

RIVERSIDE QUARTERly



Issue

09.

Summer 2024



FAITH
in the
salvation
of God

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Welcome

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Riverside Quarterly. This time we're focusing on the message which the Bible describes as **Good News of Salvation**. It's the focal point of all our activities at Riverside, because this incredible, enduring message is for us all; addressing our greatest need, and pointing us to Jesus Christ. In Him alone Salvation is found.

What we believe about...

Evangelism

Evangelism is the communication of the Good News of the Gospel. After His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ instructed His followers to dedicate themselves enthusiastically to the great task of telling others.

The Gospel must be clearly communicated. We need to understand our guilty condition as sinners in the light of God's perfect righteousness, our inability to earn forgiveness, and the fact that we need a Saviour.

The Gospel must be Christ centred. Only Jesus Christ is able, through His death and resurrection, to meet the needs of sinners who come to Him in faith.

The Gospel must call for a response. Wonderful as the message is, only those who respond, repent and place their faith in Jesus Christ receive the immense blessing of forgiveness of sins.

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
- 8:00pm Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY

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

COMMUNITY LUNCH

2nd Friday of each month
12:30pm



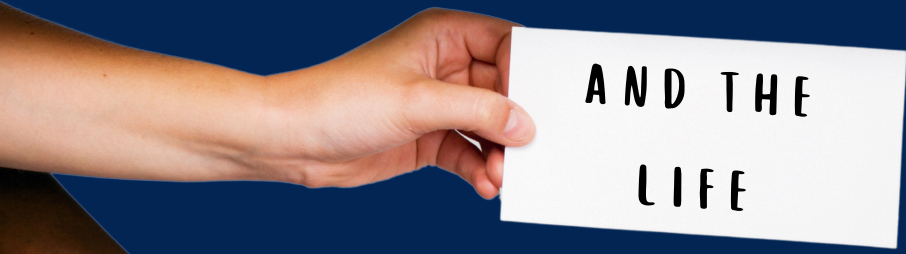
JESUS
SAID



I AM
THE WAY



AND THE
TRUTH



AND THE
LIFE



JOHN CH14 V6

FAITH IN THE GOD OF SALVATION

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast"

Ephesians 2 8-9 (NKJV)

This verse tells us about God's character; God is not only a God of righteousness and justice, He is also a God of grace. That means He is good to undeserving people. He doesn't compromise His righteousness by ignoring sin, neither is He unjust by letting it go unpunished. Through His grace, He has provided a way for sin to be dealt with justly, whilst offering the sinner complete forgiveness.

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the focal point of the Bible, through which God has made this seemingly impossible salvation available to us. Christ's death was a sacrifice on the behalf of sinners. Though never guilty of sin Himself, on the cross Jesus suffered God's righteous judgment against sin.

The faith which leads to salvation is firstly a belief that the historical events concerning Jesus Christ actually took place; that the incarnate Son of God was crucified, buried and rose again the third day.

Written by Richard Burditt
for www.understandingthegospel.org



The message preached by the apostles after Christ's ascension was rooted in events they had personally witnessed.

But Christians not only believe these things simply took place historically; they believe they took place for them personally, that Christ died for their sin, as their substitute, that they might know forgiveness and peace with God. They know, as the verse in Ephesians says, that salvation is a gift. Their own works cannot save them, so they turn away from themselves to trust entirely in Christ.

The object, rather than the strength of faith, is of primary importance. Confidently jumping on a weak platform is far more dangerous than cautiously stepping out onto something solid. Rather than scrutinising the faith itself it is more important to ask who our faith is placed in. According to the gospel, we are helpless without the work of Christ, for He alone can save us. The object, rather than the strength of faith, is of primary importance.

The Struggle of Faith

Faith can be difficult. I have met people who have told me that they don't have enough faith to believe in what the Bible says. So how can faith in God be generated?

Why should you trust the unprovable promises of one individual above another? You look at the track record of the promiser. You check if things promised previously have come to pass. Once you have the stable foundation of a proven track record in place, you then have confidence to trust someone for things you cannot yet see or prove.

It's really no different with the Bible. Consider creation, and the powerful explanations that it gives for the world around us? Consider the accuracy of the Bible's diagnosis of the human condition. There is much in the Bible that can strengthen our confidence in it as a source of truth.

Once we trust the source, we then have good reason to believe its promises about the unseen future judgment and eternal salvation. **"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" Romans 10 17 (NKJV)**



"TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH"

Acts recounts how the message of Christianity spread across the world, beginning in Jerusalem, when thousands suddenly realised that the man they had rejected was in fact their Saviour, Jesus Christ. Ever since, this message of good news has been reaching and transforming countless individuals all across the world.

THE HELPLESS

A homeless paraplegic who was reduced to begging had his sins forgiven and was miraculously healed to prove it! He went walking and leaping and praising God!



THE DISTANT

Not all received the message gladly. Stephen was murdered for speaking the truth about Christ, and his death marked the beginning of hostility towards the good news, as Christ had predicted. Nevertheless, Stephen's death became a catalyst for the spread of the gospel to those in other countries.



THE GOOD PERSON

Cornelius was a Roman Centurion, a strong courageous and responsible man. More importantly, he was seeking God, and the message of the good news came to him.



THE WEALTHY

Lydia was a Greek businesswoman. She heard the good news in Philippi, responded in faith and then dedicated her life and resources to serving God and other Christians.



THE FEARFUL

An unnamed prison jailer was thrown into crisis when an earthquake struck and his prisoners could have escaped. Believing he faced execution, he realised he wasn't ready to die until he heard the good news from two of the prisoners. He trusted Christ for salvation and was filled with joy.





THE SEEKING

Peter was directed to meet with the Treasurer of the Queen of Ethiopia whilst he travelled on state business. He was searching for answers in the Bible. He heard the message, was saved through faith and was baptised immediately.



THE RELIGIOUS CYNIC

Saul was a fanatic who persecuted the early church, arresting and killing as many as he could. He was stopped in his tracks as he travelled to Damascus when the Lord Jesus appeared and spoke to him. He was saved and transformed, and dedicated the rest of his life to spreading the good news.



Believe on
the Lord
Jesus Christ
and you will
be saved.

Not everyone who heard the good news received it. Some procrastinated, others weren't prepared to turn away from their sins. Yet Acts shows us many examples of relatable people like you and I who did receive the good news. They responded in faith and received the gift of salvation.



WHAT ABOUT YOU?

By Stephen Grant
UNDERSTANDING
THE GOSPEL



Truth



Hate Crime

"In a time of universal deceit,
telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

If you google this quote you will likely find it attributed to George Orwell in his book 1984. It is an interesting point and goes some way to explaining society's reactionary attitude to the Bible. Paradoxically, the quote is not in 1984 or traceable to George Orwell, whose real name was Eric Arthur Blair. It could be that not everything you read is true!

When Jesus was arrested and interrogated by Pilate (the Roman Governor) an exchange of words took place between them, 'Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.' (John 18:37-38)

Pilate wanted to talk about politics, Jesus wanted to talk about truth; throughout history they have rarely been synonymous and it was no different on this momentous occasion. For Pilate, politics trumped truth and Jesus was condemned to die, even although he was declared to be innocent of any crime. The actual crime was Jesus' death, motivated by hatred of the truth.

Jesus was hated for the truth that he spoke. He was a radical truth speaker in a day of deceit. He testified to the accountability of men to their creator, he spoke of righteousness and sin, heaven and hell, salvation and judgement, love and mercy, forgiveness and wrath, time and eternity, and the people whom he fed and healed ended up shouting for his death; it was the greatest hate crime of history.

The greatest love shown, truth spoken and life lived was answered by "hatred without a cause". If the truth hurts, kill the truth speaker and the pain will go away.

The truth did not go away. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6) Jesus died and rose again. The truth not only remains, but is alive. Jesus Christ, the unchanging personification of absolute truth, is alive. Despite Pilate's decision, truth will triumph. All the philosophies of earth will be forgotten as we stand before the risen, glorified Lord Jesus Christ in a coming Day of Judgement. The challenge of truth is not whether we agree or debate, but whether we submit. As sinners before a righteous God we must repent of our sins and turn to God through his son Jesus Christ.

The present visceral antagonism against the Gospel of Jesus Christ is consistent with the experience of Jesus Christ. The Christian standing under the banner of the Gospel, proclaiming God's message of salvation and forgiveness, is seen as a threat to the universal philosophy of anything goes, no-one judges me relativism of our day. To be a christian is to follow Jesus Christ, who bore witness to the truth and was hated to death for it.

Speaking truth in a time of universal deceit is revolutionary after all, whoever said it.

Get to know us



Riverside Christian Assembly is a local church which for the past three years has been gathering regularly at the Spires Business Park. Across all stages of life, and all kinds of backgrounds, we are united by a shared love for the Lord Jesus Christ, and a deep thankfulness for all that He has done for us (John 3:16).

If you would like to find out more, all of our activities are open to our local community, and we would be delighted to meet you.



Going for Gold!

12th-15th August
10am-12pm

Olympics 2014 Theme
**RCA
Holiday
Kids
Club**

- P1-P7 (in August)
- Free of Charge
- Games, Crafts, Snack
- Bible Lessons



Scan to register

**RCA
KIDS**

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Get in touch if you would like

- a free Bible
- a study course
- to find out more

WWW.THERIVERSIDE.CHURCH

Visit our website where you can



Contact us



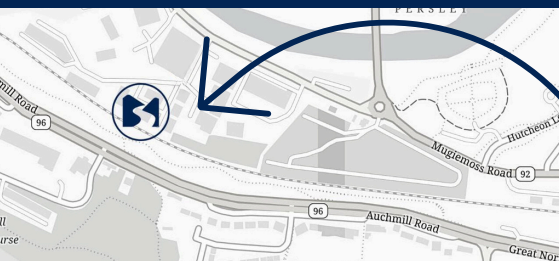
Find out more about us and what we believe



Learn more about what's on



View previous Quarterlys and sign up to our mailing list



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Assembly



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