



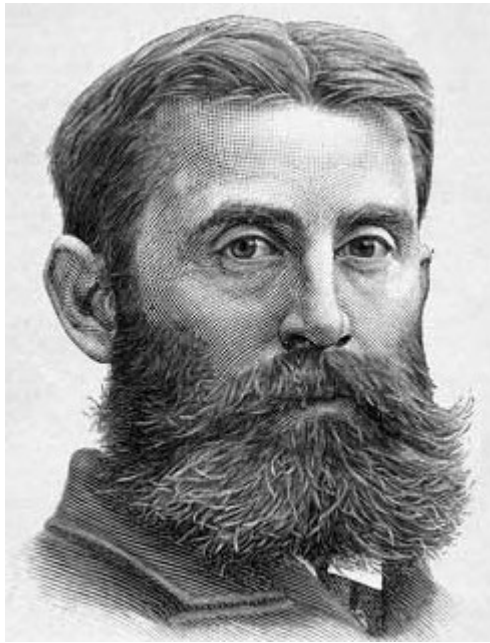
Working to see what Christ will do in Scotland tomorrow.

**Stornoway
Reformed Presbyterian
Church of Scotland**

part of a global church with a glorious heritage



March 2018 Newsletter



WELCOME

LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship—11.00am

Evening Worship—6.30pm

PRAYER MEETING

Thursday—7.30pm

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WORD FROM THE MANSE

Dear congregation,

It is manifestly evident to us that our cultural habits have been shifting for some time. The number of hours spent watching TV, using social media, and being on the internet have increased, while the time spent outdoors, reading, or visiting has decreased. Data gathered in America from 2017 shows that while an average young person will spend 900 hours in school per year, he will spend 1,200 hours watching TV. At this rate, when the individual reaches his “threescore and ten years” he has used up 9 years of his life in front of the box! Tragically the statistics show that 54% of 4-6 year-olds would choose TV over spending time with their fathers.

We hear accounts of violence, mass murders, knife crime. We wonder why these things happen. Statisticians estimate that by age 18, young people will have viewed 150,000 violent acts on TV. Is there a link? Hollywood has been gripped by sexual abuse scandals, one after the other. Do these stars not see the link between what they act out on the screen and that which happens in reality? Our society has more of what it could want than any generation before. One would think that we would be happy and content, yet instead there is depression and jealousy. Could it be connected to the constant flow of advertising which says that you need more? The average child sees 16,000 30-second commercials each year.

THEN JESUS SAID TO
HIS DISCIPLES, “IF
ANYONE WISHES TO
COME AFTER ME, HE
MUST DENY HIMSELF,
AND TAKE UP HIS
CROSS AND FOLLOW
ME.

Matthew 16:24

As Christians we must go against the flow of culture. Some would argue that we should rid ourselves of TV entirely. I don't think that we need to throw the baby out with the bath-water. But we ought to have the thought of Paul, “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any” (1 Corinthians 6:12). If we find ourselves mastered by anything we should be willing to sacrifice it for Christ (Matthew 16:24).

But it does raise an interesting point: what are we filling our minds with? We all know what we should fill our minds with – the Word of God. We should read it and meditate on it. We should regularly be at worship to hear it – we have three opportunities each week. We should talk about it when we are together and “so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25). But are we doing this diligently? How is our diet? Are we digesting what we eat?

Let me challenge you in just one way. We have begun a series at our prayer meetings on Paul's epistles. Paul's letters make up a good portion of the New Testament. We plan to look at one epistle each meeting to understand its context. Why not read through the whole epistle in one go at some point in the week after hearing of its context. Each of Paul's epistles can be read through in less than one hour. Most of them can be read through in less than 15 minutes each. That challenge is not too onerous, but I wonder just how much benefit we might receive?

WHY DID JESUS CHRIST COME TO EARTH?

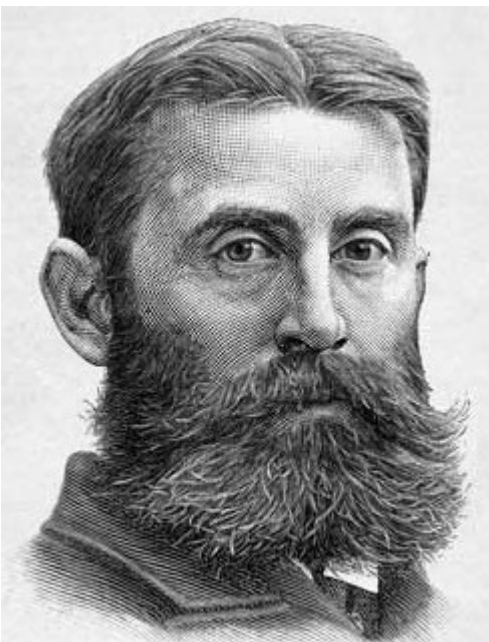
“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” 1 Timothy 1:15

Christ Jesus came to save sinners

Not, then, merely to prepare salvation for them; to open to them a pathway to salvation; to remove the obstacles in the way of their salvation; to proclaim as a teacher a way of salvation; to introduce as a ruler conditions of life in which clean living becomes for the first time possible; to bring motives to holy action to bear upon us; to break down our enmity to God by an exhibition of His seeking love; to manifest to us what sin is in the sight of God, and how He will visit it with His displeasure. All these things He undoubtedly does. But all these things together touch but the circumference of His work for man. Under no interpretation of the nature or reach of His work can it be truly said that Christ Jesus came to do these things. For that we must penetrate deeper, and say with the primitive Church, in this faithful saying commended to us by the apostle, that Christ Jesus came to save sinners.


We must take the great declaration in the height and depth of its tremendous meaning. Jesus did all that is included in the great word ‘save.’ He did not come to induce us to save ourselves, or to help us to save ourselves, or to enable us to save ourselves. He came to save us. And it is therefore that His name was called Jesus—because He should save His people from their sins. The glory of our Lord, surpassing all His other glories to usward, is just that He is our actual and complete Saviour; our Saviour to the uttermost. Our knowledge, even though it be His gift to us as our Prophet, is not our saviour, be it as wide and as deep and as high as it is possible to conceive. The Church, though it be His gift to us as our King, is not our saviour, be it as holy and true as it becomes the Church, the bride of the Lamb, to be. The reorganized society in which He has placed us, though it be the product of His holy rule over the redeemed earth, is not our saviour, be it the new Jerusalem itself, clothed in its beauty and descended from heaven.

Nay, let us cut more deeply still. Our faith itself, though it be the bond of our union with Christ through which we receive all His blessings, is not our saviour. We have but one Saviour; and that one Saviour is Jesus Christ our Lord. Nothing that we are and nothing that we can do enters in the slightest measure into the ground of our acceptance with God. Jesus did it all. And by doing it all He has become in the fullest and widest and deepest sense the word can bear—our Saviour. For this end did He come into the world—to save sinners; and nothing short of the actual and complete saving of sinners will satisfy the account of His work given by His own lips and repeated from them by all His apostles.





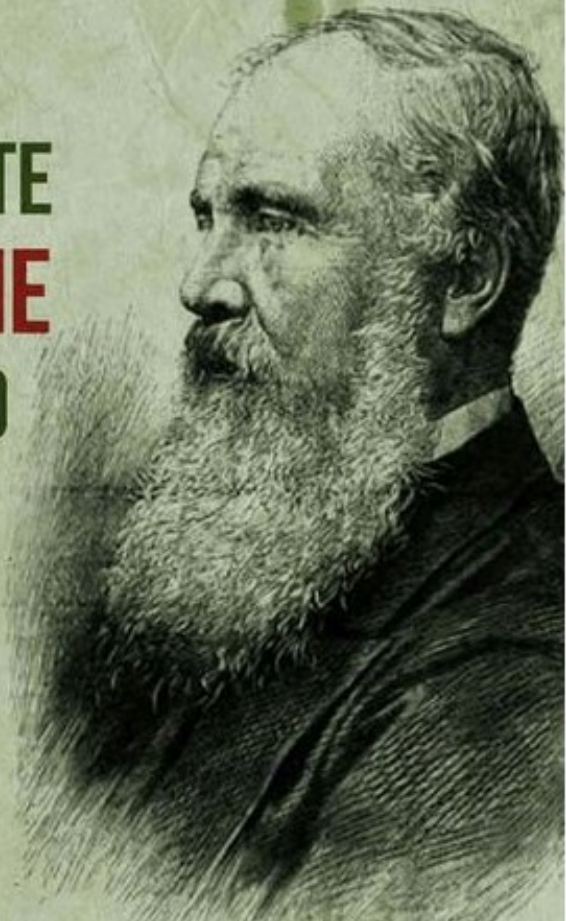
B.B. Warfield

It is in this great fact, indeed, that there lies the whole essence of the gospel. For let us never forget that the gospel is not good advice, but good news. It does not come to us to make known to us what we must do to earn salvation for ourselves, but proclaiming to us what Jesus has done to save us. It is salvation, a completed salvation, that it announces to us; and the burden of its message is just the words of our text—that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”



**WE SHOULD
NO MORE TOLERATE
FALSE DOCTRINE
THAN WE WOULD
TOLERATE SIN.**

—J.C. RYLE



**“IF MY PREACHING OF THIS CROSS IS NOT AN OFFENSE
TO THE NATURAL MAN, I AM MISREPRESENTING IT.”**

—MARTYN LLOYD-JONES