

ST MARK'S

SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2020

HE THEN BEGAN TO TEACH THEM THAT THE SON OF
MAN MUST SUFFER MANY THINGS AND BE REJECTED
BY THE ELDERS, THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE
TEACHERS OF THE LAW, AND THAT HE MUST BE KILLED
AND AFTER THREE DAYS RISE AGAIN- MARK 8:31





FROM THE CURATE

We are in the season of lent, and fast approaching that Glorious day where we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ- Easter Sunday. As we approach Easter Sunday, we have been working are way through our latest sermon series entitled Lent: An Invitation. Each week we have spent some time recalling what we are invited to do as followers of Jesus.

So far, we have reflected on what it means to be invited as a disciple of Christ to return to Him, to resist temptation, to submit to Him and to serve Him.

On that note of invitation, we all love to be invited to something. Whether that's to a wedding or out for a meal, or to something else. As I thought about this some more, I was drawn to that well know passage in the gospel of Luke, where we read about a different kind of invitation.

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? Luke 9:23-25

Here we see Jesus offering an invitation to all who want to be followers of him. The invite is to deny ourselves and take up his cross. When it came to the cross in Jesus' day, the cross wasn't just a symbol of pain and suffering, it was primarily a symbol of death.

Essentially, Jesus was telling his disciples that they needed to put to death their own plans, their desires and their own agendas, and turn their lives completely over to Him daily.

For us today, that same message still applies, in order for us to truly take up the cross of Christ, we need to die to our own agendas and orientate our lives in such a way that he is at the centre, to put it another way the great C.H Spurgeon once said:

There are no crown-wearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers here below.

I encourage you to take up his cross daily, and as you do, remember that wonderful, yet painful act of sacrifice that our saviour took upon himself, when he went to Calvary and died on the cross for you.

Have a blessed Easter, Lucy

YOUNG ADULTS

RELATIONAL:COMMUNITY



Over the past while, we have been working our way through a study called Old Testament Challenge. This study helps us recognise that within each of us, we have a deep longing and desire for community, but also, we have a yearning within us, that only God can truly fill. As we gather fortnightly, we discuss God's word and ask how it relates to our everyday lives, then we pray for each other. These evenings give people an opportunity to grow in faith, have fun and ask good questions. If you are aged 18-30ish, and are not yet involved in YA, we would love to hear from you.

curate@stmarksportadown.org



Young people 'submerged' and growing in faith, fellowship and fun

IT'S hard to believe we are approaching Easter, but I would like to tell you what the youth have been getting up to over the past few months.

Submerge continues to take place for the youth in the Fergus Hall. It been so encouraging to meet with the young people every Sunday and sit together in Church before we go out to our meeting. We have been enjoying fellowship with one another and studying the Bible together. We have currently just finished the book of Genesis and have started Exodus, showing our young people how the whole Bible points to Jesus. It has been a great encouragement to see the big Bible story and to show God's plan from the beginning and how much more we can trust in His promises. Please continue to encourage our young people as they come out to church and Submerge!

Youth Fellowship continues to flourish as we learn more about Christianity's Biblical foundations. Young people have been exploring and grasping the tools to equip them in their faith and it's wonderful to see them engage and retain what it is we believe and why we believe it because it affirms our faith and deepens our relationship with Jesus. Youth Fellowship continues to run on alternate weeks for anyone interested in joining us in a night of food, fun, games and Scripture.

St Mark's Youth have been diligently raising money to better equip the youth department with resources and equipment. As part of this fund-raising, trips and youth events which happen throughout the year will be subsidised for the young people so that they can continue to flourish in their faith and have fellowship with other Christians their age.

So far the young people have raised a grand total of £1,036.26 to which we would like to say a huge thank-you to all who supported the sponsored cycle and Valentine's social! Your love, support and help have been such a blessing and encouragement to us all!

Boys to Men / Girls to Ladies continues each week in Millington and Edenderry Primary Schools. We have received wonderful feedback from students and the schools regarding the impact this ministry is having on P7 students as we aim to teach them new skills, not only to better equip them in life but also to introduce them to the Christian faith.

It has been a wonderful year, full of many blessings as the team continue to be good role models, make lasting relationships and share their faith through prayer and conversations. Looking ahead we are excited to start the transition as we invite the p7s to come along to junior After Dark on a Thursday evening in June so that in September they will feel much more comfortable coming to After Dark Drop-In.

After Dark continues every Friday night for Year 8 and Year 9 students, running from 7pm to 8.30pm (alternate weeks). It has been great to get to know the pupils who attend Boys to Men/Girls to Ladies from previous years.

These are some of the things that are happening with the young people in St Mark's, Portadown. Each organisation is in need of volunteers so if you're willing to give one day /night out of your month, or if you are interested in having more information, please contact me on 0754 5480 189 or via heather@stmarksportadown.org

Young Families Worker

REACHING OUT TO THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

WHAT an enjoyable, busy and encouraging first six months I've been blessed to have in my role as Young Families Worker!

When I took up this post in September, one of my aims was to grow our ministry with families outside the church community. I have a real passion for reaching the lost and spreading God's love to people who don't yet know Him, so I want the church to be good news for families in our town and to minister in ways that achieve more than just 'getting them into church on a Sunday morning'.

Over the past few months I have organised events that could allow us, as a church family, to welcome the entire community in fellowship and to share God's love; we had our Light Party in October, our gift and packing service, sponsored Santa stroll and Craft Fair in December and, most recently, our Family Games night in February.

I have also set up a couple of different groups to allow me to keep connections open with some of the young mums I have met through the work I do at Minders and Monkeys, a link that I felt was missing when the mummies go back to work after maternity leave. Having a young mums' group - which meets on a Friday evening in our church cafe once every six weeks - gives me the opportunity to touch base and share and encourage these mummies, allowing me to softly introduce the Christian message.

Another group I have set up is Tiny Toes. Open toparents, it enables dads as well as mums to come along and support one another in our café. That runs on one Friday morning each month. To date much my work has been centred around the mummies.

but I have plans in place and dates pencilled in the diary to include the dads - so watch this space.

The other group I have set up is Kids Blast, which runs on Sunday morning during our joint-service (10.30am) as it is vital to develop and grow our ministry, building on the many existing links we have with children and families and enable them to find a home in the life and worship of St Marks Church. It has been wonderful to see so many more families attending the joint-service.

I have lots more fun things planned for the next six months. For example, our ladies are looking forward to a day out at Kingdom Women in March. To this can be added Easter events, May half-term, summer holidays and Holiday Bible Club activities.

I'm just super-excited to see God move in this town and I feel so blessed to be able to do this role which I love.

I'll leave you with this quote, "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

God Bless Lynn Stewart





FAITH FINDERS

The first few months of 2020 for Faith-Finders has been another successful endeavour in teaching the kids important stories from the bible. In these first few months we have been teaching the children about John the Baptist and how Jesus calmed the storm.

Faith Finders runs on a rota system where we take 3 separate groups of kids and allow them to take part in different activities related to the theme every week. Last month's activities included making buns as well as the kids crafting an interactive scene to visualise the storm and the boat.

By running different activities for the kids every week we hope that it teaches the kids about Jesus in a fun and practical way. We are consistently encouraged by the attitude of everyone taking part and the fun that everyone has in their respective activities.

At Faith Finders we try to lead by the example and we aim to create an environment for everyone to learn more about God.

Lately we have been thinking about Proverbs 22:6 *"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it"*.



This is a reminder to us, that what we do now in terms of teaching these children is so important, and we trust that we will in some way, impact them for future generations.

Faith Finders takes place at 10:15am every week, apart from the first Sunday of each month, as the kids go out to a programme called B.L.A.S.T. If you know of anyone who would like to be part of Faith Finders or would like to volunteer their help please let Peter Sinton or Leanna Topley know and we would be delighted to have you on board.

Can I take this opportunity to acknowledge the great help everyone at church has given in running Faith Finders, whether it be volunteering or encouraging new families to join, bringing their kids across with us or encouraging us through prayer and support, it is all greatly appreciated and Faith Finders wouldn't be there without it.



CHURCH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday 9.30am-12.30pm

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm

Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm

Friday- 10am-12 Noon

**Closed Saturdays, Sundays and
Public Holidays**



J.S. Bach - Soli Deo Gloria

“O sacred head, sore wounded,
defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head surrounded
with mocking crown of thorn:
What sorrow mars
Thy grandeur?

Can death Thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose
splendour the hosts of
heaven adore!

Thy beauty, long-desirèd,
hath vanished from our sight;
Thy power is all expirèd,
and quenched the light of light.

Ah me! for whom Thou diest,
hide not so far Thy grace:
Show me, O Love most highest,
the brightness of Thy face.

I pray thee, Jesus, own me,
me, Shepherd good, for Thine;
who to Thy fold hast won me,

and fed with truth divine.
Me guilty, me refuse not,
incline Thy face to me,
This comfort that I lose not,
on earth to comfort Thee.

In Thy most bitter passion
my heart to share doth cry,
With Thee for my salvation
upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus moved
to stand Thy cross beneath,
to mourn Thee, well-beloved,
yet thank Thee for thy death.

My days are few, O fail not,
with Thine immortal power,
To hold me that I quail not
in death's most fearful hour;
that I may fight befriended,
and see in my last strife
to me Thine arms extended
upon the cross of life.”



Sligo 20



NewWine
Local churches changing nations

BOOK NOW AT NEWWINEIRELAND.ORG

WHAT IS NEW WINE IRELAND?

New Wine Ireland is a summer conference which usually takes place in July. This year it will be held on the 12th-17th July 2020. **'New Wine Ireland exists to enthuse, equip and resource the local church across Ireland for radical mission that will change this nation'**. Sligo provides a space for this to happen as we meet together for worship and teaching.

At New Wine you will find relevant and fun filled programmes for all ages. They provide facilities for babies, children, teenagers and adults.

The week provides worship, bible teaching, seminars, and community nights. There is also space for free time and a trip to the beach and the ice cream shop!

**Interested? Check out their website
www.newwineireland.org**



A lifetime of dedication to the Church of Ireland

THE stained glass window in St Mark's in memory of James Ivan Davison BEM. FCA. was presented by his wife Ruby and family.

Ivan was Honorary Secretary for over 48 years and was the longest serving Secretary since the Church was built in 1826.

The central panel of the window, which depicts St. Mark writing at his desk, represents Ivan. The two side panels is of angels singing – wholly apt as Ivan was a singer in Portadown Male Voice Choir for over 50 years.

St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Armagh submitted Ivan's name to be one of the Maundy recipients. It was a great honour to receive the Maundy gifts from the Queen on March 20, 2008 - the first time the ceremony was held outside England/Wales. The Maundy coins in the White purse are a personal gift from the Queen to the recipient. Each year it is the Queen who herself chooses the Cathedral.

Ivan held various offices in the Church and these included Weekly Freewill Offering Treasurer for 13 years, Churchwarden for

two years and Nominator and Synodsman.

In the Diocese of Armagh. Ivan served on the Councils Board of Armagh Cathedral for over 30 years, was vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of the Stipends Committee and was a member of three other committees as well as having been one of two Diocesan Lay Secretaries.

Ivan also served on the Representative Body (the ruling body of the Church of Ireland) for six years and was a member of the Stipends Committee in Dublin.

He was also one of the original members of Church of Ireland Housing Trust Association - and was still a member at the time of his passing. He also served under four Rectors and four Archbishops. What a record!

The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, dedicated the window on Sunday, November 24, 2019 - to the glory of God and in remembrance of the Honorary Secretary for his loyalty and dedication not only to the Parish Church but also for his tremendous work in the Armagh Diocese.

The importance of Prayer

THE HEART OF PRAYER IS THE PRAYER OF THE HEART

TO Christians, prayer is as vital to our spiritual wellbeing as breathing is to our physical existence.

It is not about our ability to use grand-sounding words, for praying is not a speech or a performance. Instead, as C. H. Spurgeon put it, "Prayer is the address of a poor creature on earth to a great Creator and loving Father in Heaven."

It is the means whereby a sinner communes with the Almighty. (Isaiah 57:15). Now that's truly remarkable!

The importance of prayer is underlined by repeated examples of it and references to it throughout Scripture. The emphasis placed on prayer - by the Holy Spirit, who is the author of the Bible (see 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21) - makes it plain that praying is not an optional extra.

Prayer was central in the life of Jesus; even 'God With Us' was dependent on it. For confirmation, look up Matthew 18: 19, Matthew 21: 22. Mark 11: 24 and John 14: 13-14.

And to see how and when Jesus Himself prayed, turn to Luke's Gospel for six such examples: Luke 3: 21; Luke 5:16; Luke 6: 12; Luke 9: 18 and 28; Luke 11: 1 and Luke 22: 41-42.

Jesus repeatedly stressed the importance of prayer. Over and over again He told and encouraged his disciples - that's us - to pray.

Tellingly, prayer is instinctive to the new convert. What was Saul's (Paul's) instant response after his vision of the ascended Lord? He prayed! See Acts 9: 11.

When we are converted, things change. We have a new life - that of the risen Lord - which is implanted in us by the Holy

Spirit (1 John 5:13-14).

Without prayer - the spiritual equivalent of withholding oxygen or food - this new life cannot survive, never mind thrive.

The believer is told to pray privately (Matthew 6:6), often (Psalm 55:17) and regularly (Daniel 6:10). We are urged to pray in times of trouble (Psalm 50:15), though those are probably the occasions when we least need to be reminded!

In brief, the bottom line is to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17), as Paul reminds us.

It makes no sense that prayer is seen as a chore. Instead it is a privilege to be able to commune with Jesus Christ via a direct, personal line. Think about that; it's amazing! (Hebrews 4: 14-16 and Hebrews 10: 19-22).

So isn't it equally amazing that we don't pray more, not least because it's the divine means by which each of our needs (not to be confused with all of our wants) are met?

Read Philippians 4: 19; James 4: 2 and Luke 11:9-10 for assurance of your standing as a child of God! And Ezekiel 36: 37 further reminds us of that.

It has been said, "The purpose of prayer is not to try to persuade God to change His will, but to provide Him with a channel through which He may accomplish it."

C. H. Spurgeon said; "The heart of prayer is the prayer of the heart."

Those are two very good starting points...

ST Mark's Prayer Group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month (Fergus Hall @ 7.30pm).

You are warmly invited to join us.

Worship night hits right note



PSALM 95

- 1 *Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our
salvation.*
- 2 *Let us come before him with
thanksgiving and extol him with
music and song.*

We recently had a worship night (January 24) in St Mark's and the event was well attended by members of our church plus a large number of visitors.

This event came about after a conversation with Church Warden Keith Thompson – a member of Flute Band Church - who suggested we hold a night of worship. This was an occasion to make time just to come along, worship Jesus and give Him praise.

The night gave us the opportunity to try out some new songs and dust off a few old favourites, too, as well as to use some lovely poems and readings!

As a band we felt really encouraged by the tremendous singing coming from the body of the church and it was a great joy to fill St Mark's with God's praises.

I'd like to take this opportunity to again thank all those involved - from the musicians who gave of their talents, those who

welcomed visitors and sold tickets, the sound and screens teams and those who looked after refreshments.

Everybody had a great night and this was down to a tremendous team effort and God's provision.

We were also glad to have raised £1,000 for St Mark's Building Fund, which will help make our wonderful church building ready for future endeavours.

We hope to hold more worship nights later in the year as our hope is to lead our congregation in living out God's will to be a people of worship, to be a light upon a hill and to be an example for Portadown.

In other words, for the church in the heart of the town to show that it is the church with the town in its heart.

We hope to see His name glorified and His kingdom come in Portadown.

Glen

Holy Week Activities

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**MONDAY 6TH APRIL:TRIP TO
LONDONDERRY**

**TUESDAY 7TH APRIL @ 6.30PM:EGG-
STREME EVENT (PAROCHIAL HALL)**

**WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL @ 7PM:YOUTH
SERVICE (CHURCH)**

**THURSDAY 9TH APRIL @ 7PM:MAUNDY
THURSDAY SERVICE (CHURCH)**

**GOOD FRIDAY 9-11AM:PRAYER
BREAKFAST (FERGUS HALL)**

**REFLECTIONS OF THE CROSS
12NOON - 3PM (CHURCH)**

**GOOD FRIDAY @ 7PM:EVENING SERVICE
(CHURCH)**

**SATURDAY 11TH APRIL 12-2PM:FAMILY
FUN DAY (CHURCH)**

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES:
8.30|10|11.30**

A green palm frond graphic in the bottom right corner of the dark blue background.



Our reminder that there really is no greater thing

If you were at the 10.30am joint-service on Sunday, February 2, 2020 when Lucy preached from Joshua 5, verses 13-15 and Joshua 6, verses 1-5, you may remember that we sang 'Knowing You Jesus', the well-known and much loved hymn written by Graham Kendrick.

In the Church calendar, the occasion - 40 days after the birth of Emmanuel (God With Us) - marks the Presentation of Jesus and, as per the Law of Moses, the purification of his mother, Mary.

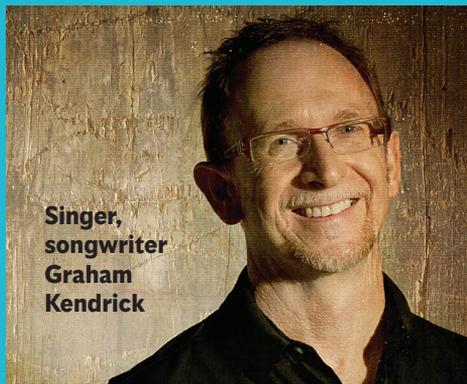
The infant Jesus was brought by Mary and Joseph to the Temple where Simeon and Anna - two aged prophets - confirmed him as being the long-promised one for whom Israel had been waiting and longing (see Luke 2: 22-38).

If you weren't at that service on February 2, could I suggest that you read and reflect on the words below.

And even if you were present that morning, then you pause, too, and allow the power of these lines to enfold, envelop and empower each of us on the road to all-in discipleship.

All I Once Held Dear (Knowing You, Jesus)
 All I once held dear, built my life upon
 All this world reveres, and wars to own
 All I once thought gain I have counted loss
 Spent and worthless now, compared to this
 Knowing you, Jesus
 Knowing you, there is no greater thing
 You're my all, you're the best
 You're my joy, my righteousness
 And I love you, Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know you more
 To be found in you and known as yours



**Singer,
 songwriter
 Graham
 Kendrick**

To possess by faith what I could not earn
 All-surpassing gift of righteousness
 Knowing you, Jesus
 Knowing you, there is no greater thing
 You're my all, you're the best
 You're my joy, my righteousness
 And I love you, Lord
 Oh, to know the power of your risen life
 And to know you in your sufferings
 To become like you in your death, my Lord
 So with you to live and never die
 Knowing you, Jesus
 Knowing you, there is no greater thing
 You're my all, you're the best
 You're my joy, my righteousness
 And I love you, Lord

*By Graham Kendrick
 (copyright@1993 Make Way Music)*

Oh, to know the power of your risen life
 And to know You in Your sufferings
 To become like you in your death, my Lord
 So with you to live and never die
 Knowing you, Jesus
 Knowing you, there is no greater thing
 You're my all, you're the best
 You're my joy, my righteousness
 And I love you, Lord
By Graham Kendrick

Good Friday – the day the price was paid in full

“JESUS tilted His head back, pulled up one last time to draw breath and cried, “Tetelestai!” It was a Greek expression most everyone present would have understood. It was an accounting term. Archaeologists have found papyrus tax receipts with “Tetelestai” written across them, meaning “paid in full.”

With Jesus’ last breath on the cross, He declared the debt of sin cancelled, completely satisfied. Nothing else required. Not good deeds. Not generous donations. Not penance or confession or baptism or... or...or...nothing. The penalty for sin is death, and we were all born hopelessly in debt. He paid our debt in full by giving His life so that we might live forever.”

Charles R. Swindoll

“GOD has arranged all of the preceding centuries, all of the intervolutions of time, all of the events from Genesis 1:1 up to this moment - has arranged and moulded them, has had them converge in such a way that there would be a place for this hour, the hour in which His Son will be bound... He allowed neither the forces above nor the forces below to tamper with the clock of history. He directed the battles of Caesars, the conflicts of kings, the migration of peoples, the world wars, the course of stars and sun and moon, the change of epochs, and the complex movement of all things in the world in such a way that this hour would come and had to come.”

Klass Schilder (Christ In His Suffering)

“PEOPLE sometimes say, indeed, that it makes little difference what theory of the

atonement we may hold.

“Ah, my friends, it makes all the difference in the world.

“When you contemplate the cross of Christ, do you say merely, with modern theorists, ‘What a noble example of self-sacrifice; I am going to attain favour with God by sacrificing myself as well as He’.

“Or do you say with the Bible, ‘He loved me and gave Himself for me; He took my place; He bore my curse; He bought me with His own most precious blood.’ That is the most momentous question that can come to any human soul.”

*J. Gresham Machen
(The Doctrine of the Atonement)*

“TWELVE legions girded with angelic sword

Were at his beck, the scorned and buffeted:

He healed another’s scratch; his own side bled,

Side, feet, and hands, with cruel piercing gored.

Oh wonderful the wonders left undone!

And scarce less wonderful than those he wrought;

Oh self-restraint, passing human thought,
To have all power, and be as having none;

Oh self-denying love, which felt alone
For needs of others, never for its own.”

Richard Chenevix Trench (Sabbation: Honor Neale: And Other Poems)

“THE real truth is that while He came to preach the Gospel, His chief object in coming was that there might be a Gospel to preach.”

Robert William Dale



Three good reads this Easter

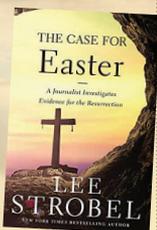
THOSE of us who work get a few days off at Easter. And in the case of pupils and students - to say nothing of those whose role it is to teach/lecture/ tutor them – the break is quite a bit longer.

If you are a reader, Eastertide is a great opportunity to spend a little of that time-out with your nose buried in a book, thereby combining your literary hobby and your faith.

Here are three suggestions which might make Easter 2020 one to remember. Enjoy!

The Case for Easter (90 pages)

A little about the author – Lee Stobell graduated with a Master of Studies [Law] degree from Yale and then



went on to join the Chicago Tribune where he became an award-winning Legal Editor. By his own definition he was cynical, sceptical and dismissive of matters of faith.

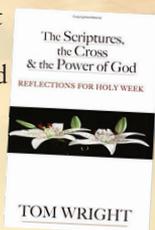
But following his wife's conversion, he himself became a Christian.

Today he is a best-selling Christian author whose books – all written and argued from a legal expert's perspective - include The Case for Faith, The Case for Christ and The Case for a Creator.

He has also written three Gold Medallion-winning book and – with Gary Poole - the Book of the Year (2005).

The Scriptures, the Cross and the Power of God (84 pages)

A little about the author - The Right Revd Professor N.T. Wright is a former Bishop of Durham who has

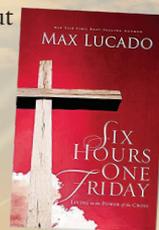


written a number of highly respected scholarly books, plus other more easily read material defined as 'popular reading'.

His works include The Challenge of Jesus, The Day the Revolution Began (Re-thinking the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion), God In Public (How the Bible speaks truth to power today), Small Faith Great God and, of course, the For Everyone guides to the Books of the New Testament. These much acclaimed series are acclaimed in Christian circles in view of the insights they provide for anyone genuinely intent on examining things and learning more.

Six Hours One Friday (240 pages)

A little about the author – In just under two decades of writing, Max Lucado has penned books which have appeared on the New York Times, USA Today, Publishers' Weekly and Christian Booksellers' Association's best-sellers' lists.



In addition to study Bibles and hardback books, his work has been published in children's book-form, as well as in video, CD-ROM, music CD, DVD, workbook and mass-produced paperback booklet forms.

Today he is the USA's bestselling Christian author with more than 140 million copies of his books in print.

A teacher of note at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas, he is also a much-in-demand preacher and speaker.

One solitary life - but what a life

HERE is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.

He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30 and then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never travelled any real distance from the place where he was born.

He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of his divine manhood.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a

cross between two thieves. While he was dying his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth - and that was his coat.

When he was dead he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Such was his human life.

He rises from the dead.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today he is the centrepiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

I am within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

*The late James C. Hefley,
author of 'Truth In Crisis'*

QUOTES

Peter Kreeft:

“Why would the apostles lie? Liars always lie for selfish reasons. If they lied, what was their motive, what did they get out of it?”

“What they got out of it was misunderstanding, rejection, persecution, torture, and martyrdom.

“Hardly a list of perks!”

Colin Smith:

“The message of Easter is not that Jesus is alive - it is so much more. The message of Easter is that Jesus has risen!”

Robert Flatt:

“The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances.”

Leon Morris:

“The cross is the victory, the resurrection

is the triumph. The resurrection is the public display of the victory, the triumph of the crucified one.”

Billy Graham:

“There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three.”

St Augustine:

“And he departed from our sight and we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here.”

Basil C. Hume:

“The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.”

BIBLE QUIZ

Questions

1. Who was the wife of Nabal who saved David's life – and ended up becoming his wife?
2. Who was the prophetess who led Israel to victory over the Canaanites?
3. What is the name of the hill on which Jerusalem first stood?
4. Name the Jew who - in addition to the new name of Zaphenath-Paneah - was given Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, priest of Or, as a wife?
5. Who was 'the firstborn of Jacob'?
6. Who was the father of Hophni and Phinehas, two priests described in 1 Samuel 2: 12 as 'scoundrels who had no regard for the Lord'?
7. After which parable did the disciples ask Jesus why he always spoke to the people in parables?
8. To which church did the angel write: "I know your deeds; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. Wake up!"
9. Which of the disciples was with Peter when he declared, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."?
10. Standing before the Sanhedrin, Stephen told his accusers, 'The God of glory appeared to our Father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in *****'. What's the missing place name which became Abraham's abode?



Answers

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| 1. Abigail (1Samuel 25: 36-42) | 6. Eli |
| 2. Deborah (Judges 4-5) | 7. The Parable of the Sower |
| 3. Zion | 8. The Church in Sardis (Revelation 3) |
| 4. Joseph | 9. 19. John (Acts 3: 6) |
| 5. Reuben | 10. Harram |

“YOUR blood speaks a better word
 Than all the empty claims I've heard upon this earth.
 Speaks righteousness for me
 And stands in my defence.
 Jesus, it's Your blood
 What can wash away our sin, what can make us whole again?
 Nothing but the blood, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
 What can wash us pure as snow,
 Welcomed as the friends of God?
 Nothing but Your blood, nothing but Your blood, King Jesus
 Tells of the Father's heart to make a way for us.
 Now boldly we approach; not earthly confidence –
 It's only by Your blood.”

Matt Redman (Nothing But the Blood).

QUOTES

Tim Keller:

“If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.”

“The difference between knowing Christ and knowing the power of his resurrection,” says Keller, “is the difference between knowing a person and resembling a person . . . It is not about relationship but about supernatural character growth. When Paul says, “I want to know him,” it means, “I want to be with him,” but when he says, “I want to know the power of his resurrection,” it means, “I want to be just like him.” Look at the deadness in your life. Look at the anger. How is that going to be turned into forgiveness? Look at the insecurity. How is that going to be turned into confidence? Look at the self-centeredness. How is that going to be turned into compassion and generosity? How? The answer is that the dead stuff gets taken over by the Spirit of God . . . The minute you

decide to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, the power of the Holy Spirit comes into your life. It's the power of the resurrection—the same thing that raised Jesus from the dead.”

J.I. Packer:

“Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God's own commitment, that the best is yet to come.”

Clarence W. Hall:

“The resurrection of Jesus changes the face of death for all His people. Death is no longer a prison, but a passage into God's presence. Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.”

“Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise!”

John Stott:

“We live and die; Christ died and lived!”



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EASTER

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