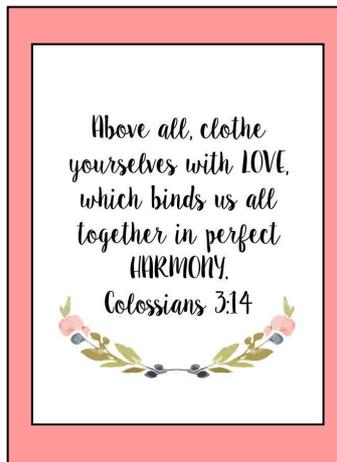
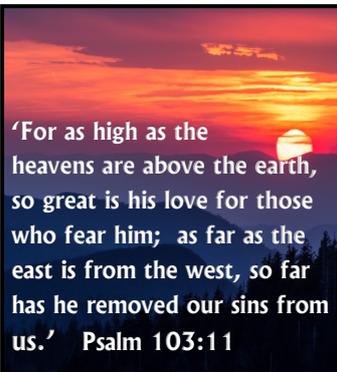
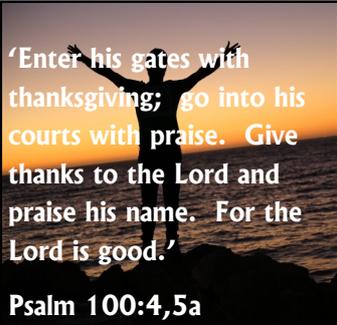


Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



15th November 2020



Growing through God's grace

Recently, as I approached my car parked in a small parking lot, I noticed a car parked down the middle between the two rows blocking in myself and three or four others. The driver finished stowing things, glanced at me quickly and got in. I was aware that, unusually for a Brit, they offered no hurried words of explanation or even a gesture that might have signified an apology.

I explained to my passenger we would have to wait a few minutes; we chatted. All the while I was observing, in my rearview mirror, the manoeuvres of the driver as they attempted to extricate their car from a very tight spot. During a period of between four to five minutes the driver made somewhere over thirty (I think I lost count) positional moves before finally being able to drive away.

Interspersed with our conversation I was giving a running commentary on what was happening and voicing my general thoughts about, "How silly, sometimes irritating, possibly dangerous and unhelpful it is when drivers don't follow the basic driving codes of behaviour put there for everyone's benefit." I also speculated about the other driver's thoughts: perhaps a shrug and 'Oh well...'; or perhaps 'Whoops!' or 'Gosh - this is a bit trickier than I'd anticipated!' What I said out loud was, "I have no sympathy: bet they won't do that again in a hurry!" My companion said, "Oh, that doesn't sound very forgiving." We drove away.

A few days later our car was held up briefly in traffic. A memory triggered. I related the above story to this second companion. Thinking aloud I concluded, "Well, serves them right, they got themselves into that mess. I've no sympathy, they just had to get themselves out." My companion said, "Huh, really? I'm glad God isn't like that and just leaves us unsympathetically in

our mess!" We drove on.

It's funny how sometimes an insignificant occurrence lasting a few minutes can set off a train of thought lasting days. I reran the event in my head and concluded that I was in fact quite calm and unruffled by the inconvenience, as I was neither desperate for the loo nor late for an appointment! Rather I was curious watching the driver figure out what to do, and, at some level, very glad it wasn't me.

In response to my first companion's comment – I felt no need to exercise forgiveness as no offence had really been caused – I was an observer only. As I thought about my second companion's response, I found myself agreeing how good and frequently we experience God's expansive compassion towards us. I also prayed that God's grace will help me exercise forgiveness and compassion readily.

Later two things struck me –

- 1) How thankful we are for God's forgiveness time and time again: but we must recognise our error and be sorry in order to receive it, and the subsequent joy, restoration and freedom it brings us. In forgiving others are we demonstrating God's heart (Eph 4:32)
- 2) Yes, God is so compassionate (Lam 3:22,23) and wants us to be like Him, but actually He also requires us to understand that there are consequences to the choices, words, actions we employ every day. So maybe, sometimes, we have to sit with our mess for a while, letting Jesus teach and grow us through it. But we can do it together, standing with each other in support and prayer (Col 3:12-14).

Let's allow the above scriptures to challenge and bless.

Rita

PRAYER POINTERS

COVID-19

Praise God for the progress that has been made in developing a vaccine against the virus. Pray that nations will work collaboratively to ensure that doses are available to those most in need.

For our world...

We live in turbulent times; but the Lord is 'over all things' (1 Chr 29:11). Pray for:

- UK / EU negotiations
- USA;
- China / Hong Kong / Taiwan

Foodbank

Please pray for the clients of Battle's Foodbank. In their time of deep need may they encounter the love of Christ through the volunteers that they meet. May they seek refuge in Jesus, who gives 'life in all its fullness.'

NEWSLETTER

15th November 2020

Battle Baptist Church
Being Transformed Together

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

COVID-19 pandemic: All activities at BBC are suspended until 2nd December. Staff continue to work at the premises.

Church Meeting, Monday 23rd November:

The agenda for this meeting has been emailed out on 09/11 and posted on 12/11. We will send out the Zoom meeting codes nearer the time. Rob will be happy to address any questions regarding the finances - please could these be submitted in advance (by 18/11). Thank you.

Children in years 3-6: Join Tim for a Zoom chat after the morning broadcast on Sundays.

Young people in years 7-13: All activities have moved online during lockdown: keep an eye on Instagram for the latest news.

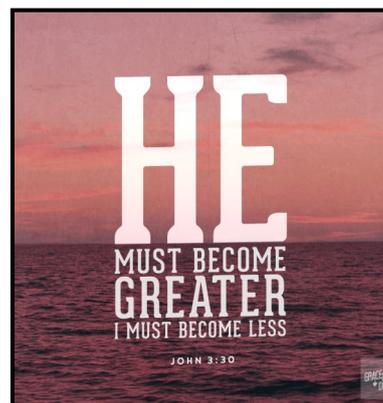
Battle Town Football Club: Please continue to pray that players stay fit, recover from

injuries, and stay mentally healthy over the next three weeks.

BTFC Couch to 5k: The planned new 'Couch to 5k' programme will be rescheduled post Lockdown. Email active@battletownfc.com for more information or contact Kevin or Esther directly.

Foodbank: The Foodbank continues to be busy, but has benefitted from lots of harvest donations from schools. This week donations of squash and tinned cold meat would be particularly welcome. Thank you for your continuing support.

Caterpillar Pre-School: The nursery remains open: term ends on 18th December.



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?