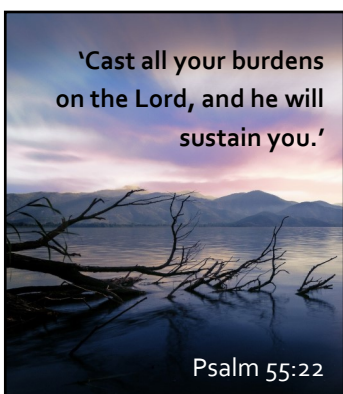
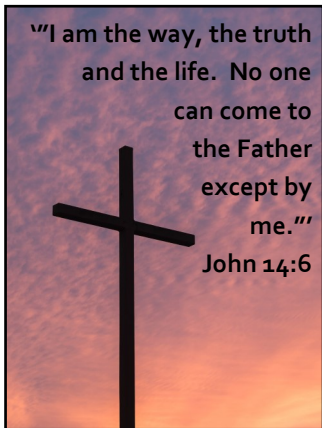


Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together

11th & 18th February 2024



How can we please the Lord?

When we started thinking about obedience on Sunday, for some reason my mind went back to when I was an infant school teacher in Inner London. I soon discovered that when I began with a new class, it was necessary to impose some strict discipline – some of our children had been out on the streets for a couple of years before they started school and obedience wasn't high on their agenda! However, as time went by, I could ease the discipline because their obedience then was coming from the relationship that we were building. Many of the children wanted to please me and so there was a greater desire to obey. Inevitably there were still some who pushed all the boundaries, many of whose names are still etched on my memory!

I also thought about the Rechabites, whose story is mentioned in Jeremiah 35. Their ancestor gave them several rules to obey, including not drinking wine and not building houses to live in. His descendants had kept these rules for over 200 years. What made them do that? I guess it was because it was a distinctive characteristic of their family. They belonged to the family, so they adopted the family ethos. Interestingly the Lord commended them for their obedience, which was in contrast to disobedient Israel, and blessed them because of it.

When thinking of Jesus, the verse that came to mind was Philippians 2:8, where we read that

He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. That must have been the ultimate act of obedience. It came, no doubt, from that amazing love that He, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, had for the world that they had created. There was only one way our sick world could be saved and it took that 'awful' obedience to accomplish it.

In the early years of my Christian life, there were inevitably things that I struggled with. As I read more of God's requirements in the Christian life, I found different areas of my life needing my obedience. They seemed to come up one after the other. However, as time has gone on, it's not so much a question of obeying certain rules, as if one is earning Brownie points, but more a question of going deeper in relationship with Him. Obedience becomes not a question of trying to do the right thing, but of wanting to please the Lord and develop the family likeness. One thing particularly has helped me on this journey and that is having someone alongside me, to whom I make myself accountable and to whom I open up about the struggles and joys of life. I would encourage everyone to find someone with whom they can share and pray, open up and find real support as they continue to obey and develop that deeper relationship with the Lord. May the Lord bless you as you go deeper with Him.

Chris Doust

PRAYER POINTERS

A prayer for The Middle East

'God of the nations, whose kingdom rules over all, have mercy on our broken and divided world. In the land of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, bring peace in our time, O Lord. In the land of our Saviour's birth, banish the spirit that makes for war. Please give wisdom to those you have placed in authority. Rescue the captives, shield those in danger, and bind up the broken-hearted... Above all, we pray that the peoples of the Middle East will find everlasting hope in you.'
[\[taken from\]](#)

For our fellowship

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are ill, for those recovering from surgery, and for those with long term health issues. For resilience, peace and good sleep. For effective medical treatments and recovery.

NEWSLETTER

11th & 18th February 2024

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

A message from Rhod: 'The **World Mission Ministry Team** will be gathering this Sunday (11th) after the morning service. All are welcome to attend to hear ministry updates and potential new plans for further developments with a focus on Europe. Looking forward to being together to discern what the Lord is wanting us to do.' *Please bring a packed lunch; drinks will be provided.*

Ed Jones is preaching at Community Church, Robertsbridge on 11th February.

Ed and Emma Jones are on holiday next week. If you are in need of pastoral support, please contact one of the Elders in the first instance: Gary (available all week); Charles (available Mon - Thurs); or Shirley (available Tues - Sun). Contact numbers are available via ChurchSuite.

Our first **Ordinary Church Meeting** of 2024 will take place on Tuesday 27th February from 7.30pm in the chapel.

World Day of Prayer: Local people will gather at the [Emmanuel Centre](#), TN33 0FL, at 2pm on Friday 1st March to mark this event, which is open to all.

Clare Grimble's latest newsletter can be read [here](#). Please contact the office if you'd like a paper copy.

The next **Men's Breakfast** will take place on 16th March from 9am at The Chequers Inn. The speaker will be Rhod Jones. Please let Rob H know if you would like to attend.

Prayer Requests: Email your prayer requests to the prayer ministry team at: battlebaptistchurchprayer@gmail.com.

'The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.' (Psalm 19:1,2)

What's on this week...

Caterpillar Pre-School is closed for half term 12th - 16th February, and reopens on 19th February.

Sunday 11th February

- 10am **Morning Gathering** at the Chapel
- 12.15pm **World Mission Team meeting** in the Manna H
- 6 - 7.30pm **Evening gathering** at the Chapel

Wednesday 14th February

- 10am - 12 noon **Renew 1066** in the Manna House
- 12noon - 2pm **Warm Welcome** in the Manna House
- 6.30pm **BTFC Runners** meet at the Chapel
- 7 - 8pm **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room

Friday 16th February

- 10.00am - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Youth Room

Sunday 18th February

- 10am **Morning Gathering** with Communion at the Chapel
- 6 - 7pm **Evening gathering** at the Chapel

Monday 19th February

- 9 - 11am **Caterpillar Toddlers**
- 3.30 - 5pm **Chosta** for years 7 - 13.
- 7.30pm **Leadership meeting** in the Youth Room

Tuesday 20th February

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

Wednesday 21st February

- 10am - 12 noon **Renew 1066** in the Manna House
- 6.30pm **BTFC Runners** meet at the Chapel
- 7 - 8pm **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room

Thursday 22nd February

- 3.15 - 5pm **After School Club** for KS2 children

Friday 23rd February

- 7.30 - 8.15am **Early Morning Prayers** in the Youth Room
- 10.00am - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Youth Room
- 6 - 7.30pm **BBC Youth** for Years 7-9
- 7.30 - 9.15pm **BBC Youth** for Years 10-13

Sunday 25th February

- 10am **Morning Gathering** at the Chapel
- 6 - 7.30pm **Evening gathering** at the Chapel