

RIVERSIDE QUARTERly



Issue

13.

Autumn 2025

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Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn 2025 edition of the Riverside Quarterly. In this edition we focus on the impact of a changing worldview in the West. If you've been trying to understand why things are changing in our society, this edition will help explain what is happening but also challenge you to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. Read on...!

What we believe about... The Mission of the Local Church

At Riverside Christian Assembly we don't follow the latest social trends or promote political agendas. Instead, we follow the priorities and principles laid out for local churches in the Bible, which can be summarised as follows:

- **We Worship God:** Gathering regularly to worship through singing, scripture and prayer we keep God at the centre of what we do. Rejecting entertainment and emotionalism we want to be known as those who sincerely, warmly, thankfully and reverently worship God together.

- **We Teach the Bible:** Faithfully preaching through the whole bible, with verse by verse teaching as the focus, we emphasize scripture as the final authority and equip believers through sound doctrine

- **We Foster Christian Community:** Encouraging fellowship, mutual care, accountability and love within the local church we seek to use spiritual gifts to build up the church.

- **We Make Disciples:** Preaching clearly the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ we aim to lead people to faith in Christ. The gospel is about changing individuals through salvation that is in Christ Jesus. Changed individuals change homes, communities and nations, which is how we see the influence of the church on the world.

- **We Bless Others:** Sharing our resources and doing good to people as we find them we show the world a little of the goodness of God and the beauty of Christ

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
- (both Term Time)

MONDAY

- 10.00am Toddlers (Term Time)
- 8:00pm Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30pm Kids Club (Term Time)
- 8:00pm Bible Teaching

COMMUNITY LUNCH

2nd Friday of each month
12:30pm (excluding Jul & Aug)

BIBLE STUDIES

Thursdays Oct-Dec
See pg. 10 for details

FOR THE PREACHING
OF THE CROSS IS TO
THEM THAT PERISH

FOOLISHNESS

but

TO US WHICH ARE
SAVED, IT IS THE

POWER OF GOD

1 Corinthians 1:18



A CRISIS OF IDENTITY AND VALUES

Western civilization today is in the midst of a profound crisis of identity. Our society was built on the foundations of Christianity and the Bible, but these moorings of our culture are under attack. Questions like “Who are we?” and “What do we stand for?” are harder to answer as our society has increasingly rejected long-held beliefs about God, morality and the family to name a few.

Institutions that once supported a Bible-based cultural stability - governments, universities, and the media - are now promoting agendas that erode these foundations. ‘Woke’ ideology, progressive policies, and the elevation of secularism have hollowed out the moral and spiritual core of the West.

The consequences are visible in the decline of social structures. Marriage rates drop, birth rates decline, divorce rises, and many young men seem to be “checking out” of society entirely, adrift without purpose or identity. Meanwhile, science and technology has increasingly been elevated above God with confidence in ‘experts’ leading many to believe they can explain life without acknowledging the Creator.

We are also seeing a moral inversion. Acts once universally recognised as wrong - abortion, gender reassignment, unrestricted sexual expression - are now celebrated as expressions of freedom and virtue. Pride parades, social media virtue signalling, and a relentless focus on personal feelings all reflect a culture dominated by the primacy of “me”: my truth, my identity, my authority.

Even the concept of authority itself is rejected - parents, teachers, government, and God are subordinated to individual preference. This “me-first” worldview fuels mental health crises, broken relationships, fatherless households, and widespread societal misery.

SPIRITUAL HUNGER BENEATH THE SURFACE

Despite this chaos, many sense that something is missing. There is a vague, instinctive turning toward religion or spirituality, with bible sales and church attendance increasing significantly amongst those under 40.

However it is often unanchored, incomplete, and aimless. Some recoil at acts of evil, like the murder of Jews in Manchester or Charlie Kirk in the USA, or at other religious ideologies they cannot embrace - but they cannot fully articulate why.

This innate sense of moral order and justice, a longing for truth, points to something deeper: the human heart is made for God, and our culture, though adrift, cannot fully silence that need.

THE CURE: THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

The solution is not wishy-washy religion, nor cultural reform, nor moral platitudes. It is not found in therapy, ideology, or political movements. The cure for the West, and indeed, for every soul, is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The antidote to “me-first” living is the radical reorientation of the heart and mind toward God. Instead of being led by our feelings, and letting our feelings determine our will and identity, we must instead align our mind and our will with divine truth.

Instead of living according to personal preferences, we need to submit to the one objective truth - God Himself.

What is this objective truth? Well the Bible makes it clear:

- God exists. He is our creator. And He is holy.
- We fail to meet His holy standards, we are sinners, and will face judgment.
- But God loves us and so has developed a rescue plan in order to be able to save us.
- To do this, He sent his Son, Jesus Christ. When He was crucified and hanging on the cross, God executed His judgment for sin against His own Son.
- Because of this, our sin can be forgiven by God, when it is that we come in faith and repentance, asking Him to forgive us.
- On the third day, He rose again from the dead.
- He is now in heaven, and will one day come again.

The gospel calls us to repentance and faith. This message is hard, confrontational, and countercultural—but it is also liberating, rescuing, and life-giving.

Salvation does not begin with society; it begins with the individual. Every heart that turns to Christ is a reflection of hope in a world growing darker. By proclaiming the gospel boldly and unashamedly, Christians illuminate the path out of moral confusion and the decay we see around us. The call is urgent: the West cannot save itself, but those who believe can be saved by God’s grace.

CONCLUSION

The West stands at a crossroads. Cultural institutions crumble, moral values invert, and the primacy of “me” leads to misery and confusion. Yet beneath this darkness, a spiritual longing remains, a recognition that life without God is empty.

The answer is not more philosophy or policy - it is the gospel. As Romans 1:16 declares, **Christ’s power brings salvation to everyone who believes.**



WHAT'S GOING ON IN

Belief drives behaviour: we cannot keep Bible

Dominant Western Cultural Worldview in the past 50 Years:

ATHIESM: The belief that there is **no God** or gods, or more broadly, the absence of belief in any deity.

MATERIALISM: The belief that **only physical matter exists**, and everything (including thoughts, and emotions) can be explained by physical processes.

RELATIVISM: The belief that truth, morality, or values are **not absolute**, but rather depend on individual or cultural **perspectives**.

HEDONISM: (self-indulgence)
The belief that the **pursuit of pleasure** and the **avoidance of pain** are the important aims of human existence.



THE WESTERN WORLD?

morality when we reject the God of the Bible

Christian Worldview on which the West was built:

THEISM: The belief in the existence of a personal, **living God** who is active in the world.

SPIRITUAL REALITY:

The belief in the existence of **non-material realities**, such as the soul, spirits, and God.

CHRISTIAN

ABSOLUTISM: The belief that moral truths and divine commands are **absolute**, and **unchanging**, based on the nature of God as revealed in Scripture.

CHRISTIAN

RIGHTEOUSNESS: The ongoing pursuit of living a **holy, obedient life** that reflects God's moral standards, including honesty, faithfulness and care.



ANOTHER TRAGEDY

Known for being an unapologetic and outspoken Christian, Charlie Kirk often acknowledged Jesus Christ as the foundation of his worldview and urged young Americans to live out their faith boldly in public life. Along with his faith, he was a vocal and controversial advocate for conservatism in US politics. He successfully communicated with the next generation in college campus debates, and through his popular podcast and media network.

"I mean, I'm nothing without Jesus," he told one interviewer last year. "I'm a sinner. I fall incredibly short of the glory of God. We all do. I gave my life to the Lord in fifth grade, and it's the most important decision I've ever made and everything I do incorporates Jesus Christ."

With multiple millions of followers on TikTok and Instagram, the impact of Charlie Kirk's death is enormous, and its circumstances will be globally scrutinised. Of more importance than political or social issues is the devastating loss to a small family of a husband and father. As Christians, they have the love of their God, the presence of their Saviour, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit to help them as they mourn and grieve. May God grant to them strength and healing in the pain of their trial

For the rest of us, what is there to say? It is not a new story; from the murder of Abel by his brother Cain in the first human family (Genesis chapter 4) to the seemingly endless killings in conflicts throughout the world, hatred and murder are an ever-present part of the human story.

In the shocking circumstances which occurred in Utah there is a reminder of certain truths which we should never forget..



WWW.UNDERSTANDINGTHEGOSPEL.ORG

Life is precious and unpredictable.

For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them. (Ecclesiastes 9:12)

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" - yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)

Hatred is ugly and destructive.

Hatred stirs up strife (Proverbs 10:12)

There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. (Proverbs 6:16-19)

The public killing of a Christian points us back to the public killing of Christ.

The Bible tells us of another shocking day of hatred and violence, which resulted in thinly disguised murder. Jesus Christ, who "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38), was crucified and slain at the instigation of his enemies, who hated him without a cause.

The Apostle Peter, in his preaching, declared the accountability of those men who were immediately responsible, "*Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know – this Jesus . . . you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men*" (Acts 2:22-23).

But despite their culpability, there was a bigger picture – evident in the words I left out from Acts 2:22-23, "*delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God*". The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ was intentional, eternally planned by God. God sent his Son into the world to offer Himself as a sacrifice to pay the price of sin and provide salvation for a world of sinners.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

When hatred explodes into murder and a Christian is killed, we should remember that dark day, long ago, when Jesus Christ was crucified by those who cried out, "*Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!*" (John 19:15).

For many, the death of Charlie Kirk is a senseless act of hatred which has only produced pain and loss. Perhaps a shaft of light in that dark picture is that such loss can remind us to pray the prayer of the Psalmist, "*So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom*" (Psalm 90:12).

EXAMPLES OF CHRISTIAN MARTYRS

The gospel of Jesus Christ has always been counter cultural. Through the centuries, men and women have died for living and preaching Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of sinners. From the first disciples giving their lives preaching about a resurrected Christ to the recent assassination of Charlie Kirk for his beliefs. Below are some examples including one very close to home!

STEPHEN c. 34–35 AD

Stephen was one of the seven deacons appointed by the apostles (Acts 6). He was accused of blasphemy for proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah. Stephen was stoned to death outside Jerusalem and is regarded as the first Christian martyr



"Lord, do not hold this sin against them"

PERPETUA 203 AD

Perpetua and Felicitas were a young noblewoman and her servant who refused to renounce Christ. They were mauled by wild beasts and executed and their diary is one of the earliest firsthand martyr accounts.



"I cannot be called anything other than what I am: a Christian"

GEORGE WISHART 1546

George Wishart was a Scottish reformer and preacher during a time of intense religious conflict in Scotland. He was burned at the stake and his execution further fueled the Scottish Reformation.



"I know surely that my soul shall with with my Saviour this night"

JIM ELLIOT 1956

Jim Elliot and the Ecuador Five were American evangelical missionaries to the Huorani tribe in Ecuador. They were speared to death on the Curaray River shortly after contacting the tribe and attempting to share the gospel with them.



"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose"

POLYCARP 155 AD

The Bishop of Smyrna was a disciple of the Apostle John. He was martyred for refusing to curse Christ and worship Caesar. He was burned and stabbed when the fire failed to kill him.



"86 years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King and Saviour?"

WILLIAM TYNDALE 1536 AD

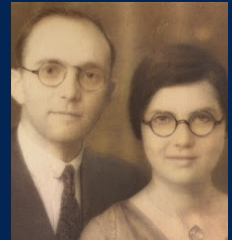
William Tyndale was an English scholar and priest best known for translating the Bible into English. Tyndale believed that everyone should be able to read the Bible in their own language. Tyndale was arrested, executed and his body burned.



"Lord, open the King of England's eyes!"

JOHN AND BETTY STAM 1934

John and Betty Stam were American Christian missionaries who served in China during the early 1930s. They were captured by Communist soldiers during a period of civil unrest. Refusing to renounce their faith, the Stams were executed by beheading.



"The cost of discipleship is great, but the reward of knowing Christ intimately is worth it all"

GRAHAM STAINES 1999

Graham Staines was an Australian missionary who worked in India for over 30 years, serving people with leprosy. He and his two young sons, were killed when attackers set fire to his vehicle because of his Christian faith and missionary work



"Do not give up hope, pray for India."

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST: **LIVES CHANGED BY DISCOVERING TRUE CHRISTIANITY**

Join us for this series of 7 studies in the bible book of John.

These sessions are aimed at people who want to find out more about true Christianity. They will be informal and involve small group discussion.

30th October

A CONFUSED MINISTER

6th November

A DESPERATE WOMAN

13th November

A NEEDY CROWD

20th November

A LIFELONG LOSER

27th November

A GRIEVING FAMILY

4th December

AN ANXIOUS POLITICIAN

8pm - 9pm

(including refreshments)

Riverside Christian Assembly
Mugiemoss Road
Aberdeen

11th December

A DEMANDING SCEPTIC

GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE:

Steve: 07778473386

contact.riversideassembly@gmail.com

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Get in touch if you would like

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

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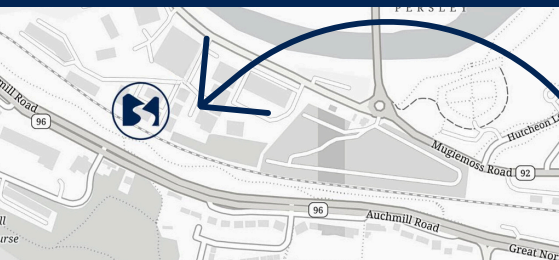
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