

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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Editor-in-Chief: Trevor Williams

twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

(0115) 837 6895

195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8PJ

Production Editor: Jon Galloway

jdgalloway@mac.com

(07906) 060618

5 Aklins Lane, Netherburn, Larkhall ML9 3FH

Treasurer: Jenny Sparks

Website:

Header Design: Kevin Nicholson

UK Congregation Directory Online: www.churchesofchrist.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk

Previous Editors: Albert E. Winstanley (1969-1973; 1980-1987); Robert C. Eckman (1973-1980); Graham A. Fisher (1987-2014)

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To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



Front cover and
above: Summer in
Netherburn, Scotland



CONGRATULATIONS!

A new Christian in Wembley!

On Sunday, 7th July, **Ziyi Rios** was immersed into Christ. Ziyi is the daughter of our Jesse and Christine Rios. We rejoice with them and pray for Ziyi as she begins her new life in Christ.

John Griffiths

Rejoicing in Bristol!

Rejoice with those who rejoice!

On Tuesday, 11th June, convicted by the Word, **Robert** was reborn into Christ Jesus at our chapel on St John's Lane in place of our regularly scheduled Bible Study. He has worshipped with the saints intermittently over the last few years but made his commitment last month.

Freedom to those bound in sin was felt by **Jemima** who, together with her mother **Kaye**, found relief in Christ Jesus. After studying for several weeks, they confessed the Saviour and were baptised on the morning of Friday, 5th July. Our first set of spiritual twins this year!



Kaye & Jemima with Jason Snethen

Cathy gave her life to Christ after several years of believing in Jesus. We discussed baptism together, something that had been overlooked in previous places of worship, and she declared her faith and was obedient to the Saviour's command to repent, saying: "now that I know the truth, I must obey."

The same day, her friend **Ocean** was also baptised. Cathy and her husband, Alf, had reached out to Ocean and studied with him after she made her decision to become a Christian. He said that he had thought about it in the past, but felt he could no longer put it off, and was moved to be born again urgently. They were immersed on Saturday, 20th July. Our second set of spiritual twins!



Cathy immersed into Christ

Peter's wife, **Sue**, has watched Peter go to worship week after week during their 52 year marriage. Last year, when their grandson wanted to start coming and at only three years of age, Sue began attending as well – to help look after him. After studying together for some time, she voiced her desire to be immersed into Christ, and halfway through their holiday last week, I received a

Congratulations!



Ocean becomes a Christian

text saying we'd need to have the baptistry ready the day after they got back – so Sue was immersed on Sunday, 21st July. As she said to me, “once I make up my mind, I do what I say I will.”

While the water was still in the baptistry, two young men – brothers **Aeron** and **Aiden**, declared their faith and seized the opportunity to be immersed. Their father and I spoke to them while the congregation continued to worship, and they followed shortly after Sue.

As they were making their good confession before the gathered saints, my son, **Zerubbabel Nathan Justice**, drew close – I thought he was wanting to see his friends' baptisms more clearly. But no, he asked to

acknowledge Christ as His Saviour and be baptised. Having been considering it for some time, he became



Zerubbabel and Jason



Cathy, Sue, Aeron, Zerubbabel and Aiden with Jason

the fourth reborn that day in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Our spiritual nursery is quite full- please pray for us as we encourage their growth in the knowledge of the word and the

life of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Great news in Cumbernauld!

Fantastic news! Rejoice with the angels again! After studying with Adam and Melanie Barr, **Yemi** was immersed into Christ. Just a few months after being baptised himself, Ire had the honour of baptising his mum in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

More rejoicing! **Parens** has also made the decision to give her life to Christ. We all headed to the loch as her Dad, Lawrence, baptised her!

Welcome to the family Yemi and Parens.

Nicole Barr



Parens and Yemi



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Love one another

“I give you a new commandment – to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples – if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35 NET).

Just after Jesus finished washing the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-17) and Judas had departed (John 13:18-33), Jesus began to give his final instructions to the men who had been with him for so long. Jesus loved these men (John 13:1) and he wanted to prepare them for what was about to happen (John 13:33).

Jesus began by giving them a ‘new’ commandment: they were “to love one another”. At first glance we might ask what is new about a commandment to love each other? This had been part of God’s law for his people since they were at Mt Sinai. God had told his people, *“You must not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people, but you must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord”* (Leviticus 19:18). What was new about telling his disciples to love each other?

The newness was not in the command to love, but in the depth of that love. In the Old Law, the command was to love others as we love ourselves. That, in itself, is a tall order. Do we really give to others the same leniency that we give to ourselves? Do we overlook the faults of others as quickly as we overlook our own? The problem is that we are so used to our own inconsistencies and even our own sins that we sometimes no longer see them. When did you last quit speaking to yourself because of something you had done? If we love others as we love ourselves we must not treat others differently from how we treat ourself.

But Jesus calls us to a greater love. Notice what Jesus said: *“Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”* We are to love each other in the same way that Jesus loves us. John later explained it this way: *“We have come*

to know love by this: that Jesus laid down his life for us; thus we ought to lay down our lives for our fellow Christians. But whoever has the world’s possessions and sees his fellow Christian in need and shuts off his compassion against him, how can the love of God reside in such a person?” (1 John 3:16-17).

We are called to love each other to the extent that we would die for each other. Although that is a tall order, how many of us will ever be called to do that? Notice the practical way John applied this – if we have this type of love we will help each other in any way that we can, even if it requires washing the feet of someone else as Jesus had just demonstrated in the upper room.

John referred to this command as the “new commandment” that is an “old commandment” (1 John 2:7-11). Our lives are to be full of love. We are to love God and love each other. We are to love each other as we love ourselves. We are to love each other to the point that we would die for each other. Love is seen in how we treat each other.

When people see that we have this love for each other, they will recognise that Christians are different from those around them. This is something that is attractive to people. Those who know of Jesus will recognise that we are his followers – when they see visible proof of our love.

Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com

This year’s study weekends at East Kilbride will be examining the last half of John’s gospel. Join us if you can 24th-25th August and 7th-8th September as we look at the last events of Jesus’ life on earth. Teachers will be Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Jack Paton.

British Bible School Events

Online Bible Classes with the **British Bible School**

For twelve weeks commencing 1st July 2024

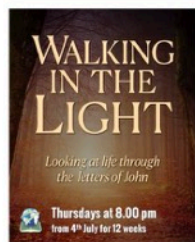
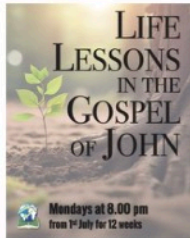
Mondays at 8.00 pm

Life Lessons in the Gospel of John

Throughout history, Christians have endeavoured to embody the Biblical ideals of justice, love, and truth. Despite the challenges presented by a world marked by injustice, hate, and lies, the Gospel of John offers valuable insights.

It provides a clear understanding of living as reflections of God's character in our interactions with others and empowers us to flourish as we strive to live out our Christian calling. John's account of Jesus' teachings on justice, love, power, freedom, truth, and spirituality inspires us to embrace these values in our lives.

Presenter: Jack Paton



Thursdays at 8.00 pm

Walking in the Light

The letters of John deal with everyday life for those who trust in Jesus and follow his ways. We are not in need of sinless perfection, but we are to be walking in the light, as he is in the light, and ensuring that we live our lives in Jesus, everyday.

He was sent that we might have life, and have it in all its fullness. We cannot have a healthy relationship with God unless we first believe in Jesus, and accept him for who he is. We cannot claim to love God if we do not love other people, whom he has created in his image. This is eternal life.

Presenter: Jon Galloway

Usually 1st Fridays at 8.00 pm (check social media)

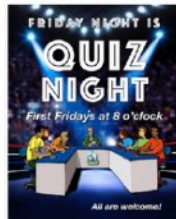
Bible Quiz Time!

Some light-hearted, educational, entertainment! This really is for everyone - nothing too testing (promise!).

You might want to have a pen and paper handy - plus a box of choccies to award yourself if you happen to win - or even if you don't. We'd love to present these personally, but under the circumstances this is a little tricky ...

We will generally hold this every first Friday, but please check online.

Presenter: Steve Whitehead



www.britishbibleschool.com

All times - GMT +1

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN (PART 2)

East Kilbride

Scholar's Gate, G75 9JL

Saturday, 24th August 9.00am to 4.30pm

Sunday, 25th August 9.45am to 12.30pm

Saturday, 7th September 9.00am to 4.30pm

Sunday, 8th September 9.45am to 12.30pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Jack Paton



For full details visit our website:
britishbibleschool.com

Standing in contrast to the other Gospel accounts, that of John deserves separate attention. In this module the student will be introduced to the structure and significance of this book with an opportunity to explore a number of key passages.

IN CHRIST ALONE

Autumn Weekend Family Retreat

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September 2024

at Letton Hall in Norfolk

www.britishbibleschool.com

THE Divided KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

British Bible School
Autumn Study Week

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenfwaite, Lake District
Monday, 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and elegant company
- All inclusive cost: £180 per student



This module examines the history of Israel during its most turbulent period and considers its role among the surrounding nations. All is seen within the context of contemporary history and modern archaeology.

For full details visit our website:
britishbibleschool.com



FAMILY NEWS

EDINBURGH (HYVOTS BANK)

Updated information:

Christians: 45 **Children:** 12

Meeting place: 48A Gilmerton Dykes Drive, Edinburgh EH17 8LB

Phone: 07312 107280

Send post to: 9 Moredun Dykes Road, Edinburgh EH17 8NG or hkerr412@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday meetings: Worship 11.30 am

Midweek: Home Study (please contact for details)

Contacts: 07312 107280 (congregation mobile) or

churchofchristedinburgh@gmail.com

Website: www.churchofchrist-edinburgh.co.uk

Helen Kerr



David Adeosun

On Saturday, 29th June, we held our second fellowship day. The theme was “The Prize” based on Philippians 3:14. Our speakers were David Adeosun (Great Barr) and Jason Snethen (Bristol). The song-leader for the day was Alan Dod (Thamesmead).

WEMBLEY

Time changes: Our Sunday morning Bible classes now begin at 10.30 am (changed from 10.00 am) and our worship begins at 11.00 am. Our Wednesday adult Bible class begins at 7.30pm and is held on Zoom. Contact us for details if you are interested in joining the class.

John Griffiths

David’s lesson title was “Eyes on the Prize” in which he encouraged us to be consistent in our faith. He based his lesson on the physical training that is necessary for an athlete. Jason’s lesson title was “Receiving the Prize” in which he encouraged us to remain faithful and grow in our relationship with Jesus, our true prize. Alan did an excellent job in leading our singing and teaching us some new songs. The food was also delicious and thanks goes to those who prepared it.

SHEPSHED

On Sunday, 23rd January, we had the pleasure of two visitors from Australia meeting with us. Wendy Tusak and her ninety-year-old mother Barbara joined us in worship. Barbara was originally from Bury in Lancashire before she emigrated in the 1950s. I still detected a Lancashire accent when she spoke. They came to Shepshead because Barabara had an aunt who lived here, whom she visited often.



Jason Snethan

Family News



Alan Dod

We would also like to thank those who supported us from sister congregations, it was good to see you.

Stephen Woodcock

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Margaret Daniell (nee Scott) – 1936–2024.

With sadness, we announce that Mum passed on to a better life on 16th July. While we mourn, we also know that our loss is her gain.

APPEALS UPDATE

Thanks you so much! £650 has been sent to Malawi for Davison to purchase bicycles for local preachers. £500 is ready to go to Ukraine for windows for the orphanage.

Thanks to all who gave!

Trevor Williams

Sheffield calling!

The Christians at Sheffield invite all to a Christian Fellowship Day:

Godly Living In a Corrupt World
(1 Peter 2:11-25)

Date: 14th September 2024

Venue: 411 Bellhouse Road
Sheffield
S5 0RB

(this is the address of our new place of worship)

Time: 10:30 am – 4:30 pm.

For further information, please contact:

Patrick – 07508033534
Maxwell – 07809719855

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF MARGARET DANIELL



Date: 12/08/24

Time: 4pm

Where: At Kent & Sussex Crematorium, Benhall Mill Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN2 5JJ followed by a celebration at 5.15pm with drinks and sandwiches at the Church of Christ, Cambrian Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9HH

No flowers please. If you wish to make a donation, please go to: <https://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/donate/> and please wear comfortable clothes

RSVP:

Please email Hazel on hazdaniell27@gmail.com or stephen.daniell@hotmail.co.uk

If you would like to tell a story about Margaret or offer a tribute then please let us know.

UNKNOWN BY US BUT KNOWN TO GOD

There is so much that is unknown by us but is known by God. This should not lead us to despair. In many ways this biblical truth is very comforting.

When I traveled in January of 1971 from Geneva to Belfast by train and boat, having come to faith in Christ and baptism a little over six months before, I already knew how much I did not know.

I did not really know exactly what NIBS would be like, or life in Northern Ireland. But I did know that, as a new Christian, I wanted to understand my faith and be able to share it. An important part of my conversion (but not the only part) was what I heard from the Biblical truth that lead me to faith. I wanted to know more about the book I had just discovered a few months before which people call the Bible.

As I traveled to Belfast, I did not know — and none of us knows — where all of this would lead me for the years to come. In that sense I did not have a plan. But in another way, I had a plan because I knew that whatever profession I would get into

or whatever future I would have, it all would be meaningless without faith in Jesus Christ.

In the words of Ecclesiastes, it all would be ‘vapour’ without the hope of eternal life grounded in the truth of God’s Word and the resurrection of the Lord.

Strangely enough when I came across Ecclesiastes as a new Christian the book almost felt familiar to me as a former student of philosophy and French literature who had tried to decipher (without much success!) the thinking of Camus or Sartre and the point of so much despair.

Why so much despair? I already knew that all this despair was itself ‘vapour’. Why despair if life is absurd and meaningless? If there is despair, maybe there is another way to look at life? As maybe C.S. Lewis would have said, if there is a hope possibly there is a way to find that hope?

I certainly could not have known where I would be today, over fifty years later.

The point is, I did not need to know. More importantly, what gives meaning to my life and to your life is that the Lord knows and has always known us personally, in a very caring and intimate way, as a Father knows and loves his children. The care and love of our Father is really what matters ultimately. That is really all that matters or as the Preacher, son of David, would say, “The end of the matter, all has been heard...”

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...Your eyes saw my unformed substance: in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.” (Psalm 139.14,16)

Yann Opsitch
Author and Director of l'École du Maître
(yannopsitch.com)

Yann is from France. He was a North Ireland Bible School student (1971-72) and is presently the Director of l'École du Maître, an online school of Biblical studies for the French speaking world.

New book released

BARNABAS: A Historical Novel on the Life and Times of a First Century Christian

195 pages

TimehPublications, June 2024

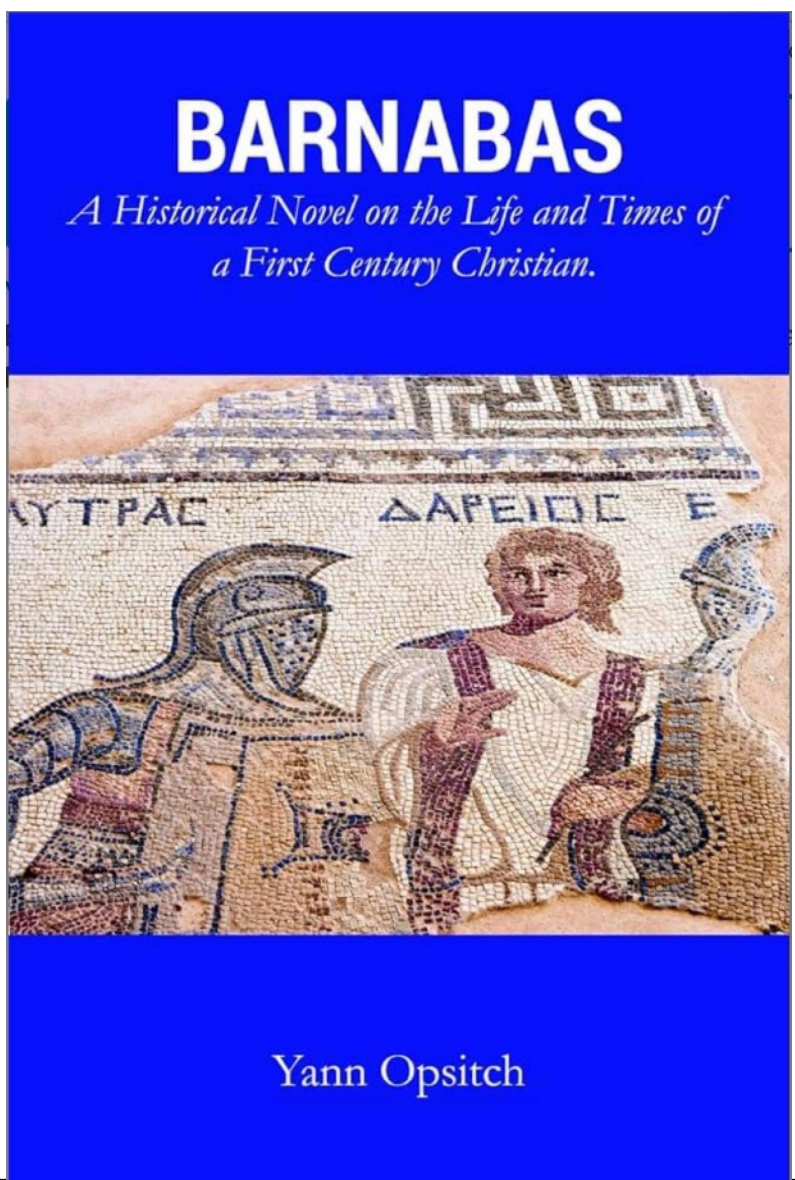
Who was Joseph the Levite also called Barnabas? What can we discover about his life as a first-century follower of Jesus Christ? Considering the sources, how can we imagine the life and work of this believer who was given the name “Son of encouragement” (Barnabas) by the apostles of Jesus?

The role of Joseph the Levite in the history of the early Christians was one of encourager, as suggested by his name Barnabas. This was given to him by the

apostles of Jesus: “There was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means ‘Son of Encouragement’). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.” (Acts 4.36,37 NLT).

This book was written to encourage believers in Jesus as they read about the great accomplishments of Barnabas, of the apostle Paul and many others who served Jesus faithfully by their lives and through their teachings in the early years of the church.

Book available on [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) –
Hardcover: £14.16
Paperback: £11.80
Kindle: £6.27





AROUND THE WORLD

PAKISTAN

Greetings in his beloved name. I hope and pray that you and your families are doing well and we are all good by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are very thankful to God for his mercies and thankful to you for the love of the Lord Jesus Christ you have for us.

I would like to share the good news that although in the last couple of months there were many bad incidents in our country where Christians were treated badly and some were killed and injured, God is still working and blessing his people and many are accepting Jesus as

Saviour and entering in his family. Please pray for the new Christians that God may strengthen them in their faith and use them to glorify his name in Pakistan.

The Lord's work is progressing day by day. We ask you to keep us and Lord's work here in your prayers. We also ask you to please support the Lord's work in Pakistan because it's very much needed.

May God bless you and your families and use you more and more to glorify his name in Pakistan.

Naeem Sabir





APPEALS

PHILIPPINES

On 18th July a low-pressure area developed over the Philippine Sea, followed by the formation of Tropical Depressions 'Butchoy' and 'Carina' the next day. The southwest monsoon, intensified by tropical depression Carina, caused moderate to heavy rains over western Luzon for three days. Carina intensified into a typhoon on 22nd July 22 and two days later it intensified into a super typhoon, making landfall in Northern Taiwan while moving northward away from the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). On 25th July Super Typhoon Carina exited the PAR.

The storm, combined with the effects of the southwest monsoon, brought heavy rainfall to the western section of Luzon, including Metro Manila. The provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Batangas, and Cavite (where my home is), as well as Metro Manila, were placed under a state of calamity.

The pictures speak for themselves. We need help. Desperately. Please consider giving so we can help those displaced by the heavy flooding brought about by the super typhoon.

Gigie Carranza

Funds can be sent direct or through the CW account – HSBC 40-45-03 91058533.

Trevor





WHERE IS YOUR MENORAH?

The Menorah (which is Hebrew for ‘lamp’) consisted of seven branches with cups containing olive oil which was burnt via a wick. It originated in the days of the Tabernacle, then used in the Temple and finally found a place in the Temple of Peace built by the Romans to celebrate their victory over the Judean rebellion which resulted in the destruction of the Jewish Temple by Titus in AD 70. The Menorah is depicted on the Arch of Triumph in Rome along with the Table of Shewbread.

In the book of Revelation John sees seven golden lamp-stands in the middle of which stood the risen Christ. The lamp-stands represent seven congregations to which John was told to write. Only to Ephesus, the first congregation, is a lamp-stand mentioned and it’s not until the description of the two witnesses in chapter eleven this figure is used for the last time. Of interest is what is said to the Ephesians regarding their spiritual state, that if they do not repent Christ would remove their lamp-stand. What would that imply? Christ described himself as “walking in the middle of the seven golden lamp-stands.” He is

therefore active in scrutinising each congregation (“I know your works”) and has the authority to remove his presence symbolised by the lamp-stand.

Ephesus did not suffer from some of the judgements brought against other churches, in fact they were fervent in testing against falsehood and commended for their strength in endurance. Today, churches who were able to achieve even that would consider themselves faithful, as many a false idea can easily spread by means of publications and especially the Internet. However, purity of doctrine is only one side of the coin, as Jesus shows in his rebuke. This dilemma is seen in some denominations where much activity and success is shown in spreading the message and doing good works, while teaching error according to scripture. Ephesus had lost their first love. It was not their love of the truth and the battle to maintain it against attack. Where had they fallen short of expectations as Jesus moved among them?

Looking back at their history we see they had great affection for Paul who had spent three years with them as he taught both

Jews and Greeks (Acts 20). What better advantage could there be than having the apostle Paul as your teacher and brother for so long, with his knowledge of all the plan of God, together with unceasing encouragement? His prophecy of their future troubles must have seemed so improbable at the time, but Jesus’ letter reveals the rise of false apostles whose aim surely was to lead others astray; a similar danger to what Paul had predicted.



Menorah on display in Jewish Quarter, Jerusalem

Where is your Menorah?

What happens in some congregations when certain Christians move, or even die? They had an uplifting effect by their own example, not just in good works, but a sincere regard for the personal well being of all, just like Paul. No one is left to take their place, because nobody rose to the challenge as they had done but contented themselves with the status quo. Any babe in Christ is left hungering; the preacher notices the difference because he was not the source of that flame. Slowly but surely the spiritual enthusiasm begins to flatten to a point to where they are just going through the motions.

We have a common saying, “Familiarity breeds contempt.” By that it is supposed that the more you know of someone’s personality, the more likely you have cause to not respect them, or something similar. True fellowship among Christians should go deeper than the niceties exchanged during meetings and that creates the danger described by that phrase. However, it’s not the familiarity that breeds contempt; familiarity becomes the harvest upon which an already existing spirit of disrespect feeds. How does this relate to the Ephesians?

Familiarity can also bring a sense of spiritual lethargy. Those who see their ‘religion’ as the same old songs, the same old preaching, the same old routine, etc., are more likely to drift into a lethargic state that shows in both their worship and inter-personal relationships. The original burst of energy to obey God and be forever thankful for the sacrifice of Jesus, motivating change in mind and habit, gradually declines instead of growing. Whatever the cause, which some may see as justification, the end result is the same. The first love didn’t last because it didn’t grow.

Is not that also true in marriage? Who can sustain a marriage based on the initial attraction? The love and respect must grow through all the experiences together. If both are so committed, then even times of disagreement will not fester to become a destroyer of that love. See how often the writers of Scripture urge the saints to understand and accept each other as fellow members of the one body. As

Paul warned, there would be some at Ephesus who lost that love for both God and each other by introducing “perverse things to pull away the disciples after themselves.” In the Revelation letter they had stood up against such ones, so their desire for maintaining the truth and opposing evil was strong, but they needed to remember something in their past they were no longer living.

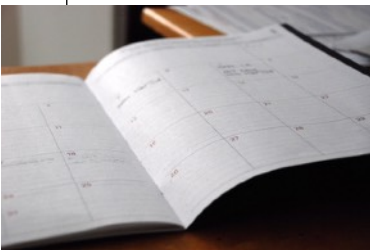
Is it possible to be orthodox yet displeasing to Christ? A look at 1 Corinthians 13 answers that question. Who would think that a congregation who had preachers and teachers, as well as all the Christians, thoroughly versed in the Scriptures, unbeatable in any debate; who engaged in great acts of benevolence and if persecuted, willing to face any consequence, could still be censured by their Lord? Without love, Paul says, there is no profit in anything we do.

Here is the contrast, almost an opposite to Ephesus. “And write to the messenger of the congregation in Thyatira: The Son of God, who has his eyes like a flame of fire and his feet are similar to polished brass says these things: I know your works and love and faith and service and endurance and your last works are more-than the first ones. But I have this against you, that you are allowing your woman Jezebel, she who calls herself the prophetess, and is teaching and misleading my bond-servants to fornicate and to eat idol-sacrifices.”

Could it be that Ephesus was lacking the first part addressed to Thyatira while, unlike them, guarded against all evil ones? They had forgotten that initial love for their Saviour which had motivated their whole being towards God and each other. The congregation had become an organisation, defending its terms and conditions, while dying in that which first motivated it.

Is it not a sobering question for us all – how safe is our Menorah, as Christ walks among us saying, “I know your works?”

Anthony Spicer



DIARY

August

1st – British Bible School evening class: “The Letters of John” led by Jon Galloway each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

5th – British Bible School evening class: led by Jack Paton each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

17th – Liverpool: Fellowship Day – “Mission” with Patrick Boyns, 10.00 am-4.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyankiah@hotmail.com.

24th-25th – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. – The Gospel of John (part 2). All day Saturday and Sunday Bible class and worship. Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

September

7th-8th – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. – The Gospel of John (part 2). All day Saturday and Sunday Bible class and worship. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Jack Paton. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

13th-15th – British Bible School: “In Christ Alone” – Autumn retreat at Letton Hall. For details, see our website: britishbibleschool.com.

14th – Sheffield: Fellowship Day – “Godly Living in a Corrupt World” (1 Peter 2:11-25) at 411 Bellhouse Road, Sheffield S5 0RB, 10.30 am-4.30 pm. Contact: Patrick (07508 033534) or Maxwell (07809 719855).

20th-22nd – Glasgow area: Joint gospel meetings with area congregations. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

21st – Reading: ‘Songs of Joy and Harmony’ Song Fest at Earley Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Reading, RG6 4HB. Lunch at 1.00 pm, singing at 2.00 pm, dinner at 5.00 pm. Send numbers attending to: Heidi Stevenson (message4heidi@outlook.com).

21st – Great Barr, Birmingham: Fellowship afternoon, 3.00 to 6.00 pm, at The Pheasey Community Hub, Hillingford Avenue, Birmingham B43 7HN. Contact: Sola (sola.adeosun@gmail.com) or John (johnonyebuchi321@gmail.com).

21st – Liverpool: Gospel Meeting (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyankiah@hotmail.com.

28th – Shepshed: Youth Day. Contact: Stephen Woodcock (shepshedcoc@outlook.com).

October

19th – Peterhead: Social Day. Contact: Michael Gaunt (01779) 476170 or michael_gaunt@hotmail.com.

25th-27th – Bristol: Youth Weekend, ages 12-18. Contact Jason: 07795 560990 or jsnethen@hotmail.com.

26th – Liverpool: Evening of Songs (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyankiah@hotmail.com.

26th – Wembley: Singing Workshop with Alan Dad. Contact: John Griffiths (griffiths.jhg@virgin.net).

28th-1st Nov – British Bible School Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor: “The Divided Monarchy”. Info and registration will be available at www.britishbibleschool.com. Contact: Patrick Boyns (pkb@britishbibleschool.com).

November

4th-12th – Trip of a Lifetime: Seven Churches Tour of Turkey. Info: ianstarrsturkeyitinerary.pdf. Contact: Ian Starrs: jes22ian@msn.com or 07960 150856.

23rd – Liverpool: Gospel Meeting (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyankiah@hotmail.com.



THE FINAL WORD



The despair of life

In a world filled with violence, sadness, despair and grief, we find that in the UK over 6,000 each year commit suicide. 20% of these people will be women and 80% men. That is four times as many men to women.

Men can sing and shout at a football match but cannot share their feelings to their families or their friends. Despair creeps like cancer, unknown, undetected, unrealised, but it arrives and at a huge cost. Men in general consider themselves to be strong, brave, fearless and yet many want to self-harm and they need help to stand.

There is no specific age group for this disaster in life, this shout for help forever rings in the hearts of their loved ones. Life is confusing. When are we a boy? When are we a man? Life carries scars in the broken-hearted during teenage years and then the disappointments are carried through their 20's, 30's and on through their working lives. Life can be so disappointing, and the journey becomes a burden. Many feel unloved, un-helped and uncared for. Disappointment and belief in self-failure takes over lives.

When someone commits suicide, little can be done for them but for those left behind there is a trail of heartache and shame. Friends and family ask why they did not realise the pain and agony in the lives of others. That pain goes on for decades and is far deeper than a natural death. Suicide is an

ugly word that brings no joy, no peace. The bonds of love, of care and comfort have been smashed into a thousand pieces. All that is left is an empty void.

Congregations should be a safe place for those who are ill physically and mentally as well as spiritually. Much is required of those who love the Lord and who are trying to support their local congregation. Not everyone is equal, not everyone can do everything for everyone, but we must all care for one another.

Peace is perhaps one of the greatest gifts of all that God can give us. We are reminded of the words that Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you" I strongly suggest that each congregation should have someone in its number who can help those who are hurting, someone who is trained one way or another and has the ability to talk to others and let them be able to talk to them.

We must be aware of self-harm and suicide. When talking to people who need help, we need to listen – we do not share our own experiences. We must learn to be quiet; it is their time to talk.

We are the tender flock of God and are led by a Shepherd who cares. Going to worship is not like going to the theatre. Being God's people is realising the Kingdom of God here on Earth.

God of all creation, rule in our hearts and in the minds of your people. Be our strength in times of weakness, our peace in times of turmoil, our joy in times of sadness, our hope in times of hopelessness.

*Come, O Lord God, and bless your people.
Amen*

Trevor

