



TTW Truth To Wonder

Ministries Magazine

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There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28-29

Welcome

A warm welcome to all for this the September issue of Truth To Wonder magazine. As many of us embark on a new academic year whether as school staff, students or parents of young ones, we will doubtless encounter much carefully worded teaching and discussion on the issue of race.

Whilst the world produces treatises, theories, tracing courses, etc on how to eradicate racism, the Bible through the ministry of the Holy Ghost makes a beautifully simple yet powerful conclusion to this often volatile issue. As seen on the front page, in Galatians 3:28, we are told that such divisions that we often lament in our world are no barriers to Christ, for all who love Him are all one before His mighty and gracious throne. There is no inferiority between classes, races, male and female for we are all bonded together by the perfect blood of Christ which has cleansed us all of our ruinous sins and brought us into the seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:29).

As we step out into another academic year or indeed just another day in this world that groans under the weight of sin each and every hour, let us carry this powerful yet easily understood answer out into a divided and bitter world.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we marvel at the power and meekness of your glorious throne. We are awestruck at how you reveal such freeing truths with but a few words, in such simplicity that even a child can understand, yet with such depths that a lifetime would be well spent in searching the endless limits of your wisdom.

Lord gives us bold hearts stirred with compassion towards those who do not know you as their Father, and with these convicted hearts go out and spread the joyous news of the Gospel far and wide.

Lord give us the words and the temperance to deliver your wisdom with meekness, yet to model them with strength and faithfulness so that all onlookers may see the glory of your Word reflected in our own lives. Let our days be a testament of the freeing power of the Gospel, so that you are glorified throughout all the earth and bless us with the peace of heaven in doing your will. Oh how we are humbled Lord that you chose such wretched things as we to deliver your message of salvation and we praise you forever. In Jesus name, amen.

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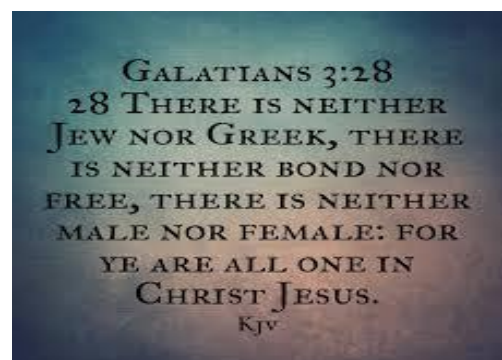
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Wisdom Through Suffering

Some memories just stick out from the rest and you look back on them as turning points in your life. As a boy I was fascinated by Solomon. I was captivated by the account of a man so wise that other powerful rulers would travel great distances just to hear his insights. Yet I was most struck by Solomon's request to God for that wisdom when God had visited him in a dream and offered him anything he desired. The desire for wisdom was driven by Solomon's desire to lead his people well before God. This was amazing to me as a young boy who had a natural tendency to want to help people with their burdens and struggles.

So one night laying in bed I asked God that He might bless me with wisdom also so that I could be a more effective source of help to others. Nearly thirty years on from that night I have experienced much and sport the grey hairs to prove the struggles. In those thirty years I have felt my heart break so many times for so many people that many times I feared I would never be strong again.

I have known decades of sickness, loss of loved ones, financial struggles, depression, anxiety, loss of jobs, martial woes, family hardships, strain of parenting, betrayal, and the misery of loving from afar. I have held the hands of the dying and cradled the lives of my daughters. I have watched tears flow from those who felt nothing but inner turmoil. I know the strange grief of losing someone who laboured to destroy you but you could not bring yourself to think evil of them, and so you weep at the news of the death. I have known the misery of the midnight hours where there seems to be no hope, only a crushing despair that screams of loneliness and isolation. I have felt tiredness so overwhelming that even the ground does not feel low enough to cradle your broken body. Over the past thirty years I have shed a thousand tears and my heart bears a thousand scars that only the Lord knows the true depth.



How does this statement relate to the memory of a childhood prayer for wisdom you ask? Wisdom is gained through suffering. The knowledge and experience how to comfort the weary, the broken, the lost is not gleaned in the universities, the conference rooms or government offices. It comes from experiencing the pain of a multitude of heartbreaks that can occur in a world so wracked by sin as ours. There is no psychiatrist, guru, life coach or mentor that can replace the wisdom that experience brings. This is why there is no other god like unto Christ Jesus. The Great High Priest who is no stranger to the infirmities of man (Hebrews 4:15), knowing the wounds of every soul and who offers the lightness of His burden in exchange for the heaviness of our mountainous sin.

Ah but my wounds are too great, my sins too many, you say. No dear friend. Jesus felt the full terror of the sins of man and the full wrath of God the Father unleashed upon Him as He bore that sin for rebellious sinners as we (Hebrews 9:28). all the while knowing the depths of your wickedness past, present and future and yet loved you still. Such was the burning passion of His eternal love that He bears the scars of the nails and spear into the halls of eternity, so that all will know the depths of His grace forevermore.

Christ Jesus, the Man of Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3), the one whose hair burns brilliant white with all purity and eternal wisdom (Revelation 1:14) shows us that all wisdom is hidden within Him (Colossians 2:3). He alone paid an eternal debt of sin, He alone holds the keys of all wisdom. As Christ suffered, so are we called to suffer (1 Peter 4:1). Yet in this suffering we are blessed with trials all whilst being watched over by a loving Father who knows that patience leads to experience, experience to hope (Romans 5:4), that hope being that as Christ is now glorified by the Father, so shall we appear sharing in His glory (Colossians 3:4). That hope is in Jesus, our mighty Counsellor, the one who will hold our hand as we enter eternity, where will learn of His wisdom in peace and rest forevermore. Blessed is the Son of God, my Saviour and Redeemer, Christ the Lord. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Corrie Ten Boom- Tramp for the Lord - Part 3

We rejoin Corrie after she has just been handed the papers for her freedom from Ravensbrück. Corrie's faith still did not falter after everything she had been

through and all those she had lost, as she knew her life was a gift from God and those loved ones who she had lost were safe in Heaven.

It took her a few days but she returned to the Netherlands. The truck dropped her off outside her brother Wilhelm's home in Hilversum and he arranged for her return to the family home in Harleem. While she was with her brother, they receive news that her nephew Kik had also lost his life in April 1945 at Bergen Belsen Concentration camp. Not long after her brother Wilhelm also passed after the horrors of the concentration camps but at home after contracting Tuberculosis.

Despite this great grief and heartache, Corrie was fuelled by the Holy Spirit to bring into action the words spoken by Betsie in her last days whilst in Ravensbruck, that being to use her life to tell of what they had experienced and the providence of God.

The first step Corrie took was to set up a rehabilitation centre in Bloemendall. This would be a refuge house for concentration camp survivors which would also include jobless Dutch that had cooperated with the Nazi's during their occupation. This work began in May 1945, with the refuge house staying in this use until 1950 when it started to accept anyone that needed care. Corrie, alongside the rehab centre, also set up a non-profit organisation in the Netherlands to support the refuge home and her future ministry. A picture of the rehabilitation Centre can be seen below.



We take a brief moment here to think back to the man Jan Vogel who had betrayed the Ten Boom family. We know very little about what happened to

him after he betrayed the family other than upon Corrie's release, we know many men who had collaborated with the Nazi's in this way were facing trials for their crimes. Corrie had found out somehow that he had been sentenced to death, so Corrie wrote to him firstly explaining the horror he had caused for her and the family but then went on to finish the letter by saying she forgave him.

Corrie returned to Germany in 1947 while she was speaking in Munich Church. She often spoke after saying she found difficulty finding forgiveness for one of the Nazi soldiers in particular who was now a Christian. She was preaching one day at a church and as she was saying goodbye to people, that the same former soldier approached her, unsure if she would remember him. She did within a few seconds; he shared the news that he was now a Christian and that God had forgiven him for his sins. He had prayed that he would have the chance to ask forgiveness of the people he had wronged in Ravensbruck and not long after that he found out about her speaking engagement. He held out his hand and within a few moments she prayed asking for help forgiving this man knowing the extent of her anger against him. Yet she was given the strength and compassion by God to be able to forgive him. She is quoted saying "Come brother give me your hand, I forgive you with all my heart".



At age 53, Corrie began a worldwide ministry which took her to more than 60 countries over the next 32 years. She testified to God's wonderful love and encouraged every person she met with the message that "Jesus is Victor". Corrie went on to write many books, two of the most popular *Tramp for the Lord* and *The Hiding Place*. *Tramp for the Lord* is short differing stories about her travels and *A Hiding Place*

about the horrors of Ravensbruck which has now gone on to be made into a film. There was never a charge for Corrie to speak in any of the church's she went too as she wanted to spread awareness of the Lord's wonderful work in her life even through the darkness. When she was asked why there was never a cost, they were simply informed "I am doing the Lord's work, he will provide".

In 1962, the queen of the Netherlands made Corrie a knight and she was asked to plant a tree at the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations, at the Holocaust Memorial in Israel. Gordon College in the United States awarded her an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters in 1976.

In 1977, 85-year-old Corrie migrated and received residency at Placentia, California. Yet by the end of 1978 she had sadly had two strokes, one of which left her unable to speak and the second left her paralysed. Corrie was reunited with her family after a third stroke and passed away on her 91st Birthday on 15th April 1983. She is buried in Fairhaven Memorial Park in Santa Ana, California.

In total roughly 800 Jew's were saved by the Ten Boom's efforts with turning their home into a 'hiding place', along with millions of people hearing the word of the Gospel through her work. The hiding place has remained a popular and impactful book for all adults. Corrie has also taught many that forgiveness is incredibly important, as we have been forgiven for our great mountain of sins by our Lord so we need to forgive others of lesser crimes against us.

So, I will leave you with this thought, one that Corrie used in many of her talks. God does not always grant us with what we ask for in prayers, sometimes he says no to us but that it always because God has a plan for us. Look at the embroidery in the next column, the right side is chaos which represents our lives as we see them, the left side is a beautiful masterpiece of embroidery which represents our lives how God sees those whom love Christ Jesus.

The crown in this represents our own eternal life. We need to focus on the side of our life's which God see's

not the side in which we see. Thank our Lord for everything even though it may not feel like a blessing in that moment. One day we will see the embroidery from his side and thank him for every unanswered prayer for something we wanted so badly.



By Tara Badger

Beauty in the Mystery

When my wife Donna and I got married 14 years ago, we selected a piece of music entitled 'Il Mio Miracolo, performed by Italian opera singer Vittorio Grigolo, to be played whilst we signed the register as a new married couple.

As the song is sung in Italian, we were uncertain as to the exact lyrics but we were able to gain a basic understanding catching certain words that we could translate with our very limited knowledge of the language and basic deduction. What struck us though as we selected the song was the sheer beauty, passion, control and sense of clear purpose that seemed to gently shine through as Vittorio sung it so effortlessly in a stirring Italian vocal. Whilst we could tell it was very apt for a wedding day, we could not tell you of its exact beauty of content.

Fast forward to 2020 and I came across another version of the song, still sung by Vittorio Grigolo, but sung in English this time. As I listened to the words in my native tongue, I smiled sweetly and found myself quietly amazed at how wonderfully suitable the words are for such an event as a wedding. It turns out that Donna's and my choice to select this song when

crudely understood was actually an excellent representation of what we were embarking on that joyous day years ago.

It then struck me as to how this so often the case in following the Lord's will in life. As American evangelist Spencer Smith has observed there is the declared will of God, the clear instructions written in the Bible as to how we are to live as Christians. Then there is the discerned will of God, the gentle leadings of God through the specific aspects and events of the individual life that are not specified in the Scriptures (such as whether to move home, change job, buy a new car etc).



Following the discerned will of God is achieved by having a heart sensitive to the Word of God. A tender heart is ready to hear the gentle whispers of the Spirit and eager to follow the direction laid out. A tender heart sees the beauty of the steps decreed by God and follows them faithfully not needing to know the exact details of each step. Instead it trusts that they are good because the One who has directed the path is good. See how in Exodus 11, Moses declares that the Israelites will go out into the wilderness to serve God as commanded, even if they are unsure as to how they are to exactly worship Him, Moses is certain through faith that when there the Lord will provide further instruction.

So the heart steps out in faith, knowing the Lord will reveal His eternal purposes as and when He pleases to do so. All the while the mysterious beauty of the song of eternity sung sweetly in the ear and heart by the Holy Ghost presses us to move on ever forward in Christ Jesus. Eventually the day will come when the veiled beauty of the will of God for each of our lives is revealed to the faithful. This is done so in reward of our pursuits to serve His will, not so that we may know the sweetness of each lyrical note He has orchestrated within our days, but so that we may hear the heavenly symphony of the eternal song that is the salvation of sinners through the blood of Christ. The glorious crescendo of this piece being the worthiness

of the Lamb of God to the glory of God the Father through the ministry of the Holy Ghost.

So ask the Lord for a tender heart so that you may hear the Word of God with a heart as unto His own. Then though you may not know the full beauty of the melody written by Him this day, rest in the goodness of God as revealed in the Lord Jesus, that the day will come when you will understand the full beauty of the song of heaven, that is the worthiness and majesty of Christ and His eternal redemptive love for you.

By Jonathan Badger

Making A Good Impression

A small and burnt clay seal impression was recently discovered in an area that may well have been an administrative centre in Jerusalem, Israel. The seal reads 'Nathan Melech -Servant of the King'.

This interesting find becomes all the more fascinating when we consult 2 Kings 23:11: **And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.**

As you can see the name Nathan Melech (as depicted on the seal) is clearly stated within the Biblical text and highlights the servant status of this individual to the King. Such a stunning detail being corroborated by archaeology discovery should not surprise any believer and lends further weight to the assertion that all Scripture is God's Word and therefore historical accurate to the smallest and seemingly most insignificant detail.



Seal of Nathan Melech

In a separate excavation, Professor Israel Finkelstein, an Israeli archaeologist, discovered a significant ancient platform that could well have been built for the Ark of the Covenant on the summit of the hill at the Scriptural site of Kirjath Jearim.

As recorded in 1 Samuel 5,6 and 7 and 1 Chronicles 13-16, the Ark of the Covenant was taken by the Philistines at the Battle of Ebenezer. It was then placed in the temple of the false god Dagon who fell before it's presence, before it was taken around the various Philistine cities where outbreaks of bubonic plague followed it's path. After such horrors the Ark was given back to the Israelites at set at Kirjath Jearim. There it stayed for 20 years "in the hill" watched over by the son of Abinadab, Eleazar before it was taken Jerusalem under David.

The discoveries of man in relation to our history will always reveal the unswerving historical accuracy of the Biblical record. It is in this historical accuracy that our confidence in the hope of the Gospel is grounded, for if the Gospel be but based on a lie then we of all are to be most miserable of men for our faith is in vain. The enemy that is Satan has long known this and so seeks to mythologise the Biblical record so as to make the Gospel a fairy tale. However discoveries such as these dispel this evil lie, so give time to investigate real history as within it's pages lays the eternal purposes of our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus.

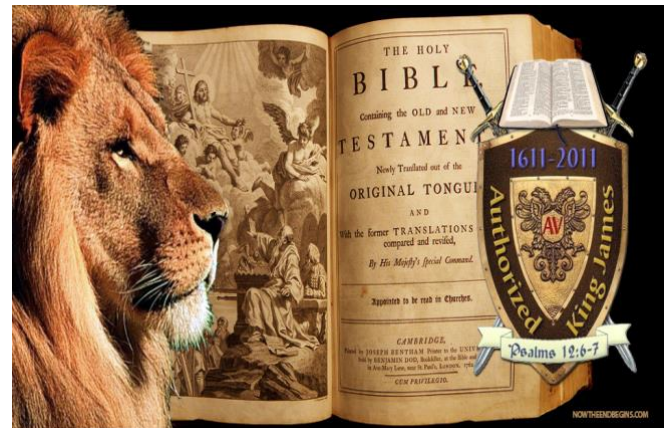
By Jonathan Badger

Ancient Briton

We come now to the close of our study of God's Word from the early history of this 'Sceptured Isle', to the present. As stated before, the rise of Liberal Theology has destroyed much belief in the Supernaturalism of the Bible. However, it is odd that often when the Liberal revises a portion of the Scriptures, he yet seems to place it at the disposal of Rome for use in her theology. Of course this is not entirely difficult to understand if one believes that the same spirit of deception guides both systems.

What is rising today is a Pre-Reformation Theology. This belief system is also heavily tainted with New Age concepts and pluralism. Again however, when you look in the new shop window of religion, Rome does much of the window dressing, Further, the A.V/KJV Bible remains the hated Book, with armies closing upon it from false religions, the New Age Movement, the Charismatic Movement, the Ecumenical One Church Movement and the Woman who sits on Seven Hills, namely Rome.

The Church today is riddled with false prophets, false apostles, false teachers and heretics. It's various 'bibles' weeks and multiple flesh shows have speakers who have no more biblical discernment and real bible knowledge than the Pope.



Today you would be hard pressed in most towns and cities to find one sound, solid biblical, doctrinal New Testament Church. If you were to use you're A.V Bible while attending the worldly, fleshly, corrupt dens of religion, you would be considered a fossilised old fool, regardless of your actual age. You will find 'believers' today who would laugh (oh yes) at that blood-washed Book in a way that even the Devil wouldn't dare.

There is a spirit abroad in the Church that mocks at sober ness, holiness, faithfulness, soundness; that promotes a false gospel and a false Christ. It will not mention the precious Blood nor the flames of Hell; it pretends to power, while it is of the flesh. It hates sound doctrine, biblical preaching and those infernal Bible Bashers!

New Age teachings are invading the sanctuary and many pastors and teachers don't have a clue. Yoga, dance, psychology, stress counselling, visualisation, power-prayer, sharing, 'spirit of gifts', visions, angels, voices, polluted choruses and lyrics, but worst of all rejection of that which God has placed above His name, namely His Word and I mean the pure, inspired, inerrant, preserved word, the infallible word, the A.V 1611 Bible.

From inside the camp the attacks continue against God's Word, men are determined to get rid of the A.V in a way that no-one even attacked the 'original manuscripts'. There is something about the A.V Bible that will make Christians even write and sell books with arguments against it that are totally false. They will talk of brethren belonging to an A.V cult and refuse to support works that use it. There are countless men on College and Seminary faculties who when it comes to misrepresenting the A.V Bible are the biggest fibbers on God's green earth. However,

some of these men would think nothing of climbing into a pulpit or standing at a lectern and using an A.V as though they believed it. If the A.V became the most popular Bible next week in every church in Britain, these men would stand up bold as brass and tell how they had always loved it.

The days are late brethren and many great stalwarts of the faith have passed to their reward. Many of the societies that now remain are a shadow of their former selves; one reason is doubtless their having been corrupted with making profit on false bibles. I believe that God is largely by passing such societies and groups now, He is raising up individuals (most not in the paid ministry), to stand for His Word.

Many of the leading ministerial names in this country and America do not believe that there is a God given Book on this earth that is the Word of God, the only believed the God breathed and lost originals were perfect. Well, as we have said in the past it's a free country and they are free to believe that, but what makes me angry is that they will never admit it in print. Why? Because their financial support would be affected. They don't have the decency to admit and print what they believe.

God promised to guide His people into all truth and I believe that the journey the Pure Text travelled took its final form in the A.V/KJV 1611 to the English speaking peoples. If a translation is carried out in the fear and reverence of the Lord with His glory and His alone in view, and if that translation is the direct provision of God for His people then the Holy Ghost will breathe on it. I have no doubt that a translation can be the Sword of the Spirit in the same way that Original Autographs were.

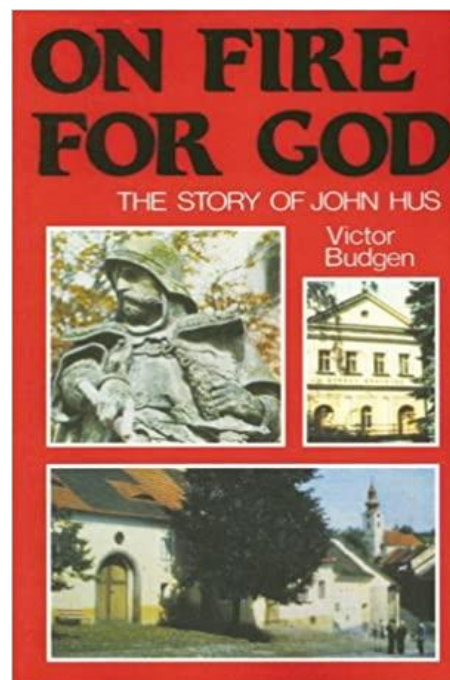
Well, here we come to the close of our little journey. The writer, once a user of the R.S.V, N.I.V etc discovered the truth behind the mask of modern translations, they are based on deception and corrupted manuscripts. The writer is conversant with all the relevant facts, manuscripts and so called arguments and because of this commends the A.V 1611 and it's God given blessing to your edification and spiritual growth as you follow Christ.

Amen.

Dr David Badger B.Th., M.Rel Educ., M.Th, P.h.D., B.Sc

Resource Corner

On Fire For God – Victor Budgen



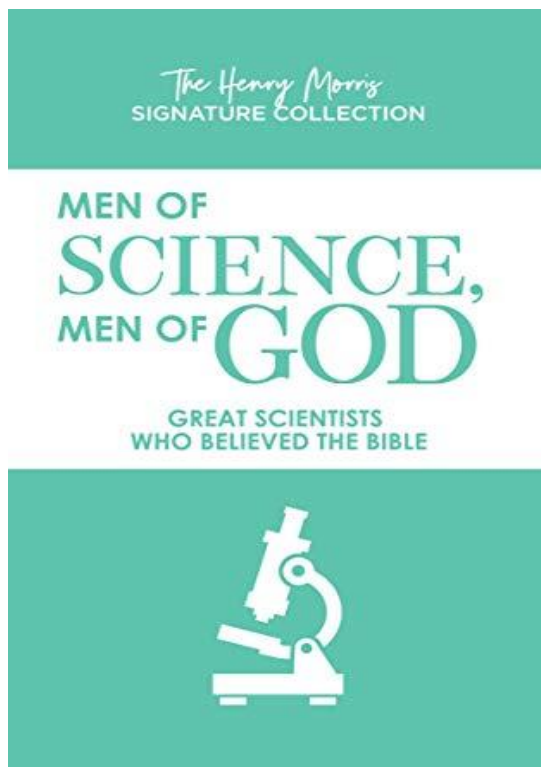
Famous scholar, forthright and fearless preacher, excommunicated and persecuted by a corrupt Roman Catholic Church and eventually burned at the stake after a contrived and farcical trial, John Hus of Bohemia is no minor historical character. Like Wycliffe, his influential English counterpart, Hus can fairly be described as a vital forerunner of the Reformation. Even today his influence is widely felt in modern day Czech Republic where he is still thought of as one of the founding fathers of the present language and nation.

In the midst of the barren, soul destroying wilderness of the medieval papacy, John Hus suddenly emerged as one of the few beacons of hope and gospel light. His life clearly shows Christ reigning and triumphing in the church, not only as the flames crackled round his martyred servant, but throughout Hus's strenuous and courageous endeavours to apply Scripture with equal fidelity to both personal salvation and daily life.

Here is the portrait of a man 'On Fire For God' – in life as in death – whose steadfastness and suffering for the truth will be a spur to all to serve Him and His church as faithfully in our day as Hus did in his.

Available from Amazon

Men of Science, Men of God – Henry Morris



Scientists choose whether they will believe God's word or discount it.

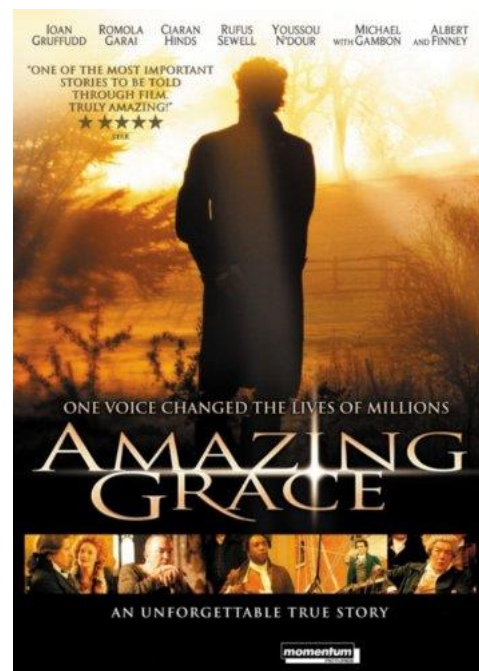
- Explore over 101 biographies of groundbreaking, influential scientists with their Christian testimonies
- See how the belief in a Creator inspired the earliest explorations of science and still impacts the work of Bible-believing scientists today

Science and faith are often considered incompatible in the academic world today. One is seen as representing truth, while the other is viewed as fanciful according to the skeptical, science-centred culture. But the reality is that thousands of scientists, in fact, many of science's greatest "founding fathers," believed openly in God as they worked and studied His created world. Learn how their discoveries led them to even greater depths of faith and how their beliefs influenced and inspired their work.

There is nothing in science that can ever prove that God does not exist and, therefore, no way that science can disprove Creation. For so many in the past, the answer was that their faith was inseparable from their science, a powerful point to encourage believers and challenge the skeptics.

Available from Amazon

Amazing Grace



In this inspirational costume drama, Michael Apted (49 Up) recounts a important period in British history. Unsurprisingly, however, his eye-opening biography of 18th century abolitionist William Wilberforce (Ioan Gruffudd) is likely to come as a revelation to many Britons. The title comes from John Newton's hymn "Amazing Grace" ("I once was lost but now am found"). Newton (Albert Finney) was a former slaveholder, who became a clergyman and spent his days repenting. While America had John Brown, England had Wilberforce, and Newton is one of many who helped the MP to abolish slavery in the UK. The story begins towards the end of Wilberforce's mission when he's sick with colitis and addicted to laudanum. Apted continues to alternate between 1797 and 1789, when Wilberforce was fitter and more idealistic, and ends in 1807 as his efforts come to fruition.

This moving film highlights how the Lord can change the world with just one man and how the fullest life lived is one lived for Christ.

Available from Amazon

Women In The Ministry

Paul writes to Timothy, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve". Now, there are women in the 'ministry' that will say, that's not an apostolic command but a cultural norm. Well they would, otherwise they have to explain what they are doing there. You will notice though that the

apostle goes beyond so called cultural norms and back to God's creation of man and woman.

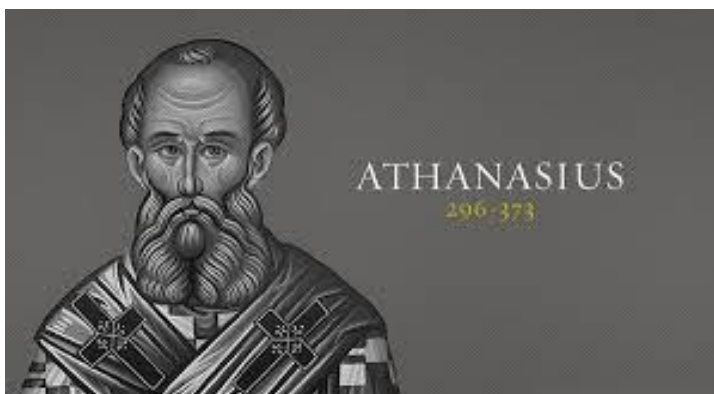
The creation ordinance lays a foundation for the proper place of men and women in church. A woman should not be leading the assembly of God's people. When you see a woman preaching from the pulpit you see a church that has departed from the faith. Church leadership is male and any truly spiritual women in the faith knows that. If you have a woman in your pulpit you are setting aside God's ordained order.

Dr David Badger

The Creed of Athanasius

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is one of the cornerstones of the Christian faith. Yet with the poor and diluted teaching many receive from the pulpits across the land, many Christians do not hold a clear understanding of the wonder that is the Holy Trinity.

The Creed of Athanasius is one of the finest explanations of the glory of the Holy Trinity and yet tragically it is sidelined or even unknown to many churches today. Below is the full Creed as penned by Athanasius himself (bear in mind the reference to Catholick faith is to highlight the universal nature of the body of Christ that is the true Church, not a reference to the Roman Catholic religion).



WHOSOEVER will be saved: before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholick Faith. Which Faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled: without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the Catholick Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons: nor dividing the Substance.

*For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son: and another of the Holy Ghost.
But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one: the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.
Such as the Father is, such is the Son: and such is the Holy Ghost.
The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate: and the Holy Ghost uncreate.
The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible: and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.
The Father eternal, the Son eternal: and the Holy Ghost eternal.
And yet they are not three eternals: but one eternal.
As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated: but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.
So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty: and the Holy Ghost Almighty.
And yet they are not three Almighties: but one Almighty.
So the Father is God, the Son is God: and the Holy Ghost is God.
And yet they are not three Gods: but one God.
So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord: and the Holy Ghost Lord.
And yet not three Lords: but one Lord.
For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity: to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord;
So are we forbidden by the Catholick Religion: to say there be three Gods, or three Lords.
The Father is made of none: neither created, nor begotten.
The Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created, but begotten.
The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.
So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons: one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.
And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other: none is greater, or less than another;
But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together: and co-equal.
So that in all things, as is aforesaid: the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.
He therefore that will be saved: must thus think of the Trinity.
Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation: that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
For the right Faith is that we believe and confess: that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man;*

*God, of the Substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds: and Man, of the Substance of his Mother, born in the world;
 Perfect God, and Perfect Man: of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting;
 Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead: and inferior to the Father, as touching his Manhood.
 Who although he be God and Man: yet he is not two, but one Christ;
 One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh: but by taking of the Manhood into God;
 One altogether, not by confusion of Substance: but by unity of Person.
 For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man: so God and Man is one Christ.
 Who suffered for our salvation: descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty: from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
 At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies: and shall give account for their own works.
 And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting: and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.
 This is the Catholick Faith: which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

A Closer Look At Psalm 119 – Part Two

Last month, we took a closer look at the first four verses of Psalm 119, considering how that the man who obeys the Lord's commandments, does them diligently, and seeks them with his heart, is blessed. This month we continue on, from Verses 5 to 8, coming to a more personal section.

2. HOW TO ATTAIN THIS BLESSED STATE

Verse 5 "O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!" We've been considering the state of a man blessed by God, but how can we hope to attain it? The Psalmist longs to keep the commandments of his God, but look again at Verse 1 "Blessed are the undefiled in the way", Verse 2 "blessed are they that keep his testimonies" and Verse 3 "they also do no iniquity". We long to live up to these standards, but we're aware of that great stumbling-

stone of indwelling sin. From the moment Adam and Eve first sinned against God in the garden, man has had this affliction; it's been passed down from generation to generation. There's not been a single race or age of man that hasn't been corrupted by sin; and we are no different. As Paul says in the third Chapter of his Epistle to the Romans, Verse 23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." How are we, therefore, to be "undefiled"? 1 John 1:8 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." How can we "do no iniquity" in the face of these words? When we consider our own infirmity, when we think of our own inability to abstain from all lusts of the flesh, we can well say with the Apostle Paul in the famous seventh Chapter of Romans, 14 "For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin.", 21 "I find then a law that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.", 23 "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

How are we to attain to that condition of the blessed man, when sin seems to create a permanent roadblock? How can we get right with God when sin is ever staring us in the face? Well, God is one step ahead of us, isn't he? The Lord has the answer; and that answer is our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. God loves us so much and wants to bring us back into the fold so much, that he gave his Son. His only begotten Son, with him from before the foundation of the world, was sent to earth to live as a man. He was "undefiled in the way". He did "keep his testimonies". He "did no iniquity". He lived the sinless life that we're not able to, and he died the death on the cross that we all deserve. And by coming to him with simple, childlike faith, by trusting in him with all our hearts, we're clothed with his righteousness. Of course, we can't physically live in this world without sin or iniquity, but our debt has been paid. We are now righteous in the Lord's eyes. As Paul says in his second Epistle to the Corinthians, Chapter 5 and Verse 21 "For he hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Looking again at verse 5, “Oh that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!” One can imagine tears of despair here; we want to obey the Lord’s commands and precepts, we want to obey him with all our heart, but indwelling sin appears to put up a screen. But these turn to tears of joy, as we consider Christ crucified, and think on the Apostle Paul’s words, “for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

We are to do our best every day, to keep all the Lord’s commandments diligently and to seek them with all our heart. But when we would struggle, or feel fainthearted, we know that “we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous”. If we fear falling away or backsliding, we can come to him in humble, heartfelt prayer, as “him that cometh to me, I shall in no wise cast out.”

Through Christ crucified, through his payment for our sins on the cross, through his fulfilling of the law, we who come to him by faith are counted as those that “do no iniquity”; we are “undefiled in the way”. When we walk in God’s ways, when we diligently keep his commandments, when we seek them with our whole heart – when we can lean on our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ and Him crucified; when we can “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” then we can truly say that we have attained the state of the man who is blessed.

3. THE RESULTS OF LIVING IN THIS BLESSED STATE

This leads us to our final section of this study - the results of living in this blessed state. We know the state of the man who is blessed. We know that, through Christ crucified, we can attain this state. What should this do to us? What action should this bring forth? How should it manifest itself?

Looking at Verse 6 of this Psalm, “then I shall not be ashamed, when I shall have respect unto thy commandments.” We should not be ashamed – like as the man walking upright that we considered last month, we should take pride in living for our Lord and doing things His way, according to His Word. But that is easier said than done, isn’t it? The world around us would have us be ashamed; the unsaved world is at enmity with God. The world we live in, with all its sin,

all its lust, all its pride, indeed all its own shame. Unsaved men, who know nothing of the true peace and freedom that come from trusting in our Lord, would have us feel shame for our faith, and shame for obeying the commandments of God.



If we walk as those that have been set apart for the Lord, and called according to his purpose, don’t be surprised if people of the world turn their nose up at our actions. Don’t be surprised if things as simple as refusing to have an alcoholic drink, laugh at a profane joke, or engage in idle gossip, bring forth accusations of being “self-righteous”, “holier than thou” or any such other insult or retort from a non-believer. These can be people we work with, those we go to school with, even on occasion some we may count as friends; it can be upsetting at first, but it should not surprise us. As the Lord says in John’s Gospel, Chapter 15 and Verse 18 “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”

And as the world tries to make us feel shame for our faith, we must remember how the Lord Jesus Christ was treated. Think of the horrific treatment our Lord was subjected to at his Passion. He was mocked and spat upon. A crown of thorns was placed upon his head. He was subject to crucifixion, the most painful and ghastly sentence of death imaginable. He was even taunted by one of the thieves nailed to a cross next to him. It certainly puts any mocking we receive into perspective, doesn’t it? Yet He bore it all without shame for us. Not just bore it all, but He uttered those famous words, “forgive them father, for they know not what they do.” So, when we would be shamed, when we would be mocked, when we would be derided by the world for trying to live as our Lord commands us, let us remember Christ’s example, let us

not be ashamed, and let us bear it all in a spirit of humility and holiness.

Moving on to Verse 7, furthermore to not being ashamed, "I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments."

The more we get to know the Lord, his judgments and his righteousness, the more we should be moved to praise him. Do we praise him enough? Do we praise him in our prayers? Do we praise him in our triumphs? It can feel hard sometimes, but do we praise him in our struggles and moments of despondency? And even when we try to, do we have the sufficient words? Our Lord is such a magnificent God, so wondrous, his ways beyond our ways and his understanding beyond ours, that sometimes it can be a struggle to find the words to give Him the praise He's due. But we're in luck; the very book of Psalms itself, the whole way through, is like a textbook in praising the Lord. If ever we're short of the right words to express our praise and gratitude to the Lord, we can come to the psalms. A few examples:

Psalms 9:1 I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.

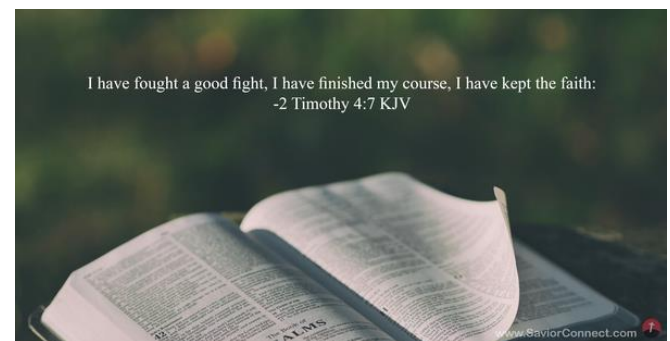
Psalms 34:1 I will praise the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalms 145:1 I will extol thee, O God, my King; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.

Psalms 105:1 O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

And I could go on. But that last example is most interesting. "Make known his deeds among the people." Not just praising the Lord in our own prayers but, as that last example suggests, we should also praise him publicly. Our Lord, in His infinite grace and mercy, has saved us. Though we've done nothing of ourselves to deserve it, God has sent his Son to the cross to die, so that all who put their faith in Him can have everlasting life. We are called to declare with our mouths "Jesus is Lord"; we should be ever praising our Lord for His righteous judgments, and spreading the good news of the Gospel. We should shout to the hilltops with praise of our Lord who saved poor wretched sinners such as us. He saved us; He can save others too!

We come to the final Verse of the first Chapter of this great Psalm, and a further result of living in this blessed state. "I will keep thy statutes, O forsake me not utterly." "I will keep thy statutes". As we know we are blessed of the Lord and glory in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, this should give us an earnest desire to continue in his statutes. We ought to make a habit of these things, building them into our daily routine. Narrow is the path that leads to the straight gate, but we should strive to keep on it always. Then perhaps, after many years of Christian service, we could say as the apostle Paul, in his second Epistle to Timothy, in the fourth Chapter and the seventh Verse, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my cause, I have kept the faith." But the psalmist quite wisely tempers the closing Verse of this section with an acknowledgement of his dependence on the Lord to do so; 'O forsake me not utterly'. No sooner has he been so bold as to state his intention to keep up the good fight, then he immediately clings to his Lord for safety and assurance, perhaps reminding us of the Apostle Peter in his attempts at walking to meet our Lord Jesus Christ on the water. Let us cling to Christ ourselves every day in prayer.



After all, we still have the lusts of the flesh. We still have indwelling sin and the challenges that brings. While we strive to stay on the narrow path, there is a wider one on which many more people travel. Many more indeed; for after all, many are called and few are chosen. The wider path leads to everlasting destruction, and those on it have the Prince of this World for their guide. Satan would do anything to pull us back from revealed truth, to have us backslide, and to have us join the throngs on his path. But as long as we lean on Jesus Christ our rock and as long as we trust in his redemptive work on

Calvary's tree, we are sure that our Lord will not forsake us utterly and eternally.

We may have temporary setbacks. There may be times when it seems the Lord has withdrawn some graces from us for a season, perhaps to correct us, or oftentimes to further build our character, making us ready for the mansion prepared for us in heaven. But through it all we can say with confidence, as the Apostle Paul does in his wonderful climax to the eight Chapter of his Epistle to the Romans. "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." And that, brethren, is to be truly blessed.

By John Sivewright

That Little Flame (A Poetic Tale)

I am alone. Misery has hunted me and run me down so that I am destroyed. Those who have been meant to aid have wounded me further still. How am I to find any solace? How am I to find any purpose in the most heavy of pains?

What is to be done with the weary who feel so broken and weak yet cannot speak of what has caused this shattering malaise? They do not know the cause of their ailment, all they know is the bleakness of their hour. How cruel is the poison that leaves no clue of its entry, no hint of its subtle arrival and yet brings low every sinew it touches.

What can be done? Who will hear the lament of the lonely heart? I know of no one; yet even whilst such despair seems to shape all my gaze, my eye catches the gentle flicker of a poor flame. A timid flame that flicks and leaps at the bitter winds of misery which seeks to extinguish its hopeful light, yet all the while refuses to yield its life.

Wherein is the source of this welcome light? In all my great misery where blackness is my condition, this one gentle light draws me to its enduring hope of life. Come little flame, tell me of your reason for such warmth amidst the bleakness. I cannot discover the arrival of this beacon, as all I can tell of is its deliberateness in finding me.

Speak little flame, tell me of the mystery of your light. Tell of how you endure the harshest winds of despair my lowly heart can summon and that as I draw close to discover your secrets, you begin to burn all the fiercer.

Yes little flame, your warmth is bringing life to these dry bones, this valley of death that seeks to bring me to the grave. A grateful heart now beats in my chest as I see the once hidden path to life revealed by your loving glow. Move forward my guide, move forward through the bleakness that threatens to destroy me and illuminate the way so that I might see the truth at long last.

Ah yes little flame, the light you render now shows the rocky and narrow path unto life itself. My legs are weary, my body heavy and yet this little flame pulls me along with such tenderness that I am convicted to follow so that even the protestations of my house of clay are of no importance to me.

Why little flame, where are we? What is this place in which I stand? I know its form, its horror of shape I recognise yet still I do not know its reason. The cursed beams, the sign on its uppermost part, the nails driven hard into its knots. The blood stained so deeply into its crudely chiselled planes.

I know this place. Oh, how I know this place. I have seen it so many times and yet only now has the blood been caught by my eye, only now does the price of its shedding speak to my agonising heart. Oh little flame, was it spilt for me? Oh little flame, I know now that it was! I caused this blood, this innocent, pure blood to be shed, I am the cause of this tragedy! Oh forgive me! Forgive me! My heart is breaking so violently. Oh little flame, why have you brought me to such a place, such a place of sadness and death? Where will I find peace now, knowing that I am guilty of such an ancient crime?



What is that little flame?! What is this great light that bursts forth from the shadow of this terrible cross?! The tomb that should house the broken body of the

innocent one whose blood is worn by the cursed tree, it...it is empty little flame? Yet there are robes of one who has been laid to rest, yet where is the peaceful one? Where is He little flame? Where is He?! I must know Him, I must see Him, my heart is crying out for Him! I seek Him so as to be freed of my misery and cleansed of my sin, for my eyes see His grace and how He loved me when I warred against Him in ignorance.

Peace! Salvation true! The light that shines forth is the Light of the World, my Lord and God! Little flame do you see Him?! The glorious risen one! How radiant is His gaze and yet how gently He speaks my name. Oh wonderful Master, I am counselled forevermore and my despair is as far from my heart as the east is from the west.



Oh little flame thank you. Thank you for shielding me in the darkness, for burning throughout all my wars against you, for leading me to the place of humbling. Thank you for driving my knee down at the foot of the cross so that I might be washed in the blood I lamented over and now I am cleansed by.

Come little flame, there is much to be done. Lead me on now with an even greater flame still, to seek out those in the darkness so as to tell them of the glory of the hope that now lies within me. Then little flame when my work is done at the last, sit beside me and minister to my heart so that when I close my eyes to sleep, all I will see is His light forevermore and I will be home at last, restored to the Father and loved from eternity past to eternity future.

By Jonathan Badger

Provision for a Nation Part 11

We left Joseph in part 10 of this series, at verse 8 of Genesis chapter 40, in jail after being wrongly imprisoned, doing the “rounds” as it were of the other prisoners one morning. He had been placed in the

position of caretaker by the Captain of the Guard; the inmate responsible for overseeing the other ‘residents’ of Pharaoh’s personal internment centre.

On this particular morning, whilst fulfilling his duties, he came across two of Pharaoh’s officers who were also imprisoned for crimes which are not known to us the reader. One had been the chief butler and the other the chief baker in Pharaoh’s palace, both positions of great responsibility, and indeed trust. Poisoning of a ruler was a good means of assassination and these two individuals would have been in positions of immense trust on this basis.

Both these individuals appear miserable to Joseph and it stirs him to ask why. One might assume that being in Pharaoh’s lockup was enough reason to look miserable, but they had another reason. Both these men had had a dream, and these dreams were vivid in imagery and obviously differed enough from the norm to elicit a strong sense of need for interpretation.

As we said last time, in ancient Egypt dream interpretation, or Oneiromancy to give it its correct name, flourished. The Egyptians saw dream interpretation as a means of seeing into the future. Indeed both Egypt and Babylon (Daniel 2:2) developed a “professional class” of dream interpreters that the rulers would call upon at will.

We also discussed last time that such dream interpretation is occultic in origin and practice and as such should be avoided by the people of God, and this applies to us today just as much as it did to those of Joseph’s day. Indeed Deuteronomy 13:1-5 warns of “dreamers of dreams”, and their association with the worship of pagan gods.

So when Joseph finds this pair in distress that whilst sitting in jail they have no access to an interpreter of dreams, Joseph is very quick to point them to the one true God as the only source of insight on any dream.

“Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them I pray you”

Joseph is very careful to credit the Lord for any interpretation he has to offer. Daniel the only other Hebrew that God gifted with the ability to accurately define the meaning of dreams was just as careful to attribute this ability to his God, as we see in Daniel 2.28. It is also interesting to note the similarity of Joseph and Daniel, in that both were Hebrews held captive in a foreign land, serving pagan monarchs and coming forward at the critical moment to interpret their dreams and show them their future all the while giving full credit and glory to their Lord God Almighty, so that there might be no mistaking that the power came from on High not from the mind of man. And so we come the dreams themselves. Both men had their respective dreams three days before Pharaoh's birthday. Both would have therefore been aware that on that day Pharaoh "made a feast unto all his servants" and that it was customary for him to offer amnesty to prisoners as part of the celebrations.

This practice has been archaeologically confirmed, with the discovery of the Rosetta stone in 1799. Discovered in the city of Rosetta (now el Rashid) by French soldiers during Napoleon's invasion of Egypt. The forces were digging foundations for new fortifications when the large stone was unearthed by Pierre Francois Xavier Bouchard. The stone is regarded as the key that unlocked the Egyptian language of hieroglyphics, as it juxtaposed Greek, Demotic and hieroglyphic translations of the same text. In part of this text it records the custom of releasing Pharaoh's prisoners on his birthday.

The chief butler goes first, and this is in itself a statement of his own wrongful imprisonment and clear conscience. The chief baker, nursing a guilty conscience, only relates his dream to Joseph when he hears the positive interpretation of the butler's dream. He figures that because the two dreams are essentially the same in substance, in that both contain the number 3 and both involve each individual carrying out their respective duties for Pharaoh, his interpretation must also have a positive outcome. He has skipped over the glaringly obvious differences.

In the butler's dream he sees a vine, which having three branches goes through all the stages of blossoming to ripening of the fruit before his very eyes. He then squeezes the fruit of the vine directly into Pharaoh's cup and gives it to him to drink.

The text suggests that there is no delay in Joseph's response. In three days Pharaoh will "lift up thine head" and restore him to his duties. It is at this point that Joseph takes the opportunity to ask the butler that on his return to status he should remember him, Joseph to Pharaoh and present his case of innocence. Joseph was only interested in obtaining his liberty – he was blissfully unaware of what the Lord had in mind for this man in his future, and what he was preparing him for.



In Joseph's petition for remembrance, he states his case. If a prisoner lays a claim to liberty he needs to offer some explanation as to why he deserves it. Joseph does so covering both the more remote past events and the more recent. He states that the reason he is in Egypt in the first place is that he was;

"stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews"

Now as per usual critics like to take issue here and state that this is in contradiction to Genesis 37:28;

"and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites..."

There is no contradiction here. His being removed from the land of his fathers by any means other than of his own choosing could be rightly termed being stolen. Second and apparently beyond the comprehension of critics, Joseph is the forgiving kind,

being a man of God and shows charity, by refusing to incriminate his own brothers despite their guilt.

He then states he has been placed in his current incarceration as a result of false accusation, having done nothing to warrant it.

His case as a whole demonstrates the hallmarks of truth. It is neither too brief nor so vague as to give the hearer cause to become suspicious that things are being withheld. It is also not so long and verbose as to risk embellishment and the introduction of the fictitious.

Now here comes the baker. Obviously bolstered by the now cheery butler who'd gone from abject misery to presumably at least a moderate level of elation, spouts forth his dream.

On this occasion the three baskets on his head represent the 3 days leading up to Pharaoh's birthday celebrations. He has missed the fact that unlike the butler, the baked good in his upper most basket never made the Pharaoh's hand, but rather are consumed by the birds, which he is powerless to drive away. He has not returned to his previous duty but has been consumed.



Joseph makes this news known to him, one would imagine, as gently as possible, though with a seemingly intended play on words. Whereas the butler had his head lifted up by Pharaoh, the baker has his lifted OFF, and hung on a tree to be consumed by the birds. Just as interpreted these events come to pass exactly as stated. Where God uses men to interpret dreams

or pronounce prophesy, there is ALWAYS a 100% hit rate in terms of accuracy and completeness of fulfilment. If a man's prophesy or dream interpretation fails to come to fulfilment in even the smallest of details, this man (or woman) is a false prophet. As one prophetic group / cult once stated "we have a hit rate of about a 1/3 with our prophecies, I don't think that too bad". What sort of "god" gets it wrong 2/3 of the time? Not one I want as my god thanks.

In true human style the butler in his return to office immediately forgets Joseph and doesn't make a peep to Pharaoh about him. Whether he genuinely forgot, whether he was "waiting for the right moment" that never came, or whether he felt that after his release it was pushing his luck to ask for the release of another prisoner we are not told. But we do know that the Lord saw fit to prove Joseph for 2 more years in that jail before he was to serve his purpose for Him, and next time we will look at his call to serve as the Lord pulls him out of prison and elevate his status in the land, ready to be the provision for HIS nation. Amen.

By David J Badger

Our Plan Or God's?

When reading a recent Revive Our Hearts blog (www.reviveourhearts.com/blog), it made me remember a walk my husband and I had some several years ago when our now eldest was only a toddler. We were walking to our local park, which is next to our local school (it did not have a very good reputation and had a particularly poor, run-down pre-school at the time attached to it). I was a stay at home mum and my husband worked within a local secondary school as a Study Supervisor.

We were starting to consider primary/infant schools for our then youngest so walking next to one prompted a conversation. I remember saying at the time such a very silly comment, (especially now looking back on it), I said, "There is no way she'll go there!". I remember my husband's response and quite rightly so correction. He replied with something similar to, 'If the Lord will have her go there then that is where she will go. He could even have you work there and I...I don't know, I could run the place'. I remember laughing at his comment, how sinful and

wrong I was to do this. Yet it's something we all do sadly, we all laugh and dismiss at times Our Lord's power and ability to enact His perfect will. Just look at Sarah laughing at the news that she would be a mother in old age. I had not gone to the Lord before I spoke such words, I had not put it in prayer and I therefore could not see His will for my family. I certainly did not consider at the time that He already has everything planned for us and in knowing all, has a much better plan for our lives than we could ever think of for ourselves. We just need to trust Him and allow Him to lead us down His path, not our own.



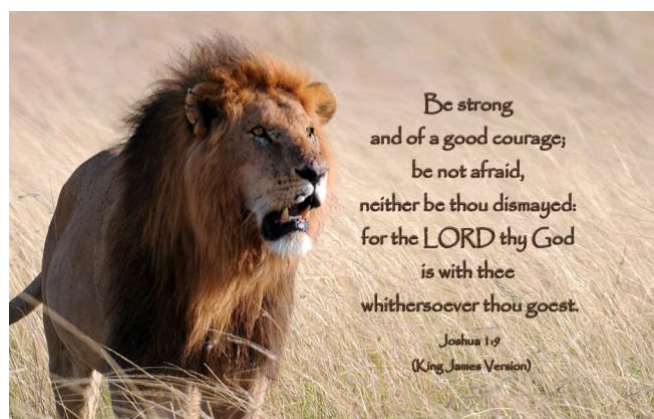
Fast forward two years. After touring our local schools we were most impressed with the school I said I did not want our child to go to. We are all guilty of making such dramatic statements believing we have the ability to make things happen our way. However, the Lord will often take such proud statements and turn them on their head to show who exactly is in control - Him! So despite my thoughts before, she started in the September (and actually saw her whole primary school career through there). Then to further show just who is in charge, I started working there only a couple of months after, (just as my husband had said). My husband also became a parent Governor not long after before going on to be Chair of Governors, (a role of overseeing the running of the school). During this time of being in charge of the school, it had an Ofsted inspection and became an academy, pretty important events in a school's life. He (my husband) had clearly gone to the Lord in prayer, and I clearly had not, he clearly trusted God's plans would be better than anything we had planned, whereas I was clearly trying to map our own path, so sinful!

None of us are there now, the Lord moved us all on in our schooling or career to different roles elsewhere. My husband went on to be a Trustee of the whole Trust not just one academy, and I moved to another academy within the Trust which I am still at to this day. It all shows that our thoughts on the paths we think we should take are not always/if at all what the Lord has planned for us and how wrong it is of us to

take our path and plan our own route without the guidance of the Lord. We need to put our complete trust in the Lord and believe in our Saviour Jesus Christ, that He died on the cross for us to pay for our sins so we can live our lives in worship of Him. We do not belong to ourselves, we belong to our Father, He sent His only begotten son to die for us. 'It is finished' were the words that were said, so we are saved in the blood of Jesus, believe this and take His path for your life, not fight him and try and path your own life your chosen way. His way is the way to Heaven, not yours! Hebrews 12:2 - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I did not understand at the time why my mother suddenly passed away when I was only 18 years of age but if she had not I may not have re-met up with my husband and we would not have our beautiful daughters we have together today, (we lost contact when we went to secondary schools/sixth forms for those of you who do not know us and it was my now husbands sympathy card that prompted us to get back in contact with one another - the rest is history as they say).

But back to my original point of not wanting our now eldest to go to the primary school she ended up spending her whole primary school career at - it did enough to get her to the secondary school she wanted to go to, it started my career in education and also furthered my husband experiences in education as well, to a level we did not imagine or believed possible . The Lord knows exactly what He is doing with your life, just trust Him. Joshua 1:9 - Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.



By Donna Badger

Family Bible Quiz Corner

R	E	M	H	T	I	A	F	G	T
E	C	E	O	S	T	L	O	V	E
B	T	R	I	N	I	T	Y	Y	E
O	M	C	E	L	O	O	D	A	H
R	S	Y	L	E	A	R	G	E	R
N	O	O	S	Y	D	C	C	S	E
B	N	A	D	O	Y	A	N	R	H
G	H	E	O	F	R	A	F	G	T
H	O	L	Y	G	H	O	S	T	A
R	B	N	I	N	I	R	T	Y	F

Words to find:

Reborn, Faith, Mercy, Grace, Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Ghost, Blood, Love

Bible Quiz

- 1) What is the Jewish month of Ethanim the equivalent to?
- 2) How did the King of Tyre help build the temple?
- 3) What family relation was the Pharaoh to Solomon?
- 4) How many talents did the King of Tyre send by boat for Solomon?
- 5) What Queen came to see Solomon when she heard of his wisdom and riches?
- 6) How many silver drinking vessels did Solomon have?
- 7) How many concubines (girlfriends) did Solomon have?
- 8) What profession did Adjonah have?
- 9) How long did Solomon reign over Israel for?
- 10) Where was Solomon buried?
- 11) Who reigned after Solomon?
- 12) What relation does Solomon's successor have to Solomon?

Answers:

- 1) Seventh Month - July, 1 Kings 8:2, 2) He supplied the cedar and fir trees, 1 Kings 9:11, 3) Son-in-law, 1 Kings 9:16, 4) 420, 1 Kings 9:27-28, 5) Queen of Sheba, 1 Kings 10:2, 6) None, they were all gold, 1 Kings 10:20, 7) 300, 1 Kings 11:3, 8) He was a prophet, 1 Kings 11:9, 9) 40 years, 1 Kings 11:42, 10) In the City of David, 1 Kings 11:43 11) Rehoboam, 1 Kings 11:43, 12) Son and Father, 1 Kings 11:43

A Final Thought

As we go about our day to day lives and engage in countless interactions with other people, there are bound to be occasions of contention and disagreement. Even the most mild-mannered folks can find themselves in a heated argument at a mere moment's notice. We may also find ourselves feeling legitimately wronged and aggrieved by the actions of others, sometimes on the receiving end of malicious acts, perhaps even unprovoked. These sorts of interactions are undoubtedly a side-effect of being a fallen, sinful race. However, as we do have our disagreements and spats, or indeed find ourselves unfairly put upon or attacked, we would do very well to remember our Lord's insistence on our adopting a forgiving nature, and putting off any desire to hold a grudge or, worse still, seek revenge (Romans 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord*).

It can be difficult sometimes to shed vengeful, negative feelings towards others, but we are called by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Lord's Prayer to forgive. Indeed, in three of the four Gospels our Lord calls upon us to forgive others, as our Heavenly Father has forgiven us, underscoring the importance of our having an attitude of forbearance and forgiveness towards are fellow fallen men. Where we still might struggle in this area, we can perhaps do no better than to engage in inward reflection. If we stop and think of all the sins we've committed throughout our lives - every selfish thought, every cruel act, every time we've broken even the smallest of our Lord's commandments and precepts - does it not make us stop and marvel to consider that they were all put on the Lord Jesus Christ as he was hanging there on Calvary's tree? If our Heavenly Father loves us so much that he sent his only begotten Son to die the death we deserve, put all our sins on Him and wiped clear our own ledger, is it really too much to ask that we forgive those who sin against us? And if that's not enough, we are warned in Matthew's Gospel of the consequences of not forgiving others their trespasses. We are called by the Lord to forgive others; let us joyfully obey our loving, forgiving Heavenly Father.

Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

By John Sivewright