

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, there are several large, gnarled tree trunks. Behind them, a grassy field leads up to rolling hills under a clear sky. The image is used as a backdrop for the magazine cover.

TTW Truth To Wonder Ministries Magazine

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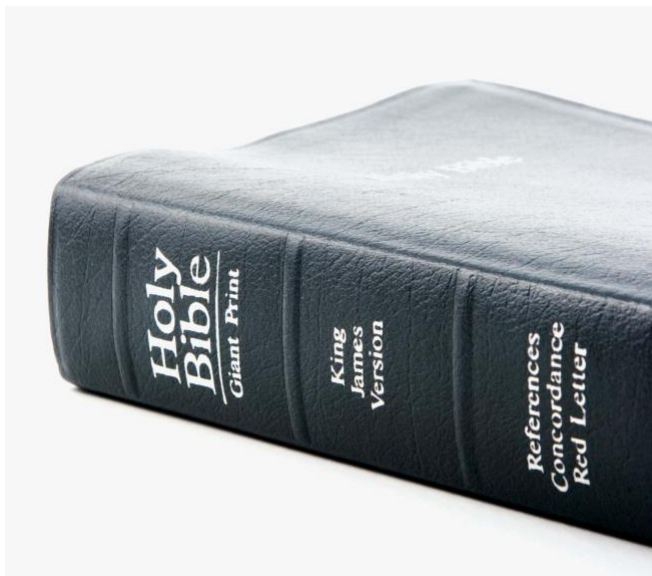
Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Welcome to Truth to Wonder

A warm welcome to one and all to August's edition of Truth To Wonder magazine. As I looked for a suitable front cover image for this month's issue, I was reminded by the verse shown (Galatians 2:20) at how amazing the position of the believer in Christ is in relation to God and indeed themselves.

The language used by Paul, under inspiration from the Holy Ghost, conveys the awe struck wonder of each redeemed heart when we consider how though we were once dead in sin, our old self is no longer having been crucified with Christ. Instead we are a new creation in Christ, born again by the Spirit. This is how we live now, a new being in Christ Jesus, a new person before God.



Yet the use of the semi colon is crucial as it continues the statement after a clear separation also. It's this richness of grammatical insight that reflects that whilst we have been crucified with Christ because of our sins and as a result we live as Christ lives, we do so because He now lives in us. Paul is clear to highlight that what makes him clean before God is nothing he can muster or achieve, it is all through Jesus. In the use of one semi colon we have a beautiful and clear depiction of how Christ alone can bridge what was once separate. Where there was a punctuated gap between man and God because of sin, through the sacrifice of Christ and His glorious resurrection we now are restored to the Father.

I raise this point to demonstrate how important even the smallest detail is in regards to the Word of God. The depths and heights of God cannot be fully understood by man, for even in one piece of punctuation a great truth can be contained. If God has put such richness of meaning in but the smallest of

punctuation, wouldn't He also require a benchmark text, a royal standard that accurately and consistently reflects the staggering heights and depths of His revelation to mankind that is the Word of God?

Lastly, as we have seen in our study of The Book of Ruth over the past several months, Our God is not one of slack care and provision for His own. If The LORD had not overseen Ruth going into the field of Boaz in which to glean, they would've never met and the line of Christ would've been broken.

If God is so intricate in His provision and revealing of His will and Word as to masterfully guide two lives to one another, then how can anyone rightfully believe that He is satisfied and happy with numerous and often very different versions of His eternal Word? For as Paul states in Galatians 2:20, Christ lives in we believers and we are all quick to rightfully hope and trust that He watches over each moment of our lives. Therefore we should follow His example, as in all things, and carefully watch over the care of His revealed Word, noting and protecting each detail without compromise or slackness. Let's pray for the strength and devotion of faith in which to undertake this heavenly task.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, forgive us we pray for our slackness in watching over your Word with the care and devotion with which it so rightly deserves. Remind us Lord of the blood shed over countless centuries from our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us, as they sacrificed all so that the Scriptures might be saved untainted and uncorrupted by the subtle schemes of Satan.

Lord we ask that you instil in us hearts that yearn for truth and that we do not turn away from the source of all truth that is Christ Jesus, as Pilate so tragically did long ago. For in this desire for the truth of your Word, we will labour hard with hearts of thanksgiving and joy to see how each minute fragment of your Word is infallible, inerrant and the source of eternal life. Make it our daily hunger Lord, a hunger so great that our care is not in what our stomachs may consume but what our souls are sustained by.

Lord we thank you with everlasting praise and adoration that you blessed us so mightily as to give us your Word, a living Book that is the heart song of Our Eternal God. A Book above all books, a revelation of your wondrous Spirit so that we might know of the way, the truth and the life, our precious Lord Jesus. Amen.

Variety Isn't The Spice of Life

On entering many Christian bookstores, or when viewing online Christian bookshops, we will inevitably be greeted with a wall of various Bible translations and versions. There are so many differing translations now that you could read a different Bible version every day through the month without repetition!

In this bewildering selection of Holy Bibles we have a new contender for your consideration according to Dr John MacArthur – the Legacy Standard Bible. Over the past year Dr MacArthur's colleagues from his Masters Seminary in America, have worked to produce a 'more accurate' version of the text that purportedly better replicates the original manuscripts to a greater degree than ever before. This in itself is hardly a unique selling point, as every Bible translation over the last 200 years has claimed to be the most accurate and faithful to the original texts.

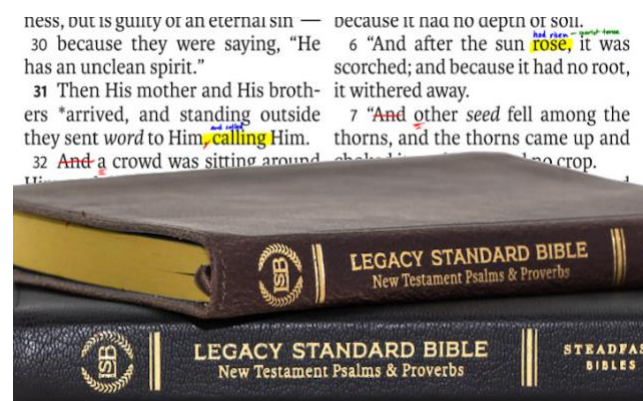
On watching a talk led by Dr MacArthur, sat amongst his fellow translators, a number of problems began to emerge as to the need, motivation and accuracy of this sizeable project.

Firstly, the translation was undertaken as already mentioned by Dr MacArthur's colleagues from within his Masters Seminary. On noting this point, Dr MacArthur observed that by keeping it all in house, they were able to avoid "theological debate". Whilst on a human level it is an easily understood ideal to have a smooth, amiable working environment free from contention and argument. However what we are discussing is not a human book, it is the very Word of God, a living book and as such should be treated with the highest degree of scrutiny so as to produce the finest reading possible. A warm, convivial, consistently agreeing work environment does not lend itself well to academic rigour and scrutiny. When compared to the intense scrutiny and challenge that took place between the A.V (KJV) Bible translators, many of whom came from opposing theological standpoints as seen between Church of England and Puritan based academics, the levels of challenge are worryingly low within the LSB group. Whatever happened to the Biblical teaching of "iron sharpeneth iron"? (Proverbs 27:17) It seems more like familiarity hugging familiarity with the LSB version.

I have sat in many meetings as a Schools Trustee when quality assessment of academies has been discussed, and glowing appraisals have been wrongly offered merely because they were in house and colleagues. Then when outside scrutiny was applied,

numerous faults were detected that had been completely missed in house.

This point was later highlighted by one of the senior LSB translators who commented that when they sent out the drafts to 'other academics' for review, he received 1500 suggestions of text alterations over one weekend!



Dr MacArthur also notes at the beginning of the discussion how the whole Bible translation took one year. One year! With only seven men, all from one theological Seminary. It took the A.V translators 7 years with 47 translators to get to a point where they were confident in the accuracy and fluidity of the translation.

Furthermore Dr MacArthur commented that how he 'saw the hand of the Lord at work' in the how quickly the translation was put together. However, so many times in the Bible itself, and indeed throughout non-Scriptural history, the Lord has used long stretches of time to show His blessing on a work and His providential care. Abraham had to wait 20 years for Issac to be born after the promise. David had to wait years to be crowned king even when he had been anointed by Samuel. It took centuries of labour and bloodshed for the A.V (KJV) Bible to come to fruition and no one in their right mind would argue against the enormous impact this one Bible has made upon the world. Secular English Professors are quick to acknowledge the staggering affect the KJV Bible has had on the world. Clearly the Lord blessed each one of these examples. Above all these however, it took 4000 years for Jesus to be born of the flesh as seed of a woman as prophesied in Genesis 3:15! Never assume that speed of accomplishment is a sure sign of blessing! There's the old saying of 'angels fear to tread where fools rush in'.

The Legacy Standard Bible was sent out for perusal to 50-80 peers so as to gain feedback. The A.V/KJV went out to every bishop and minister in the land for comment and suggestion. It's a bit like the toothpaste adverts where the stat comes up on screen saying

'8/10 dentists use Oral-B' making you think 'wow, impressive'. Then you see a qualifying statement come up in small at the bottom saying 'based on 70 dentists surveyed'. That's hardly a huge amount to make so bold a claim!

The LSB was funded by the Lockman Foundation, the same people who brought you the New American Standard Bible. Indeed the NASB was used as the base translation for the LSB and has been retained as the majority of the text (some 90%) apart from some alterations. Interestingly one of the NASB translators was one of Dr MacArthur's professors at Seminary, so again Dr MacArthur has kept it all in house.

In trying to sell the appeal of the LSB to the watching audience, Dr MacArthur observes that the familiarity of the base text, in line with the differing prints of the NASB, should make it easy for preachers to change from the version they use to his project the LSB. This point came after he stated that he wouldn't be able to change versions as he would find it too difficult! However he then remembered he had changed versions when he dropped the KJV for the NASB years prior. Confused? Me too. To summarise, it's easy to change to the LSB but don't go switching again afterwards.



Dr John MacArthur

The LSB was written to 'help show readers links between various chapters, books and theological themes'. These, the translators of the LSB contend, had been 'locked up' in previous translations and so they commended themselves on being more faithful to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in their rendering of the text. This observation jarred with me as I listened to it as it sounds like the LSB translators are declaring themselves better servants of God than those brothers in Christ who have gone before them. Furthermore before highlighting the new ease of teaching aimed at the Bible reader, Dr MacArthur boldly claimed that this new translation was not

written for man but for God. Obviously he meant that the project was hoped to bring God glory, but what brings God glory is faithfulness to the fullness of the message, not the ease of the message. Moses learnt this lesson when he went before Pharaoh with different versions of God's declaration (Exodus 5).

After much declaration from the assembled LSB translators that theirs is the most accurate and literal rendering of the original text (don't forget, the most literal translation of the corrupt Alexandrian Septuagint text), they comment on how they've altered the original text in translation to help with tricky areas that might be a problem to readers today. They used the Biblical term "fear of the Lord" and how wives are to "fear their husband" as an example. They understandably note people today see this terminology in a negative, aggressive, almost bullying manner and so they replace 'fear' with 'respect'. However in their rush to appease modern man and drop their commitment to literalism they've forgotten an important point. I can respect someone but still happily ignore their instruction, hence the thinly veiled put down "in all respect". Therefore a wife can respect their husband but not need to listen to his leadership, the two are not intrinsically linked as the LSB translators hope.

Fear though, in terms of deep reverence, is a definite acknowledgment and following of another's leadership and stewardship. This is why a fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Dr MacArthur and company would've been better off here ignoring the sensitivities of modern people and stay true to their bold assertion of their commitment to accuracy.

This is where new translations will always falter, no matter how well meaning the project. They are written to appeal to modern readers, to make it easier to digest. To do this well however, the sensitivities of the reader must be considered and listened to. However one cannot reconcile the sensitivities of man and the inerrancy of God's Word.

Finally the LSB makes its USP (unique selling point, a business term to draw attention of the buyer away from competition), is that they have replaced the Old Testament title of LORD with Yahweh. Their contention is that Yahweh is the personal name of God given to the Jews in the Old Testament and using it makes God more relatable. They also contend that the use of Yahweh forges stronger links with Jesus and His claim to be the Son of God.

Putting aside the hermeneutics of the issue as there are more qualified men to tackle this subject, the claim that using Yahweh instead of LORD makes God more personable and relatable devalues God. The

LORD is like no other, so much higher in all attributes than any created being that the concept of trying to make Him more relatable only dilutes the Biblical revelation of just how mighty God is. This is why in the Book of Isaiah, He is referred to as the thrice holy God. This repetition of the Hebrew denotes the highest level of separation in perfection and righteousness that God possesses over all created beings, angels included!

To brush away this immense separation in the hope of making the 'God of the Old Testament' more personable, diminishes the incarnation of Christ Jesus, the full revelation of the Godhead. In the eternal wisdom of God, He decreed that His Son would be the way that we would come to know Him, giving Him the full deeds to all of Creation and all accompanying glory. When the disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father, He simply replied, "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father." (John 14:9) It is this mediating of God and man that Christ alone can perform that makes the grace of God all the more incredible! We come to a personal knowledge and relationship with the Father through the Son, this is Biblically undeniable.

This is woven throughout all Scripture as we see Christ use the same titles as 'the Old Testament God' to support His claim of deity. The use of LORD in the O.T makes a clear linguistic link between Jesus as Lord in the N.T and God in the O.T. We then see how Jesus is visible but veiled in the Christophanes (pre-incarnation appearances of Jesus) within the O.T and how all history is the moving of time towards the return of Christ and the consummation of His kingdom.

Whilst Dr MacArthur has done much fine work in the name of the Lord, this new venture is a serious misstep. God needs no assistance from man to reveal Himself in all His deep and eternal splendour. The God who brought all creation into being by just His verbal command is certainly capable of creating and preserving His Word. This preserved Word is evident within the A.V/KJV Bible, a text so unique in its accuracy and yet also its lyric poetry that even secular professors lavish praise on it's sheer power and beauty.

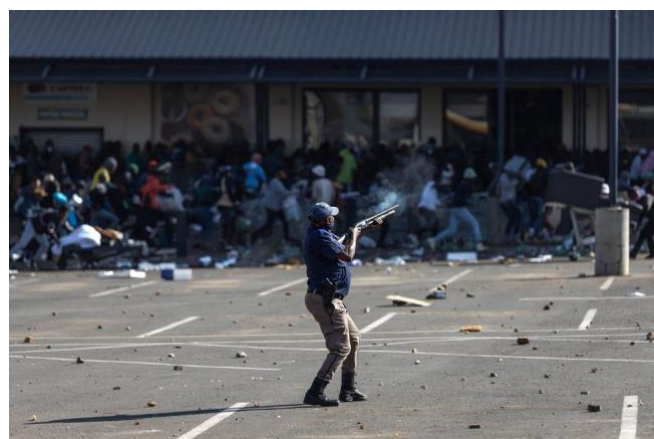
We don't need another translation of the Bible to bring man to God, we need the power of the Holy Spirit to illuminate the awesome richness of the A.V/KJV and constant prayer for His guidance in preaching this Pure Word to all nations. This is what man needs, this is what glorifies God. In a world full of Christian literature and resources it is all too easy to forget this beautifully simple truth that the Lord has

long provided His preserved Word unto eternal life through Christ Jesus.

By Jonathan Badger

A Preview of Coming Attractions

"We're close to eating each other," read the headline on the social unrest witnessed in South Africa during the month of July. As chaos swept the country, even police officers were filmed looting from stores as the nation crumbled into anarchy. Food and medicine shortages gripped the country as violence spread like wildfire with murders spiralling out of any sense of control.



Riots and chaos in South Africa

Such scenes are a glimpse of what is coming for all mankind, given by a long suffering God who seeks that none should perish but that all should seek everlasting life through faith in Jesus Christ. To see how the hour of the Lord's return is swiftly approaching one only has to look at the daily news reports. America is a bubbling cauldron of civil unrest as witnessed in the Capitol Riots in January and George Floyd riots of last year. China and Russia are exerting their military muscle against India, Ukraine, Belarus, Australia, Japan, USA and the UK, whilst crushing religious opposition from the Muslim Meghurs in detainment camps and removing political freedoms in Hong Kong. Haiti has witnessed the assassination of it's President, France and Germany are seeing growing anger against the current governments. Canada looks on as churches across the nation are being set on fire and President Trudeau sits on his hands and refuses to condemn the attacks on the faith that built his country. Our own nation is being stirred up into aggression against itself through racial violence and discrimination.

The next generation is so confused as to what human sexuality is meant to be that each youth now feels the

need to place some label on themselves as to their particular orientation like some human pick and mix.

Farmers are lamenting the gradual death of their lands as they sombrely predict that they probably only have a maximum of 60 harvests left before the soil loses all nutrition for the growth of crops. Whilst the soil dies, ferocious weather systems are being sent with ever increasing frequency and potency, with newspaper headlines beginning to exhaust the term 'biblical' to describe the latest tragedy.

Terrible flooding in Germany



Even when an 1972 MIT research project that looked at the projection of humanity based on the then current agricultural, economic and environmental factors in place, was challenged on the bleak predictions of the disintegration of society worldwide by 2040, it was actually found it's predictions look worryingly accurate. This is when the model was corrected in allowing for all the known data over the last 50 years. Mankind it seems from academic study, will destroy itself. Doesn't this sound like the Biblical revelation from 2000 years ago that Christ will return so that mankind does not wipe itself out? Interesting isn't it.

The concerning conclusion of this MIT study is that mankind can save itself from this tragic end if it rallies itself within the next decade and unites to tackle climate change. The spirit of Babel is alive and well and Satan is carefully manoeuvring mankind into a state of unified desperation so that his Anti-Christ will be greeted with open arms.

Yet we Christians, we faithful few, who when watching these events unfold before our eyes should be boldly declaring the Gospel for the day of the Lord is fast approaching. There is an understandable desire to 'bunker in' as we see these plagues hit our shores. Yet we must be as Moses, determined not in our capacity, but by the witnessing of the power and might of God so that we might warn the hard of hearts that judgement from God is near. God called an

end to the preaching of Noah and Moses, they did not throw in the towel when they thought the time was right. Yet all around we see Christian gatherings becoming increasingly timid and fearful of the world. We would do well to remember once again the words of Our Lord when He cautioned us to not fear the one that can only destroy the body, but to fear the one who can destroy the body and cast the soul into eternal hellfire (Matthew 10:28).

To those who say this is too much, too intense, I recommend you read the ministry of Jesus again. Jesus himself was the greatest hellfire preacher the world has ever seen. If He did not shy away from the reality of hell, why are we to?! Speak boldly friends, pray for the words and thank the Lord that He is long suffering and that He has made you for this time. Go and tell all of the coming judgement and speak with hope and certainty of the freeing power of the Gospel. Be careful to not try and adapt the Good News so as to attract modern man. The Gospel is eternal and can never be outdated, it's depths no man knows the fullness of and it will take all eternity to unravel its awesomeness. Take it's plain message of the sin of man, the atonement made by the blood of Jesus on the Cross and the redemption of sinners through faith in the risen Son of God who is Jesus Christ, and spread it far and wide. Then pray that whilst you labour for His kingdom, He will watch over you, blessing you with the Holy Spirit and that He will return for us soon. Then we will rest forever in the goodness and provision of Our God free from the unrest of our current age.

By Jonathan Badger

A Closer Look At Psalm 119:1-8 - Part One

Psalm 119

ALEPH

1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.

4 Thou has commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

6 Then I would not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

7 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

Before we take a closer look at the opening eight verses of this great Psalm, we shall begin with a brief overview of Psalm 119 as a whole.

A quick glance through the Psalm will soon find us struck with the sheer length of it. Psalm 119 is by far the longest chapter of the entire bible, running for 176 verses. The psalmist helps us here, through his unique structure, as the Psalm is broken down into 22 sections of eight verses, with titles corresponding to the Hebrew alphabet. Further to that, the first letter of each verse of a section begins with that letter, e.g. the first eight verses begin with Aleph, the title of the section. Some have called this the Alphabet Psalm, or the ABC Psalm; like being back at school you might say! This should remind us, perhaps, that we are forever in the Lord's classroom. However long we have been saved, and however much we may think we've enhanced our spiritual development and knowledge, we are always students at the Lord's feet, and should always approach His Word with a humble spirit, ready to be taught.

The author is unknown. Some have speculated that it may have been King David, but speculation is the extent of it. That should not trouble us, as while we do not know who the author was, we know that, like all writers of scripture, he was guided by the Holy Spirit. While different men held the pen, every book of the Bible is the inspired and preserved Word of God. And as the Apostle Paul reminds us in his second Epistle to Timothy, Chapter 3, Verses 16-17, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

The theme of the Psalm is of a love of the Word of God, and a desire to learn it and profit by it. Ten different Words are used at various times to represent the Lord's Word:

Way, Law, Judgments, Words, Statutes, Commandments, Precepts, Testimonies, Righteousness and Truth. At least one of these words occurs in every

verse except verse 122. Such an emphasis on the Word of the Lord should teach us the importance of an intimate acquaintance of it, and our responsibility to keep it, meditate upon it and cherish it.

While it is a long Psalm, it doesn't repeat itself, and a prayerful and considered study of it should reap great rewards. While we'll look in depth at the first eight verses, some private meditation on this Psalm is strongly recommended. Commentator Matthew Henry perhaps captures the spirit of this great Psalm the best, "He that reads it considerably, it should either warm him or shame him; and this is true."

As we come to look at these first eight verses, we shall do under three main considerations:

- 1) The state of a man blessed by the Lord
- 2) How to attain to this blessed state
- 3) The results of living in this blessed state

1: THE STATE OF A MAN BLESSED BY THE LORD

The Psalm begins with four verses that look generally at the state of a man blessed by God, starting with his conduct. So, we shall first consider the conduct of a blessed man. In Verse 1 we read blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord; in Verse 4 we also read they walk in his ways. By walking in his ways, they consider God's commandments and instructions in all they do; in how they live their day-to-day lives. While we are not saved by our works, we are called to obey God's commandments, as written in the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 10, Verse 1 therefore thou should love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandment, always.

In order to keep the Lord's commandments and walk in his ways, we have to know what they are. Now that seems straightforward enough, but I wonder how many of us could list the Ten Commandments in order if we were put on the spot? To know the commandments is to be familiar with them, to be intimate with scriptures, to study them frequently and to be interested in them. When we have a keen interest in something, we tend to soak up information on that subject like a sponge, don't we? Speaking from

my own history, as a youngster I knew everything there was to know about American wrestling; the height and weight of the wrestlers, their hometown, who they wrestled on every show going back ten years or so. We probably each have our own specialist subjects that have piqued our interest down the years. But what



insignificance such information pales into when we consider how much there is to memorise and learn in the Lord's Word! How much better my younger days may have been spent had I got to know the contents of an AV Bible, and less so the unimportant trivia of hobbies that might entertain me for a season, but do nothing for the soul. To walk in the law of the Lord, we must know the law of the Lord.

But simply knowing it all is not enough, as Verse 3 says the blessed walk in his ways. Note the plural here; his ways. We don't pick and choose which laws of God we want to obey, while forsaking others. We don't say "I'll walk in this way but not that", do we? We may keep our speech clean and avoid taking God's name in vain, we may honour the Sabbath, but what use is all of that if we spend most of our waking hours thinking about that computer game we want to buy, or obsessing over that promotion at work and the financial benefits of it, thus breaking the 10th Commandment? As James says in the Second Chapter of his Epistle, in Verse 10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and offend in one point, is guilty of all. We don't simply pick the laws that suit our desires, our lusts or our circumstances of the day, we are to keep them all.

Furthermore, We keep are to keep them diligently; we aren't to take a half-baked approach. Are we to wake up one morning with a great zeal to keep the commandments, while the next day we say "I shan't bother today. I had a great day yesterday; I kept all the Lord's commandments, but that's enough hard work for now. I'll take a "lazy day" today."? Are we to take a "lazy day" in our walk with God? Absolutely not! We are to be diligent in our approach to such important, Godly matters. We're diligent about our jobs, aren't we? Our young ones are diligent in their studies, aren't they? Well, we hope they are! So, we ought to be diligent in keeping the Lord's commandments. As the Apostle Paul says in his Epistle to the Philippians, Chapter 3, Verse 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. When we have our eye on a prize, we focus on it, it's in our sights, we cease not in our efforts until we have it; we are to diligently keep the Lord's precepts.

We are to walk in the law of the Lord. That word "walk" is worth closer attention. To walk is a positive move. We should be confident in our conduct as believers; stand upright, chest out – walking with pride and gusto, as we know that the Lord's way is the right way. The psalmist doesn't say we are to stumble in the law of the Lord, as if we're not quite sure of where we're going or how we'll get there. We aren't to stumble as if we don't understand God's laws and why we are called to this higher standard of conduct. We're also not told to crawl in the law of Lord, as if we're dogs on a leash – the Lord has blessed us with free will, and a right to choose. We're not to act like robots. We should choose to walk in his ways because we want to, and do so with confidence and purpose, standing out in an increasingly ungodly and sinful world. By walking in the law of the Lord, we should be an example to others; oh, how many Christians give a poor example of faith by the way they live and the choices they make (and how aware I am of my own shortcoming as I pen this article). As the Lord Jesus Christ says in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 5, Verse 16, Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven. We are set apart from the world; we are not to do as they do. As the very introduction to the entire Book of Psalms says, in

Psalms 1, Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly. We must walk in the law of the Lord; we must walk as he instructs us, in his path.

The outward conduct is one feature of the man blessed by the Lord, but a brief word on the inner man. Verse 2 of this Psalm tells us, blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and seek them with the whole heart. Unless we're in it with our whole heart, we probably wouldn't keep the Lord's commandments for any longer than a week or so. To seek them with the whole heart, the Lord and our relationship to him has to be our number one priority. Is there anything in our lives that challenges that number one spot? We can still have our hobbies and our interests, but if they start to infringe on our walk with the Lord, then it's time to examine ourselves. After all, no man can serve two masters. A major international football tournament has not long finished; you might have noticed it – it was a great time to be fan of the sport (and an Englishman!). But I wonder how many men and women, that profess faith in the Lord, never miss a game at the Vitality Stadium, but are often absent from their church on a Sunday morning? How many people are always in front of their TV at 7.30pm for their favourite soap, but don't come to the Lord once a day in heartfelt prayer? Proverbs Chapter 3, Verse 5 instructs us to Trust in the Lord with all thine heart. Not just part of it. We don't give him half our heart, nor even 75% of it; He should get it all. Again, no man can serve two masters; we must make sure we serving the right one.

We see from these first four verses that the man who obeys the Lord's commandments, does them diligently, and seeks them with his heart, is blessed. These first four verses of this psalm take a general view of man, an overview if you will of a blessed man, but from Verse 5 onwards we come to a more personal section. Lord willing, we shall continue this exposition next month, as we consider the remaining four verses of the first section of this great Psalm, a Psalm of which Charles Spurgeon noted, "is worth its weight in gold."

By John Sivewright

William Tyndale Part 2- His Journey to Europe.

Tyndale had left England and made his way to continental Europe where we believe he went to Hamburg during the spring of 1524, then possibly onto Wittenburg. We think this due to an entry in the matriculation registers of the University of Wittenburg; entered was *Guillelmus Daltici ex Anglia* and this has taken to be a Latinisation of "William Tyndale from England". The meaning of matriculation is the process of entering a university as a candidate for a degree or becoming eligible to enter by meeting certain academic requirements. During his possible time at Wittenburg he began translating the New Testament and completed it in 1525 with the assistance Friar William Roy.



Hamburg, Germany – the scene of much of Tyndale's labours in Europe

In 1525 publication of William Tyndale's work was printed by Peter Quentell in the Rhineland of Cologne, but this was interrupted by the impact of anti-Lutheranism. Yet a full edition of the New Testament was produced in 1526 by printer Peter Schoffer in Worms; here was a free imperial city and at the time in the process of adopting Lutheranism. Soon more copies were being printed in Antwerp and smuggled from continental Europe into England and Scotland. However the translation was condemned in October of 1526 by Bishop Tunstall, this man had issued warnings to booksellers and had copies of Tyndale's work burned in public. Marius notes that the "spectacle of the scriptures being put to the torch provoked controversy even amongst the faithful." Even Cardinal Wolsey condemned Tyndale as

a heretic in an open court in January 1529. Thanks to an entry in George Spalatin's diary for 11th of August 1526, we know William Tyndale had stayed in Worms for about a year but sadly it is not exactly clear when he moved to Antwerp.

For Tyndale's translation of Genesis and the title pages of several pamphlets during this time of 1526, it was alleged to have been printed by Hans Lufft at Marburg. However this is a false address, Lufft the printer of Luther's books never had a printing press at Marburg. Following the hostile reception of his work by Tunstall, Wolsey and Thomas More in England, Tyndale went into hiding in Hamburg and continued his work there. He revised his work on the New Testament and started translating the Old Testament.

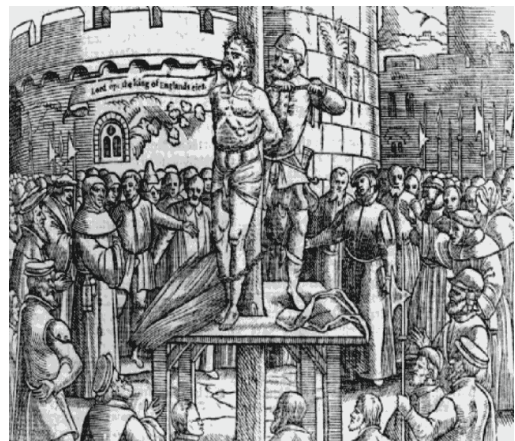
Henry VIII had fallen in love with Anne Boleyn and sought to cast his first wife Catherine Of Aragon aside. He pleaded with the Pope for an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, of which the Pope refused. Around this time Anne Boleyn handed Henry VIII a book by Tyndale titled *The Obedience of the Christian Man*, written in 1528. Henry was enthralled by this book as Tyndale emphasised within its pages the importance of the scripture over any other authority, this included the Catholic Church and the Pope. He also emphasised the authority of the king, stating that it was God who appointed kings and that the king was the authority of his realm. The idea of Henry VIII having authority over even the Pope was very relevant to him at the time.

Just two years later in 1530 Tyndale wrote *The Practyse of Prelates* which opposed Henry VIII's planned annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon in favour of Anne Boleyn. This was on the basis that it was unscriptural and that it was a plot by Cardinal Wolsey to get Henry caught up in the papal courts of Pope Clement VII. Perhaps in hopes to gain support from Tyndale, Henry VIII offered Tyndale a return to England and even a place within his court as well all of his past transgressions being forgiven.

Thomas Cromwell, right hand man to the King, had organised one of his agents, Steven Vaughan to meet Tyndale and he accepted. Albeit Tyndale stated that

the only way he would return to England would be if Henry VIII brought out a Bible in English. Despite Henry VIII eventual break with Rome, the King remained conservative in his beliefs and still believed in Catholic practices such as penance, the sacraments and the Mass. He also still strongly believed in the Bible being only in Latin.

King Henry was furious with Tyndale, and his response was that he asked Emperor Charles V to have the writer apprehended and brought back to England under the terms of the Treaty of Cambrai. The Emperor responded that formal evidence was required before this could be done. Tyndale developed the defence of his stance in *An Answer unto Sir Thomas More's Dialogue*.



The martyrdom of Tyndale after his betrayal

Tragically, Tyndale was betrayed by Henry Phillips to the authorities that were representing the Holy Roman empire. He was caught in Antwerp in 1535 and taken and held in the castle of Vilvoorde (Filford), the great state prison near Brussels. Some suspect that Phillips was hired by Bishop Stokesley to gain Tyndale's trust and then eventually betray him. It would take months for the law to take its course, during this time Tyndale had many hours to reflect on his own teachings, such as this passage from one of his tracts, "Let it not make thee despair, neither yet discourage thee, O reader, that it is forbidden thee in pain of life and goods, or that it is made breaking of the King's peace, or treason unto his highness, to read the word of thy soul's health, for if God be on our side, what matter maketh it who be against us, be they bishops, cardinals, popes." He was condemned as a heretic in 1536 of which he was found guilty and

his sentence was to be burned to death, despite Thomas Cromwell's intercession on his behalf.

Tyndale's final words spoken were reported as "Lord! Open the King of England's eyes", before he was strangled and then burned at the stake in the middle of the town square. The traditional date of commemoration is the 6th of October, but records of his imprisonment suggest that the date of his execution might have been some weeks earlier. John Foxe gives the 6th of October as the date of commemoration but gives no date of the death. Thanks to William Tyndale's work, within four years four English translations of the Bible were published in England at the King's order and all were based on Tyndale's work. This includes Henry's official Great Bible. His dying wish that the King of England's eyes be opened would be fulfilled just one year later with King Henry authorising the creation of the Great Bible, which is largely based on Tyndale's own work with missing sections translated by John Roger and Miles Coverdale. In 1611 after seven years of work, the 47 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew significantly from his original work and estimates suggest that the Old Testament in the King James Bible Version is 83% Tyndale's words, while the New Testament being 76%. This just shows the sheer continued impact that he had years after his death, playing a key role in the spreading of the Reformation across the English-speaking world and eventually the British Empire.

We were one of the last countries to have a translation of the bible into our own language so when you next hold your King James Bible in your hands to read the scriptures, think back to this man who fought for us to have access and own a Bible. Without him, we do not know how many years later it would have been before a common hand could have known the glory of our Lord's true words, not the lies created for one's own self gain seen in other works.

By Samuel Badger

Ancient Briton

As we continue our series on the movement of God's Word, we travel now from the 1950's to the 21st century. The 1950's opened up with the fact that 'faith' had gone from many of our people. The new generation born that decade (of which I was one), would emerge into a cold (I lived on the East Coast), materially hard but generally friendly era. However, Satan had long range plans that would emerge in the 1960's.

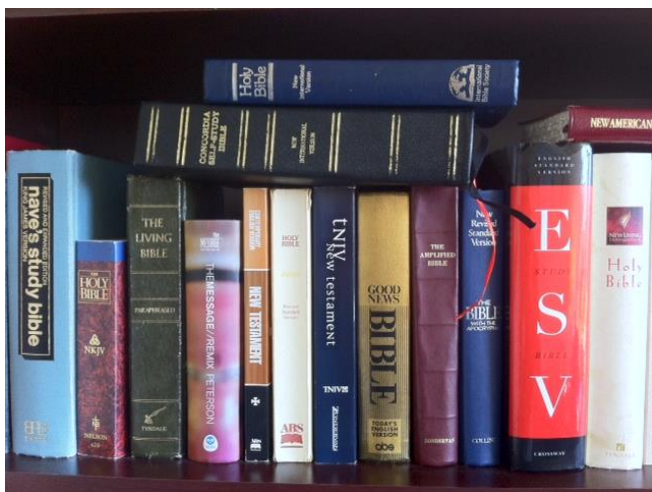
God was still moving and 1959 saw revival in Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales. There was also the Lewis awakening under Duncan Campbell between 1949-53. Revival had swept through India, France, the West Indies, parts of Africa, Sweden, Norway, Canada and America. Sadly however, the Church was full of apostasy. There was no final authority, Scripture was downgraded, work was underway to return these Isles to Rome as 'Mary's Dowry'.

The cause of this collapse was the surrender of the A.V Bible, the road was now open to a new Dark Ages. The Church today is at sea, lacking a pure Word. A diminished Bible produces a diminished Gospel, one that is man centred, humanised, secularised, corrupted and pretty powerless. Truth has 'fallen in the streets', the reason? There is no final authority in the pulpit, the Bible Colleges and the Theological Departments.

The 1960's swept away the young now 'come of age'. Satan unleashed his New Age of drugs, music, sex, occultism and more ideas than the average preacher can shake a stick at. Believers now changed their God given blood washed Bible for a pile of corrupted books called bibles. Satan had achieved a greater victory than the invasion of ancient Briton by Claudius.

In the 1960's, leading evangelical names were fawned over by the Church. These great 'heroes of the faith', while receiving plaudits and praise from Keswick to Keele, were busy falling in love with Rome. Promoting modern Bible perversions they lacked even the discernment of a 'babe in Christ'. The whole host of 'names' was not worth one faithful A.V Bible believing brother standing in the open air preaching where none of them had ever been in their life. Most of them had never led a man to Christ, never witnessed to the militantly opposed, never suffered loss, reproach, hunger, toil, betrayal and a host of other things that the faithful remnant have. They sat and still do on their committees and waffle on about non essentials or plan the next betrayal of the Body of Christ.

Between 1963-65 a famous leading name did a complete turnaround and took a position he had once declared was not evangelical. He signed *Evangelicals and Catholics Together*, a pact that left thousands of believers gobsmacked. The Church does not want men like this. Along came other 'famous' names in their dog-collars and spearheaded the Charismatic Movement which brought Protestants and Catholics together. The Second Vatican Council were thrilled and by 1965, the Jesuit Cardinal Augustin Bea was telling of the 'separated brethren' returning to the Holy Mother Church. As the 'gifts' poured forth and the 'New Testament' revival spread, nobody noticed the Mormons down the road using the same gifts. In Keswick (where I once lived), the Roman Catholic centre poured forth worship in tongues to MARY.



In September 1971 when I began theological training, God taught me one thing that I am as sure of today as I was then. What is it? That the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church is Roman and nothing else in its title. Roman Catholics need Christ.

By the 1980's the Charismatic Movement, now officially endorsed by Rome began to let the mask slip in response to certain spiritual matters. One of the strangest responses of this 'work of the Spirit' went unnoticed by the massive majority but was picked up by believers who used the A.V, namely how many 'redeemed' responded to the A.V. At first it was a gentle poking of fun at the old archaic KJV and an emphasis on obtaining an NIV.

Between 1980-83, I was a Baptist pastor and I increasingly noticed this phenomenon. Now at the time I often used different versions when preaching. One day a lady in the congregation was so taken by my not having an NIV she went out and bought me one, presenting it with some ceremony. I read it straight through, twice, taking a book a day and I liked

it. However, I noticed when I picked up my A.V (KJV) again to study that I found it difficult to read. Never having had this problem before I could not find an answer for it.

By now, round the country it seemed that the spirit that had begun with poking fun was changing. There was a slight twinge of animosity starting to be experienced by some of God's old faithfuls. It was August 1983 when I met a servant of the Lord that was under God's gracious hand to change my basis of authority from such as the RSV and the NIV to the A.V. On examining his arguments over a period of time, I became aware of a huge deception in operation to remove the A.V from believers hands. Convinced of the witness of the Spirit to my heart and the evidence from manuscripts (which I have now spent 36 years studying). I then began to see why I had found difficulty in returning to the A.V after reading the NIV.

Cutting a long story short, matters all revolved around the issue of where is God's Pure Word? I believe that God showed me the answer to that question and I have only ever used the A.V since. Further, now I began to see why those believers in these Isles that stuck with the A.V were facing what was becoming a rising tide of vitriol. There was and is a spirit abroad opposing The Book.

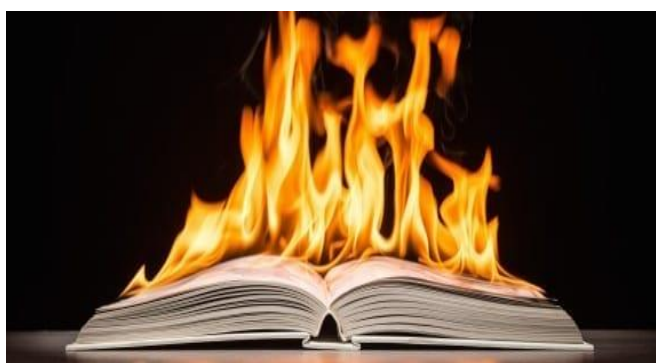
With the beginning of the 90's, through many contacts around the country I became increasingly aware that hatred for the A.V had grown. The character of the spirit abroad had become disturbing. When God's people are attacked with maliciousness for using the A.V it is not a smell of the heavenlies in the air but the smell of sulphur.

Now, it must be said with sadness it is not just Charismatics who dislike the A.V. Some of those to undermine it most and advance the NIV etc are Reformed men. I have witnessed reformed students in training at A.V based Conferences push their modern Bible propaganda. The rot of course lies at the door of the lecturers. I have known faithful Reformed ministers who use the A.V who are ignored at conferences and fraternal s because of their A.V stand, there is 'death in the pot' and it is stewing right in the camp.

I have stood in the library of a Reformed Theology Seminary and listened to some wet behind the ears, nearly graduated pip-squeak lay into men three times his age who held the A.V telling them why they should dump it for a modern Bible. The Lord's Word betrayed in the house of His 'friends'. There are Protestant Book outlets that claim to stand by the A.V but still sell corrupted bibles. I sat in one leading Theological

Institute one day and spoke in a private meeting to two leading Protestant men offering that if they would stop selling corrupted bibles and only sell the A.V (which their organisation claimed to stand on), then I was so confident that God would honour it, I would personally make up any difference or loss they experienced. They wouldn't even consider it.

For four hundred years, right from it's emergence, the A.V/KJV 1611 has faced vicious attacks. There is a hatred in these assaults that has its roots in some other worldly power, what is sad to see is how this spirit is affecting believers. I recall on leaving the pulpit after speaking in a famous Christian Conference Centre, one NIV protagonist, a Gideon, who went ballistic over a passing comment I made in my sermon to the accuracy of the A.V. One day a minister in Cambridge rang me, a total stranger, telling of a similar experience when a visiting preacher had been politely asked if next time he came he would read from the A.V, let's just say he wasn't pleased. I have had one minister give a public burning of one of my booklets on the A.V at his church. Actually while we are on the subject of burning and for those who argue Rome has changed, in the 1970's a priest in training being witnessed to by myself stated, 'we will burn heretics like you when we return to power'. In Bible College today all that awaits the the A.V using student is ridicule, vilification and in some instances psychological pressure to give it up or face non-graduation. Hard to believe? I have personally counselled such students.



Finally let us not get the idea that only wicked old liberal universities, seminaries and colleges teach falsehoods. Ninety-nine percent of all Bible Colleges today will give you a 'Biblical' education based upon a Catholic Text. It is because Roman 'scholarship' has flooded the land again that the A.V is so hated and rejected. The A.V/KJV is unreliable is it? Well how come after four hundred years of 'correcting' it, we still need a new bible every year? What we get however are translations from Sinaiticus and Vaticanus, two God-forsaken texts

.By Dr David Badger

Corrie Ten Boom – A Tramp for the Lord - Part 2

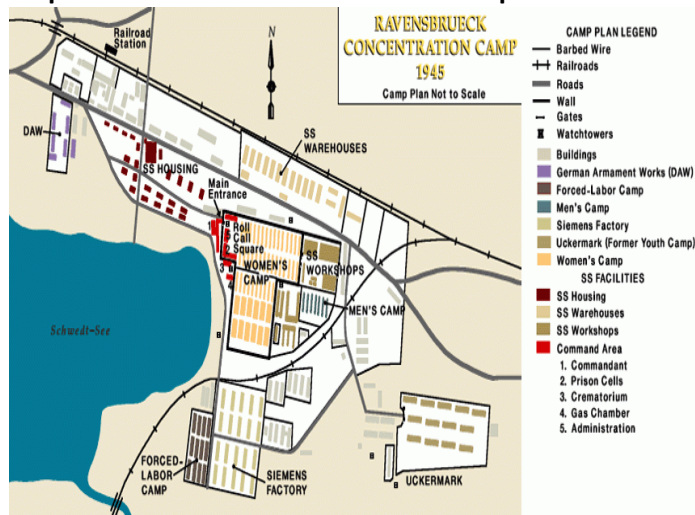
We rejoin Corrie after her spending 3 months in solitary confinement. In June 1944, God provided again by reuniting the sisters while boarding a train to Vaught Concentration camp in which they were assigned to work as slave labor at the Phillips Factory assembling parts for the radios for the German fighter planes. In September 1944, one thousand women including Corrie and Betsie were ordered to gather anything personal and were put onto a train bound for Ravensbrück Concentration Camp.

To understand the horrors which were now awaiting the sisters, here is a brief background on Ravensbrück. Originally this was meant to be a women's only concentration camp between 1939 and 1945. The camp was located 56 miles north of Berlin in northern Germany. Ravensbrück's construction was started in November 1938 under the orders of Heinrich Himmler and even at this time its sole intention was to hold female only inmates. Ravensbrück's first prisoners of war arrived in the May of 1939. It is believed to have held a total 132,000 women before it was liberated by the Soviet Union on the 30th April 1945. In Spring 1941 the camp expanded and a male prisoner of war (POW) camp was set up. The SS Authorities made the male inmates build and manage the gas chamber in which many people were horrifically murdered. In October 1944 with the Soviet Union fast approaching to end the war, many women were transferred from the better-known concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Once Corrie and Betsie had arrived, camp procedures needed to be followed. The ladies were assigned numbers, prisoner 66729 and 66730. They were then subject to inspection in which could have resulted in the Bible which Corrie had obtained in prison being taken away. Corrie prayed that she would not be searched, God provided again as the guard was distracted by another prisoner so Corrie was not searched. This small miracle would mean they could continue God's work and they led many prisoners to Christ during their time there.

The conditions in these camps were awful, the huts were often made of wood which meant they were damp and cold. For beds they had an old straw mattress which often contained flea's, lice and other people's bodily fluids all stacked on top of each other. The mattresses were often shared with multiple different ladies so there was no luxury of 1 mattress per person. In light of these awful conditions, it was another blessing from God that in Hut 28, in which Corrie and Betsy were now kept, had the worst flea infestation in the camp. It may seem strange how this was a blessing, but it actually meant the wardens would not come into their hut and only came to put the limited amount of food by the entrance to the hut and leave again as they did not want to get fleas themselves. This meant they could hold prayer services and keep the Bible safe.

Map of Ravensbruck Concentration Camp



Life was far from easy for the sisters being inside the camp. They were living on very little food as rations had run low within the first year of the camp opening and the ladies were forced into hard labour. They would often be up early and returned late, all within having to complete roll call. The wardens and guards were brutal, "they had received training on how to be cruel" Corrie remarked later in her life when discussing some of the horrors they went through. While exhausted and malnourished, Betsy and Corrie held nightly worships and Bible readings for those inside Hut 28. They would sing hymns and while speaking in Dutch, not everyone could

understand so those who could translate to another language would do so.

Everyone inside Hut 28 while Betsy and Corrie were there heard at least 1 verse from the Bible in their own language. They never faltered in their faith even with all which was happening, they continued to pray and glorify Our Lord. "We were not poor, but rich, rich in this new evidence the care of him who is God, even in Ravensbrück", Corrie later observed. Not all is known about what they encountered while here due to it being a very painful memory for Corrie.

Sadly, Betsy's health took a turn due to starvation and lack of medical care while during their time at the camp. God comforted her and Corrie through her increasing weakness as she spoke of a future joy awaiting them in that they would be free before the year was out. Corrie later retold Betsy's last words to her "we must tell them what we have learned here. We must tell them that there is no pit so deep that He is not deeper still. They will listen to us, Corrie, because we have been here." Betsy did not live to leave Ravensbrück, she passed away on the 16th December 1944 aged 59. Her body like many others who passed thrown into mass graves.

12 Days after Corrie lost her sister, on the 28th December 1944 Corrie was released. When she asked why she was being released she was not told a reason, it was another one of God's gifts to her, "God does not have problems. Only Plans" she proclaimed when she was released.

Upon her one and only return to Ravensbrück, she was informed one week after she was released, all the ladies she shared a hut with were sent to the Gas Chamber so it must have been a clerical error causing her release. We know now that this was because liberation was coming for the camp so the SS leaders wanted to remove as much evidence as possible. This led to many being transported elsewhere or being sent into the gas chambers, as many of Corrie and Betsy's fellow hut friends would find out.

At the end of March 1945, the order was made by Himmler to evacuate who they could to other places so the orders came for all physically capable women to form a column on a “death march” which would cause them to become much weaker in transport to another camp. An estimated 2,500 ethnic German prisoners who remained were released, and 500 women were handed over to officials of the Swedish and Danish Red Cross shortly after the evacuation. On 30 April 1945, an estimated 2000 abandoned and sick prisoners were discovered alive at the camp when it was liberated by the Soviet Army. The survivors of the death march were liberated in the following hours by a Soviet scout unit.

Between 1945-1959 the Soviet army took over the former camp to use it as an army barracks, the remaining buildings such as the gas chamber and crematorium fell into ruin. In 1948, former prisoner’s and the Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime attempted to preserve at least the area around the crematorium and turn it into a place of remembrance. Three cemeteries were established around the camp and the first memorial ceremony was held there in September 1948, we believe this is the one and only time Corrie ever returned to the camp but sadly there is no firm evidence as to when she returned.

In September 1959, Ravensbrück became a national memorial and statues were placed to show all the horrors of what had actually happened there. After the reunification of Germany in 1993, the Memorial became part of the Brandenburg Memorials Foundation and since April 2013, an area of 900 square meters here has been devoted to the exhibition, “The Ravensbrück Women's Concentration Camp: History and Commemoration”. You can still book tours to go and see the camp for yourselves today, including the sick bay where Betsie left to see the glory of Our Lord, the gate where Corrie walked away a free woman and even the train stop in which both ladies entered into this unknown horror. Yet God had his plan in place and that is why we always need to trust in Our Lord, because no plan we have is ever greater than His.

By Tara Badger

Provision for a Nation Part 10

I’m sure our Editor and founder of Truth to Wonder won’t mind if I mention it was his birthday this month (July). As his older brother I have the pleasure of having attended all of his 37 birthdays (whoops!). We have a great time every year doing something simple but fun and getting all the family together for a few games.

I’m going to take a little digression from our normal proceedings on this occasion, to tackle a side topic that relates to both the birthday celebrations we have just enjoyed and the next chapter in our study.

Before we go any further just take a few minutes to read Genesis chapter 40. We will go back and look at the chapter in detail. But first, I want to focus on something of interest relating to a proof text used by the Jehovah’s witnesses to justify their position of not celebrating birthdays. This is not just a slap on the wrist misdemeanour within the JW’s but a serious issue and could lead to the “disfellowship” of the perpetrator.

The JW’s and the Watchtower Society regard birthdays as evil and believe no Christian should partake in the celebration, not even an acknowledgement of the day or the giving of a card.

Which texts do they use as a justify this position? Well, the two texts are Genesis 40 verses 20-22, which In the New World translation Genesis 40 verse 20-22 reads:

“Now the third day was Phar’ao’s birthday, and he made a feast for all his servants, and he brought out* both the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his servants.²¹ And he returned the chief cupbearer to his post of cupbearer, and he continued to hand the cup to Phar’ao.²² But he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted

to them.²³ However, the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he kept forgetting him' (NWT)

and Matthew 14 verses 6-10:

'But when Herod's birthday was being celebrated, the daughter of He-ro'di-as danced for the occasion and pleased Herod so much⁷ that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked.⁸ Then she, at her mother's prompting, said: "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist."⁹ Grieved though he was, the king, out of regard for his oaths and for those dining with him,^{*} commanded it to be given.¹⁰ So he sent and had John beheaded in the prison'. (NWT)

The JW's look at the circumstances of these texts, i.e Pharaoh's and Herod's birthdays and the actions which they take on those particular days (executions) and from this conclude that birthdays are evil.

But the simple question is what is the source of the executions on these days? Is it the birthday or the man? The day is not inherently evil but the man carrying out the acts on those days. This would seem intuitive to the majority of us I would assume. But the JW's position is one of 'guilt by association'.



No scriptural basis for deeming birthdays evil

The other obvious failure in the logic of this argument is found in the Genesis text. If a birthday is inherently evil because Pharaoh executed the chief baker, then what about his act of mercy on the chief cupbearer? How does that relate to the perception of a birthday in the JW eyes? Not to mention that each of these days was also a day of the week, not just a birthday. So assuming both these pagan rulers didn't have a birthday on the same day of the week then 2

out of 7 days are evil by association. I have no idea what days of the week their birthdays were, but there would be nothing to stop the Watchtower from saying Tuesdays and Fridays are evil because they were Pharaoh's and Herod's birthdays. This is the logical conclusion of the argument.

The biblical approach to birthdays is somewhat simpler. There is no scriptural command to celebrate a birthday but there is also no passage in Scripture that says it is forbidden to do so. From a biblical history context there is no general association of birthdays with evil other than the two acts carried out in these passages. Indeed, the birth of a child in Leviticus 12 was marked by ceremonies and rites. Keeping track of age was important in societal structure, and within Mosaic law, age was one of the chief qualifications for authority and positions of office. In John 9 verse 21 the blind man's parents state that their son "is of age".

It is also significant that the age of Jesus teaching in the Temple at 12 years old is recorded. So in conclusion on this topic – I will be looking forward to celebrating the old mans 40th birthday in 3 year's time Lord willing and with God's blessing.

But now back to the task in hand. We left Joseph in prison but in a position of great responsibility, a position in which he seems to thrive with the guidance and blessing of God. In this office he finds himself looking after the needs of two prisoners who had been unfortunate enough to fall foul of the wrath of Pharaoh. We are not told of the precise nature of their crimes, but both holding positions of great status and trust in the royal household they find themselves in the king's prison alongside Joseph. One was the chief cupbearer and the other the chief baker.

There is a Jewish supposition / tradition that these two were embroiled in a plot to poison Pharaoh. This is unlikely on two levels. Firstly, they would have both been immediately executed for such an act. Second it is highly unlikely that Pharaoh if he had been lenient in the initial sentencing would have subsequently

reinstated the cupbearer to his previous position where he could have had a second crack at it. Because they were both high status prisoners, Potiphar (the captain of the guard), puts them directly into the care of Joseph. Even though he put Joseph into prison he appears to still highly regard his abilities and still feels able to entrust him with responsibility. In verse 5, we see them both dream a dream on the same night. The verse already indicates that the dreams were related and as such were of supernatural origin, as two people do not independently dream related / similar dreams naturally. Whilst they were similar they were also distinct.

These men were also themselves aware that these dreams were not just any random dream, but held a meaning and were at a loss as to what this meaning was. This led to their sad countenance, as such members of the staff of Pharaoh in their former positions would have had access to dream interpreters, and they would have sought out the magicians and wisemen of the court in order to gain some answers. However, bound in prison they have no such access, and this renders both of them distressed and depressed.

Joseph is astute. He notes their change in demeanour and knowing he has been entrusted with their care, which he takes seriously as he did all jobs to which he was tasked, asks them what it is that distresses them. This is no doubt out of a genuine desire to rectify whatever is wrong. They respond to him with a desire for interpretation. Joseph's reply is important and has relevance even in this day and age.

"And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you".

Dream interpretation is God's and God's alone. Even today there is a big desire amongst the young particularly to interpret dreams and seek meaning to our nightly imaginings. I will make this very clear – the practice is an occultic one. It is dangerous to become involved in such practices, and whilst it may seem like

a branch of psychoanalysis, it has much much darker roots.

Joseph on the other hand has a history of dreams interpretation himself and knows that his ability to interpret them is not his ability but that of God's. He does not appeal to pagan gods, nor does he undertake occultic rites and rituals in order to obtain his answers. Neither does he attribute dreams to a combination of daytime residues and unresolved childhood wishes which would be the standard explanation of the psychotherapist. He has one source of information and interpretation – the origin of the dream itself – the Lord his God and he know this and acknowledges it openly.

In the next article we will look at the dreams and the ultimate outcome of the situation. Amen.

By David J Badger

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Saviour,
And life more abundant and free!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

Thro' death into life everlasting,
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion--
For more than conqu'rors we are!

His Word shall not fail you--He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:

I absolutely love listening to this hymn, any song that mentions our Saviour is always worth listening to, He is all we need and absolutely who we should turn to at all times - times of worry, times in need, times even of joy (as after all it is Jesus who allows us to go through all things - things that will test us but make us who we are. I do pray the testing times strengthen you all in your faith, give you focus and guide you back to Him if you have sadly lost your way). So it's no wonder that I find this hymn helps me in every single situation in what ever I am feeling or going through at the time, it

always brings me back to Him and focuses me. It is just such a beautiful hymn. Many artists have covered it and are all (that I know of) so beautiful to listen to too.

A little history about the author of the hymn and how it came about. It was written by Helen Howarth Lemmel in 1918. Helen H. Lemmel was born of a Wesleyan Methodist pastor in Warden, England on the 14th of November 1863. At the age of twelve her father moved the family to America, briefly to Mississippi before they settled in Wisconsin. It was from an early age that her parents noticed her musical talent. In the early 1900's she traveled throughout the midwest of America giving concerts in churches. She then in 1907 moved to Germany to refine her singing ability and there met her husband, a wealthy European. She was greatly in demand upon her return to America in 1911 after spending four years in Germany, giving concerts in churches, performing her own patriotic compositions for soldiers in Military Camps and travelling on the Chautauqua circuit (a popular performance venue of that era).

Helen Lemmel in youth and advanced years



However not long after being back in America, after writing and touring with some of her own hymns and whilst being at the pinnacle of her career, she experienced a life changing event - she was diagnosed with a condition that would cause her to become blind. At this time of tragedy her husband also left her leaving her financially destitute. However this only turned her closer to God as she (now living in reduced circumstances in Seattle), continued to write hymns, lyrics and music, picking out notes on a small keyboard and calling upon friends in all hours of the day to help her record them before she forgot them. Many of her hymns are still in circulation today. Throughout her years of blindness and going through other tragedies too, her response to friends asking her how she was doing was often, "I am fine in the things that count". During her lifetime she wrote over 500 hymns and poems, published a book for children titled 'Story of the Bible', and also composed musical pieces for children as well. She went home to be with the

Lord only thirteen days before her ninety-eighth birthday in 1961, being materially impoverished but spiritually wealthy in Christ.

This particular hymn came about in 1918. While standing on a street corner, Helen was handed a Christian leaflet titled 'Focussed' written by Lilius Trooter, a missionary woman to Africa. It was the words, 'So then turn your eyes upon Him, look full into His face and you will find that the things of earth will acquire a strange new dimness', that gripped her, stirred her and moved her to write 'Turn you eyes upon Jesus'.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith,.... Hebrews 12:2.

I find Helen's life so moving, what started as just researching into a hymn that I particularly like and find so touching, turned into researching deep into the author, watching videos on her life and reading many accounts on the events of her life. She truly was a wonderful example of how to live our lives through trails and difficulties - by looking to the Lord for everything, doing it all for Him, trusting in Him and asking Him for guidance in everything. How easy it is for even those of us who profess to be faithful followers of Christ to get caught up in things of this world. For our vision (in the Lord) to become blurry and for us to lessen our values and to compromise on things. Friend, your life is a blessing, do not take it for granted, do not think that you have tomorrow to repent of your sins, do it now! Trust in Him! Follow Him! Keep your focus on Him always!

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

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: For I am God, and there is none else, Isaiah 45:22.

Another song covered by many artists that I love to listen to is 'What A Beautiful Name'. Here are just a few of the lyrics

[What a beautiful Name it is](#)
[What a wonderful Name it is](#)

[You have no rival](#)
[You have no equal](#)
[Now and forever, God You reign](#)
[Yours is the kingdom](#)
[Yours is the glory](#)
[Yours is the Name above all names](#)
[What a powerful Name it is](#)
[What a powerful Name it is](#)

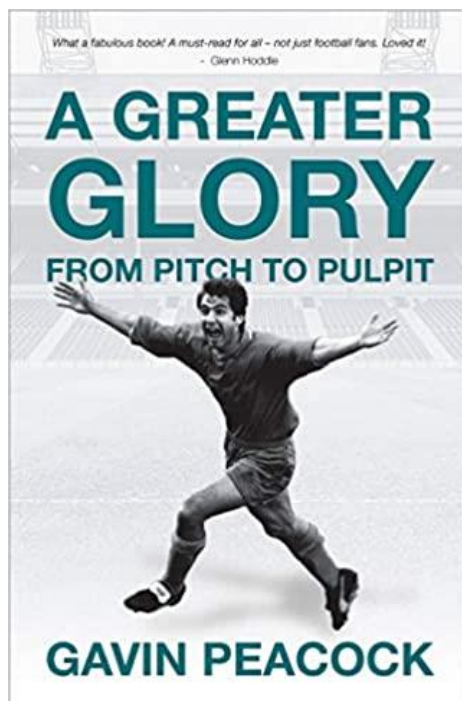
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Dear friend, He is almighty, He is all, He is everything, you can not run from Him/outpace Him, continue living your life in sin thinking or hoping it'll be ok. Time is no object to Him like it is to us, He's in no rush, but you my friend could be as no man knows his last hour. Repent of all sins now, turn not just your eyes but your mind (fully) and your heart to Him fully too. Put everything in prayer and be guided through your life by your Lord, He sent His only begotten Son to die for you! Believe in Jesus and repent.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory, Colossians 3:1-4.

By Donna Badger

Resource Corner



A Greater Glory

What makes a man walk away from his life as a professional footballer turned BBC pundit to become a church minister?

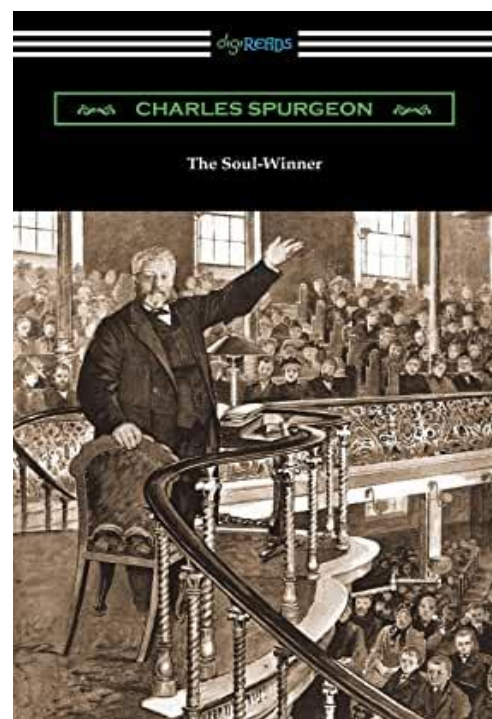
They say it is every schoolboy's dream to play in the F.A. Cup Final and it's a dream that came true for Gavin Peacock. In his riveting autobiography follow Gavin's journey from a child growing up in a footballing family to Chelsea captain; from a son following in his father's footsteps to a husband and father supporting his own family; from pundit to preacher.

Experience his highs and lows as he tells his story and explains the driving force behind it all – his love for football, his love for his family, and most importantly his love for God.

A Greater Glory is a great witnessing tool for those who have an interest in sports and football in particular. As we join Gavin on his life reflections, we are given Biblically based reasons as to the importance of Scriptural marriage, the role of the father and mother in the home and the failings of secular world thinking.

Gavin Peacock lived many boys dream but through faith in Christ, he saw that true fulfilment, true peace and joy rests in serving Our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Available at Amazon and Keith Jones bookshop



The Soul-Winner

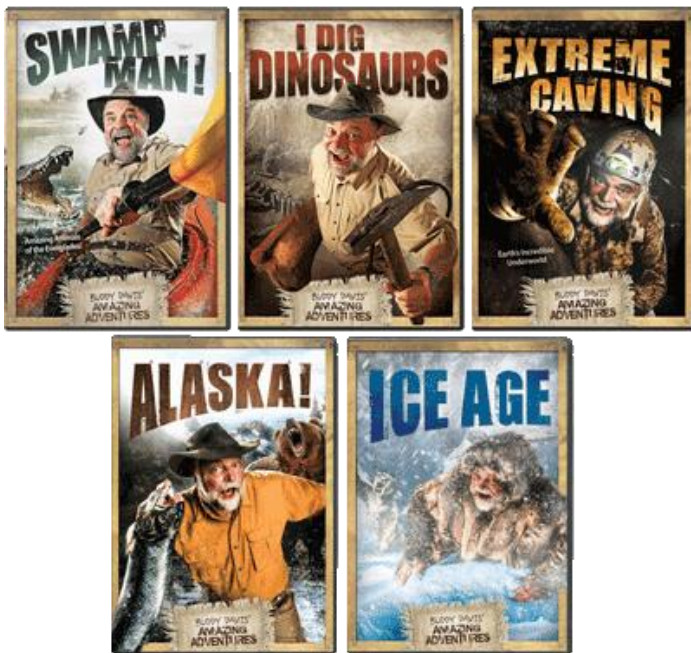
"The Soul-Winner" is the inspirational guide in spreading the word of God by Charles Haddon Spurgeon, one of the world's most famous preachers. Born in Essex, England in 1834, he converted from the

Anglican Church to the Baptist faith and was well-known throughout London for his powerful and engaging style of preaching. He was an important and influential figure in the Reformed Baptist tradition and is often referred to as the “Prince of Preachers”. Spurgeon was also a prolific author, publishing books on prayer, devotionals, articles, poetry and hymns, and was a frequent public speaker at various churches and meeting halls, sometimes giving ten sermons a week to thousands of listeners.

In “The Soul-Winner”, Spurgeon answers the timeless question of how the devout can better reach lost souls and win them over to a life of faith. It shows how a simple message is best and that one must be pure and devoted in their own life before they can help lost souls find their way back to a life lived in service to God. This practical and encouraging treatise is an essential read for all missionaries, church leaders, and preachers.

Available at Amazon

The Buddy Davis Collection



Now you can join adventurer Buddy Davis on five exciting adventures: kayaking among ice bergs, a trek through beautiful Alaska, an amazing world beneath the earth, a dinosaur dig in the Badlands of Montana, and a journey through the everglades. This real-life dinosaur researcher inspires children with his solid creation teaching and infectious passion for the gospel.

Available from Answers in Genesis

Bible Challenge Corner

S	A	V	I	O	U	R	S	D	A
B	P	J	R	K	S	B	M	I	R
L	D	U	I	N	G	S	L	N	U
E	P	A	R	K	P	E	A	O	P
S	S	D	I	G	O	G	S	S	T
S	L	P	U	R	E	U	P	A	X
E	R	A	U	V	N	O	X	U	E
D	O	R	B	I	K	T	N	R	T
K	I	N	G	J	A	M	E	S	N
G	E	M	A	J	M	Y	A	R	P

Words to find: Saviour, Blessed, King James, Spurgeon, Ark, Pure, Psalms, Dinosaurs, Text, Pray

Bible Quiz

- 1) What position did Zadok have?
- 2) Who was the mother of Solomon?
- 3) Who was plotting to secretly take the crown?
- 4) Where did Adonijah go when he heard
- 5) Solomon was being crowned King?
- 6) Where was David buried?
- 7) How many years was David king of Israel for?
- 8) Who’s daughter did Solomon marry, to make a connection to the other country with?
- 9) What great gifts did God give Solomon after a dream?
- 10) How did Solomon figure out the true mother of the baby?
- 11) What place was Hiram king of?
- 12) What year of Solomon’s reign did he start building the temple?
- 13) How many years did it take to build the temple?

Answers

- 1) He was a priest, 1 Kings 1:8, 2) Bathsheba, 1 Kings 1:11, 3) Adonijah, 1 Kings 1:11, 4) He went and grabbed hold of the Lord's altar, 1 Kings 1:50, 5) City of David/Bethlehem, 1 Kings 2:10, 6) 40, 1 Kings 2:11, 7) Pharaoh's daughter, 1 Kings 3:1, 8) Wisdom, wealth, honour, a stable kingdom and a long life if he served God well, 1 Kings 3:11-14, 9) He said to get a sword and cut the baby in half, once the true mother said to just give the baby to the other woman he then knew that she was the real mother, 10) Tyre, 1 Kings 5:1, 11) 4, 1 Kings 6:1, 12) 7, 1 Kings 6:38

By Naomi Badger

A Final Thought

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death.

It is easy when we come to Scripture to forget that the historical figures we encounter were real people; indeed, we are often presented with the whole of their character, warts and all. The great Apostle Paul in particular, a key figure in the spread of the early church and the bringing in of the gentiles, had his own ugly background before our Lord so gracefully dealt with him on the road to Damascus. He was there when Stephen, the first recorded martyr, was stoned to death. He *made havock* of the church, and had believers imprisoned (Acts 8:3). In his own words, he *was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious* (1 Timothy 1:13) and *the least of the apostles* (1 Corinthians 15:9). That the Lord can change the heart, mind, soul and spirit of such a one as Saul and transform him into the saintly Apostle Paul, and use his tremendous God-given talents to the furthering of the early Church should give us tremendous encouragement today. Just to reflect on our own sinful ways before we came to Christ (and, indeed, to consider the fallen nature that remains in us) should lead us to astonishment, wonder and reverent praise, as we consider that God has taken a personal interest in us and counted us among the few that are chosen. Let this give us great reassurance as we preach the Word among the lost; there is no case too wretched, no character too besmirched, and no soul too twisted that the Lord can not heal them through his amazing grace. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can truly cleanse all who come to him through simple, earnest, childlike faith.

By John Sivewright

Useful Extras

There's a wealth of Scriptural material for Christians to enjoy and be enriched by. Here are a few good starting points to expand your knowledge of the Word of God.

However as Sinclair Ferguson observed, whilst such resources are a wonderful aid in the Christians life, none of them can close to the study of the Bible itself!

Websites:

Answers in Genesis – Young Earth Creationist organisation that provides one of the worlds largest libraries of scientific and apologetic material to defend the Word of God.

answersingenesis.co.uk

Creation Ministries International – Another worldwide Young Earth Creationist organisation producing valuable resources on the evidence for the truth of the Bible.

Creation.com

Truth in Science – A UK based group that works to highlight the fallacies of Evolutionary theory and bring attention to this important issue to schools across the country.

truthinscience.org.uk

Wretched – A multi-platform Christian organisation based in America that provides Biblical TV shows, radio broadcasts, podcasts, books and DVD's covering a wealth of topics from growth as a believer, current events, evangelism and much more. Also check out their YouTube channel WretchedTV.

Wretched.org

Thank you to our contributors

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