

LIFE & LIGHT

NEWTOWNBRED
GOSPEL HALL

A magazine to teach, inform, challenge and encourage

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*Jesus saith unto him, "Feed my sheep"
John 21:17*

Issue 10

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).

Growing in grace.

2nd Peter 3:18 tells us to 'grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ'. To grow in grace is to mature as a Christian. Starting off in the Christian life is a matter of grace. We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9), and we also mature and are sanctified by grace alone. Grace is a blessing that we don't deserve. It is God's grace that justifies us, sanctifies us, and eventually glorifies us in heaven. The sanctification process, becoming more like Christ, is what is referred to as 'growing in grace'.

After John Newton, the infamous slave trader, repented of his sins and became a Christian, he wrote a hymn with these opening words:

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

*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 Elsie, and growing up in our home with a younger brother and sister, school was compulsory, but Sunday School was never given such a priority. My parents avoided church and I followed their example.

After leaving school I got a job as a shorthand typist and it was in that office that I first came in contact with Christians and heard the Gospel. Church seemed so important to them, not only on Sunday but through the week. I thought this rather strange as my pleasure was found on the dance floor and I would have danced almost every night of the week. Many times I was invited to hear the message of the gospel, but I wasn't interested, such was my passion for dancing and having a good time. Heaven and hell were much too solemn for a teenage girl who was enjoying life to the full.

However, this changed suddenly in 1960, a night I will never forget. On a cold November evening my mother shook me out of my sleep. My father had taken ill and an ambulance took him to hospital. Sadly, he died shortly after at just 50 years of age. I was eighteen years of age.

On the day of the funeral, I awoke very early, while it was still dark, and went into the sitting room. I wanted to be alone with my thoughts and my father. I pulled back the veil from his face - could he really be dead? One moment here and the next gone. When I touched his face I shuddered, he was so cold. In the quietness of that little room I felt that a voice was speaking to me, "If that were you, where would your soul be?" I trembled and turned around but of course there was no one there. I knew if I had died I would have gone to hell because I had no time for God or His Son. That night, the 10th of November, with little knowledge of the Bible, I knelt by my bedside and put my trust in the Lord Jesus as Saviour. The day after my father's funeral, I bought a Bible, determined to follow the Saviour and learn more about Him. That evening, at a meeting in the YMCA, Belfast I found comfort and wonderful assurance in singing those lovely words :-

"I am trusting Thee Lord Jesus, trusting only Thee,
trusting Thee for full salvation, great and free."

I have been a Christian now for almost 60 years and along with my husband John, we have found Christ to be the answer to all our needs. We are both, in the words of Titus 2 v 13, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ."



The Unsparing God

God spared not their soul.

He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death,
but gave their life over to the pestilence. Psalm 78:50

God spared not the angels that sinned.

God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell,
and delivered them into chains of darkness,
to be reserved unto judgment. 2 Peter 2:4

God spared not the ancient world.

And [God] spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person,
a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood
upon the world of the ungodly. 2 Peter 2:5

God spared not Sodom and Gomorrah.

And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes
condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example
unto those that after should live ungodly. 2 Peter 2:6

God spared not His Son.

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all,
how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:32

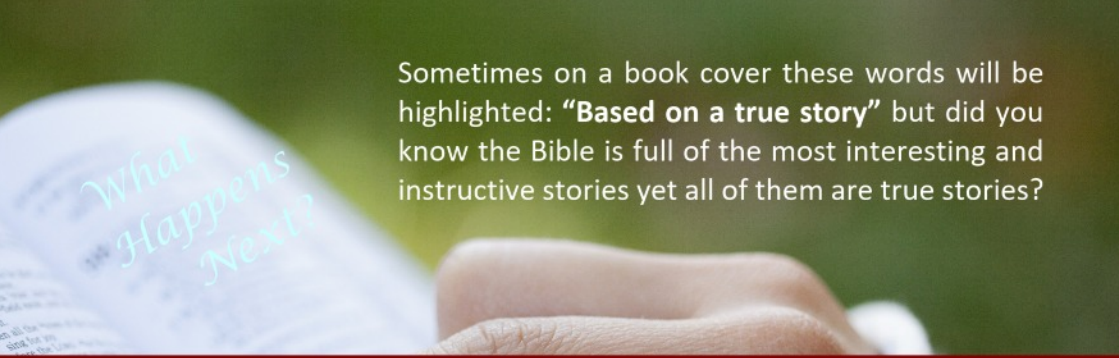
God will not spare you unless you take heed.

For if God spared not the natural branches,
take heed lest he also spare not thee. Romans 11:21

God will spare you if you believe.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on
him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into
condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 5:24



Sometimes on a book cover these words will be highlighted: **“Based on a true story”** but did you know the Bible is full of the most interesting and instructive stories yet 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

Everything was perfect, life was so good. There was food, enjoyment, companionship, fellowship and every day was a new learning experience for the young newlyweds. Together as they explored their surroundings they were amazed at the wonder and variety of everything all around them. The sights, the sounds, the colours, the smells, and the abundance everywhere of fruit, flowers and wildlife.

But into their lives crept a most subtle being, envious and jealous of the privileges and position they had been given by God. He thought of a plan to ruin their lives.

You can read this true story in Genesis chapter 3 to find out what happened next.



Have you noticed the new welcome signs in Belvoir, announcing that everyone is welcome to come into Belvoir? There is something really nice about getting a hearty welcome!

The Bible lets us know that Heaven has a great welcome for all who will turn from their sin and trust the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

In **Luke 15:7** the Lord Jesus said: "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Matthew 11:28

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.



In Luke 15:1-2 we read: Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them."

They said this in mockery but it is one of the most lovely features about the Lord Jesus. His great interest and concern for sinners is a perfect reflection of God's love for all of us.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.





Memory Verse

How can a young man cleanse his way?
by taking heed according to Thy word.

Psalm 119:9

Books of the Bible wordsearch

P H I L I P P I A N S C N P Y
P R E V E L A T I O N U Q A G
L H Y B C U Z C V P A F Q A F
R O I H R K O X T D I X L V D
V Y J L W E Q A L S H A X A J
K J X B E G W G L S T S G R C
L O X I H M K S B I N T E D J
J X H B T B O N A A I A N J I
I K Z F T D T N I K R A M G D
U G S N A I S S O L O C K O G
E J P G M K E Z V S C A P B R
W G A O Q H M A H R R F B O S
R E T E P D A P H R D V C F W
B H Q E D U J Y O I R I I S Z
Y N Y R O M G V Z V S D H P H

PHILEMON	JAMES	HEBREWS
ACTS	JUDE	MATTHEW
REVELATION	GALATIANS	COLOSSIANS
ROMANS	LUKE	MARK
EPHESIANS	PHILIPPIANS	TIMOTHY
PETER	CORINTHIANS	

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name
under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

Stories with meaning:

Once, all the villagers decided to hold a day of prayer for rain. On the day, all the people gathered to pray but only one boy came with an umbrella:

That is faith.

When you throw babies up into the air they laugh because they know you will catch them:

That is trust.

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, yet we still set the alarm to wake us up:

That is hope.

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of no knowledge of the future:

That is confidence.

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence: 'I am not 80 years old; I am 16 with 64 years of experience.'

That is attitude.

A very rich and generous master gave it all up to become poor so that through his poverty those who were poor might become rich:

That is love. 2nd Corinthians 8:9





Things are so different from what they once were and seem to be getting worse as time goes on.

Yet, when God originally created the world, we read:

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.
Genesis 1:31

What on Earth happened, why has it become so evil?
Here is what the Bible says:

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools... Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts. Romans 1:21-24

How glad we are that God has a rescue plan!

Who [the Lord Jesus] gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world. Galatians 1:4

Wonders of Creation

Space is amazing.

The Heavens declare the glory of God - Psalm 19:1

The sheer vastness of space, along with the trillions upon trillions of objects in the many billion galaxies of the universe is almost incomprehensible to the human brain.

Scientists say that space is completely silent:

There is no atmosphere in space, which means that sound has no medium or way to travel to be heard. Astronauts use radios to stay in communication while in space, since radio waves can still be sent and received.

Yet the Bible says in Psalm 19:1-4 that space does have a voice, its words declare the glory of God and are heard the world over by all who look up and consider.

Scientists say that nobody knows how many stars are in space:

The sheer size of space makes it impossible to accurately predict just how many stars we have. Right now, scientists and astronomers use the number of stars only within our galaxy, The Milky Way, to estimate. That number is between 200-400 billion stars and there are estimated to be billions of galaxies so the stars in space really are completely uncountable.

Yet the Bible says in Psalm 147:4 that God counts the number of the stars and calls them all by name.

Scientists say that a full NASA space suit costs \$12,000,000:

While the entire suit costs a cool \$12m, 70% of that cost is for the backpack and control module. It is very costly to send someone up into the heavens.

Yet the Bible says in 1st Peter 1:18 that the cost of sending a person down from heaven to redeem us from our sins cannot be reckoned in monetary terms: 'For ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold... But with the precious blood of Christ.'

Gospel Truths

Who are we?

- 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*

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) |
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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