

Connected

Sunday 11th July 2021
6th Sunday after Trinity

Verse For The Week

We instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

(1 Thessalonians 4: 1)



1 Thessalonians 4: 1-12

Sermon Snippets

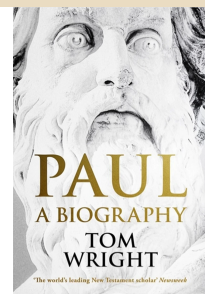
This Sunday we're looking at chapter 4 of the first letter to the Thessalonians. Paul is encouraging those young Christians to keep on going. In fact a more literal translation of one phrase is that they should understand "how you were to walk and to please God as indeed you are walking".

Said like that it seems a bit of a clumsy phrase, but the picture of walking is a good reflection of life as a Christian. It's about steady progress, it's about keeping going. . . and if you keep on walking . . . you get places!

In our passage, we're given two ways of applying this - how good we are in sexual morality of mind and body, and also how active and useful we make our lives to be. None of us as Christians have fully "made it"... so what might the next steps be for you?

Book Review

Paul: A Biography



Tom Wright is a professor of Theology specialising in the New Testament (and a bishop to boot) and a big fan of Paul. He feels that Paul has had some bad press over the years and loves to give us an alternative view of the Apostle.

In this book Wright takes all the episodes to be found about Paul in the book of Acts and weaves into them everything he can glean about Paul's life from his letters and places them all in chronological order so that it does indeed read as a biography. At the same time he relates these events to the wider history of the Eastern Mediterranean world in the first century. It makes all the difference to know who was likely to have been listening to Paul when he went to Corinth or Athens; were they Jews? (sometimes); were they retired Roman soldiers? (quite often); were they philosophers? (on at least one occasion).

But above all he takes the reader into the mindset of those differing communities at that time. How does a man think when he has been forced into the army (when his homeland was overrun by the mighty Roman Empire), and after a lifetime of fighting and indoctrination into worshipping Rome and Caesar, gets to retire in a nice Greek city? Why did the Pharisees have such a hard time getting to grips with the message of Jesus the Messiah? And what drove Paul before and after his Damascus Road experience? And why did his 'in your face' yet vulnerable personality inspire so many people, then and ever since?

This book is not a quick read but it opens a window into some puzzling aspects of Paul's life and some of the equally puzzling things he writes to the early churches, and what they mean for us today.

Bev

Prayer Pointers

Monday

We pray for all our ordained and lay leaders at Christ Church and Emmanuel. We ask that God may continue giving them the wonderful diligence and imagination they have shown at this difficult time, as always upheld by our prayers.

Tuesday

We pray for Nicky and all her Holiday Club team. May the preparations go well and we ask that they easily adapt to the challenging circumstances.

Wednesday

We pray for the sick and the varying needs in our church family, especially those who struggle to even share their problems. These people and their issues may be unknown to us, but they are known to God.

Thursday

We pray for Christ Church School, their Headteacher, staff, children and governors. We pray for a growing Christian influence in all their lives.

Friday

We praise God for the long awaited relaxation of covid rules. May they be met with responsible behaviour by everyone and ongoing wisdom from our leaders.

Saturday

We pray for all victims of natural disasters, accidents and mankind's negligence, remembering the tower collapse in Florida and the many floods and fires challenging so many people. We pray that all needs may be met.

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page.



*Only two pages in
Connected this week,
Phil??!!*

Ah, yes. There are a couple of articles in the pipeline, and we're hoping to be able to bring news of church services post-lockdown in the next couple of weeks. I'm also looking for more contributions from budding writers!

Open Gardens are here again!



The first of a short programme of three Open Gardens events will be at 2 Southridge Heights on August 14th, followed by a second on September 4th and a final one on September 18th. Details to follow later. Covid precautions at the time will need to be observed.

Spring Harvest 2022

Is anyone thinking of going to Spring Harvest next year? If so, please do get in touch. We are thinking about it but we are not going alone as we have found it to be a most lonely place unless you are in a group, even if that is small. We are not looking to organise a group - just to link up with other people.

Carole & Jeff

Thank You

I would just like to say a big thank you to everybody who sent me messages, cards and presents for my 80th birthday. I have had such a lovely time celebrating with family and friends that it seemed a bit like Christmas with me being 8 not 80.

A grateful Jill!

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