

LIFE & LIGHT

NEWTOWNBREA
GOSPEL HALL

A magazine to teach, inform, challenge and encourage

Why did Jesus die?

Inside this issue:

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Issue 5

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).

The hope of the Gospel

If there was ever a day that gives us hope, it is Easter Sunday or as perhaps it should be called 'Resurrection Sunday'! In fact this is why the church gathers week by week each Sunday, the Lord's Day for worship, rather than on Saturday, the Sabbath. We celebrate and commemorate the death and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and will continue to do so until He returns as He promised.

In fact, every Sunday is a celebration of the empty tomb. A celebration that Jesus is alive and will come back again. It is the empty tomb of Jesus that gives us HOPE! Hope in the 'here and now' and hope in the hereafter.

This HOPE is centred in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you know Him? Are you trusting Him? Have you the Christian hope?

In the Bible in Revelation 1:18 Jesus said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of hell and of death." Jesus said in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." And in John 14:3, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself." This for the Christian is the 'Blessed Hope' according to Titus 2:13.

*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 Thomas and I am 73 years old. As you can see I have a guide dog. His name is "Nelson". A few years ago, as the old song goes, 'my eyes went dim and I could not see' I was told my sight wouldn't get better and perhaps get worse and I was put on the list for a dog. After much training etc. Nelson arrived! He is a great help and guides me everywhere; He is a very clever dog. 55 years ago I met a better guide who walks with me and talks with me and tells me I am his own. His name is Jesus, do you know him? My parents were Christians and taught us from the Bible in Romans 3:23 that we were born sinners. We heard about Heaven and that our sin needed to be blotted out if we ever hoped to be there for it is a holy place. Revelation 22:27 makes that clear.



I lived on the main Shankill Road, upstairs to my Father's shop.

As I got older I didn't appreciate my parent's values. My companions went places I was not allowed to go; my brother, my two sisters and I had restraints put on us. I soon picked up bad habits and began going places my parents didn't know about. I developed a love for dancing and live music. We moved house to 3 miles up the road and many a night I missed the last bus and had to walk home. Some nights I would have thoughts about my soul and eternity but they never lasted very long. I had a large group of companions, boys and girls, none of whom went to any place of worship. (Later some of these lads spent many years in prison during the "troubles")

Two men came into the district to preach and my Father asked us to attend. My sister became a Christian at that time. Soon after another preacher, Mr. Knox came to preach in a small hall near where we lived and my brother got saved. I had no interest; I was happy with sin, its pleasure and my companions.

But sometimes God speaks loudly. As my Father was serving in his shop he fell to the floor and died at the young age of 48, but all was well with his soul for he was saved. This spoke to me as I looked into his casket and asked myself "If that were you, where would your soul be?" I knew the answer, I would not be in Heaven like my Father. God was speaking to me through these happenings: In one stroke he removed all my barriers: I didn't smoke at home, I wasn't going dancing and all my companions stayed away.

I started to think about Calvary and the Lord Jesus dying for sinners. He was punished for sins not his own but for mine (Isaiah 53:5) I believed it and was saved according to Romans 10:9 When Eva and I married, we looked for a place to meet with other Christians who gather as they did in the NT and we found them in Newtownbreda Gospel Hall where we have been going since.

Things people say when facing death

"Now I must die, and am unprepared to die."
Caesar Borgia (Duke of Valentinois)

"I am about to take a leap into the dark"
Thomas Hobbs (political philosopher)

"Until this moment I thought there was neither a God nor a hell.
Now I know and feel that there are both,
and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty"
Sir Thomas Scott (MP)

"My philosophy leaves me utterly forlorn!
I feel like one caught in the merciless jaws of an automatic machine,
not knowing at what time one of its great hammers may crush me"
David Strauss (liberal theologian)

"I am the resurrection, and the life:
he that believeth in me,
though he were dead,
yet shall he live"

Jesus Christ (God's Son)
John 11:25



*What
Happens
Next?*

Sometimes on a book cover you will get the words 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

Two believers were walking home from Jerusalem on the Sunday evening after the crucifixion. They were very sad because they had seen the man whom they had followed taken and crucified by the Romans. They had believed that he was the one who would have redeemed and brought blessing to their nation. As they walked someone drew near to them and began to walk alongside them. For some strange reason they did not recognise him but actually he was the one whom they were thinking about. They did not realise that he was no longer dead but alive. Read the fascinating story of this incident in Luke chapter 24 to find out what happened next in the story.

He had been at the pool side at the sheep market in Jerusalem for 38 years hoping for a miracle to cure him of his paralysis. One day a man came to the pool and knowing that he had been there for so long a time asked him, "Would you like to be made whole?" Read the exciting account of what happened next in John chapter 5.



Why did Jesus die?

This question is of vital importance because your eternal destiny depends upon your answer to it. Do you know why Jesus died? If not, perhaps God has sent this magazine article across your path to tell you.

Sin brings death

In God's Word, the Bible, we learn that death came into the world because of sin. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). We all die because we are sinners; we have forfeited our right to live on the earth. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Jesus died for us

Did Jesus die because He had sinned? No. Listen to the inspired Word of God: "In Him is no sin" (1 John 3:5); "Who did no sin" (1 Peter 2:22); "Who knew no sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Therefore, death had no claim upon Him. But, blessed be His Name, He "gave Himself for our sins" (Galatians 1:4). It was love to us poor sinners that caused the Lord Jesus Christ to come down from heaven and die on Calvary's cross. It was love to us that held Him on that shameful cross until He had finished the work of atonement to the glory of God.

A holy, righteous, just God cannot let sin go unpunished. On the cross the Lord Jesus bore God's judgement against sin in our stead, as our substitute; and now God is offering not only forgiveness, but also justification to the repentant sinner who believes in Jesus. He is "just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Romans 3:26). God showed His approval of that mighty work by raising the Lord Jesus from among the dead and seating Him at His own right hand in heaven. (Mark 16:19)

Jesus is the Way

There is no other way a sinner can be saved but through the atoning death of the Lord Jesus. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). "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).

Why did Jesus die? Have you ever realized that it was your sins that caused Him to die upon the cross, or have you ever felt your need of Him as your personal Saviour? As you read this little message, He looks down from heaven upon you, and He reads the thoughts and intents of your heart. He knows your attitude toward the One who wants to be your Saviour.

Turn to Him today

God knows all about you. We urge you not to lay aside this paper until you have settled this great question regarding your sin and have received the Lord Jesus as your personal saviour. Once you see the seriousness of your sinful condition before God, you will never get rest of conscience and heart until you have trusted the Saviour of sinners. He "made peace through the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:20). We are "reconciled to God by the death of his Son" (Romans 5:10).

If you do not trust Him now as your Saviour, you will meet Him in eternity as your Judge. For God "hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

Won't you flee to Him now for refuge while it is the day of salvation? "We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

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:

Righteous

Memory Verse

Luke 23:47
Now when the centurion
saw what was done,
he glorified God, saying,
Certainly this was a righteous man.

T		U		G	i			S
	G				T	U		i
G		R	i			O		
	O	i		T		E	S	
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H			E	i		G		U

Answers found on www.newtownbredagospelhall.com/magazine

Centurions were experienced soldiers. They had seen many battles and had often watched men die. But that day at Calvary when the Son of God was crucified, the centurion witnessed something that he had never seen before: Having considered all that took place he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous man." Read the whole account in Luke chapter 23.

The Touch of the Master's Hand

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer thought
It scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile.
"What am I bidden, good folks?" he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A pound, a pound," then "Two!" "Only two?"
-Two pounds, and who'll make it three?
Three pounds once; three pounds twice;
Going for three-." But no,
From the room, far back, a grey-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow,
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin
And tightening the loose strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a carolling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand pounds, and who'll make it two?"
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?
Three thousand once, three thousand twice,
And going, and gone," said he.
The people cheered, but some of them cried
"We do not understand,
What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply,
"The touch of the master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
Is battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,-
Much like the old violin
A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine,
A game- and he travels on.
He is "going" once, and "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."
But the master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite under stand
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the master's hand.

True Love - the Gift of God: John 3:16

Love: (God's state of compassion which prioritises another so as to exalt, enrich and ennoble)

25 words in John 3, 16

**No greater text has ever been seen
12 about God and 12 about me
Son in the centre: verse 16 John 3**

TRUE LOVE ... is beyond compare

God is **Love**

TRUE LOVE ... looks beyond faults

God is **forgiving**

TRUE LOVE ... is beyond doubt

God **gave His Son**

TRUE LOVE ... is beyond measure

God **offers it to all**

TRUE LOVE ... puts sin beyond reach

God **chooses to forget**

TRUE LOVE ... lifts beyond reproach

God is the **Defender**

TRUE LOVE ... is beyond change

God is **immutable**

TRUE LOVE ... beckons beyond the valley

God is **waiting**

LOVE: A delicate fabric yet impregnable armour!

Can speak without words!

Enriches the dwelling of the poor!

Increases when spent!

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Wonders of Creation

Ostrich

(the largest living bird in the world)



The ostrich inhabits parts of Russia, China, India, and southern and eastern Africa. It is the largest living bird in the world and is easily recognized by its shaggy black feathers growing along its back and white flight and tail feathers. The ostrich cannot fly but runs at speeds of 44 mph.

The ostrich is well-designed for its environment. An ostrich has only two toes on each of its strong feet, which can produce a very powerful kick. The eyes on its small head are sharp and quick to spot predators such as lions or cheetahs. Long lashes protect their eyes from dust storms in the open scrub and savannahs. Like a periscope, the long neck raises and lowers helping the ostrich scan its habitat. When running, the long featherless legs of the ostrich make 10-foot (3 m) strides at a time. The flightless wings help maintain balance in a fast run.



The mating season varies. The male digs a shallow hole in which the female lays her 8 to 10 eggs—the largest sized egg of any living bird. (It takes 20 chicken eggs to equal the volume of one ostrich egg.) Other females may lay eggs in the same nest. The dominant female chases the other hens away and she and her mate share in the work of incubation.

An ostrich does not bury its head in the sand, but will sometimes lie flat on the ground with its neck and head straight out in front of it, making the head difficult to see, causing some to think that the head is buried in the sand.

In the Bible in Job 39:13 God asked Job, “Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?” The answer of course is No; It is God who designed all the animals.

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:

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|----------|--|
| 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:

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