

Dear Friend

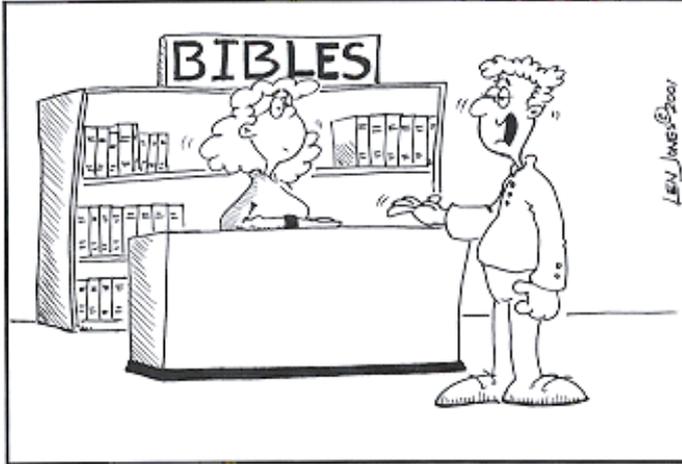
If you were able to come to St Matthew's yesterday, I hope you found it a truly blessed time as we met once again to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. And if you saw the service online, may that act of worship sustain you and bless you as we all seek to take up our cross and his yoke. Worship is all about getting ourselves into the right place. As I write this the sun is shining and the wind is blowing strongly and I am all too aware of the power of nature - a power we have no control over, but a power that is dwarfed by the infinite power of the one who created it in the beginning. When we recognise the awesome nature of God and his presence with us and in us, the only fitting response is to bow down and worship - to acknowledge that God is great and wonderful, mighty and holy, glorious and full of grace and mercy, and that we are his people for whom he has laid down his life.

Our God is deserving of our worship, and when we truly worship him - in spirit and in truth - and truly know him in and through our worship, then we are in the right place, and we can be confident that our lives please him; because Jesus tells us that God is seeking those kind of worshippers (John 4.23-24). True worship flows out of a heart that simply wants God the Almighty King to be honoured and glorified. In and through everything that God has made, he shows his glory, and one day everything that every person does will be in accordance with God's will and purpose. This should be our longing and our passion - to do what God wills. King David gives us a beautiful summary in Psalm 27 verse 4:

One thing I ask from the LORD,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.

This echoes Psalm 23 and reminds us that the greatest thing we can do as beings created in the image and likeness of God, is to seek him and honour him. It is extraordinary that David wants to gaze on the beauty of the Lord, when we know that no-one can see God and live. But we can see the beauty of God first in all that he has made and secondly and above all, in us.

**ALTAR EGO** by Len Jones



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace. Amen.

With my love and prayers

Simon

I hope you will be able to join us for our Zoom morning prayer each Tuesday (details on website). Also we are meeting in church for an informal service every Wednesday at 10.00am. Hope to see you there!