

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 30 – October 19th

Sex Drugs and Hoplessness

relationship to illegal drugs.

Even a few chapters in, I'm surprised at the bleakness of the picture painted by the book. Hitchens believes that the increased use of drugs in society correlates to increased sense of helplessness within the society, and therefore the drugs serve a form of escapism. Aldus Huxley's *Brave New World* portrays a society given over to sex, drugs and vain entertainment. Hitchens makes the comparison to his own society and notes the parallels somewhat despairingly.

As much as I like to listen to Peter Hitchens, his outlook on life can at times be quite bleak. He has little hope for his nation, and despairs of its leaders inability to see past their own noses. This does not mean that Peter Hitchens is a man without hope, but he has lost hope for the future of his nation. He places his hope firmly in the hereafter. Hitchens' further

Church Returns

8am Sunday
18th October

Call Adam
on 0457 775 538

29 Spots Remain

My favourite political commentator is Peter Hitchens, brother of the famous atheist Christopher Hitchens. Peter describes himself as a Christian, Social Conservative, as well as designating himself as the official 'Obituarist of Great Britain'. I'm currently reading his book called, 'The War We Never Fought', which considers Great Britain's

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Feeling Despair

by **Elise
Brake**

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you often find yourself reflecting on the world around you and just thinking, 'why God?' When you hear of a loved one's cancer diagnosis, or of a natural disaster leaving a country in a state of chaos. When governments make decisions that fundamentally clash with your beliefs, or when friends disappoint or betray you. This year seems to have everyone asking 'why', as we adjust to a world dramatically changed by a pandemic. Where we look to for answers to our why's shapes the way we will respond: with

faith or with despair.

I don't think it's a bad thing that we question the world around us, questions flow regularly from the psalmists. God made us with intelligence and conscience – brains that are equipped to search for meaning and comprehend the world we live in. It is this quality that sets us apart from other created beings; it is part of being made in God's image. God has built within us a driving desire to know and understand, with the ultimate purpose of drawing us to himself. We were made to know him and live for him, to understand our existence in light of His created purposes for

us. When we ask 'why God' in faith, we are acknowledging that we do not have all the answers, but that we know and trust in our God who does know all things.

However, our desire to know and understand is also tainted by our sinful nature. We are tempted to look elsewhere apart from God to find answers to our deepest questions. You don't have to look far in the world or in history or in the Bible to see how the arrogance of man has driven him away from the search for God into idolatry and destruction. We can be tempted, in hard-to-comprehend situations, to think "if only I knew why this was happening, I could fix it". Or we might be tempted to think "if I just knew the future, then I could be secure in my life now".

This never works though, because we were not made to separate our why's from our knowledge of God and relationship with him. There are things in this life that we will never have answers for, because unlike God, we do not see life from

creation to eternity and the intricate tapestry in which he is working out his good purposes. Without God to cry out to with our why's, we are left in despair.

If we put all our energy into the quest for understanding, we will never find the rest, peace and security we are looking for. However, as Christians we can find rest in our good God who rules this world for his glory and is working for good even in the hardest to understand circumstances. Our faith is not blind faith, but we have



confidence knowing that God has saved us and promised us eternal life with him. As we wait with this knowledge, we may be wish we had the answers, but we also trust in the One who does. We can pray these words from Psalm 62:5-

7: 'For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God'.

demonstrates that the nation as a whole share its leaders inability to think through the issues plaguing it. Many within the culture live for the moment, and those not enjoying the moment can turn to drugs in order to ease the hopelessness they feel.

Genuine hopelessness is a terrible thing. Within my life, I think I have only ever genuinely seen hopelessness twice. Both people have become engrained in my mind, as I don't think I have witnessed anything so sad. To get a picture of the type of life-sapping sadness hopelessness can bring, consider Psalm

88. Without hope, there is no genuine way to live. People can manufacture hope, we can create false hope, but without any hope, people will not live long.

Elise writes a great article dealing with pain of suffering, reminding us of the hope we should all share as Christians. God's great gift to us in Christ is the sure of hope of the resurrection. The resurrection spurs Christians on through this life amongst its many struggles and strifes. Without the hope of the resurrection, there is no point to the pain and suffering of this world. They become a burden to escape. Society appears to be search for an escape to a problem that it has not realised

plagues it. In the bleakness and drudgery of life some turn to drugs as an escape, others sex, and others the banality of endless streaming, not realising they have moved from one cage to another. God answers man's hopelessness in the resurrection of Christ, and as His people we have the immense privilege to tell others about it. But has the world so ensured us that we have given into the wanton sensuality Paul warned against?

Eph. 4:19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

In Christ, Adam.

Find-A-Word

Circumstances	Eternal	Purpose	Society
Comprehend	Genuine	Question	Strife
Confidence	Hopelessness	Resurrection	Ultimate
Destruction	Immense	Shaken	Understand
Energy	Nature	Sinful	World

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

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 the ability to return to Church on the 18th of October. Pray that we will continue to encourage each other in the Lord as we begin services over the coming weeks.