

RIVERSIDE QUARTERly



Issue

02.

Summer 2022



Page 7



Page 4



Welcome

We can't believe three months has passed already and we are now on to our second issue. It has been great to get to know some new people from the area since sending out our last edition and we hope we can meet more of you soon!

What we believe about...

The Lord Jesus Christ...

- **His eternal deity:** 'Our God and Saviour Jesus Christ'
(2 Peter 1.1; Hebrews 1.8)
- **His virgin birth** and sinless life: 'He did no sin'
(1 Peter 2.22; Luke 1.30-35)
- **His atoning death:** 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures'
(1 Corinthians 15.3; Romans 5.6-8)
- **His resurrection and ascension:** 'God... raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory'
(1 Peter 1.21; 22)
- **His any time return:** 'I will come again, and receive you unto myself'
(John 14.3; Philippians 3.20)

Whats on?

SUNDAY

- **9:30am** Breaking of Bread
Coffee @11:15am

**BIBLE
FOR
ALL**

11:30am

Creche available

- 4:00pm Bible Teaching
- 4:00pm Sunday school

MONDAY

- 10.00am Toddlers
- 11.00am Community Lunch
(1st Monday of the Month
starting September)
- 8:00pm Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY

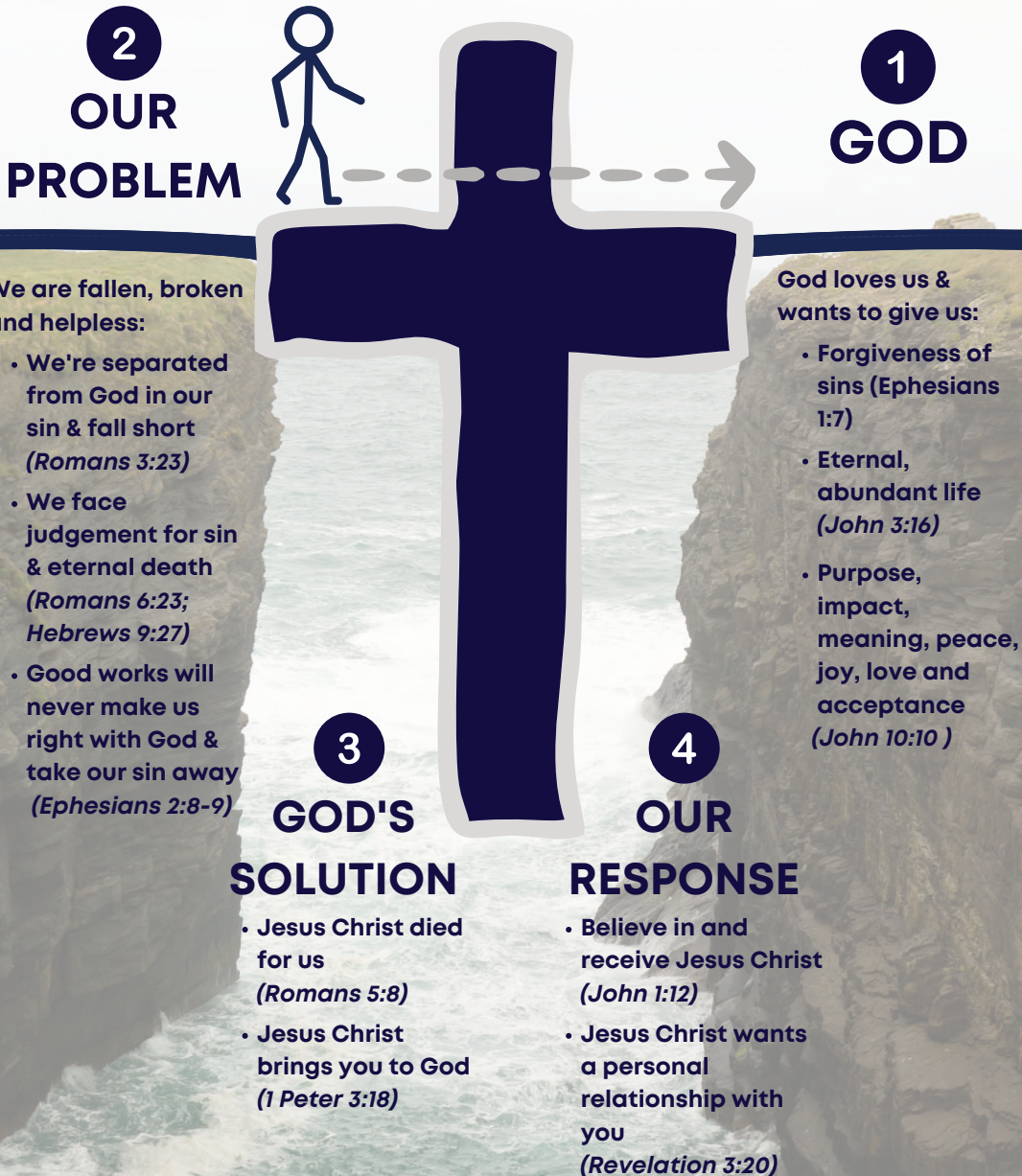
- 6:30pm Kids Club
- 8:00pm Bible Teaching

THURSDAY

- 10:00am Toddlers

In addition to these we run bi-weekly studies for young people, monthly mens study breakfast and other regular activities. Please contact us for more information.

THE BRIDGE TO LIFE



Please contact us if you would like a Bible to read these references yourself

STEADY AS A ROCK

by Stephen Jackson

Riverside Christian Assembly

It is unlikely that you will have lived through the first half of 2022 without hearing of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Perhaps you are, in fact, fed up hearing about them!



Whatever the case, the fact is that the Queen has been a central part of our nation for an incredible length of time. Indeed, for the majority of people, they have known no other monarch than Queen Elizabeth II.

For most of us, we just accept that she has always been there. Steady as a rock. Her character and demeanour remain relatively unchanged, despite what is going on around her. This is remarkable when we consider the amount of change which has taken place in her family, her country and the world during her 70-year reign.

When Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne, DNA had yet to be discovered and the Berlin Wall was still nine years away from being constructed, let alone knocked down again. No one had gone to space and concepts such as GPS, mobile phones and the internet were figments of the imagination.

She has met all but one US President over the past seven decades and lived through many conflicts. Seismic global events such as the assassination of JFK, the Gulf War, 9/11 and Covid-19 will most certainly have had their impact on her yet she remains consistently calm and steady.

Most would consider this characteristic of the Queen to be of tremendous worth. Even those who are not in favour of a monarchy acknowledge that she has remained firm in the face of whatever personal, national or global problems have presented themselves.

The value of this is highlighted by the fact that society seems to be constantly changing. Our points of reference are no longer fixed. Things that were previously considered wrong are now deemed right and vice versa. Further to this, our own lives are so often marked by inconsistency. We make promises that we fail to keep and set standards for ourselves that we fall short of. We often hold others to a higher standard than we do for ourselves, and even those standards are constantly changing.

In the Bible, the prophet Malachi voiced the communication of God, saying **“I am the LORD, I change not.”**

The truth that God never changes is both terrible and comforting.

To those who have never experienced forgiveness of sin, it is a terrible thing. Terrible because God's standards remain consistent. To humanity, they are impossibly high and we have no hope of meeting them. God's unchanging justice demands that our sins be punished.

However, there is also comfort in an unchanging God. We learn in the Bible that not only do God's standards never change, but His love for us is infinite and unwavering. God saw us in our desperate need and sent His own Son to suffer for sin so that we can be forgiven. We learn that no matter who we are or what we have done, He loves us and wants to forgive us.

Whilst the Queen has been steady and consistent, she has had limited ability to solve our problems on an individual level.

“

The truth that God never changes is both terrible and comforting.

Our real need is found in Jesus Christ who is described as being:

“the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13).

And although Her Majesty has reigned over the nation for 70 years, the Bible promises that Jesus Christ will one day be:

“King over all the earth.”
(Zechariah 14).

During the past seven decades, countless people have curtsied or bowed in the presence of the Queen. The Bible teaches that one day in the future:

“every knee will bow...and every tongue will confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2).

But what do you think of Christ now?
Is He your Lord? Is He your Saviour?

We appreciate the Queen's example and service, and she deserves this celebration. Most people have never met her, however there is coming a day when we will all meet the eternal King.

When you meet Him, will it be as your Judge or as your Saviour?

Focus on...

BIBLE FOR ALL



- Every Sunday
- 11:30am
- Main RCA hall downstairs
- Creche available upstairs
- Refreshments from 11:15am onwards

WHEN & WHERE?

WHAT IS IT?

A 20-25 minute Bible message preceded by 5-10 minutes of singing.

The Christians in RCA believe the Bible is a unique book, with a unique message, about a unique person, God's Son Jesus Christ. In our Bible For All sessions we explain the core message of God for us all in an accessible way.

We often develop different aspects of gospel truth in a themed series.

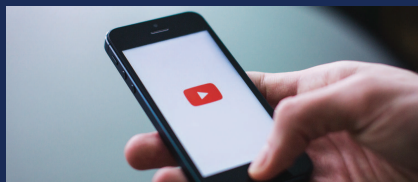


Many of the Christians who meet at RCA (from families with young children right through to those in their eighties) attend the Bible for All sessions but they are especially helpful for those who are not Christians and want to learn more about the Bible's core message.

WHO IS IT FOR?

We have recently concluded a series on 'how God saves' from the book of Romans in the Bible.

Most of these are available on our YouTube channel for playback.



contact.riversideassembly@gmail.com

A person wearing a red beanie and dark clothing is sitting on a dark ledge, leaning against a grey brick wall. The words "I'M SORRY" are painted in large, white, hand-painted letters on the wall to the left of the person.

I'M SORRY

You could be reading a headline from any area of the news cycle on any given day. In recent months these words have been on the lips of a cricketer, a politician, a supermarket chain, various media celebrities, an Archbishop and others. Everybody seems to be apologising, or at least saying sorry.

Frequently presented as part of a predictable “*mea culpa*”, these words seem to have lost their significance. Are you sorry? Really? What exactly do you mean? Sorry for what . . . that you have been caught and are fearing for your job, reputation or marriage? – all questions that a sceptic might ask.

Is sorry ever enough?

For some it is enough to keep their job, salvage a reputation or at least keep the social media mob at bay, until some other glittering prize beckons on the horizon of an insatiable media cycle. “Sorry, sorry, really, really sorry”, accompanied by tears and promises of a penitential learning and growth process . . . until the glare dims and the mob moves on. Sorry is sometimes enough to survive. It may even be enough for a relationship to survive but, on their own, these words are hollow – they lack substance.

Take a walk into the High Court and sit through a murder trial, or venture into the aftermath of unspeakable violence or loss and ask the same question. Among these people, in these places, sorry is not enough: forgiveness is too costly, peace is too precious, justice is too demanding. The more serious the matter, the less likely that sorry will be enough.

“Sorry, and I resign”. “Sorry, and here is recompense”. “Sorry, and I accept responsibility”. Sorry’s companion gives weight to the words. This is the soil into which the seeds of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation are planted . . . which is why the Bible does not say, “Therefore being justified by an apology, we have peace with God”. Saying sorry to God is not enough for us to know peace, forgiveness and reconciliation of a relationship broken by our sin.

The incredible news from God is that our sorry can be placed upon the sacrificial death, burial and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. That sacrifice at Calvary has infinite value and our dependence upon it, by faith, to answer the claims of God’s justice is the only reason why we can have peace with God and our sins forgiven . . . which is why the Bible does say, “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1 KJV).

He has said, “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved” (Romans 10:9-10 ESV).

Written by Stephen Grant
for

www.understandingthegospel.org

What can we do for you?

Please get in touch if you would like us to

- send you a free Bible
- pray for you
- meet with you to discuss what we believe

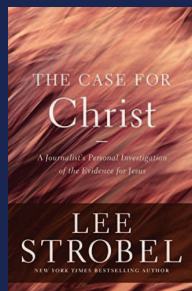
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The Case for Christ

By Lee Strobel

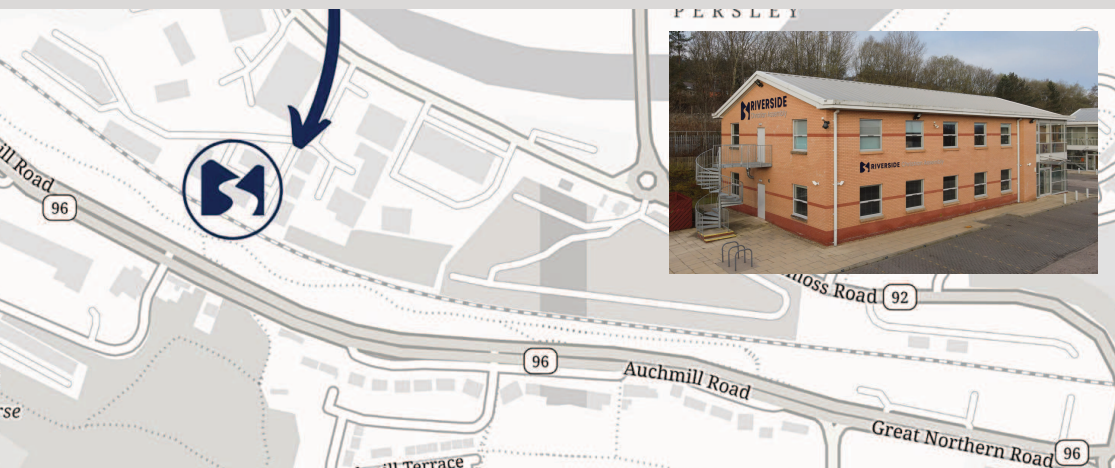
A journalist's personal investigation of the evidence for Jesus.

Contact us for your free copy!



Giveaway!

Unit 20
Spires Business Park
Mugiemoss Road



@riverside_rca



@riversidechristianassemblyaberdeen



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Riverside Christian Assembly