

Sunday 30th
July 2017



'Biblical Simplicity'?

Now that I am back from university, a number of people have asked me what I'm doing with my long summer holiday. Thankfully I can reply that I went to Israel with the Church and to SOLID, and at 30 minutes' short notice went to speak to a group of ladies at the Trefoil Guild with John Southam! It avoids answers like "I've been playing video games while I should be doing more reading!" One book, however, that I have read came out with a phrase that got me thinking.

'Biblical Simplicity' it said, claiming that there is one simple and easy message that the Bible asserts when we read it. But do we really find reading the Bible that easy?

I've spoken to Christians who find reading the Bible difficult, which makes them feel that they are not good Christians. Their assumption is that "good" Christians find it straightforward. If that were true we wouldn't find so many disagreements.

Christians and non-Christians struggle, as they perceive the God of the **Old Testament to be different from the God of the New Testament.** I've certainly found the Bible challenging to read, and my degree depends on my reading and understanding it.

One of the most precious lessons I've learnt is just how complex the Bible really is. But this is exciting! 'Our God is a big, big God' and we shouldn't be surprised that the Word, which tells us about Him, is complex. None of us should feel useless for how overwhelming the Bible can be.

It takes a lifetime to wrestle with, as there is so much the Bible has to say. There are so many layers of meaning, so many applications, and every one of them is crucial. That is why the Bible has so much value.

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Now, I don't want to imply that there are no simple layers. One of the most obvious is that Jesus really did die at the hands of the Romans and rise again, so that He was able to take away our sins and give us His **new life with God (e.g. 1 Peter 3:18). We don't need to go searching for the terrifically deep points to find value for money!**

But even though so much of it isn't easy, God doesn't leave us flailing. He has a plan. I want to try to suggest just two aspects.

The Bible teaches us that we are given His Holy Spirit, which means we can listen to His voice when reading the Bible. The smallest whisper we hear from God, informing us of a truth in the Bible, is of immensely **greater worth than anything a famous Bible scholar, who doesn't listen to God, might come up with.**

Secondly, God has given us each other. He gives each of us the ability to read the Bible with our own eyes, so that all of us can come up with a variety of ideas and work through them together. One example is when we do this in housegroups.

It's a challenge, but then what in Christianity isn't? The good news, as ever, is that God enables all of us to understand it in some way and we can all work together.

Yours in Christ,

David Lewis



Keep in touch and up to date with us over the summer by liking our Facebook Page and visiting our website
www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk



What's on this week...

☺ Summer ☺

In line with local schools we are taking a summer break from many of our usual activities. Please note carefully the schedule this week.

Sunday, July 30th. ● 10am Chapel Gathering plus Youth Group, Sunday Club and Creche. ● 5pm Prayer and Praise. Refreshments after the service.

Wednesday, August 2nd. ● 6pm-8pm: BBFC training Claverham field.

Friday, August 4th. ● 7.30am: Early Morning Prayers in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast.

Sunday, August 6th. ● 10am Chapel Gathering plus Youth Group, Sunday Club and Creche. ● 5pm Prayer and Praise. Refreshments after the service.

News, notes and prayer-opportunities

● There are still places for Holiday @ Home 14th, 16th & 18th August. Sign up with the office or speak to Melvyn for more information. ● Word for the Day, August to October are available to collect. ● Battle Baptist Runners are not running this week (returning next week 9th August, 7pm at the Church). ● Please prayerfully consider if you could help with Sunday Club at 10.45am. We are greatly encouraged by the numbers of children and families who are coming to that service and the potential for growth. However, we believe that this is dependent on us continuing to provide a consistent Sunday Club. We need a helper and a leader for the younger children (ages 5 to 7) once a month. If you want to know more please speak to Andy Garlick or Esther Dunn. ● Please note the office is closed Thursday and Friday this week.



Please see the display in the foyer and start praying for our community in this creative and exciting way. Pray in pairs, groups or as an individual.

This week's prayer opportunities

- ◆ Pray for the elders on retreat at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. Pray that God would unite them, bless them and draw them closer to Him.
- ◆ Pray for Battle, as the prayer walking begins this week. Pray that God would break spiritual strongholds and protect those praying.
- ◆ Pray for the preparations for Holiday @ Home. Pray that one or two others would book and that He would move in the hearts and lives of those who go.

Dates for your diary

- ◆ 25th-29th August Soul Survivor
- ◆ 3rd September BBB10k run
- ◆ 9th & 10th September Commissioning weekend
- ◆ 13th—15th October Teaching weekend



Church maintenance issues: zionpremisesteam@gmail.com
Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. • Website: www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.
Ed Jones (Pastor) Francis Willoughby and Mark Hirst (Associate Pastors).
Our other elders: John Southam (Church Manager); Rob Duffill (Treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick; Ben Garlick.