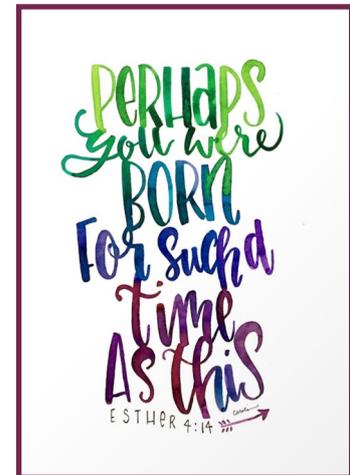
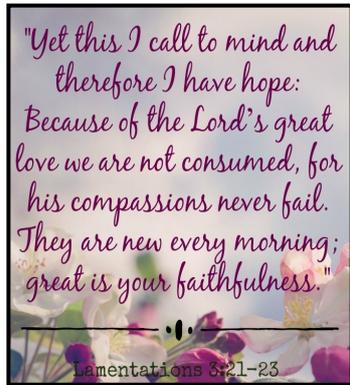
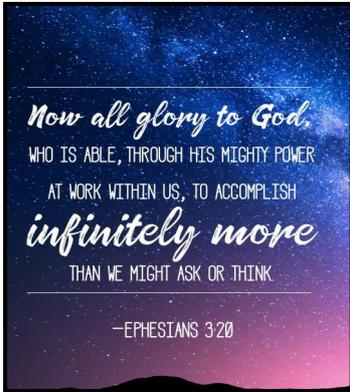


Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



3rd July 2022



Running the race

This is the time of year when school children of all ages are given opportunities to take part in Sports Day. For some this is the best day of the academic year: they really relish the challenge of physical exertion, and shine on the sports field. For others, it is pure misery as they trudge along, failing to score many points for their team, longing for the day to end.

In Scripture, Paul teaches that we are all running a race. However, unlike the races on Sports Day, the race in which we are all participating does not have only one winner, nor does it matter how fast we can run. The aim is to finish, rather than come first.

Paul tells us in Acts 20, ²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.' Here Paul speaks of 'finish[ing] the race and complet[ing] the task', not running as fast as he can or winning.

In Philippians 3, he gives an other indication of his meaning: ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.' Again, he is moving forwards in Christ but is not comparing his position with that of anyone else or needing to finish ahead of others.

Furthermore, he explains in 2 Timothy 4, ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to

all who have longed for his appearing.' Here we see that everyone who has 'longed for his appearing' will be given a 'crown of righteousness'.

In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul does speak of a race in which only one runner can get the prize, but this is not the race that we as Christians are called to run. ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.' Here Paul is explaining that in the secular world, athletes compete to win a crown or a prize that is momentary, but that we as Christians should train and run to get a crown that will last forever. It is so much more important to finish the race that Jesus sets before us, rather than worrying about what speed we can run.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with competing in races as athletes and aiming to win. However, we should remember that in the race we are called to run, *everyone* who finishes wins the eternal crown. We are not competing against each other, but against spiritual forces and hazards created by the enemy. We need to help each other to finish the race as a community of believers. Imagine the amazing feeling of crossing the finishing line as an innumerable cacophony of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Got your trainers? The race starts here...!

Yours in Christ,

Jenny

PRAYER POINTERS

Our World

Back in 2015, G7 leaders pledged to lift 500m people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. According to Oxfam, 'in 2015 there were 630m in hunger. As of 2021, this figure is thought to be 950m'.¹ Pray that there will be a breakthrough in the complex negotiations about lifting the blockade of Ukrainian grain exports overseen by the UN and Turkey. Pray that diplomatic efforts will pave the way for constructive discussions at the G20 in November.

Caterpillar Pre-School

Please continue to pray for the staff team as each of them manages the competing demands of responsibilities at work and at home. Pray for the children under their care. And for Trustees, as they seek to support the team effectively.

NEWSLETTER

3rd July 2022

Battle Baptist Church
Being Transformed Together

Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle,

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(01424) 774997.

Church maintenance issues:

zionpremisesteam@gmail.com

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenny Lear: Dennis Nolan will lead a service of thanksgiving for Jenny's life on Tuesday 5th July at Hastings Crematorium at 11.15am.

Service of Baptism: Katherine Reeves and Evie Jones will be baptised during our 10am gathering on Sunday 17th July. Please be praying about this and for any guests that may be invited.

Men's breakfast: The Very Rev Lee Duckett will be speaking at the next Men's breakfast on 16th July. Meet at The Chequers Inn at 9am. Please contact Rob Hamilton to book a place. Cost: £10.

August 2022

Provision for children and young people: Sunday Club will take a break for three weeks during August, then resume on Sunday 28th. Sunday Youth will not run in August, and will resume on Sunday 11th September.

Renew 1066 will run on Wednesdays throughout the summer - except for 3rd

August when there will be no gathering.

Church Office: The church office will be closed from 8th August -19th August inclusive.

WORLD VIEW

Democratic Republic Of Congo (DRC) (Pop 92 million): Although a high percentage of the population are Christians, the Islamic extremist groups are responsible for brutally attacking Christians and churches in the east of the country. Converts from Islam and indigenous religions face pressure to take part in non-Christian religious ceremonies. Christian leaders risk harassment and official government interference. Please pray :-
* that the government will act against the security crisis
* that pastors will receive courage, wisdom ,and compassion as they minister
* that God will strengthen the church.

“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the Lord. “I will put my instructions deep within them and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people.”

Jeremiah 31:33

What's on this week...

Caterpillar Pre-School is open Monday to Friday this week.

Sunday 3rd July

- 10am **Worship Gathering** at the Chapel followed by refreshments in the Manna House

Monday 4th July

- 9 - 11am **Caterpillar Toddlers**
- 9.30 - 10am **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room
- 3.30 - 5pm **Chosta** for years 7-13

Tuesday 5th July

- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec
- 2pm **Tuesday Fellowship** in the Manna House

Wednesday 6th July

- 10am - 12 noon **Renew 1066** in the Manna House
- 6.30pm **BTFC Runners** meet at the Chapel
- 7 - 8pm **Prayer Meeting** (for Ukraine & current affairs) in the Prayer Room

Thursday 7th July

- 9am **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room

Friday 8th July

- 10.30am - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Youth Room
- 7 - 9pm - **BBC Youth**

Sunday 10th July

- 10am **Worship Gathering** at the Chapel followed by refreshments in the Manna House