



STORNOWAY
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO
THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS
(1 TIMOTHY 1:15)

June 2020 Newsletter



WELCOME

LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship—11.00am

Evening Worship—6.30pm

(Currently not meeting, but new sermon recordings
are being uploaded to Sermon Audio)

PRAYER MEETING

Thursday—7.30pm (Currently meeting via Zoom)

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Scottish Charity No: SC043043

WORD FROM THE MANSE

Dear congregation,

The other day we had quite a bit of excitement at our house. We were all out in the garden weeding when suddenly the starlings began to screech. Other birds got animated and some were swooping around over our heads near our back door. It was obvious that something was the matter and since the starlings had built a nest in the gutter at the back earlier in the spring, we assumed that the newly hatched chicks were in danger, yet none of us was near enough to scare the birds. As we moved back to investigate, we could see the menace: a black cat was on the roof above our back door. It was attempting to reach the birds' nest to attack the chicks but was being distracted by the diving birds, including some of the noisy rooks who live nearby! As the cat backed off from that side of the roof it saw us below and got startled again. It returned to make one more unsuccessful attempt at the nest before jumping down and escaping into the neighbour's garden. The baby birds were no match against the prowling cat and would have been killed had it not been for the vigilance of the parent birds.

The Bible says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Just as the cat's nature is to try to devour so the devil's evil nature is to try to destroy, particularly the children of God. Such is his animosity against his Creator that he (or rather his fellow demons) attacks us with temptation. Not all temptation comes from demonic forces, yet we dare not underestimate the strength of such attacks. There are times in our lives that we are susceptible to spiritual harm because we are not watchful. Jesus told his disciples, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41, Mark 14:38).

When it comes to temptation, it may feel like we are defenceless, however, we are not left all alone. Yes, the spiritual forces of evil against us are crafty and the devil's wiles are prevalent. But "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). While we often are guilty of underestimating the adversary of our souls, and thus are not vigilant, we compound our problem by forgetting the strength of the One within us, the Promised Spirit of Holiness. Spend some time meditating on the Spirit's strength and purpose within His people (Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 1 Peter 1:2).

Every blessing,

Stephen

NEWS & EVENTS

SCOTTISH REFORMATION TOURS

We were happy to have Jimmy & Helen Fisher from Scottish Reformation Tours speaking at our after church fellowship, via Zoom, last Lord's Day.

For anyone who didn't manage to join us, Jimmy & Helen are enthusiastic and very well suited to this ministry, as they share the stories and lead tours to the historic sites connected to Scotland's forgotten covenanter history.

For more information see www.reformationtours.org



Jimmy & Helen Fisher

LOCKDOWN

During lockdown we have been unable to meet in person. We are thankful for technology which allows us to still communicate and reduce our isolation. Our monthly book study on the book *Bringing the Gospel Home* has continued with good discussion on this important topic of witnessing. Each Thursday we meet via Zoom for a time of prayer together. Our minister has begun an intermittent series on the Westminster Shorter Catechism. We have a good opportunity to learn (or re-learn) the answers to the catechism as we study each one. Every other Sabbath evening we have been fellowshiping online and we hope to hear from some speakers in other parts of the RP Church in due course.

ABORT ABORTION CAMPAIGN

A major pro-life campaign to abolish the *Abortion (1967) Act* in Britain has been formally launched in Scotland. The *Abort Abortion Campaign* is aimed at lawmakers in the corridors of power at Holyrood, Westminster, Stormont and the Senedd.

In presenting all 929 British politicians – 129 in Edinburgh, 650 in London, 90 in Belfast and 60 in Cardiff – formally and publicly for the first time, with unambiguous, and alarming, factual evidence that abortion is conclusively the killing of an unborn baby in the mother's womb, legislators are urged to urgently begin the process of repealing the *Abortion (1967) Act* with immediate effect.

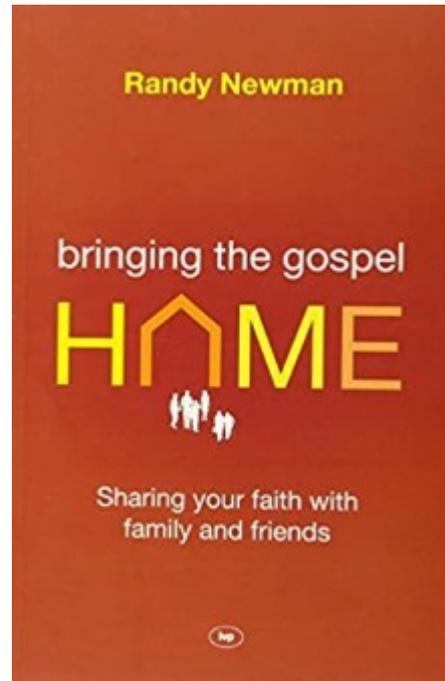
Part of this evidence being presented to politicians is a graphic 28-minute film called **The Silent Scream**, narrated by Dr Bernard N Nathanson – the doctor who early in his career ran the world's largest abortion clinic in New York, where he oversaw thousands of abortions. In eventually coming to realise that abortion was unequivocally the murder of a living human being, his story is grisly and deeply disturbing: *'I am personally responsible for over 75,000 abortions. This was the greatest mistake of my life, and legal abortion was the greatest mistake this nation ever conceived! Tragically I am one of those who helped usher in this barbaric age...'*

The film graphically details the killing of a twelve-week-old fetus in a suction abortion. The Dr used the footage to describe the facts of fetal development and to make the case for the humanity and dignity of the child in the womb. At one point, viewers see the child drawback from the surgical instrument and open his mouth: *'This'*, says the Dr, *'is the silent scream of a child threatened imminently with extinction.'*

Politicians in Britain, currently holding office, have never been formally presented with this DVD film, for their serious consideration – so the time has now come to put this right. We proudly boast in Britain of a society that is civilised and compassionate, and which cares for vulnerable people – yet we have an inhumane law which allows a baby to be torn apart, dismembered, disarticulated, crushed and destroyed in an 'approved clinic' by a heartless abortionist, who is handsomely paid for the service. What great moral depravity and hypocrisy! Not only is this a heinous crime, but it is also a travesty of justice. The barbaric practice of killing babies in Britain has to stop – abortion must be aborted.

Please pray for this vitally-important *Abort Abortion Campaign*, that our political leaders will finally face up to their responsibility of protecting and preserving the life of every unborn baby, in the womb, and their mother.

As we earnestly plead to God for His intervention, our greatest weapon in the fight to end abortion is prayer.



GLEANINGS BY BILL LUCAS

FERVENT PRAYER AND SURFACE PRAYER

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer (Psalm 4:1)

David did not think it enough to ask once, so he doubles his request in the first verse, "Hear me when I call ... and hear my prayer." The only prayers that reach the throne of grace are fervent, offered in a kind of grateful violence to heaven. Anyone who offers cold prayers may expect a cold response. How can we expect God to answer a prayer that we ourselves have lifelessly offered and have soon forgotten? Surface prayers, formed on the lips, are not forged on the anvil of the heart. One ancient said of this verse, "Forth from his breast he pounded a mighty cry." This we must all learn to do.

"O God of my righteousness" Not, "God the righteous," or even "God of righteousness." but O God of my righteousness Thyself, the root of my righteousness, of my righteous cause, and of my righteous life." Any holiness, piety, or purity in us is alien righteousness, owned by Christ and given in mercy.

The humble heart will notice right away that all that he has is in correspondence to the mercy God has shown. It is a reflection of Himself in us, and this is a delight to Him. "For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; His countenance doth behold the upright" (Ps.11:7) However, the words of the wicked when he prays are as a wind that stirs up divine displeasure into a flame. How can he appease God who does not at all please Him, who utterly disregards His pure laws and that holiness which is so dear to Him?

"Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." Jehovah never tires of rescuing His children. It is also during this time of pain when we are more likely to grow in grace. Can you recall times of pain in your life that brought about the growth and grace?

Jerold H. Lewis (Milk & Honey from the Psalms)

PRAYER

When at any time your prayer flags, let faith support one hand, and let holy hope uplift the other, and prayer seating itself upon the stone of Israel, the rock of our salvation, will persevere and prevail. Beware of faintness in devotion; if Moses felt it, who can escape?

It is far easier to fight with sin in public, than to pray against it in private

C.H. Spurgeon

PITHY PINK

An ineffably holy God, who has the utmost abhorrence of sin, was never invented by any of Adam's descendants. Prayer is not so much an act as it is an attitude -- an attitude of dependence, dependence upon God.

Not one for whom Jesus died, can possibly miss Heaven! Most Christians expect little from God, ask little, and therefore receive little, and are content with little!

A W Pink

4 THE IMPOSSIBLE

God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity that we plan only things we can do by ourselves.

A W Tozer

PRECIOUS PROMISES FOR AGED SAINTS!

"Your shoes shall be iron and brass; and as your days, so shall your strength be!" Deuteronomy 33:25

"Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone!" Psalm 71:9

"Since my youth, O God, You have taught me, and to this day I declare Your marvellous deeds. Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, O God." Psalm 71:17-18

"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green!" Psalm 92:12-14

"Hearken unto Me! I have cared for you since you were born. Yes, I carried you before you were born. I will be your God throughout your lifetime, until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you!" Isaiah 46:3-4

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day! For our light and momentary afflictions are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all!" 2 Corinthians 4:16-17.

The Aged Believer's Cordial (Grace Gems)

JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

"You are absolutely beautiful, my Beloved; there is no flaw in You!" (Song of Songs 4:7)

Plato expressed a desire that the moral law might become a living personage, that men seeing it thus incarnate, might be charmed by its beauty. Plato's wish was fulfilled in Jesus Christ! The holiness and the beauty of the divine law were revealed in Him. The Beatitudes contain an outline of the ideal life, but the Beatitudes are only a transcript of the life of Christ Himself! What He taught about love was but His own love stated in a course of living lessons for His friends to learn.

When He said that we should be patient, gentle, thoughtful, forgiving, and kind, He was only saying, "Follow Me!" If we could gather from the most godly people who ever have lived, the little fragments of lovely character which have blossomed out in each, and bring all these fragments into one personality, we would have the beauty of Jesus Christ!

In one person you find gentleness, in another meekness, in another purity of heart, in another humility, in another kindness, in another patience. But in the holiest of men, there are only two or three qualities of ideal beauty -- along with much that is stained and blemished, mingled with these qualities. In Christ, however, ALL that is excellent is found -- with no flaw!

"You are absolutely beautiful, my Beloved; there is no flaw in You!" Song of Songs 4:7

DAYS OF PRAYER

This article was published in the recent issue of Lamp & Light, the magazine of the Society for the Distributing Hebrew Scriptures, via Linda Edwards of the Messenger magazine.

“Hear my prayer O Lord, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness” (Psalm 143:1)

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR VICTORY IN EUROPE, 8TH MAY 2020

During the Second World War, His Majesty King George VI called for and led the nation in several National Days of Prayer.

The first of these National Days of Prayer was held on Sunday, 26 May 1940. The situation was that the entire British Army was due to be wiped out in France, with no escape. The forecast was for storms in the Channel, making it impossible to send ships to the rescue. In a stirring broadcast, His Majesty called the people of Britain and the Empire to commit their cause to God. Together with members of the Cabinet, the King attended Westminster Abbey, whilst millions of his subjects in all parts of Britain and the Empire flocked to the churches to join in prayer. The scene outside Westminster Abbey was remarkable, photographs show long queues of people unable to get in, it was so crowded!

In answer to this prayer, the Lord caused Hitler to halt within 10 miles of the British Expeditionary Force, for no apparent reason. Had he pushed ahead, the British troops would have been lost or captured and imprisoned. Then, there was sent a terrific storm which grounded the Luftwaffe, and the following day such a calm that the Channel was turned into a millpond. Every vessel that could float crossed the still waters to Dunkirk and most of the British Army, over 330,000, got home! (Miraculously it was expected that about only 30,000 would be rescued!)

By June 1940, France had capitulated and Britain stood alone. On 2 July Hitler authorised solid planning for the invasion of Britain. Had Hitler launched his invasion immediately, Britain would probably have fallen as there were insufficient resources to repel it. But he hesitated. Who held him back? Hitler wanted to gain air superiority ahead of the invasion. On 10 July began the battle for air superiority. On 14 July Winston Churchill addressed the nation and said: "Now it has come to us to stand alone in the breach and face the worse that the tyrant's might and enmity can do. Bearing ourselves humbly before God, but conscious that we serve an unfolding purpose, we are ready to defend our native land against the invasion by which it is threatened".

Another National Day of Prayer was held on 11 August. Despite the intensity of the attacks and the fact that the RAF fighters were greatly outnumbered, by 15 August the battle was remaining consistently in Britain's favour, whilst the German losses were mounting significantly. Then the Luftwaffe switched the attack to the airfields, but still their losses mounted. On 24 August the next wave of attacks began. By 6 September Fighter Command were in deep trouble. It had lost 300 pilots, with few inexperienced pilots to replace them. When suddenly the attack was inexplicably switched to London. It saved Fighter Command! But the German navy was now preparing for the invasion.

His Majesty King George VI had sometime previously fixed Sunday, 8 September as another National Day of Prayer. Once again there had been a tremendous response. The final prayer began, "Remember, O God, for good, these watchmen; who by day and night climb into the air. Let Thy hand lead them, we beseech Thee, and Thy right hand hold them. "

- 6 It was a prayer mightily answered, for Sunday 15 September 1940 saw the crisis of the Battle of Britain. On that day the battle was won. Hitler had massed 1910 barges, 419 tugs and trawlers, 1,600 motor boats and 50,000 men ready for the land invasion of Britain. Contrary to the conditions expected in the Channel at that time, a terrific storm blew the barges away! By Sunday, 15 September (when there were no reserve aircraft left), at the

very time believers were leaving their churches after Evening Service, the enemy air and sea armada fled. The invasion was postponed and once again Britain was delivered.

Another National Day of Prayer was held in September 1942. In the week that followed, Mussolini's fleet was sunk in the Mediterranean, the island of Malta was miraculously delivered, and under General Montgomery the course of the War in North Africa was changed at El Alamein from unmitigated defeat to victory. Churchill said "Before El Alamein we never had a victory, after El Alamein we never had a defeat"!

The next National Day of Prayer was 3 September 1943, and was answered immediately by the surrender of Italy under Mussolini.

The Final National Day of Prayer was in the Spring of 1944 immediately before the D Day Landings which were to bring the War in Europe eventually to a close.

Psalm 124 `If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us: Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. Our help is in the Name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.'

THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND (2)

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

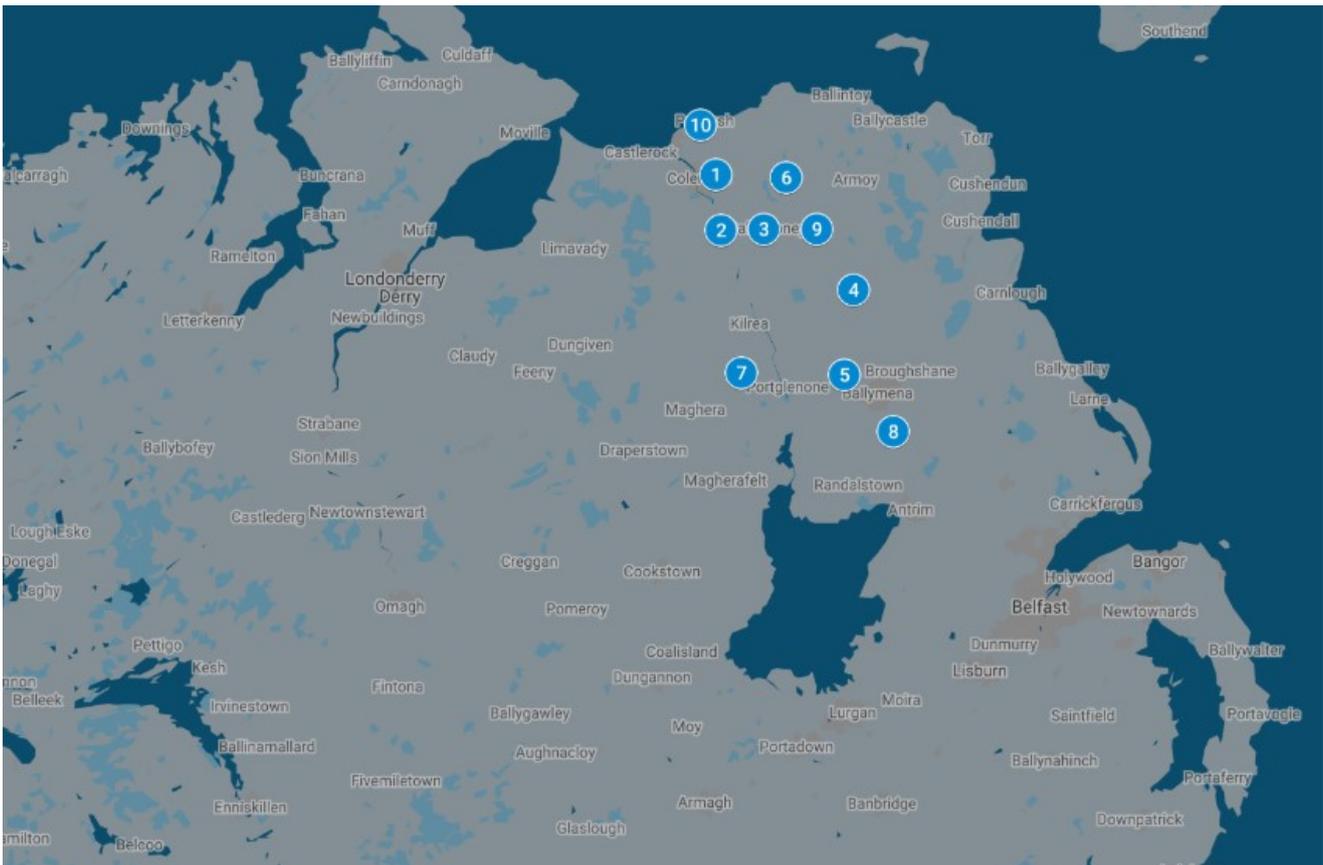
The Northern Presbytery consists of ten congregations mainly in County Antrim, but with some across the River Bann in County Londonderry. This Presbytery has a special place in my heart because I belonged to it as a boy. My home congregation was Cullybackey, where my father was the minister.

Many of the congregations are historic congregations going back centuries. Kellswater RPC is the oldest in the whole denomination. The earliest Covenanting witness there was during the Killing Times in the late 17th Century, with the first meeting house built on the current site in 1760. Cloughmills is the youngest work in the Presbytery. Although there had been an historical Covenanter witness in the area, the work had been reduced to a preaching station in 1934 with evening services occurring twice a month. In the 1990s the work of revitalisation commenced with a small nucleus of core families beginning weekly morning and evening worship. In 2000 Cloughmills became a congregation with its own minister and it recently became self-financing, which is reason to praise God.

I've attempted to give you a rough idea of the relative sizes of the congregations in the Northern Presbytery using figures from 2019. It should be remembered that average attendances and number of members can be different, depending on the number of covenant children/non-members attending and housebound members. In other words, some congregations may be bigger and others may be smaller than the statistics show.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Ballyclabber – Rev. James Blair | 66 members |
| 2. Ballylaggan – Rev. David Sutherland | 104 members |
| 3. Ballymoney – Rev. Edward McCollum | 57 members |
| 4. Cloughmills – Rev. Joel Loughridge | 33 members |
| 5. Cullybackey – Rev. Philip Moffett | 97 members |
| 6. Dervock – Rev. Philip Dunwoody | 63 members |
| 7. Drimbolg – Rev. Prof. Norris Wilson | 64 members |
| 8. Kellswater – Rev. John Coates | 21 members |
| 9. Kilraughts – Rev. David Fallows | 69 members |
| 10. Portrush – Rev. Samuel McCollum | 27 members |

The Presbytery currently has one student under care, Paul Wallace, and an additional three retired ministers. There is also a Northern Presbytery Choir which has produced excellent recordings of the psalms and has promoted psalm-singing out with the bounds of the denomination.



Map of Presbytery



The Ministers Meeting for Prayer During Lockdown



Paul (Student Under Care) & Elaine Wallace

Prayer Points

1. Thank God that the ten congregations in the Northern Presbytery have pastors.
2. A number of congregations are getting smaller with an ageing membership. Some of the young people have moved away for university education or to obtain employment.
3. The Portrush congregation is on the North Coast and is a beautiful holiday venue. Pray for the Presbytery as it is in the process of assisting this small congregation in its planned outreach work
4. Give thanks that the youth of the Presbytery meet regularly for fellowship throughout the year. We give thanks for leaders who give of their time and talents to teach the young people about God and His Word.
5. Pray for the witness of members in their local area. Pray that people will see the Lord Jesus Christ in the lives of members as they witness for Him.

GOD ORDERS EVENTS FOR THE GOOD OF HIS PEOPLE



Joseph has just revealed his true identity to his astonished brothers. It had been a tearful moment (Gen. 46:2, 14; cf. 42:24; 43:30). He is about to engage in a discourse on predestination and the divine decree (yes, really!), but this is no abstract theological exercise; it is theology engaging the harshest of realities — betrayal, false imprisonment, and injustice!

Joseph had, from one point of view, every right to think that life made no sense at all because there was no controlling power governing the course of events. He might have been tempted to think along the lines of “open theism,” that there were certain events in his future that God did not know or had the power to control in a preconditioned way. True, things had improved for him in ways that must have caused him much joy. But the road to this point had been very hard. He had become the prime minister of Egypt, but he could still remember those days when, as a slave, he had languished in a rotting cell wrongly accused of rape. Joseph has been meditating upon divine providence, asking the hard questions about why things happen the way they do.

Joseph has grown in grace; the teenager has now become the forgiving, theologically astute man that is revealed in the words he now utters to his brothers: “God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God” (Gen. 45:7–8). Several matters are worth reflecting upon.

The first clear feature of these words is the way in which Joseph views the entirety of his life as one that is in every way ordered by God. “God sent me...it was not you who sent me here, but God.” The clarity of this perspective is breathtakingly clear: Joseph believes that God is in ultimate control of all that happens. Things happen because God orders them to happen. God is not lost in some numinous world, unreachable by us and impenetrable by him. This is no deistic belief in a divine watchmaker who has made the world and then allowed it simply to tick according to a set of identifiable scientific rules.

Secondly, Joseph asserts a divine pre-determination. Things happen because God has ordered them to happen before they happen. God is not simply reacting to events as they happen; He has determined how the events themselves come to pass. There is a cause, and there is an effect. God orders and things happen.

Thirdly, and this is where we hold our breath, Joseph asserts God’s sovereignty in relation to bad things. The fact that they were in Egypt was due to the evil machinations of Joseph’s brothers. They had done an evil thing for which they were entirely responsible and culpable. Part of Joseph’s recent strategy in withholding his identity from his brothers and adding to their fear by the suggestion that they had not paid for the grain they had acquired was to bring them to own up to their sin. His tactic was designed to bring them to confess their sin and seek forgiveness

It had worked! But this does not prevent Joseph from asserting that even this evil thing that they had done was also a part of God's divine plan and purpose. The sovereignty of God is total.

This raises the perennial theological and philosophical issue of the relationship of God to evil. If God is sovereign, does this mean that He is the author of sin? And if God is sovereign, does this not make our decision-making a fiction and not a reality? And does this not also imply that the universe is like a computer, carrying out the pre-programming of a sovereign software specialist with no real liberty of its own? To all three questions, the Westminster Confession of Faith responded with a negative: "God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established" (3.1). Of course, critics have responded to these words by saying that this doesn't answer any of the questions posed. And they are correct; it doesn't! It merely asserts that the alternatives are not true without explaining exactly how God can order events, including evil ones, without being the cause of them.

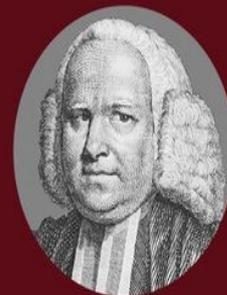
But a fourth lesson emerges, too. God orders events for the good of His people. Joseph's family will join him in Egypt in the next chapter (Gen. 46) and thereby survive the famine that will run its course for five years. They find themselves in Egypt because God intends to keep His promise to Abraham.

What we have here, then, is a cameo of Romans 8:28: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Christians, even those who may deny these words on philosophical grounds, have always clung to them for the comfort they provide in the midst of the most devastating events. We are always better on our knees before God, acknowledging His sovereignty and basking in its reassurance.

Rev. Derek Thomas, Ligonier Blog

'A TRUE
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- J.C. Ryle



'BE MUCH IN SECRET
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WITH MAN, AND MORE
WITH GOD.'

-GEORGE WHITEFIELD



PURITAN PUBLICATIONS

GODLY DIRECTIONS IN A TIME OF PLAGUE

What should the church think about the coronavirus?
What godly directions might the church have in a time of plague?

This very timely and advantageous work is truly a godly help to Christ's church, a present help in a time of plague. It is filled with godly directions from various authors who took time to thoughtfully set down specific biblical directions, pleading with the people of God to forsake sin, and follow Christ's prescription for holiness and righteousness. These authors are all of one mind, though they lived at different times over a span of almost 200 years. This is because all godly directions taken from careful Scriptural study will always end up in the same place. It is true, each writer deals with various texts, from various angles. But, still, their conclusions are the same, and they all offer the church today godly directions that will deliver the church from under the heavy hand of God's judgments.

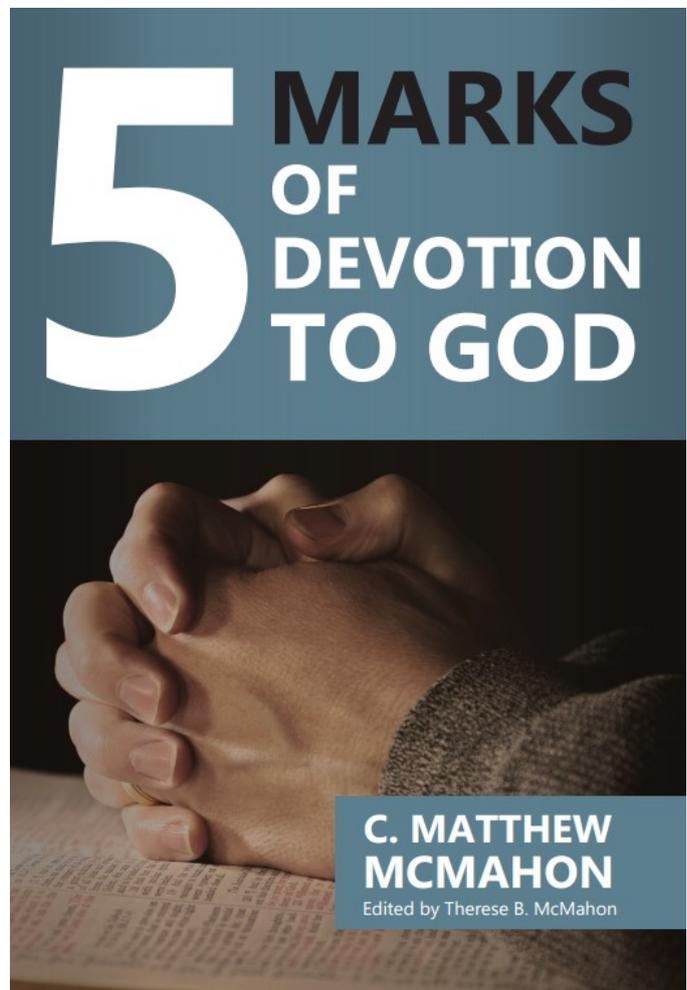
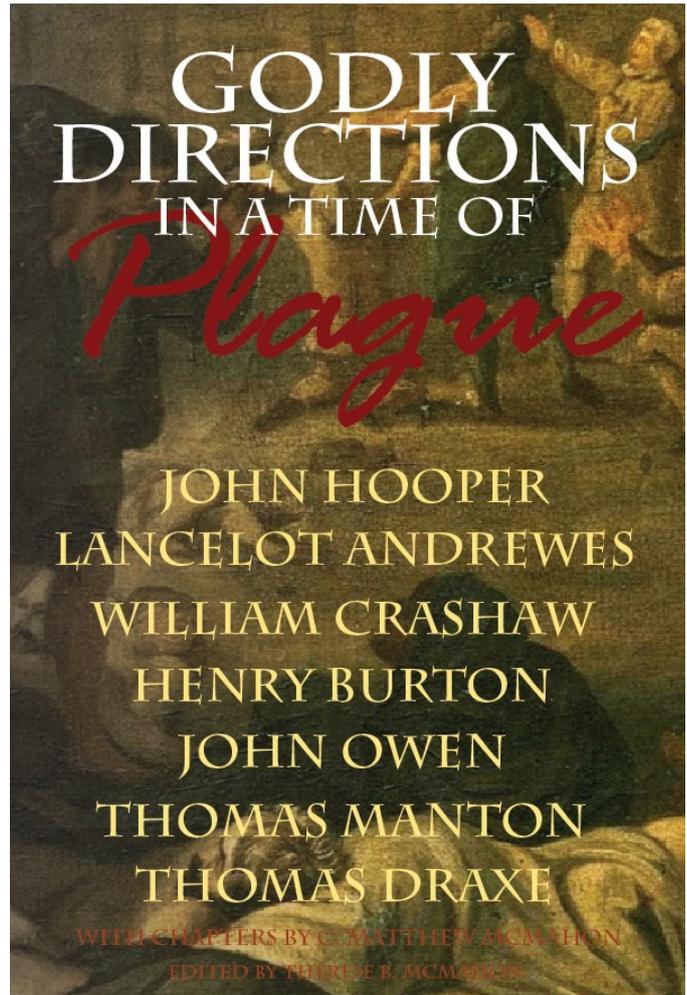
The authors are well known to those who have taken an interest in the preachers of old, and in times of reformation. The works included have been chosen to be helpful, not overbearing. They are, however, clear in their content, though more examples could certainly be added (having whole books written on this subject of the plague).

5 MARKS OF DEVOTION TO GOD

Do you long for a closer relationship to the Saviour Jesus Christ? Do you desire a more intimate communion with God each day? Every true Christian does.

The purpose of this volume in the "5 Marks Series" is to cover the spiritual disciplines housed in private devotions and family worship. It is a study on how the biblical doctrines of reading Scripture, prayer and godly meditation practically work in the life of the believer. These spiritual disciplines will help further conform them into the image of their only Saviour Jesus Christ, both individually pressing them towards a godly reformation, and also to reform the family as a Christian household. It is to come to know God in a deeper and more intimate manner, and to be empowered by the Spirit of God for the glory of Christ.

Books are available as ebooks or hard copy at
www.puritanpublications.com



Children's Corner



Dear Children

How are you getting on exploring the Treasure Chest of the Holy Scriptures about which I spoke to you in my letter last January? Have you discovered any special treasures yet? Perhaps you think that you are still too young to start looking for treasures in God's Word. Well, one of the treasures you may find when you start reading and searching the Scriptures is that there were lots of young people in the Bible who found the best treasure of all – what the Bible calls 'the Pearl of Great Price' – that is the Lord Jesus Christ as their own Saviour and Lord.

You will have heard of Joseph, Moses, Samuel, King David, Daniel and another King called Josiah who was only 8 years old when he became king and about whom it is written that 'while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father'. All these are young people mentioned in the Old Testament but we meet young people in the New Testament too who, at a young age, came to know the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. We know John the Baptist did and so did Timothy.

What a special treasure that is – to discover that children and young people are very special to God and that He wants them to come to know Him and serve Him all the days of their life! In the book of Proverbs, chapter 8, verse 17 we read 'I love them that love Me and **those who seek Me early** shall find Me'. This can also be translated 'those who seek Me diligently'. Now there is a precious promise for you this month. If you seek the Lord early in your life and seek Him diligently then the promise is that you will find Him and if you find Him you will find treasure indeed which will make you richer than the richest person in this world. Imagine that! The riches of this world only last as long as you are in this world, and sometimes not even that long, but the riches of everlasting life will last you not just for as long as you are in this world but for all eternity and you will never lose these riches.

What is more, the Bible also tells us that those who have the Lord Jesus as their Saviour are in actual fact God's special treasure. Isn't that precious? If your parents or grandparents said to you that you were their special treasure you would be so happy to know that and to feel that they loved you that much. Well, God calls His own people His special treasure, His jewels and you know how precious jewels are. He says in Malachi chapter 3 and verse 17: "They shall be mine in the day that I make them My jewels".

Make sure then, my dear Children, that you ask the Lord to give you these riches and then you will be His jewels, His special treasure.

With my love and prayers.

Granny M

Activity: Fill in the blanks below and memorise the verse. I have quoted it in my letter.

I _____ them who _____ and those who _____ shall

_____ chapter _____ verse _____.