

LIFE & LIGHT

NEWTOWNBREA
GOSPEL HALL

A magazine to teach, inform, challenge and encourage

Inside this issue:

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Issue 8

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;
and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels
Proverbs 1:5



Welcome to Life & Light magazine!

Produced by Christians who meet in Newtownbreda Gospel Hall

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15).

Change

As time goes by changes take place. Some changes are good and we welcome them, some are not so good and we dislike them, others are unexpected and we fear them; even the inevitable changes ones cause us a little anxiety.

It has been said that the only thing we can be sure of is change and that everything changes, nothing stands still. We look around us and that seems to be true: seasons change, people age, governments rise and fall and we all change. Is there anything truly consistent? Is there any firm Truth we can hold on to in a world that is always changing? **Yes!**

God Himself tells us that He does not change (Malachi 3:6) and will always do what He says He will do (Numbers 23:19). Time does not affect God. He is still the same holy, amazing, living God He was when He created the world. No matter how uncertain your life looks, you can trust the unchanging God who loves us.

How do we know God loves us?

The Bible in Romans 5:8 tells us: God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NKJV)

*To every thing there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

Philippians 2:11

Getting to know us!

My name is Lawrence and I have lived in Belvoir since 1969. That was before there was a carriageway, Tesco, Forestside and the only two shops in Belvoir were the wee Spar and the big Spar! I was brought up in a good home where my parents were God fearing and saw to it that my brothers and sister and I were sent along to church every Sunday to learn about God. We were taught the 10 commandments and the Apostles' Creed. Although we were taught about God, about right and wrong and about good and evil, it had little impact on my life as I grew up. I learned to smoke and drink at a young age and so I grew up as an ungodly young man.



I had been taught from a child that in order to get to Heaven you needed to do the best you could, do no one any harm and really just hope for the best that God in His love and grace would let you into Heaven. Even though I did not do the best I could and there were many bad and sinful things in my life, at the end of the day in the great judgement when life is over I was taught that God will weigh up your good deeds against your bad deeds and if there's not too much in it then there's a fair chance that you'll get into Heaven.

My Mother would often say that no one knows where you will spend eternity: "Those who go to hell cannot get back and those who go to Heaven don't want back, no one has ever come back to tell us what it was like. If you do the best you can sure you can do no more!" At the time I did not realise that this was just human logic and not at all based on God's Word.

In 1979 I was invited to a Gospel mission in the Ormeau Park where a preacher read from the Bible about God's great white throne in Revelation 20 and how that God had a book called the book of life containing all the names of those who had trusted His Son for salvation. He spoke on the importance of having your name in the book of life according to Rev 20:15: "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

He said that many people follow human logic, thinking that getting into Heaven is about doing the best you can. But he explained, the Bible teaches that it is not about what we can do but about what Jesus Christ has already done! Jesus died for sinners upon the cross so that all who trust in Him can be sure of Heaven for He could say: "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes unto the Father except by me" (John 14:6). That night I repented of my sins and trusted Jesus. He changed my life and my destiny. I am no longer depending on the best that I can do but upon what He has done for me.

Sharing the Gospel with friends and neighbours

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside,
redeeming the time

Colossians 4:5



**“Around the corner I have a friend
In this great city that has no end,
And he is tall – a fine, strong man,
But, he is lost! And I always plan
To speak to him about God’s love,
Of Christ who came down from above,**

**And how He died on the cross to pay
The sinner’s debt. I think each day
“Somehow I must speak my heart to Jim:
‘Tomorrow I’ll have a talk with him.’
Tomorrow comes, and crowding cares
Clutter my day with busy affairs.
The day is gone and again I vow
‘Tomorrow I’ll speak to Jim somehow.’**

**For my friend is lost; he does not know
The peril he risks; he must not go
Year after year like this and die
Before I tell him how truly I
Desire to see him give Christ his heart,
Repent, believe, and make a new start.**

**But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes
And the distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner! Yet miles away...
‘Here’s a telegram, sir...’
‘JIM DIED TODAY.’**

**While I delayed, thus came the end:
Jim lost his soul! Christ lost a friend!”**



*What
Happens
Next?*

Sometimes on a book cover you will see the words: **“Based on a true story”** but did you know the Bible is full of the most interesting and instructive stories and all of them are true stories?

Here is a story in the Bible that we would encourage you to read to find out what happens next

After God had brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and they were making their way across the desert to the promised land, the people began to complain that the manna which God had provided each day was not enough. They said they remembered the food they ate in Egypt and they wanted meat to eat. Therefore the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused and He said: “Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the Lord who is among you,”

But Moses said: “The people whom I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You have said, ‘I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month.’ Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?”



Clearly Moses' faith was failing for he couldn't see how God could do this.

Read for yourself what happens next in Numbers chapter 11.

**And these shall go away into everlasting punishment:
but the righteous into life eternal. Matt 25:46**

"Disposable" means something not reusable but disposed of after use. Disposable products are most often made from paper, plastic, cotton, or polystyrene foam. However "recycling" is the process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects. There is an ever increasing range of high quality products that are made from recycled materials., though certain things cannot be recycled: Bubble-padded envelopes, wax paper, dirty napkins, tissues, toilet paper etc.

Howbeit, things that are impossible with man are possible with God!

The God who made us can remake us into a new creature (2 Corinthians 7:17). He can transform our minds (Romans 12:2) and change our character into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29).

The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10).



In John chapter 3 the new birth which Jesus spoke of is a Spiritual birth, a birth from above and a completely fresh start. God can recycle a sinful and disappointing life and remake it useful and fruitful for His service when a sinner repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.



Awaiting Transformation

Spiritual Sudoku

The goal of this Sudoku is to fill in a 9×9 grid with letters so that each column, row, and 3×3 section contain only the 9 letters in the name:

CORNELIUS

Memory Verse
Ephesians 2:8-9
For by grace are ye saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves:
it is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.

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Answers found on www.newtownbredagospelhall.com/magazine

In the book of Acts in the Bible in chapter 10:2 we read of Cornelius that he was a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. Although he was good living, he not saved until Peter preached the Gospel to him and he believed the message. His conversion illustrates the truth of the memory verse above.

Remember Remember



Why remember Easter?

Easter is that time of year when Jews remember the Passover and Christians remember the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact the Bible links the death of the Lord Jesus Christ with that of the Passover lamb: "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

It was at Easter time when Jesus was rejected by men and crucified on a cross. But on the third day after His death God raised Him from the dead. It is this wonderful fact that we remember at Easter.

Why remember someone's death?

We often remember the deaths of those we love. We also remember the deaths of those we may never have met yet we know that they gave their lives to save others, for example many policemen, firemen and soldiers have done this in the course of their duty.

So what makes Jesus Christ's death at Easter so different?

The Bible gives us the answer:

Romans 5:6-8 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Isaiah 53:5-6 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.



Sold

Mr. Harold St. John, notable Bible scholar, teacher and missionary, stood in the private chapel of Keble College, Oxford, contemplating Holman Hunt's masterpiece, 'The Light of the World'. Suddenly, the silence was broken by a crowd of tourists led by a guide, a man with a particularly strident voice. After a hasty explanation of the painting, he announced, 'The original of this picture was sold for £5,000.' Without a moment's hesitation Mr. St. John stepped forward and said very quietly, 'Ladies and gentlemen, may I say that the true Original of this picture was sold for thirty pieces of silver?' After a moment's silence, the crowd of people passed out of the chapel without another word.

Thirty pieces of silver for the Lord of life they gave:
Thirty pieces of silver—only the price of a slave,
But it was the priestly value of the holy One of God:
They weighed it out in the temple, the price of the Saviour's blood.

It may not be for silver: it may not be for gold;
But still by tens of thousands is this precious Saviour sold;
Sold for a godless friendship, sold for a selfish aim,
Sold for a fleeting trifle, sold for an empty name!
Sold in the mart of science! sold in the seat of power!
Sold at the Shrine of Fortune! sold in Pleasure's bower!
Sold, where the awful bargain none but God's eye can see:
Ponder, my soul, the question, 'Shall He be sold by thee?'
Sold! O God, what a moment! stifled is conscience' voice:
Sold! and a weeping angel records the awful choice:
Sold! but the price of the Saviour to a living coal shall turn,
With the pangs of remorse for ever deep in the soul to burn.

William Blane

Wonders of Creation

Vanilla



Vanilla is the second most expensive spice in the world after saffron.

There are a number of interesting facts about Vanilla:

- It is the only fruit-bearing member of the orchid family.
- It is the only edible fruit of the orchid family.
- Vanilla can only be pollinated by the Melipona Bee.
- It is pollinated by using a wooden needle in other parts of the world.
- It is one of the most popular ingredients in culinary preparations.
- It is the most favourite ice cream flavour in the United States.
- It is considered as a sacred herb in some cultures.
- It is also used to heal and soothe.

These facts mean that Vanilla is quite unique. God has provided us with many such lovely spices and herbs testifying to the wisdom and power of God in the wonderful diversity of nature.

As we look at the human family with over 7 billion people living in the world today, there are not two people who are completely identical physically! We are all quite unique; yet it is amazing that there is no difference spiritually according to the Bible, we all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God.

Romans 3v10-12 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Gospel Truths

Who are we?

We are a group of born-again Christians who consider the Bible to be the inspired and infallible Word of God. We endeavour to follow the New Testament example of gathering to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We come from different nationalities and walks of life, with the common bond of having a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Times of our regular meetings:

Sunday:

- 11.00 am Breaking of Bread (weekly)
- 3.00 pm Sunday School & Bible Class (Sep-June)
- 6.30 pm Prayer Meeting (weekly)
- 7.00 pm Gospel Meeting (weekly)

Monday:

- 7.00 pm Bible Explorers (Oct-March)

Tuesday:

- 7.30 pm Purdysburn Gospel Hour (in Purdysburn Village)
(Alternate Tuesdays, Oct-April)

Thursday:

- 7.45 pm Prayer meeting & Bible Reading (weekly)

Visit us: www.newtownbredagospelhall.com

- God created us for His glory.
Isaiah 43:5-7
- Every human should live for God's glory.
1 Corinthians 10:31
- We have all sinned and come short of God's glory.
Romans 3:23
- We all deserve eternal punishment.
Romans 6:23
- In His great mercy, God sent forth His only Son Jesus Christ to provide for sinners the way of eternal life.
John 3:16