

In the Barn!

Barney's Newsletter



No. 4 – April 17th

Faith

My Lord And My God

Faith is an often misunderstood concept in our society. Australians often think faith means believing the unbelievable or some similar concept. This could not be further removed from a Biblical understanding of faith. Faith means 'to trust' or 'rely', and therefore what matters when thinking through faith is the object of one's faith. That is, when we think about faith we need to ask – what are we placing our faith in? In truth, all people have faith in something. Often Australians will say that they don't have faith, they trust in science. Translated this simply means that they have placed their faith in observing the universe, which depending on what they are doing could be a good or bad thing.

The second aspect of faith after thinking about the object of faith – is hope. What do we hope the object of our faith will bring to us? In John's gospel when Thomas

declares to Jesus after the resurrection, My Lord and My God and when he declares his faith in Jesus, he also declares his hope for the resurrection. To place your faith in Jesus is to place your trust in Jesus to give you eternal life. This is what it means to place our faith in Jesus, that in Jesus' death God has paid for our sins and restored us to a right relationship with Himself so that we will live forever with Him.

Christian faith is not irrational or based in reckless superstition. Instead Christians trust that God has faithfully told us the truth through the eye-witness of the first century disciples. Christians ground their faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ because we trust God's word to us. Our only hope is the resurrection of Jesus! And having heard the good news of Christ's resurrection, Christians declare with the same great hope as Thomas did about Jesus all that time ago – My Lord and My God!

In Christ, Adam.

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How are you going?

By Nicky Gangemi

and outings and I adore talking to, hugging, and generally being around people. So as you can imagine, I've found isolation and social distancing really tough. My plans and regular routines have gone out the window, life feels very different now. I do my parenting at home, I work from home, I relax at home, I exercise at home, I am doing basically everything at home. And for someone who does not really like being stuck at home, it's been hard. And so I've found myself having negative thoughts.

What about you? How are you finding this period of staying at home for the safety of others?

In the midst of it all, I have had a few close friends and family members who I have been able to talk to, on the phone, via text message and even via video call who I have been able to be honest with. It hasn't always been easy – crying on-screen with a friend is hard, because all you want is a hug from them (I resorted to hugging a pillow instead – it was a relatively ok substitute...nice and soft and squishy!). But talking to people has been really helpful and has helped to lift my eyes from just being sad about my current circumstances. And whilst we have chatted about COVID-19 related things, it also really helps to talk about things that are not related to the current crisis. Maybe a good book you've been reading, a project you're working on, a fun memory you have – just something that is not

related to our current circumstances, something that brings you joy and makes you smile.

It's also been really great to log onto church and Bible study each week and see Joe, Dave and Adam's familiar faces and also members of our Barney's church family. If you are able to do this, I can highly recommend it, but if not, why not have a phone call with just one other person from church. You can read the Bible together, discuss some points from the

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passage, pray for each other and share how you're finding life. Connection is important and so asking yourself "how am I going?" and asking someone else "how are you going?" is so important.

Who can you ask today?



thoughts in these last few months as we have been moved towards more and more strict lockdown rules and social distancing.

"Lockdown. Isolation. Being stuck inside the confines of my house and backyard. Not being able to see friends. Missing family. I don't know if I can do this for much longer. I just need a hug. *tears*... Working out how to function. Being stressed that I can't buy normal groceries. Wondering when this will end. *more tears*... This sucks."

I've had a lot of time to feel negative

Some of you probably don't know me at all – so let me introduce myself – I'm Nicky, wife to Steve, mum to Hayley (who is now in heaven with Jesus) and to Reuben (who is a joyful little [almost] two-year-old) and we have a baby on the way due in late September. I work part-time as a writer for the Salvation Army and I love people, I'm a huge planner, I always want to be busy with events

Forgetting the Anzac Spirit

By Adam Richards

Anzac Day reminds us of the defeat of evil.

tears of those who did so much to defeat evil.

This weekend Australia commemorates Anzac Day, a day to remember the sacrifices of those who have given their lives for the sake of the nation. Having had a grandfather who spent the war in a Nazi concentration camp, the day reminds me of the importance of the sacrifice many made to defeat of evil. Though honouring the spirit and fortitude of those who gave so much for the nation, the nation appears to wilfully forget the reasons these men fought. Many commit similar crimes and evil through abortion, sexual immorality and hatred of their fellow man whilst claiming to honour the blood, sweat and

We live in a faithless nation who attempts to cover its degeneracy thought he creation of Anzac myth and the perfect Australian. We hear the words, ‘Lest We forget’, whilst forgetting the line comes from Kipling’s poem about the eternal Kingdom of God. Contemporary Australia is totally faithless and by and large has forgotten the God who defines and teaches us about the evil of man. Australians have created a myth on Anzac Day to forget the avery evil they commit whilst commemorating its defeat.

Should Christians commemorate Anzac Day. Yes! But we should not accept the myth Australians have created around the day to

ignore the true evil our society continues to commit, an evil that closely mirrors the very evil the Anzac’s gave so much to defeat. We should remember the sacrifice of men who died to defeat true evil, for it is good and right to fight against evil. But most of all because it honours the sacrifice of so many men who believed God’s grace and who believed in God’s defeat of man’s evil in Christ.

Commemorating the defeat of evil is a good thing. Paul reminds us in Philipians 4:8:

“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise—dwell on these things.”

We should be thankful for those who gave their life to defeat evil as it reminds of God’s defeat of evil. Having just celebrated Easter and God’s defeat of all evil through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross reminds us of the importance of giving one’s life for a noble cause. Sacrificing one’s life in the defeat of evil is noble as our Lord and Saviour has done that on our behalf. And as we remember and honour the men who gave their lives in the defeat in evil, let us also faithfully remember the King who gave his life to defeat all evil.

Jesus Trial Find-A-Word

Anzac	Faith	Incarnation	Thomas
Belief	Faithless	Lord	Trust
Chuck	God	Resurrection	Truth
Carlson	Good	Sacrifice	Victory
Evil	Hope	Spirit	

Q D E C K X U X D L D Y D C J
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