered Western Europe came to subdue the English Church.

From now on two differing forms of Christianity would seek to win the people of these isles, one brought by the likes of Columba and the other by Augustine.



**Early painting of Augustine in Saxon England**

It must have been a surprise for Augustine to discover that there was already an ancient Christian Church that had survived the pagan

invasions. So, a Conference was arranged in A.D 601 or 603, for Augustine to meet the Bishops of these isles. No agreement was reached in various matters so a 2<sup>nd</sup> Synod was planned for more representatives of the British Church to be present. No agreement was reached. The British stated, 'they would do none of these things...(matters discussed),...'nor receive him as their Archbishop', Augustine was angry.

We see then that the British Church did not recognise the authority of the Pope. Before the conference mentioned, it is said the Celtic Christians sought counsel from a godly old hermit who told them, 'If Augustine rises from his seat when you approach him, then perhaps there is something in what he says. If he remains seated and does not rise to greet you as brethren then have nothing of him. ' Augustine did not rise and when they refused to submit to Rome he said, 'You will either join us in evangelising the Saxon or feel their swords'. This threat was fulfilled when at Bangor the Celtic Church was destroyed and it's people martyred. The Celtic Church in England was finally defeated by Rome at the Synod of Whitby in A.D 664.

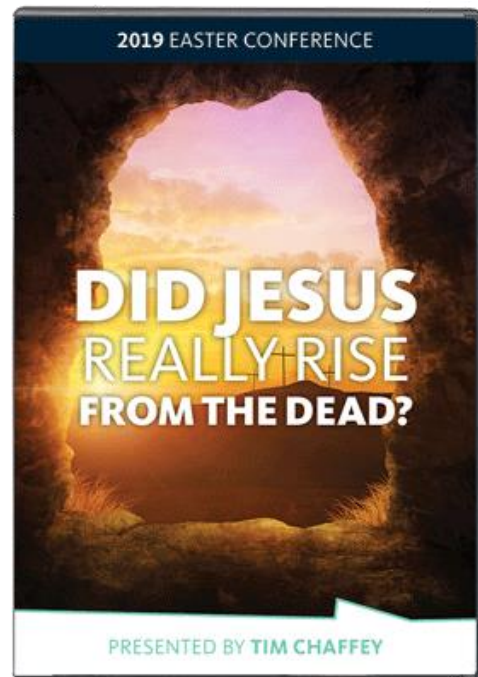
In A.D 1172 at the Council of Cashal, Henry II brought the Celtic Church, which was a shadow of its former self, under Rome. Roman Catholicism was now the only religion allowed in Britain. In A.D 1230 there was submission of the throne to Rome on political matters of Church and State in this land and Europe we see the Dark Ages extend.

Finally, it is easy to think that all Gospel witness fell silent but God would have had His remnant according to grace. An original New Testament seed was planted in this land and the light of Christ which first illuminated this 'Sceptured Isle', was never fully overcome by Rome's false gospel.

By Dr David Badger

## Resource Corner

### Did Jesus Really Rise From The Dead



Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?

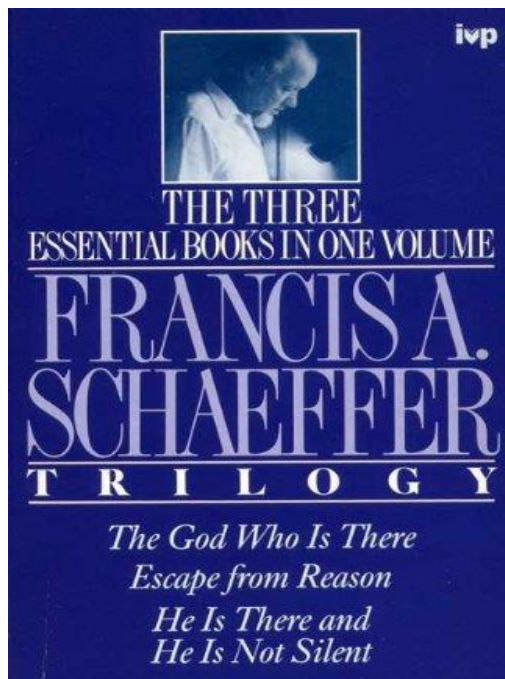
The apostle Paul describes the resurrection of Christ as central to the Christian faith in 1 Corinthians 15. Without the bodily resurrection of our Lord, "our faith is futile and we are still in our sins" (1 Cor. 15:17) and "we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Cor. 15:19). But many skeptics of Christianity say Jesus did not rise from the dead. How can Christians counter these claims? Is there evidence Jesus did indeed rise on the third day? Equip yourself to defend the truth and historicity of the bodily resurrection of our Lord in this powerful presentation.

Discover answers and a strategy for sharing the gospel in an increasingly secular culture. Recorded at the Ark Encounter during our popular Answering Atheists 2019 Easter conference. Format: DVD

Available at [answersingenesis.co.uk](http://answersingenesis.co.uk)



## Francis Schaeffer Trilogy



What is the relevance of historic Christian faith in the late twentieth century? Francis Schaeffer argues that 'Christianity has balance: that biblical exegesis gives intellectual depths, and also, in the area of practical living and beauty, Christianity has a relation to the whole person. Every area of life is touched by truth and a song.'

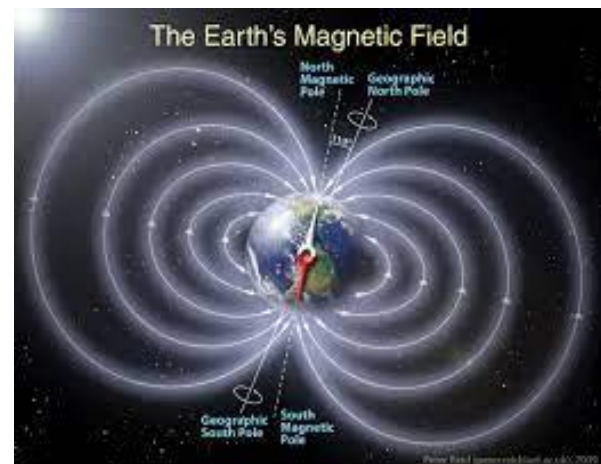
Available at [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

## Flip Flopping Poles

Do not be alarmed, we're not discussing particularly fickle Polish individuals with such a title. Instead we are considering the interesting scientific discussion as to how in Earth's history, the North and South Poles have actually switched to quite plausible dramatic effect.

Science is now confident that the Earth's magnetic poles have indeed switched round brought about by some catastrophic event, and that this dramatic alteration of our environment led to the extinction of many plant and animal species on a global level.

Now of course the evolutionary scientist suggests from the foundation point of their own personal bias of removing God from existence, that these switches of poles occurred long ago and probably numerous times. They are forced to this conclusion under the burden of having to fit this discovery into the belief of a billions of years old earth.



However there is a problem with this theory. It is universally accepted in science that the Earth's magnetic field is weakening with each passing year. Logically this means that if you were to extrapolate the weakening backwards so as to ascertain the likely strength of the Earth's magnetic field even just a few million years ago let alone a few billion, the magnetic field would be so strong it would stop any life from existing on Earth. Quite the problem isn't it! However a young earth of but a few thousand years is perfectly viable for the existence of life. So much so in fact that the stronger but not oppressive magnetic field of the Pre-Flood world would've been ideal for the greater growth and lifespan of plant, animal and man (hence a possible contributor to the long lives of Pre-Flood man as seen in Genesis 1-11).

Also a growing problem for the evolutionary scientist is the knowledge that changes in the Earth's magnetic field (such as pole switches) also greatly affect the rates of decay of the element Carbon-14. If that element sounds familiar it's because it's the element that is the much heralded ageing mechanism of fossils we see in our museums and textbooks.

Scientists confidently say “this fossil is 100 million years old because we know how much Carbon-14 remains in the fossil. And as we know the rate of decay of Carbon-14 we can work out the time needed to pass to get to this level that is in the fossil.” Yet if pole switches or any alteration in the Earth’s magnetic field has a significant impact the decay rate of Carbon-14 in the Earth’s environment, doesn’t that mean that fossils may read as being significantly older than they actually are? Well yes it does.

Also what could possibly cause such a dramatic alteration to Earth’s magnetic field that a pole switch occurred? Well to the Bible believing Creationist, the answer is in the Book Of Genesis, namely Noah’s Flood. A massive catastrophe on the scale laid out in Genesis would be a perfect cause for such a massive change to our Earth’s atmosphere and planet.

So once again, science has caught up with the Bible. As one preacher noted, “Science doesn’t confirm the Bible, the Bible confirms the accuracy of the science.”

By Jonathan Badger

## Time To Reflect

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March a one-minute silence was held to mark the 12-month anniversary of the U.K. adopting social distancing restrictions, following the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic. While the minute’s silence gave us a chance to reflect on those that have lost their lives during that time, it also perhaps gave us a moment to think on how we have spent the last year and any changes that have been wrought in our own lives.

As we look back to March 2020, and the initial announcement of an approximately three-month lockdown period, I’m sure we’ll all be reminded of things we planned on doing now we had a lot of unexpected free time on our hands. From cleaning out the attic to re-organising our DVD collections, or from introducing a home workout routine to

learning a new language, I expect we all had exciting tasks and new ventures we’d planned on undertaking. As we look back over the last year and consider the time we spent, I wonder how much of what we planned we actually accomplished?

As believers, the last 12 months also gave us a glorious chance, suddenly presented to us by a somewhat quieter life, to give more of our free time to the Lord. Whether it was to increase our quantity or intensity of prayer, put more time aside for reading the Bible or spending more time using online resources (e.g. sermons on YouTube), this last year has given us all a golden opportunity to walk closer with the Lord and build ourselves in holiness for His names’ sake. But as we look back at the increased hours we’ve spent indoors, similarly to those before-mentioned recreational tasks, can we honestly say we’ve made the best use of our time? I’m sure many of you reading this could probably share my own personal position in that, in all these opportunities for spiritual growth, I’ve probably fallen short of what I’d have hoped and expected.

In the coming months as we, Lord willing, return to normality, one might feel a sense of disappointment that the chance to draw closer to the Lord is slipping away. But do not despair! The coming days will see a fresh opportunity for growth arise, as it gives us a chance to review the time we do spend in recreation, and to assess whether it’s best spent doing “what we’ve always done”, or if there is a chance to balance our time more efficiently? Speaking personally, I’ve always been a keen amateur dramatist, often spending up to four evenings a week at rehearsals for various local productions. When local theatre clubs are able to resume activities, I will be thinking again about spending such a large amount of my spare time in doing something that, while most enjoyable as a recreation, does little to nothing for my sanctification. I would urge all readers to consider likewise their own hobbies and interests, and getting the recreation/faith balance appropriately aligned, during this precious short time between lockdown and a return to normality.

Even as we balance the use of our free time, the pressures of work and family life can still make finding time for the Lord feel difficult. But with a more balanced routine and personal strictness, this can be achievable and most rewarding; let us learn from what we have and have not managed to accomplish over the last year, and make sure we take the opportunity moving forward to dedicate appropriate time to the Lord day by day. Just 10 minutes here or 20 minutes there, in place of a previously much-loved but ultimately futile activity, if re-dedicated to prayer ("pray without ceasing"!), reading of scripture or other Christian literature, or making use of the vast online resources available to us on our present day and age, could bring us all much closer to the Lord.

***Matthew 6:33 – But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***

By John Sivewright

## The world is millions of years old

This is what we are taught at school, this is what we read in 'science' books, what we hear on the news, what children are told in their programmes and what they even have read to them by their parents when they are young - it's even been in my own children's books so I have had to stick a label over the word millions. And so it is no surprise that so many people so sadly believe this as a result of their teachings, because they just do not question what they are told or read and do not look for the evidence themselves. If they did they would find that this is merely just a theory... and an incorrect one at that.

For those of you who do not know me, I am a Teaching Assistant in a Junior School, prior to this it was at a Primary School within the younger years, and before this I

was in Early Years. My experience spans over 15 years within childcare and education with children from 0 to 11 years of age. I have sadly therefore come across the teaching of millions of years several times over the years. It was only recently in the key-worker bubble (which I had actually been moved into from another year group for a few weeks) that this happened again while they were 'studying' a particular topic titled Tribal Tales – it includes Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.



**Incorrect idea of Stone Age man**

Due to the teachers being in the other classrooms over this latest lockdown taking live lessons and planning over the rest of the day, it was we Teaching Assistants that taught the key-worker children. My colleague and I would take turns to teach lessons but it seemed that she always asked me to teach Topic, which was as I said Tribal Tales at that particular time. This gave me the opportunity to re-word the power-points and slides and take out the word 'millions'. A few children over the weeks even picked up on this and individually asked me why I don't believe in millions of years. Therefore I was given the opportunity to say to them that we do not live in a world million of years old, they were only 7 and 8 years of age though so I could not witness to them in the way I can now to my 9 and 10 years old I am now back with, they are a lot more inquisitive when the conversation comes up.



I am even getting the opportunity to witness to my colleagues a little now too (in the very small amount of time we get out of class and together with Covid restrictions). These strange times seem to have made a lot of my colleagues, (who are sadly not believers), think that the world surely is coming to an end and possibly quite soon, and to note and mention all of the sin in the world.

If I was not in this position at a school around hundreds of children and tens of adults, I would not have the opportunity to witness to them and to plant the seeds in their minds that we do not live in a world millions of years old, (and to date I am about to be moved for a sixth time within the school just since the beginning of this academy year - September). Fellow believers: we are so blessed to be His children and to have been chosen to have Him as our Father watching over us, guiding us, loving us and always being there in good times (and in hard), we need to share this love and the knowledge we have of Him and to correct others in love so that they may know and love Him too. *Job 36:5, Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom.* I pray He gives you all the strength you need to tell others about Him and what peace He can give you if you just look and ask. *By Donna Badger*

***1 Chronicles 16:11, Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually. Humble us Oh Lord and give us the strength and the words to speak your words and bring others to you, Amen.***

## Isaiah 53

As believers in Christ we see the Lord and His Sacrificial Work in this chapter. Yet from the

Middle Ages in Europe and beyond, the Jews have interpreted the Servant as Israel. However, the writings of ancient Jewish scholars on messianic prophecy very much match the Christian interpretation. Rabbi Elia de Vivas of the 16<sup>th</sup> century writes of Isaiah 53, 'Thus the Messiah suffered on account of our sins, and was wounded; he who does not wish the Messiah to be wounded for our transgressions may choose himself to suffer and carry his own sins.'

Traditionally the ancient Rabbis identified the 'Servant' as the Messiah. Jonathan Ben Uzziel paraphrases Isaiah 53:10, 'Behold my Servant the Messiah will prosper'. The Talmud (Jewish writings in reference to Isaiah 53:4 names the Messiah 'the Sick One'.

The Hebrew Bible presents two pictures of the Messiah, One who comes to suffer and die – Isaiah 53. One who comes as King – Daniel 9, Isaiah 11:1-9. This puzzled some Rabbis and led to a belief in two different Messiahs – Messiah Ben Joseph – who suffers and Messiah Ben David who reigns. Thank God we know the 'Two' are 'One'.

Isaiah 53 then is a picture of prophecy of vicarious suffering. Here is a mystery that only Calvary solves. Further, this chapter is an example of the mystery of contradiction and paradox.

1: Root out of a dry ground (v2). Yet fruitful (v10) see his seed.

2: No form nor comeliness (v2). Pleasure of the Lord is His (v10).

3: Despised, rejected (v3). Yet the Saviour (v5).

4: He dies (v9). Yet lives (v10).

5: Has no offspring (v8). Yet has seed (v10).

6: Grave with the wicked (v9). He died with criminals but was buried in the sepulchre of the rich (v9).

7: he suffers adversity (v10). Yet enjoys prosperity (v10).

8: He is triumphed over (v8). Yet He triumphs (v11).

9: He is cut off (v8). Yet prolongs His days (v10).

10: He is condemned (v8). Yet justifies the condemned (v11).

Will the Jews ever recognise their Messiah?  
Yes, read Romans 11:25-28, Zechariah 12:10.

By Dr David Badger Snr

## Are our arrows being fired by the Enemy?

This article is something of a convoluted journey that my wife and I have taken over the last few months, which has involved taking stock of current cultural situations and looking at them in scriptural context and with prayer. This is journey that I hope to share with you here and maybe it addresses some thoughts that you as the reader may have had in relation to your own family.

This Journey begins with President Biden. Only the second catholic President in the history of the United States (the first being John F Kennedy) he has in his first two months in office done more to forcibly forward the agenda of the LGBTQ+ and pro-abortion movements than any other administration in such a short time scale (which no doubt has rather upset the Pope).

By the time this article appears in Truth to Wonder, it is possible that the current attempt to push through the "Equality Act" will have succeeded in passing the Senate.

This Act has not been publicised in the world media but is a bolting on of gender equality to the Civil Rights act of 1964. This is momentous, as it lays gender rights at the same level of law as the rights of race. Racism and "genderism" will be on the same footing when it comes to falling foul of prosecution for discrimination.



Should this act pass the senate you will be able to identify as any gender you wish (and at last count there were more than 112 gender identities) and under law be protected from any form of discrimination; be that in the work place, education, welfare, healthcare etc. The trans-sexual activists have been particularly vocal in lobbying for these changes. It would mean that you can identify as for example a woman if you are in fact a biological man and be able to compete in women's sports, use a women's bathroom / toilet facilities, locker-rooms, changing areas, and even domestic abuse shelters without prevention. This right would extend even to the schooling system down to the level of kinder-garden – yes preschool children.

In addition surgeons will not be allowed to refuse to perform any manner of gender reassignment surgery regardless of personal beliefs. You will have to perform a breast

removal surgery in a teen girl who wants to identify as a boy even if you regard this as misguided mutilation – that's as long as you wish to keep your job.

Men and women will no longer have set roles in the areas of the work force – for example it will be permissible for a man identifying as a woman to do pat downs and strip searches on a biological women; and that woman will not be able to request another biological woman to perform this task, as that would be deemed as discriminatory to the transsexual woman. Religion gets no safe space within this Act. In fact the Act explicitly exempts itself from the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. This means that faith based schools, adoption centres and other faith / religion based charities would face government sanctions for maintaining teaching of the Bible and fundamental biology, especially on subjects such as sex and marriage.

Think it cant get worse? Well as a final kick to morality the Act also treats any refusal to offer abortion as “pregnancy discrimination”. Pro-life defences at the federal and local state level would be fundamentally undermined. We in the UK are in a far less ‘Christian’ nation, and believe me this is coming here as well. Only recently a local authority in the south of England was condemned for not allowing trans-sexual women access to the domestic abuse facilities for biological women. The popular toy, Mr Potato head is as of today, no more, the company stating that it conforms to gender stereotypes and does not fit the culture at large anymore. Toy companies in general are looking to remove gender stereotypes, pushing for gender neutral dolls, pink dinosaurs, and other none gender fixed designs. Schools are pushing

story times based around books about homosexual penguins, or boys that wear skirts. Transsexuals make guest appearances in assemblies and drag queen story times take special pride of place in the day – all without the prior consent of parents. Children as young as 4 are being asked to choose a gender from a list of over 20 when joining



**Mr Potato Head is no more**

school groups. Why? Because through these actions Satan knows that if you have the children you have the generations to come.

More concerningly parents are getting less and less of a say in their child's education. As one fifth grade public school teacher said regarding parents concern over the schools support of the aberrant gender identity that their children were adopting; “their parental right ended when those children were enrolled in public school”. Other schools in the United States are supporting preteen and teen trans gender identities, changing a child's pronouns on school documents but keeping this concealed from the parents. They also allow children as young as 12 to leave the school grounds to start gender reassignment / puberty blocking hormones without the parents consent or knowledge. If a parent expresses concern, or refuses to use the



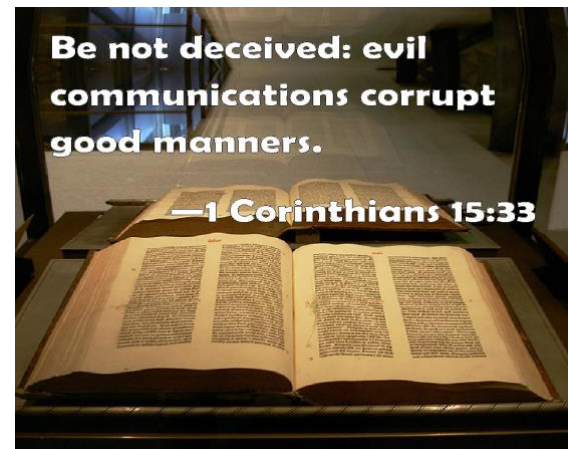
pronouns a confused child wishes to use, the school regards the parents home as a “unsafe environment”, and will do even more to encourage gender counselling and concealment of therapy from the parents. The parents rights stop at the school gates in many of these schools, and frankly its terrifying.

And this leads me to my next leg of the journey. My wife and I are expecting our first child together, and in light of all this have struggled with the concept of sending our child to school when the time comes, but rather, we are considering home-schooling. If things are this bad now, give it 3-5 years and schools will be places where parents lose all control.

As Christian parents to be, I and my wife have struggled to reconcile the scriptural command to “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” with sending them to state schooling. We wouldn’t want to take our child to a church that was teaching false doctrine once a week on a Sunday, neither would we sign them up to a evolution summer school, or a gender and sexual tolerance seminar, so why would we send them to 5 days a week of humanist indoctrination, where they will get all of this 8 hours a day?

But what about the counter points? Lets start with the most popular. We should send our Christian children to school so that they can be “salt and light” to the rest of the world. As born again believers this is what we should all be. But as a reasoning for sending our children into the spiritual battlefields front lines I have concerns.

Firstly lets look at Pauls statement in 1 Corinthians 15 vs33



Matthew Henry writes of the above:

“He tells them that they would probably be corrupted by them, and fall in with their course of life, if they gave into their evil principles. Note bad company and conversation are likely to make bad men. Those who would keep their innocence must keep good company. Error and vice are infectious: and, if we would avoid the contagion, we must keep clear of those who have taken it. “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20)

We see this in everyday life. We no doubt all know people led astray by bad company. Think of Gods command to the Israelites as they set to conquering the promised land. He commanded them that they remove all the Canaanite peoples including the children. Why? Because God knew that the above statement was true. The Israelites were not to live amongst the Canaanites and be “salt and light”, to influence them for God. They were too wicked and they would only serve to corrupt the Israelites through influence and intermarriage. The children of the Canaanites were included in this. What happened? They

chose to not carry out Gods command and they fell into gross wickedness and idolatry because of the surrounding influences.

Christian parents (and I'm including all denominations here) have been sending their children for the greater part, into secular schools for decades. And we don't see the schooling system getting any better through their children's influence. What we see if anything is Christian children leaving the church in droves by the time they reach further education. Who is influencing who here?

We also have to ask who was being told to be salt and light? The phrase "salt and light" is a compound paraphrase from the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5. This was a sermon delivered to the disciples, and to Jew first, for at the time of this sermon the Gentile nations had not been called. We as born again believers in Christ also apply this to our lives, as representatives of Christ. This however was not an application to the children of Christian parents, many of whom have not yet made a statement of faith or personal testimony to a believing faith in Christ. It is our job and commission as parents to prepare them for the battle. Are we not sending out our children ill equipped into a war-zone where the enemy knows full well what's at stake? We've just seen the reason for not keeping bad company as believers, how much more should that be for us as parents to keep our children not only from bad company before they have a saving faith but even more so humanistic teachers!

My question would be – if you are using your child as salt and light, are you equally doing the same and getting on the school board and

PTA meetings in order to affect change in the school as a whole? Isn't that our job as parents not our child's job, and wouldn't that be more effective?

Scripture says the devil is out there prowling like a roaring lion waiting to devour us. (1 Peter 5:8). Do we send our child out to play with that lion without first raising them and training them in Christ Jesus and the armour of truth? Are we not sending them out desperately ill equipped? Is it not our first task to evangelise our children and then educate them?

Others would argue that you can do this at home during the times they are not at school. When would that be? First thing when you're getting them up, tired and grumpy, finding their PE kit and deciding between three different breakfasts? Or when they come back from school, when they are equally tired, want to play, and don't want to do their homework, let alone learn why its scripturally wrong in the first place. My hats go off to those of you that make and have made this work. But again I would ask, do you send your child to play in the sewers just because you have a hose at home to wash them off? Or do you not let them enter that effluence in the first place? Muck will always stick somewhere!

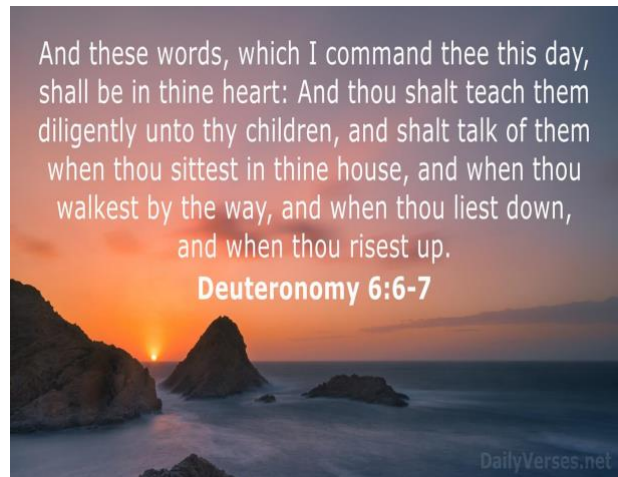
Still others will use predetermination. God has predetermined who will be saved. Therefore I will send my child to school regardless of its current state or what they teach because if God has predetermined my child to be saved they will be fine. Do we approach our witnessing in this way? Or do we say that we should witness to all because we do not know who God has chosen? In the reverse sense why should we expose our children to

humanistic indoctrination without a solid foundation on the basis that if God has chosen them they are fine?

A further argument is that schools have always been places of indoctrination and there have been many bad cultural times before. This is in essence true. However comparing this current culture to previous is not helpful in resolving this issue either. If we hold that we are approaching, if not in, the very end times, what does scripture equate those end times with. As in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37). It is comparable only with a world about to receive the ultimate judgement because of how wicked it was, so that every thought of man was only evil continually. If this is the case and these are the times we live in, then why would we want our children in schools surrounded by this culture?

But home schooling is not about sheltering. It is not about bubble wrapping our children, but talking to them frankly and explicitly about the culture, but without bathing them in it, and handing them to others to teach them. Its about building solid relationships and equipping them to stand in the Lord, so that when they do go out and face the world they can give reason for the hope that is within them (1 Peter 3:15). You have as parents fulfilled your commission and honoured the blessing that God gave you in the child. Ultimately this isn't about the child but about you and your role as a parent before the Lord, for which we will all have to give an account. And I feel deeply burdened by that accountability. Deuteronomy sums up our responsibility well in chapter 6 and verse 6 and 7.

We are told that children are like arrows (Psalm 127:4). But like arrows they will fly only where they are pointed. Do we do the training and pointing of those arrows towards God, or do we hand over those arrows to another's bow to fire?



We as a couple have decided that in these times we can only fulfil our role as parents before the Lord by seriously looking at home schooling when the time comes. I hope you can see our reasoning and may be it makes you stop and think about a few of the issues the way it did us. Amen.

By David J Badger

## Easter Bible Quiz

1: At which Jewish festival did the crucifixion of Jesus take place?

2: What did Jesus and the disciples do when they finished eating at the Last Supper?

3: Was Peter the only disciple that said to Jesus that he would not deny Him and die with Him?

4: Which three disciples did Jesus take with Him into the Garden of Gethsemane?



5: At His arrest, how many legions of angels did Jesus say He could call down to defend Him?

6: What did Judas do after he betrayed Jesus?

7: Who was the High Priest who put Jesus on trial?

8: What colour was the robe placed on Jesus during His trial and beating?

9: What was written on the sign above Jesus' head on the cross?

10: What did the centurion say after witnessing the darkness and earthquake that took place at the death of Jesus?

11: What did the angel say to the women at the empty tomb?

12: What was Jesus' command to the disciples before He ascended to heaven?

### Answers:

1: Passover 2: They sang a hymn and went to the Mt of Olives 3: No, they all initially said they would also 4: Peter, James and John. 5: 12. 6: Threw the betrayal money on the floor and went to a field and hung himself. 7: Caiaphas. 8: Scarlet. 9: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. 10: Truly this was the Son of God. 11: He is not here: for he has risen. 12: To go and preach the Gospel across the world to all peoples (Matthew 28:19-20)

## A Final Thought

*Mark 10: 21-22 - Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.*

The account of the rich young ruler's discourse with the Lord Jesus Christ gives us much opportunity for reflection, particularly at this time of year when we consider the atonement and the good news of the free gift of the gospel. The young ruler seemed to have a lot going for him; he was a staunch doer of the commandments, paid reverence to Christ and sought eternal life. Jesus, as he beheld him and loved him, laid out for him the final step to secure salvation. Yet when our Lord put him to the test, the rich young ruler failed miserably. One moment seeking eternal life and the next sad and going away grieved. What could cause such a remarkably swift change of countenance? "For he had great possessions"; his heart was in the wrong place. The love of worldly things continues to prevent many people from being saved. Instead of in heaven, where moth and rust doth not corrupt (Matthew 6:19-20), the young ruler preferred to lay up his treasures on earth. And are we not sometimes guilty of the same? How many times have we fixated on a new car, or perhaps the latest fashion, and not on our sanctification and the riches that await us in glory? And how many at this moment are outside of the Kingdom due to serving the wrong master, worldly possessions and the accumulation of wealth? Let us never forget that the greatest possession of all is the free gift of eternal life promised through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and his atoning work on Calvary's tree. Where our heart is in the present will determine where we will reside in eternity; let us all be sure that we are serving the right master. And, from there, let us preach the gospel boldly this Easter season and beyond, witnessing that salvation through Christ costs nothing, but gains infinitely more than anything money can buy.

By John Sivewright

