

Westerham Hill Baptist Church Newsletter for Sunday 22nd March

Dearly Beloved (as Bertie might say),

I trust you are all keeping well and despite the bad news throughout the world that you are rejoicing in the Lord God our Rock and our Redeemer. While we regrettably will be unable to meet for corporate worship let us remember we are still one in our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, I hope to send a weekly letter that will be a help and encouragement to us all while we are unable to meet at the chapel.

I am sure that those who were at chapel on Sunday last were blessed by Sam's wonderful exposition of 2 Timothy 3 1-9. The young men who were due to follow Sam were most understanding that they could not come at the present time, but they have assured us of their prayers and send greetings. I have told them to keep their sermons 'heated up' so they can bring them later in the year.

In the meantime, I suggest on each Sunday morning we take time to read the passages they would have preached on. This Sunday, the reading is 2 Timothy 3 10-17. This passage makes a stark contrast between Timothy (and all believers who like Timothy follow the apostolic gospel) and the godless in the previous verses. The true believer will instead:

- 1) Be willing to suffer for Christ and will not be surprised when this happens, for the days are evil.
- 2) Continue in the faith once delivered to the saints. We remember with thanksgiving those who taught us the scriptures and their faithfulness to the Lord Jesus and we seek to do likewise.
- 3) We will follow the scriptures for they can make the simple wise and by the power of the Holy Spirit transform lives.
- 4) Acknowledge that all scripture is God breathed and comes from the mouth of God. They are therefore our supreme authority and are truly sufficient in all matters of faith and morality. We thank God that his Holy Spirit who inspired these writings also opens our minds and hearts to be teachable to his Word.

A prayer from Archbishop Cranmer:

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and control of thy holy Word, we embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let me also quote just three verses of Anne Steele's hymn:

Father of mercies, in Thy Word

What endless glory shines!
For ever be Thy Name adored
For these celestial lines

Here springs of consolation rise
To cheer the fainting mind,
And thirsting souls receive supplies,
And sweet refreshment find.

O may these heavenly pages be
My ever dear delight;
And still new beauties may I see,
And still increasing light!

Why not take time during the week to:

- 1) Praise God for his Holy Word and read a portion every day.
- 2) Thank God for those who taught you the scriptures.
- 3) Remember dear Ivy away on missionary service in the west. Must be about time she had a furlough!!
- 4) Thank God for Sam's message last Sunday and pray for Grace his wife as she is due to have a home birth shortly.
- 5) Pray for one another. Remember especially Paddy and Zeny and those in the fellowship who are waiting for medical interventions which may be further delayed.
- 6) A gentle reminder that some of the expenses of the church continue. (See 1 Cor. 16.2& 2.Cor.9.7)
- 7) And may the grace of our God be with us till we meet again.

Kevin.