

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



26th July 2020



Seeking God

At our staff team meeting on Tuesday, we looked at a short passage from Ephesians. Paul writes, 'I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God' (Eph 1:16,17). We talked about how we need to continue to get to know God better, and noted how this fits in with themes we have explored as a fellowship both before and during Lockdown: abiding in him, resting in him, spending time with him. Simply to stop, shut our eyes and breathe him in - as Emma shared last Sunday.

Paul, when reflecting on the impeccable social and religious credentials he held dear before meeting with Christ so dramatically, writes 'I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.' (Phil 3:7,8a).

There is no substitute for knowing God personally. But how do we go about this? By studying Jesus' life in the gospels to see what he was like when he was on earth, and by getting to know him now through prayer and the study of the God-breathed word in the Bible. By reflecting on the New Testament references to Christ and by asking the Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of Jesus's words (John 14:26).

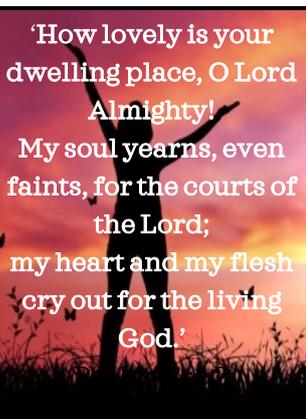
Sometimes I wonder if I focus too much on the idea of Jesus as the Son of God; the Son of Man

who walked this earth and who was crucified, buried and who rose again so that we could be reconciled with God. Perhaps, in marvelling at the radical, life-transforming acts of Christ's mission, I sometimes lose sight of his deity. In seeking God, in getting to know Jesus, my Saviour, I must remember that the man who washed his disciples' feet, who chose to spend time with those on the very margins of society is also 'the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth' (Col 1:15,16). As my youngest daughter would say, wide-eyed, 'Whoah!'

Reflecting on this, I realise just how small my faith is. Returning to Ephesians 1, Paul continues: 'I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honour in the heavenly realms' (vv19,20). Let us remember that Christ came so that we might have life in all its fullness. Let us remember that 'God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross (Col 1:19,20).

In seeking God, let us remember just who we are dealing with, and may we truly believe that 'nothing is impossible with God' (Luke 1:37).

Jo



PRAYER POINTERS

COVID-19

Pray for those working in schools and childcare settings as they make plans for COVID-19 secure settings from September. Pray for workers whose childcare arrangements are unclear or complicated.

Pastor Gabriel Uche

Keith and Laurel have been in touch with Pastor Gabriel, who sends greetings from Abuja, Nigeria. Like us, he has been in lockdown for some months. Please pray for him as seeks to minister to 78 churches.

BBC moving forward

Pray also for those who lead ministries within the church, as they prayerfully reflect on how to take these forward from September. Pray too for LIFEgroups: may we 'encourage each other and build each other up'.

NEWSLETTER

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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.

Church maintenance issues:
zionpremisesteam@gmail.com



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Couch to 5k running club: Battle Town Football Club (BTFC) plans to run a 'Couch to 5k' club for the community of Battle. It would be great to have some members of the church family joining too. Email active@battletownfc.com if you're interested, or speak to Kevin or Esther for more info.

LIFEgroups and Discipleship pairings: These small groups will offer a vital means of meeting together at the church from September. If you are not yet involved actively in a discipleship group, get in touch with Emma or Chris D via their mobiles to discuss possibilities.

August: Here is the plan for August:
02/08 Ed (Psalm 139)
09/08 Ed (Psalm 121)
16/08 Beth Powney (Psalm 88)
23/08 Stuart Davison (tbc)
30/08 Ed (Psalm 8)
Newsletters will be produced on 2nd and

30th August.

AGM - Tuesday 15th September: We are making plans for our AGM: during the pandemic, the Government has made temporary provision in law that we can meet virtually. Some members will be able to join the meeting in the chapel, others will be able to join via Zoom. More details to follow.

Rob's Riddle—can you solve it?

Last week's answer: Samson. How did you get on? Here's number three:

My first is in banjo but not in guitar,
My second in horse but in car.
My third is in Southam and also in Stones,
My fourth's in Terrell and again in Jones.
My fifth is in September but never in May,
My last is in shade but not in day.
My brothers and I didn't get on so swell!
They stole my coat and put me in a well.

Who am I?

Pray for...

LIFEgroup leaders: that they may be replenished during the month of August. May they be refreshed as groups start in Sept.

R.E.A.L. Women

Join us for chat and a catch-up via Zoom: Tuesdays at 10am. Go to our FB page for the login details.

Word for Today

The latest UCB daily Bible notes are now available. Contact the office if you would like a copy posted to you.

A guide to personal devotions

While we are not meeting collectively, why not use this guide for your personal devotions?

Pause, be still and invite God to meet you afresh, filling you by His Holy Spirit.

Pray giving thanks for all God's goodness

Worship

If you have a Worship CD, DVD or the means to go online and listen to something why not play a worship song, you don't have to sing along if you're not comfortable doing so or can't: simply listen to the words

Read a Psalm

The Psalms are a great source of hope and help, written in good times and bad. Pick one; read it through slowly. Pause. Read it through again.

What is God saying?

Give space allowing time for God to speak. What is he saying? Is he speaking to you personally or is it a message for the wider church?

Prayers for others

1) Use the prayer on the reverse side of this. It is taken from the Baptist Together website and their call to prayer in response to the Coronavirus. They rightly encourage us to play in being a Beacon of Hope at the moment. They remind us that our neighbours and communities need love, hope, peace and an eternal perspective and we can offer this in abundance, in the name of Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:18).

2) Pray for different ministries of the church, even though they are not meeting at this time. Think of the different people who usually attend and the reasons and aims of the activities.

3) Using the church members' directory take a page a day, and pray through the names.

Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is a great resource that Jesus gave us.

Grace

Why not conclude by saying the grace, as we often do when we gather together, only picture those you would usually be looking at, as you say it?