

# *In the Barn!*

## *Barneys Newsletter*



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## A Solid Foundation



rock, and another who built his house on a foundation of sand. When a great storm came, the man whose house had a solid foundation of rock stood fast, while the house built on sand tumbled down. I even remember learning a song with actions to go with this story, that I'm sure I sang regularly (and probably my parents regretted teaching me)! As a child I remember being taught that the point of this story was that God was the solid foundation – that if my life was built on him, I wouldn't fall.

**by Elise  
Brake**

**W**ere you someone who grew up in a Christian family, or attended Sunday School as a child? One of the classic stories I remember being taught as a child, and one which stuck with me vividly, was the story of the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7. It's a simple tale of two men: one who built his house on a foundation of

However, David's sermon on Sunday made me realise there is a lot more to this story than I was taught as a child. We need to understand this story with the knowledge that Jesus "is the one appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead" (Acts 10:42). The ultimate storm that we need to be prepared for is the coming judgement that we will all face. This puts all

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# Elections Matter

by Adam Richards

Without Jesus' gospel, no hope exists for anyone.

Everybody knows that the only topics not to bring up at the family BBQ is religion and politics. That was not a maxim my family paid any heed. Growing up meant talking about politics. My family would discuss politics all the time and we would talk about how the government policies of the day would affect our family. They were not the most in-depth conversations, but I knew growing up that elections had consequences. And like any person who grows up hearing a topic, I thought it normal to talk the things I heard, in the way I heard it.

So it comes as some surprise

to me that people don't want to talk about politics today. Added to this surprise is the idea within the Christian community that we don't want to talk about politics, as it's beneath the Christian life. Christians believe in the separation of the church and state, and so any talk of politics in Church will often be frowned upon. But I've noticed that the state doesn't share our reluctance to interfere in church, happily telling churches what they can and can't do when it suits them. The current COVID restrictions being a case in point. This is not an argument as to the rightness or wrongness of those restrictions, just an acknowledgement that the state has taken the right to tell churches how to conduct themselves. Churches in Australia and around the world for their own reasons have largely complied. Having now complied in this case, we would be fools if we think that governments won't tell churches how to act in the future for the

greater good or more importantly their agenda.

As you may or may not be aware, America elects a new president in November. Australians living so far away from America often fail to realise just how much America shapes our culture. Realising this truth, I began watching American politics for trends that will soon come our way. There are some troubling policies that have largely gone unnoticed in Australia that could have massive effects on Christians both in the United States and the rest of the world. There are Christians in America sounding the alarm on a proposed bill, called the Equality Bill, which most likely will be used compel the speech of Christian institutions to accept gender transition.

Christians need to be praying at this time for our brothers in the U.S. God is sovereign, but God's sovereignty often works through his people standing for the truth. Christians must be willing to fight for the right to preach the gospel. Compelled speech would restrict gospel proclamation as the Equality Bill would enshrine the right of people to object to language that offends their feelings. Christians preach truth even when it's not

popular. Sinful people will always find the gospel offensive. Any piece of legislation that enshrines man's feelings as its legal standard will curtail gospel proclamation, which by its very nature offends sinful man's feelings.

A group of us spoke to an Australian who had ministered in America for quite some time. After spending years ministering there he told us, 'No-one understands America. You only begin to understand it when you realise you never will.' Taking this piece of advice very seriously, I realised I don't know what will happen there this election. The outcome of the next election is uncertain. Yet no matter who wins, we must be praying that God will keep the door open for us to preach the truth of the gospel both in the U.S and in Australia. For without Jesus' gospel, no hope exists for anyone.

Preach Christ

other storms we face in life, no matter how great and painful they are, into stark perspective. To face this storm of judgement, we must have our lives built on the right foundation. This is what is at the heart of the story of the wise and foolish builders. What differs between the two men is whether they acted on Jesus words. We can't ignore Jesus' introductory words to the story, or we miss this point entirely: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt 7:24). If we hear Jesus words, we will not

go out and build our lives on any other foundation, for no other foundation will prepare us for the day of judgement.

As David preached on Sunday, the acts that come from Jesus words begin with the right relationship with God – being able to call him Father, having absolute dependence on him. This relationship is founded entirely in the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross – in dying in our place, taking our sin on himself. He faced the wrath of God that our sin deserved, and rose to life again to give us the sure hope of eternal life with him. Jesus, the judge to come, has already won us freedom, having paid for our sin with his life,

and taking on the judgement our sin deserves. If our life is built on this foundation, no matter what storms will rage on judgement day, we will be secure in him. We are also freed to live out the words of Jesus now, in light of this promised security on judgement day. We will face many storms in this life – we've been reminded of this earlier in our sermon on the mount series: that we are blessed when we are persecuted, when we suffer as Christians. We can rejoice in these storms, because of the secure hope we have in Jesus. Is your life built on this solid foundation? Are you ready for the judgement to come?

## Find-A-Word - Election

Australia	Everyone	Minister	Reluctant
Christian	Institution	Offensive	Sovereign
Community	Introductory	Persecuted	Transition
Consequences	Judgement	Proclamation	Understand
Culture	Massive	Realise	

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

## PRAYER POINTS



Please send through points for yourself. I will also pick up points from around Barneys to place here if others feel comfortable sharing.

- Give thanks for our nation and our leaders. Pray that they will make wise decisions at this time.
- Pray for Nigeria where the persecution against Christian ministers continues unabated.