

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 18 – July 26th



Home Alone – Still

are numerous CDs being played more often now. They range from Hymns, Classical music, Andre' Reiu's music, Handel's Messiah, the Soprano Great Bradman, (Don Bradman's granddaughter) and devotional songs and music. Sometimes I walk around the room singing and lifting up my hands to praise the Lord, (Psalm 134) which is a great time of worship.

Further along the lounge room there is the TV. Not a great deal to watch although I did see a programme on how to cook on channel 33 at 7pm. There are many DVDs and I have just finished watching again the 22 episodes of Foyle's War.

Next there is the kitchen table on which there is a Bible, Every Day with Jesus Bible Notes, the AAPB prayer book and my list of daily prayers. Sometimes I'm

Let me share with you an imaginary visit I received to to show my visitor around my home. I saw the visitor arrive and we meet at the letter box. There were some letters. It is nice when people think enough of you to put something in the mail, even if they only want your money.

When entering the house the first room is the lounge room where there is a CD player. There

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The Closet Macionite in Church

Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it.



responding
to who God
reveals Himself
to be, he was telling
God what he should be
like!

Christians trust God's revelation of the history of the salvation of His people through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Bible from its first page till its last tells of this history. And though Biblical revelation finished with the death of Jesus' first followers, church history has not! Marcion lived within the next generation of Christian followers. Though claiming to be Christian, he disliked a lot of what the Bible had to say and so cut out sections he believed did not reflect what he thought God should be like. He disavowed the Old Testament and large parts of the New. In effect, Marcion created his own Bible through which he sought to control God. Instead of

As we continue our series in Matthew at Barneys, it now turns to Jesus' sermon on the Mount. One of the noticeable things reading Matthew's gospel is his insistence on Jesus being the true fulfilment of Israel as described in the Old Testament. Christians though believing this, often will not understand how the Old Testament fits with the New Testament. For instance, the location of Jesus' sermon invokes God's giving of the Ten Commandments at Mt Sinai to Israel. This conveys the idea of the creation of a new covenant people similar to that when God spoke to Israel at Mt. Sinai. The sermon itself refers back to many

Old Testament passages showing the power of God's law, but in many cases re-interprets it to show its true goal. The New Testament makes no sense without the Old. Jesus makes no sense without His Old Testament.

For Jesus and those first century Christians, the Old Testament was the Bible. When speaking to His detractors, Jesus says in Matthew 22:31, 'But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you!'. Jesus goes on to quote an Old Testament passage that was written 1400 years earlier. He says that God is speaking to the people of His day with those very same words. Yet for many Christians today the Old Testament remains closed. It is God's Word to us as it was to Jesus and the first disciples, yet if we never read it we become just like Marcion. By ignoring parts of the Bible, we tell God what He should be like instead of responding to who He is.

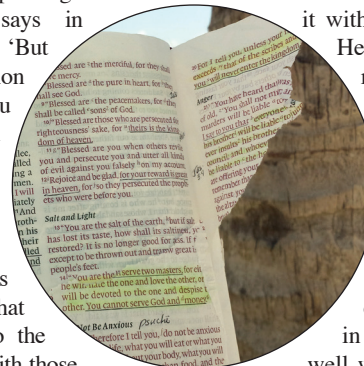
The Old Testament is hard work for Christians living in 20th Century Australia. Its culture, its practices, all the contexts through which it was given are worlds away from our

current cultural context. To understand what God spoke to us now, nearly 3400 years ago takes hard work. In a culture constantly enticed by the cheap and easy thrill, having many pleasant distractions and pressures, mustering the energy and will to do this work can seem impossible. In one of Job's responses he speaks about the search for wisdom, contrasting it with the task of a miner.

He points out how hard man will work for the treasures of the earth, then goes on to imply how little man seeks wisdom found in God (Job 28). Seeking to understand the whole counsel of God found in both Testaments is well worth the work, but it takes commitment. Are we willing to forgo some of our distractions to make that possible? I leave you with Jesus' words to Martha when she asked for help with her tasks.

"The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her."

(Luke 10:41–42 CSB17)



amazed at the thoughts which cross my mind when I read the Bible. When last reading about Adam and Eve being tempted by the Devil and the words, “and she ate it” followed by “and he ate”. I thought what a pity they did not keep their mouths shut, but they didn’t and we know the consequences.

Now we come to the kitchen. This is where I tried to cook what I saw on the TV show. One sliced potato, half a sliced onion with 5 eggs. Most of it is cooked on low heat. I looked

at what I had cooked. On the TV it was all nicely together and lovely golden brown colour. Mine did not look like that. ON the TV the Omelette slid gracefully from the pan to the plate. Mine stuck. I knew it was well cooked and it provided lunch for the next couple of days. I told my next door neighbour, Merciel, about it. She told me she often cooks that Omelette and next time she will show me what she does. Perhaps I may yet see my golden brown Omelette slide gracefully from pan to plate.

The back room is used as a study. There is a computer

which is a glorified typewriter as I am not online. Solitaire receives a good workout. The 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle I did many weeks ago is about to be packed up. I have found a 500 piece puzzle to do next. There are books on the book shelves. I have just read again Canon Jim Gennon’s book based on his experience of the Healing Ministry at St’ Andrew’s Cathedral. At present I am reading, “The Fight” by John White which is a reminder of whom we are up against when becoming Christian.

Before my visitor leaves I ask whether they have heard about the two men discussing which was the most potent Whisky, Irish or Scotch? One man said to the other, ‘Definitely Irish Whisky!’ ‘Why?’, said the other, ‘What makes you say that?’ ‘Well the other Saturday night my wife and I had a bottle of Irish Whiskey and the next morning attended 7am Mass.’ The other man said, ‘Many people will have a bottle of Irish Whiskey on Saturday night and the next morning attend 7am Mass.’ ‘Yes!’, responded the first man, ‘But you see, we are Jewish!’

It was nice to have an imaginary visitor and I look forward to having a real and proper visits any time, so until then, every blessing John Mason.



Find-A-Word - Cooking

Biblical	Gathering	Marcion	Potato
Blessing	History	Ministry	Proleptic
Cathedral	Interpret	Neighbour	Testament
Commandment	Irish	New	Whiskey
Consequences	Jesus	Old	
Cook	Law	Pan	
Creation	Listening	Plate	

K G P X Z S N L A C I L B I B
I K D R T C Y E W H I S K E Y
C R S L O L L N I C X F N E W
R Q I E O L T A O G S U S E J
E C H S C H E E R I H P R J K
A Z O J H N G P S D C B X E O
T M O M I G E N T T E R O X O
I N I T M N N U I I A H A U C
O E Y N A A T I Q N C M T M R
N P S R I T N E R E E G E A Y
A R L N O S O D R E S T A N C
P R W A L T T P M P H N S V T
G K I C T A S R U E R T O I O
Z Q T V F E M I Y G N E A C L
G N I S S E L B H Y X T T G K