



January 2020 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,

One of the Baroque period's finest music is Handel's *Messiah* and probably the best known of its pieces is the *Hallelujah* chorus. It is a stirring piece and evidences Handel's great skills as a composer. Popular legend has it that when King George II first heard the piece, he was so moved by it (or startled by the loud trumpets in an alternative version), that he stood up. This prompted the whole audience to stand as it would not be good decorum to be seated while the King was on his feet. Although the veracity of this event is debated, it is customary, when *Messiah* is performed, for the audience to stand as soon as the music for the chorus begins.

It's an interesting custom and adds to the majesty of the experience. But when we think of the triumphant words that are sung during the chorus there is a greater king in focus – the King of kings. The texts sung state: *Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.* (Rev. 19:6) *The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ: and He shall reign for ever and ever.* (Rev. 11:15)

The Scriptures remind us that no matter what earthly rulers reign, we have another King. In Thessalonica, the charge against the apostles was “and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus” (Acts 17:7). Indeed, even these earthly kingdoms will become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ. There is promised an acknowledgement by nations of the authority of God and the Mediatorial King, which must by necessity submit to the authority of His Word to set public policy. Entailed with this will be a thorough reformation of these kingdoms so that service is paid to Christ the King of kings.

Such remarkable promises are to be held dear, especially in our political climate. Our nation is one of great darkness and people are becoming increasingly brazen in their sin. Our newly-elected House of Commons is supposedly the most LGBT-diverse in history. How few would be prepared to take a stand for King Jesus or exert themselves for reformation.

Nevertheless, we continue to trust God and await His timings, pleading as Revelation ends, “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20).

In Christ,
Stephen

NEWS & EVENTS

UPDATE FROM IAN GILLIES

Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary

12th December 2019

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

2 It is hard to believe that in a couple of weeks I will have reached the half-way point of my seminary studies. Thus far the Lord has helped me, praise be to His name! At the end of November, we had our final exams for the autumn quarter and have now started the winter quarter. My new classes cover a wide variety of subject areas and are each challenging in different ways. I am taking Doctrine of Salvation, History of the Reformation, Greek Exegesis, Hebrew, Marriage and Family Counselling, Preaching Old Testament Quotations in the New Testament, and a discipleship practicum. Thank you for your prayers —I may well be kept busy, but it is a great comfort to know that, at the same time, I am being kept before the throne of grace.

Last Lord's Day, I visited Gary Gunn's congregation, Meadville RPCNA, which is north of Pittsburgh. It was good to see Gary and Jill, as well as their little boy, Joseph. It was also nice to meet members of the congregation there. Funnily enough, it was the first time I have had no one comment on my accent — I guess they are used to it with their Minister! This week a new Elder will be ordained in the congregation, pray with me that the Lord will bless him, Gary, and the flock there in Meadville. I have not yet visited Craig Scott's congregation as Grand Rapids is significantly further away but I do hope to do so at some point, if the opportunity arises.

A highlight of the autumn quarter was my parents' visit towards the end of October. One of the challenges of living abroad for a time is that you are in a sense living in two spheres — you have your home church but then also the church you are attending, your loved ones at home but then also new friends where you are. My parents' visit certainly helped bridge that gap. It was nice to have the opportunity to see them and to give them a tour of the seminary, as well as the city of Pittsburgh. It was also a blessing that they were able to spend some more time with Shelby, after her short visit to Scotland towards the end of the summer. All in all, it was a wonderful time, praise be to God.

With regards to seminary life, I am particularly enjoying the study of Hebrew. I know it is going to take some time to get a full grasp of the language but the little I have gathered so far is already helping open up the Old Testament Scriptures. Aside from my classes, I have been reading William Symington's *Messiah the Prince*. I have been impressed by the deep sense of comfort that comes with the knowledge that the Lord Jesus is reigning as the King of Kings. "Christ's Crown" is part of our banner as RPs, but I have to admit it is not something that is part of my thoughts or meditations as often as it should be. He is reigning over all the nations, every knee will bow before Him and, in the meantime, He has promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18). In all that we face, what a comfort it is to know that the Lord who indwells His people rules over His people, continually interceding for us while enthroned at the right hand of the Father. See what Symington had to say about what Christ had to endure during His earthly ministry for this to be so:

With temporal aggrandizement and the showy trappings of royalty, he would have nothing to do. The only occasion on which he enjoyed anything approaching a triumphal procession, was when he entered into Jerusalem, and then he rode upon an ass. The only robe of office in which he was ever arrayed, was a cast-off military cloak, thrown around him by his enemies in derision of his regal claims. The only sceptre he ever handled was a reed. The only diadem he ever wore, was a crown of thorns. For a throne he had assigned him a cross. And the homage offered him by the men of the world consisted only in the pointing at him with the finger of scorn, spitting on him, and striking him with the palms of their hands.

The world may not recognise Him as such, but the Lord Jesus Christ is King. He is King over the nations, and He is King over our specific situations.

Brothers and sisters, as I leave you, be assured that I pray for you often. While I miss you and long to be in your fellowship, I take great comfort in the fact that although I am not with you the Lord most certainly is. At the turn of another year, in all that is before you, may you each know the sweet comfort of His Spirit, and the mighty strength of His hand. All I ask is that you would please pray that same prayer for me and my fellow students. The help and saving strength of the King of Kings, what more can we ask for?

Every blessing,
Ian Gillies

ANUGRAHA RP CHURCH, INDIA

Anugraha RP Church in Bangalore, India, were recently officially organised as a congregation with the election of elders to serve in spiritual oversight. Please remember this congregation and the work in India in prayer.



GLEANINGS BY BILL LUCAS

THE BROAD WALL

And they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall. (Nehemiah 3:8)

Cities well fortified have broad walls, and so had Jerusalem in her glory. The New Jerusalem must, in like manner, be surrounded and preserved by a broad wall of nonconformity to the world, and separation from its customs and spirit. The tendency of these days is to break down the holy barrier, and make the distinction between the church and the world merely nominal. Professors are no longer strict and Puritanical, questionable literature is read on all hands, frivolous pastimes are currently indulged, and a general laxity threatens to deprive the Lord's peculiar people of those sacred singularities which separate them from sinners.

It will be an ill day for the church and the world when the proposed amalgamation shall be complete, and the sons of God and the daughters of men shall be as one: then shall another deluge of wrath be ushered in. Beloved reader, be it your aim in heart, in word, in dress, in action to maintain the broad wall, remembering that the friendship of this world is enmity against God. The broad wall afforded a pleasant place of resort for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, from which they could command prospects of the surrounding country. This reminds us of the Lord's exceeding broad commandments, in which we walk at liberty in communion with Jesus, overlooking the scenes of earth, and looking out towards the glories of heaven.

Separated from the world, and denying ourselves all ungodliness and fleshly lusts, we are nevertheless not in prison, nor restricted within narrow bounds; nay, we walk at liberty, because we keep His precepts. Come, reader, this evening walk with God in His statutes. As friend met friend upon the city wall, so meet thou thy God in the way of holy prayer and meditation. The bulwarks of salvation thou hast a right to traverse, for thou art a freeman of the royal burgh, a citizen of the metropolis of the universe.

CH Spurgeon

CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS

The soul-searching, wounding work which He has put into this world of desolation -- that field of sin and death in which he agonised and laboured -- is bearing fruit, carrying a harvest which is ripening into the golden sheaves which he will take home rejoicing... Bethlehem, Gethsemane, Calvary have left no regrets. There is not the slightest grudge about the terrible price he paid -- were it still to be accomplished, he would do it over again.

Professor J Douglas Macmillan

HIS LOVE

He brought me into his banqueting house and his banner over me was love (Song of Solomon 2:4)

Could we put it this way? His banner over me -- Love! His love is always there, despite our doubts at times. Jeremiah reminds us that it is an everlasting love. (Jer. 31:3); the psalmist, that He has set His love upon us permanently (Ps. 91:14). John declares that the Lord fully loves His own unto the end (John 13:1) and Paul says that nothing shall ever separate us from that love (Rom.8.39). He who called us is love (Eph.1: 4 - 5) has also brought us into His house with a banner of love that will never be removed or replaced. Let us never forget this reassuring truth.

Mark Kolchin

PRAYERS FOR OUR RULERS

Hear my prayers for our rulers and country, for all who exercise authority, or enact laws, or pronounce judicial decisions. Enlighten those who teach, or write books, or edit newspapers. Give peace in our time, Lord, I pray.

FB Meyer

TRUE HEARTED

The true soldier of Jesus Christ is first of all a believer. There is a well-known anecdote of Abraham Lincoln which illustrates this point. At the time of the Civil War a deputation waited upon him, and in the course of the interview expressed the hope that the Lord was on their side. "That is not the thing that I am most concerned about," was the President's reply. His hearers were well-nigh astounded: what could be of greater importance than the question of whether God was on their side? They waited for an explanation. "What I am most anxious about," said Lincoln, "is whether we are on the Lord's side." And Lincoln was right. That is the matter of first importance, for the simple reason that it determines the other momentous question whether or not the Lord is on our side.

Rev Alexander Stewart (A Prophet of Grace: Elisha)

ROWLAND HILL

When he was a 17 year old student at Eton, Rowland Hill - who became a well-known 18th century preacher on both sides of the Atlantic -- was sent the following letter by his brother Sir Richard: He exhorted his brother to be "frequent and earnest in prayer for fresh supplies of knowledge, faith, grace and strength. He then added: "Learn to guard against self-dependence, and to live more upon Christ ... Resign yourself to Him in all His offices, as a Prophet, Priest and King: a Prophet to teach you; a Priest to make atonement for you; a King to reign over you, and in you...

Consider, my dear brother, how that when you, as a poor helpless sheep, were gone astray, this dear Shepherd sought you, and brought you back ... O think of this 'love which passeth knowledge,' and may it fill your heart with praise, and your tongue with thanksgiving. Let this constrain you to live to Him who died for you, and to grow daily more and more in conformity to his blessed image."

Tim Shenton "Rowland Hill, the Second Whitefield"

THE PERFECTION OF THE GODHEAD

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we behold His glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth (John 1:14)

Christ did not get more glory by becoming man; but He manifested his glory in a new way. He did not gain one perfection more by becoming man; He had all the perfections of God before. But now these perfections were poured through a human heart. The Almightyness of God now moved in a human arm. The infinite love of God now beat in a human heart. The compassion of God to sinners now glistened in a human eye.

God was love before, but Christ was love covered with flesh. Just as you have seen the sun shining through a coloured window. It is the same sunlight still, and yet it shines with a mellowed lustre. So in Christ dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. The perfection of the Godhead shone through every pore - through every action, work and look - the same perfections; they were only shining with a mellowed brightness.

The veil of the temple was a type of His flesh ; because it covered the bright light of the holiest of all. But just as the bright light of the Shekhinah often shone through the veil, so did the Godhead of Christ force itself through the heart of the man Christ Jesus.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR GOD'S GLORY, NOT OUR OWN



It seems that every December, many people make well-intentioned resolutions for the new year. With premeditated bursts of enthusiasm, they are caught up in a whirlwind of peculiar, and sometimes public, activities that puzzle even neighbourhood children. We witness surprising promises and new year's manifestos whereupon we are summoned to behold what sweeping changes may come in the new year.

The sceptical observer may ask: Is all this new year's fervour genuine? Is it helpful? Is it really necessary? Moreover, the curious onlooker may ask: Is it even appropriate to make resolutions? After all, shouldn't we at all times and all seasons seek to live wisely, obediently, and biblically?

Some may even go so far as to argue that resolutions themselves are not biblical, based on the fact that the Word of God itself provides us with a complete and authoritative compilation of God's resolutions for His people to obey. To manufacture our own list of resolutions, they would argue, is superfluous at best. These are the sorts of questions I have always considered when it comes to the whole business of making resolutions, and I have a hunch that many of my biblically informed brethren also ponder such questions. Yet, we know that it is right and biblically justifiable to resolve to establish certain priorities and principles in life so that we might serve others faithfully and glorify God in all we think, say, and do. And although it has not been my habit to make new year's resolutions, I have always sought to establish and keep certain priorities and principles by which I strive to live every day, praying that the Lord would come to my aid daily to help me live according to those priorities and principles for His glory, and His glory alone, and not for the accolades and applause of those around me.

As such, in considering how to glorify God in all that we do in our particular circumstances and callings, it is appropriate for us to establish and keep certain priorities and principles as we strive to love and follow Christ as His disciples—to the end that we might obey all that He has commanded us. For some, resolutions may be one way they go about doing this, whether they make these resolutions at the turn of the new year or throughout the year. All the while, whether or not we make resolutions, we do well to remember that we can only keep our priorities and principles in life by the power of the Holy Spirit, resting assured that by faith, and by faith alone, we have been declared righteous by the Father because of the righteousness of the Son.

The nineteen-year-old Jonathan Edwards knew his weaknesses and was aware of the destructive nature of his sin, so he resolved to establish certain priorities and principles in his life in his effort to live entirely for the glory of God. He helped pave the way for us as he prefaced his seventy resolutions with these words:

Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ's sake.

These simple introductory words of Edwards not only provide us with a glimpse into the mind of one of history's greatest thinkers, but they also provide us with a glorious insight into the heart of a young man who had been humbled and mastered by the Lord God Almighty. We would therefore do well to consider Edwards' prefatory remarks as we seek to glorify God and enjoy Him forever in our churches, our homes, and our hearts.

Resolving Sensibly

"Being sensible," Edwards begins his preface—we must be sensible, reasonable, in making resolutions. If we hastily make resolutions out of an illusion of sinless perfection, it is likely that we will not merely fail in our attempt to keep such resolutions but that we will likely be less inclined to make any further resolutions for similar desired ends. We must go about making resolutions with genuine prayer and out of a thorough study of God's Word. Our resolutions must be in accord with the Word of God; therefore, any resolution we make must necessarily allow us to fulfil all our particular callings in life. We must consider all the implications of our resolutions and be careful to make resolutions with others in mind, even if it means implementing new resolutions incrementally over time.

"We would therefore do well to consider Edwards' prefatory remarks as we seek to glorify God and enjoy Him forever in our churches, our homes and our hearts."

Resolving Dependently

"I am unable to do anything without God's help," Edwards admits. We must be honest in grasping the simple truth that every resolution must be made in dependence on God. And while every Christian would respond by saying, "Well, of course we must depend on God for all things," most Christians have been sold the world's bill of goods. They think that once they become dependent on God, they will have immediate strength. They repeat the world's mantra: "Whatever doesn't kill me will make me stronger." While the principle is generally true, such thinking can foster an attitude of proud independence. We must understand that being able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us means that we must depend on His strength continuously in order to do all things and to keep all our resolutions (Eph. 3:16; Phil. 4:13; Col. 1:11). In truth, whatever doesn't kill us makes us weak, by God's conforming grace, so that in our weakness we will rely continuously on the strength of our Lord (2 Cor. 12:7–10).

Resolving Humbly

"I do humbly entreat him by His grace to enable me to keep these resolutions." In making resolutions for the glory of God and before the face of God, we must not come into His presence pounding our chests in triumphal arrogance as if God must now love and bless us more because we have made certain resolutions to follow Him more. In reality, the Lord in His providence may choose to allow even more trials to enter our lives; in His unchanging fatherly love for us, He may decide to discipline us even more in order that we might more detest our sin and delight in Him. We should approach Him in humble reliance on His grace as we seek not merely the blessings but the One who blesses.

Resolving for Christ's Sake

"So far as they are agreeable to His will for Christ's sake." We cannot resolve to do anything with a presumptuous attitude before God. The whole matter of making resolutions is not just goal setting so that we might have happier lives. We are called by God to live according to His will, not our own—for Christ's sake, not our own—for it is not to us but to Him that all glory belongs (Ps. 115:1).

THE LAW-FULFILLING JESUS



So much about the truth of Christ in the Scriptures respects the obedience He rendered to His Father. Though He is God manifest in the flesh, Jesus lived a perfectly sinless life—as the last Adam—in order to merit righteousness for His people. Jesus kept the Ten Commandments perfectly as the representative of those He came into the world to redeem. Whereas, Adam sinned and broke the law of God in the Garden—soon after God had created him—Jesus obeyed God perfectly from infancy to manhood. Jesus never sinned. Jesus was obedient, the Apostle Paul, tells us “all the way to death on the cross” (Phil. 2:8). In fact, the death of Jesus was the culmination of His life of perfect obedience. Jonathan Edwards tied together the spiritual significance of Jesus’ life of obedience and Jesus’ obedience unto the death on the cross, when he wrote,

“We are saved by Christ’s death as much as it was an act of obedience, as it was a propitiation. For as it was not the only act of obedience that merited, so neither was it the only suffering that was propitiatory: all his sufferings from the beginning were propitiatory, as every act of obedience was meritorious. Indeed this was his principal suffering, and it was as much his principal act of obedience. Heb. 5:8, ‘Yet learned he obedience by the things that he suffered.’”

The Westminster Larger Catechism also teaches us about Jesus’ representative law-keeping, in answer to the question, “What special use is the moral law to the regenerate?” The catechism states,

“Although they that are regenerate, and believe in Christ, be delivered from the moral law as a covenant of works, so as thereby they are neither justified nor condemned: yet, beside the general uses thereof common to them with all men, it is of special use to show them how much they are bound to Christ for his fulfilling it, and enduring the curse thereof in their stead and for their good...”

Nevertheless we have not always adequately explained the various ways in which Christ fulfilled each of the Ten Commandments for us. Many theologians have written helpful expositions of the Ten Commandments. Several of them will end by reminding us that we need Jesus’ death to atone for our violations of each commandment. Some of them will leave off with a statement about the fact that Jesus kept the law perfectly. However, almost none of them explain the various ways in which Jesus kept each commandment in the place of His people. It will do much spiritual good to our souls to search the record of the Gospels in order to discover the ways in which Jesus kept the moral law of God in our place. Here are a few ways that Jesus perfectly obeyed the law of God throughout His earthly life:

First Commandment: Jesus never put another God before God. He loved the Lord His God with all His heart, mind soul and strength. He went up to the Temple and worshipped every year (Luke 2:41–52). He

Grew in wisdom and knowledge, and in favour with God and man (2:52). When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, He—as the last Adam—withstood the temptation to bow down and worship the evil one. Jesus was fully committed to only worshipping the Lord (Luke 4:7-8). Jesus perfectly trusted His Father in the Garden and on the cross (Luke 22:42; 23:24, 46).

Second Commandment: Jesus never worshipped God falsely. His zeal to cleanse the Temple was commensurate with God’s command against false worship (John 2:13-22). Jesus warned the Pharisees that the essence of their hypocrisy was drawing near God with their lips but having hearts far from Him. They were, in the words of Isaiah, “teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:7-9). By way of contrast, Jesus always worshipped His Father according to His word. He never embraced or taught man made doctrines or traditions.

Third Commandment: Jesus never took the name of the Lord His God in vain. Jesus taught His disciples the importance of not using God’s name in vain by flippantly taking oaths or vows (Matt. 5:36-37). Jesus only spoke the words that the Father had given Him” (John 12:49). He always represented God as He is in truth. Jesus declared that He Himself is “the Truth” (John 14:6), the eternal “image of the invisible God” (Heb. 1:2). Jesus said, “The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works” (John 14:10).

Fourth Commandment: Jesus never violated the Sabbath. Luke tells us that He went up to the synagogue to read every Sabbath...”as was His custom” (Luke 4:16). Jesus perfectly delighted Himself in His Father on the Lord’s Day. As the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus performed miracles of healing and mercy (Matt 12:1–14) on the Sabbath to show that He had come to give men the spiritual and eternal rest to their souls (Matt. 11:28–29).

Fifth Commandment: Jesus perfectly honored his mother and legal father. He submitted Himself to their care in the home as a boy. More than that, Jesus always did what His Heavenly Father told Him (Luke 2:48-49). When He was dying on the cross, Jesus provided a home for Mary (John 19:27). Jesus showed respect to those who—in God’s providence—were in positions of authority in the civil sphere (Mark 12:17).

Sixth Commandment: Jesus always promoted life. The many miracles of healings that marked His messianic ministry were foreshadowings of the great healing in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus preserved life when He multiplied the loaves and fish for the multitudes (Matt. 14:13-21; 15:32-39). However, even more importantly, Jesus came to give eternal life to those who would believe in Him. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). By His almighty power and atoning death, Jesus protected and provided for the physical and spiritual life of people.

Seventh Commandment: Jesus never lusted after a woman. Jesus never engaged in sexual sin in any shape or form whatsoever. Rather, He was faithful to the bride the Father had sent Him into the world to redeem. Jesus “loved His own who were in the world, and He loved them to the end” (John 13:1).” The Apostle Paul tells us that “Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:25–27).

Eighth Commandment: Jesus never took anything that wasn’t His from another. He never gained by unjust weights or measures. Jesus wouldn’t disobey His Father when the devil tempted Him to turn stones into bread (Luke 4:3-4). He wouldn’t allow the people to come and make Him King (John 6:15). He paid the ultimate price for what it would cost for Him to redeem a people and establish the Kingdom of God—His cursed death on the tree under the wrath of God. Jesus gave everything He had for the redemption of His people. He poured out His very lifeblood for the salvation of sinners. Additionally, He gave—out of His own fullness—spiritual and ministerial gifts to His people (Eph. 4:7–8). The eighth commandment requires fathers to lay up for their

children. Jonathan Edwards made the following profound observation about the way in which Christ did that for His disciples. He wrote:

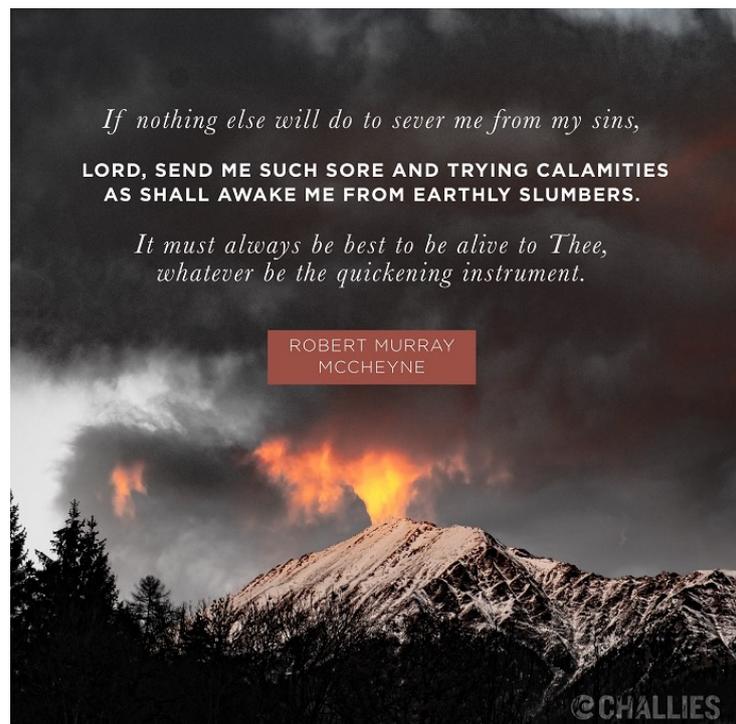
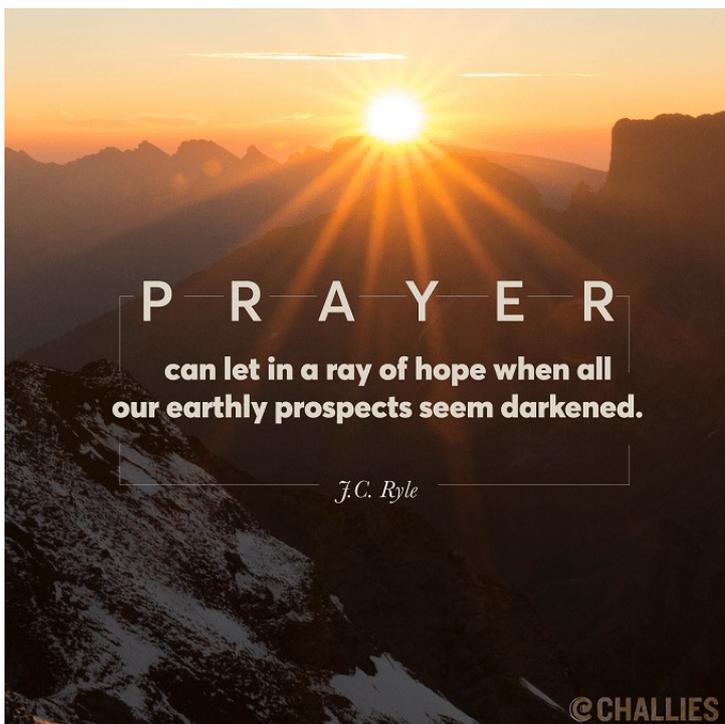
“It was the peculiar benefit that he had to bestow on his children, now he was about to leave the world as to his human presence. Silver and gold he had none, for while in his estate of humiliation, he was poor. The foxes had holes, and the birds of the air had nests, but the Son of man had not where to lay his head, Luke 9:58. He had no earthly estate to leave to his disciples who were as it were his family, but he had *peace* to give them.”

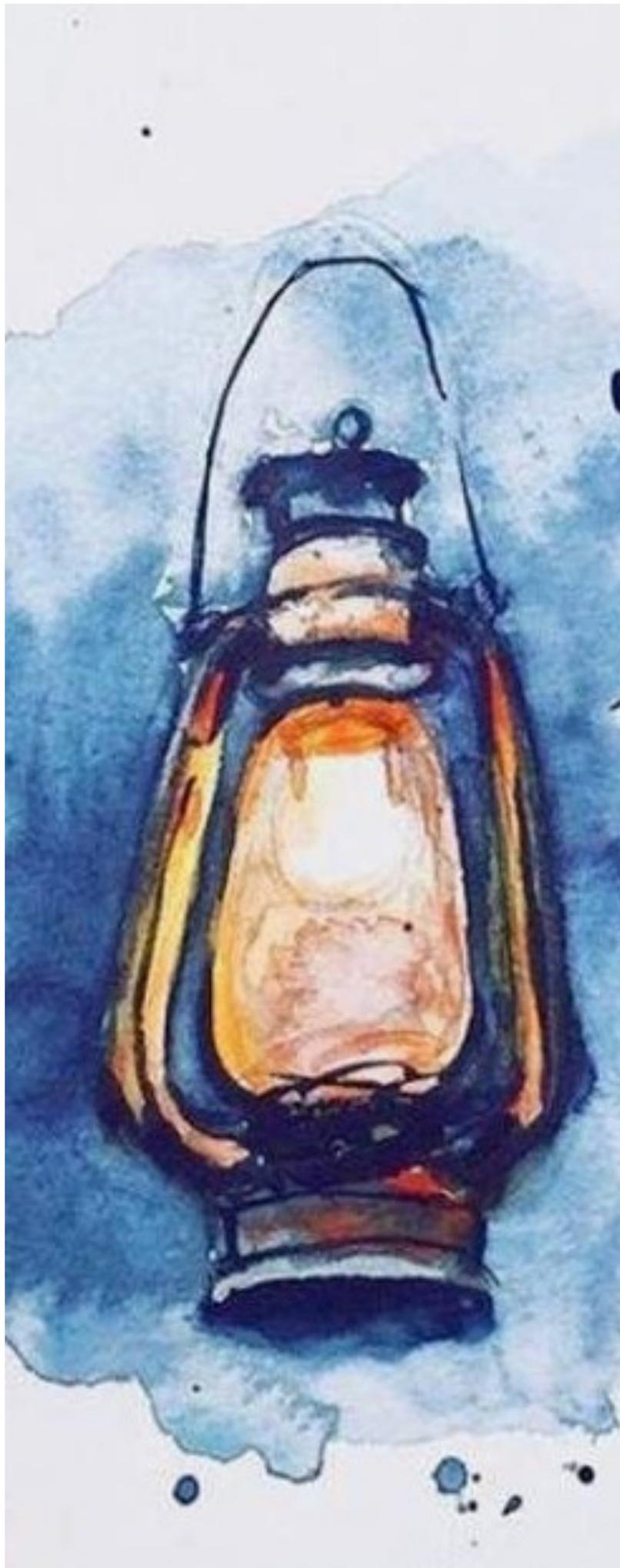
Ninth Commandment: Jesus never bore false witness against His neighbour. He never spoke untruth. When he criticized the Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, and chief priests he did so in a perfect measure and with a truthful balance. He never slandered or gossiped. He didn't flatter His neighbour. Jesus bore witness to the fact that all men love darkness.

Tenth Commandment: Jesus never coveted what was not given to Him by His Father. Though, as God, Jesus is the possessor of heaven and earth, as a man He was—at times—homeless (Matt. 8:20) and hungry (Matt. 4:2; 21:18). Women provided for him out of their abundance. Jesus was perfectly content with what the Father had apportioned Him. He waited on His Father for provisions. He never coveted what other men had. He warned against covetousness, when he said, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15).

While so much more could be added to each of these, these examples should suffice to stir up gratitude in our hearts for the law-keeping of the Redeemer. He who was “holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners” (Heb. 7:26), is the One who was “born under the law, in order to redeem us from the curse of the law” (Gal. 4:3). He now stands as our great high priest who can “sympathize with our weaknesses” because He was “in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:16).

Rev. Nick Batzig, www.feedingonchrist.org





your
word
is a
lamp
to my
feet &
a light
for my
path.

- PSALM 119:105

Children's Corner



Dear Children

Happy New Year! Bliadhna Mhath Ur!

Have you ever been on a treasure hunt where someone has hidden something and given you clues to follow in order to find the treasure? It's a great game. What kind of things would you consider to be treasure? I suppose that depends on your age. Some of the things you considered very valuable when you were very young don't seem quite so valuable once you get older.



Have you ever thought of God's Word as a treasure chest? Well, that is what it is for the Christian, for the person who believes and trusts in Christ as Saviour. King David, who wrote the Psalms, says in Psalm 119 verse 162 that he rejoiced at God's Word as one that had found great treasure. Think of the Scriptures as a large treasure chest. In it there are many precious promises but also many serious threats or warnings. Look these up in the activity below and commit them to memory.

Now at the beginning of this new year make sure that you delve into this treasure chest that God has given to us. "Search the Scriptures for in them you have eternal life and they testify (or tell) of Me." This treasure chest is full of the most valuable of treasures and they can be yours by faith, that is by trusting in the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. I pray that this year will be one in which you will come into possession of the riches that truly matter and that you will be able to say with King David in Psalm 16: "that you have a good inheritance" and also with the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:4 that you have "an inheritance reserved for you in heaven."

In the coming months we shall look into this treasure chest and see what treasures we will find there.

With my love and God's blessing in 2020.

Granny M

Activity: Look up these references and learn the verses. Try learning a different one every week. Try this method of learning:

1. Write out the words on a card spacing them out.
2. Cut them out and lay them out on the table.
3. Turn over one word.
4. Read the verse trying to remember which word is missing.
5. Repeat this until you have turned over all the words.
6. When you are finished you should know the verse.
7. Mix up the words and see how quickly you can put the verse together correctly.

Promises:

Psalm 34: verse 11

Matthew 7: verse 7

John 8: verse 36

Warnings:

1 John 2: verse 15

Luke 13: verse 3

Hebrews 2: verse 3 (part 1)