

Good News Messenger

formerly Church News

Issue 56

Autumn 2016

Who Do You Say I Am?

**"Blessed
are you,
Simon, son
of Jonah!
No mere
man
showed this
to you. My
Father in
heaven
showed it
to you.**

Matt 16:17-18

The church was packed out with every available space filled with extra chairs. This was a very important service. The occasion was a Thanksgiving for the life of a much respected and loved Christian, Geoffrey Ellis, who had impacted Southport in many ways by his active participation, diligence, integrity and good fun.

The eulogy was given by John Cotterall, who spoke at length of the exploits of this energetic man. How he had become a Christian, had worked with Youth and set up an annual Summer Camp, had taken over and developed the Christian Bookshop, supported successive clergy and been a tireless worker within the church. Everybody listened intently because most had only seen a small part of this man.

In the bible, in three of the Gospels we are told that Jesus was walking and teaching his disciple when he said to them; "Who do you say I am?". Most of the disciples floundered, but Simon Peter, a simple fisherman, answered "You are the Christ. You are the Son of the living God." He had seen the same as all the other disciples but his heart had not been content with that and suddenly he realized the real truth. Peter went on to



be, as his name implies, the rock of the Christian Church. This understanding gave him the strength and determination to face opposition and insurmountable problems in order to tell people the truth about Jesus.

Geoffrey also had come to that point of understanding that Jesus was 'the Son of the Living God', not just a mental acceptance but a heartfelt understanding which empowered and drove him throughout his life to make a change wherever he could.

In living and in dying he served the Lord faithfully because he knew the promises of Jesus were true.

Who do **you** say that Jesus is?

Geoffrey Ellis was a trustee of Ainsdale Evangelical Church who contributed a great deal. He was also a regular preacher on a Sunday morning.

He will be sorely missed

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*"Jesus! Master! hear my cry;
Save me, heal me with a word;"*

'Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep'



something for Jesus to do box

The Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins."

Matthew 9:6

Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) in 'Morning and Evening'

Behold one of the great Physician's mightiest arts: He has power to forgive sin! While here He lived below, before the ransom had been paid, before the blood had been literally sprinkled on the mercy-seat, He had power to forgive sin. Hath He not power to do it now that He hath died? What power must dwell in Him who to the utmost farthing has faithfully discharged the debts of His people! He has boundless power now that He has finished transgression and made an end of sin. If ye doubt it, see Him rising from the dead! behold Him in ascending splendour raised to the right hand of God! Hear Him pleading before the eternal Father, pointing to His wounds, urging the merit of His sacred passion! What power to forgive is here! "He hath ascended on high, and received gifts for men." "He is exalted on high to give repentance and remission of sins." The most

crimson sins are removed by the crimson of His blood. At this moment, dear reader, whatever thy sinfulness, Christ has power to pardon, power to pardon *thee*, and millions such as thou art. A word will speak it. He has nothing more to do to win thy pardon; all the atoning work is done. He can, in answer to thy tears, forgive thy sins today, and make thee know it. He can breathe into thy soul at this very moment a peace with God which passeth all understanding, which shall spring from perfect remission of thy manifold iniquities. Dost thou believe that? I trust thou believest it. Mayst thou experience now the power of Jesus to forgive sin! Waste no time in applying to the Physician of souls, but hasten to Him with words like these:—

*"Jesus! Master! hear my cry;
Save me, heal me with a word;
Fainting at Thy feet I lie,
Thou my whisper'd plaint hast heard."*

Good Morning

I am God. Today I will be handling all your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If the devil happens to deliver a situation that you cannot handle, DO NOT attempt to resolve it, kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box.

It will be addressed in MY time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem.

If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper resolution.

Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child. If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.

God does not sleep nor slumber

THE BIBLE NEVER ONCE SAYS, "FIGURE IT OUT," BUT OVER AND OVER IT SAYS, "TRUST GOD." HE'S ALREADY GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT.

AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH.

Everywhere people are asking what's happening to the World with upheaval and trouble on every continent. There are divisions and strife all over the planet, natural disasters, rebellions, rumours of wars and terrorism. The list is almost endless. Many feel insecure. Lots of people are saying our country is not what it was. Younger people are too young to make comparisons.

We did well in the Olympics but many young people seem to be focused only on electronic entertainment and do not engage more widely in other activities. Few voted in the recent Referendum. Perhaps the Eternal optimism of youth?

More sinister perhaps is the research into mind control and attempts to improve human bodies to massively increase longevity and eventually result in living forever. The Bible says they will not succeed. The work related to genetic manipulation, including chimera development seems to be focused on this.

Whatever happens to the UK, the world is being driven to Global governance. Brexit may delay some of the more threatening aspects and give us more hope to express our National identity.

Where is God? Unnecessary perhaps? If the church represents God where is its voice? What does it have to say? Has the church at large forgotten what the Bible says? If so where can the Church's authoritative opinion come from?

"British values" do not always coincide with Biblical

standards. Any differences are not clearly identified. We are different from many countries because, like it or not, our distinctiveness, including Common Law as opposed to Napoleonic Law, came from the Bible whose author is The Lord Jesus Christ. Former reverence of His name is now frequently turned to public mockery.

Is the Bible the inerrant Word of God? Public opinion seems to be saying "NO". Remember popular opinion voted Hitler into power by a substantial majority. How well informed is this apparent opinion?

Our Pastor Writes

Many STUDY the Bible, concluding that it is the inerrant Word of God. These voices do not have a wide audience, but they are there. This is relevant because many of the things we see going wrong today, were for-seen in the Bible thousands of years ago.

A key passage is Mt. 24v37. Which says "but as the days of Noah were, so shall it be just prior to the coming of The Son of Man". If we know what the world was like pre Noah, we should be seeing the same trends now, before Jesus returns (the last days).

Thousands of years ago God warned, over at least 120 years, that He would flood the whole Earth and the principal reason was the deterioration of worldwide behaviour. Only righteous Noah and his family would be saved.

What behaviours? (Genesis chapter 6 v 5). "Every imagination of the thoughts of

men's hearts were evil continually". God Himself and His standards of holiness were being ignored. People were living only to please themselves. Eternity with God was being rejected. Thankfully we are not at this stage yet, but the trends are visible.

In those days there was lax and careless sexuality and the Earth was filled with violence. Our newspapers report corruption almost everywhere in high places. Terrorism and family breakdown are obvious. Religious extremism, threats of further financial instability and rumours of wars abound.

Fortunately our Christian heritage has minimised many of these traits so far for us. If we continue to abandon our heritage we shall be more exposed to these global trends. A global temporary rescue may eventually seem to come from a ruler whom the Bible calls the Antichrist, but the final result will lead to disaster.

The Genesis flood became unavoidable when matters reached "rock bottom". God had to act in Judgement. The people God created to love Him were in total rebellion. Are we heading that way? All things do not continue as they were. (1 Peter Chapter 3 verse 4).

It's time to repent and receive God's forgiveness. Future judgement will not be through flood but fire God loves us and wants to forgive us when we seek Him. Eternal security is in Jesus who said "I am the way, the truth and the life". Every believer is looking for Him to return. Then it will not be "money that makes the World go round" but righteous Divine Government.



"but as the days of Noah were, so shall it be just prior to the coming of The Son of Man".

God loves us and wants to forgive us when we seek Him.



'The end of all things is near'

"In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me." — Psalm 120:1.

Come and join us for
Sunday Worship
at
Merefield School
Westminster Drive
10.30am

Biblical Worship
and Teaching

**Children's Church
& Crèche**

Pastor: Geoff Farnell



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Chased by the Hound of Heaven

Although I was brought up to believe that there was a God and went to a primary school where we had a Christian assembly, with hymns and prayers, I never really thought much about it.

As I got older I began to wonder how the universe came into being and what would happen to me when I died.

Would there be a heaven and a hell? Where would I go?

On a family holiday close to loch Ness, aged twelve in the late sixties, I was desperate to see a monster sailing up the loch or even coming up on to the shore. My mum took me to a caravan parked up at the side of the loch with the name 'loch Ness Investigation Bureau' emblazoned on the side. As we entered I saw maps, with pins and string leading to captions and photographs of sightings of the monster.

Here it was, the monster really did exist!

I distinctly remember saying to my mum that there was more evidence for the loch Ness monster than there was for the existence of God. She then took me outside and, pointing at the mountains, forests, trees, birds, and the loch, said "There's the evidence that proves the existence of God". That stuck with me and made me think a lot more about the world I lived in.

At my next school, aged 15, I was aware that some boys had a strong belief in God. They wore badges, handed out leaflets about Jesus dying for us, explaining that He wanted to come into our lives and save us. They told me that I could have assurance of one day going to be with Him in Heaven forever, if I recognised that I had done wrong in God's sight and realised that I needed to say sorry to Him and believe that Jesus died for me.

I questioned these boys a lot about their faith and mocked them, all the time really wanting what they had. I

was given a New Testament to read and a booklet about how to become a new person, a Christian.

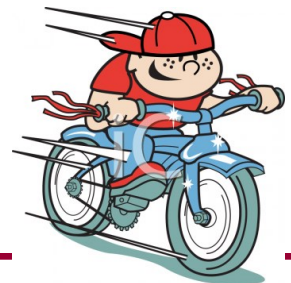
I remember talking to God and asking if He was there, and if He was, would He please show me the Truth. It came to me very clear that the Truth was in His word the Bible, that Jesus loved me and wanted me to come to Him in repentance and receive Him into my life.

Not too long after this I was cycling home from my girlfriend's house on an old boneshaker of a bike that belonged to my dad. The journey took me down a very dark unlit country lane (I had no lights) where someone had recently committed suicide. I was quite scared and believed in the possibility of evil spirits. As I passed the spot where the troubled person had died, I was suddenly aware of a whooshing' sound behind me and what sounded like a voice. I was terrified and began cycling faster; the noise continued. I was cycling as fast as I could and couldn't resist turning round to see what was chasing me. In the very faint light I could see a white figure keeping up with me. I passed a house with lights on and looked again to see a large Old English sheepdog, which by then had given up the chase and left me alone.

At that point I could put it off no longer, I asked God to forgive me for all the wrong things I had ever done in my 15 years of life, I said sorry and meant it. I believed Jesus had died for me on the cross, and had risen from the dead, so that I could have a relationship with God. I had become a Christian, a believer. The peace that came upon me was indescribable and I knew for the first time in my life that God really did exist.

As for the loch Ness Monster? I believe they are still searching!

RW



'ACORNS' Mother and Toddler Group at

Recreation Centre, Orchard Lane

off Sandbrook Rd, Woodvale.

every Thursday morning from 10 till 12. during school term times.

Contact: Esme at 01704 533489, or Pat 01704 513726