

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 10 – May 30th



How do you Feel?

Feelings are such strange things. After a conversation I had last night, I'm feeling quite reflective today, as I've wrestled with a bout of melancholy this week. There are quite a few long term projects that I've been working away at, and the melancholy I'm feeling is the result of not getting anywhere with any of them. The reason I bring this up, is the person I was talking too was experiencing similar feelings, for quite different reasons and was just sad about their situation.

As we spoke about the particular situation this person was experiencing and working through it, I realised in a strange way that God was also gently working on me through them. This week in

Elise Brake's piece, which is well worth reading, she reflects upon Psalm 73. The psalm recounts a bout of melancholy as the psalmist looks at life and asks, 'Why God?' The psalm turns at verse 17 when the psalmist enters the presence of God, and then reflects upon their situation from God's perspective.

I'm getting ready to do a series of talks for university in the coming weeks on prayer. I've been thinking again about the role of prayer in the Christian walk. I've come to realise that one of prayer's great benefits is its ability to lift us out of the moment. Prayer forces our eyes to God and allows us to reflect upon our situations and feelings with a different perspective. Paul focuses on prayer in one of the great Bible passages that stirs the heart.

"Rejoice in the Lord always.

Your Links to Barneys

www.barneysingleburn.com/livestream

www.facebook.com/Stbarnabasingleburn/

Email: office@barneysingleburn.com

Have You Ever Asked, 'Why God?'

by Elise Brake

him, that he promises to provide for his people. But the psalmist looks out at the world, where corrupt and evil people seem to prosper, while good people suffer. In the midst of his own suffering and loneliness, he begins to question the point of living a godly life in a seemingly unjust world. 'Did I purify my heart and wash my hands in innocence for nothing?' (v.13). Every day feels like it brings new punishments for him; yet people who reject God have health and wealth and flaunt their prosperity: 'Look at them—the wicked! They are always at ease, and they increase their wealth... For I am afflicted all day long and punished every morning' (v.12,14). The psalmist tries to understand why life is this way, but is left deeply troubled, unable to find an answer.

However, then the psalmist's perspective shifts, as he begins to see life in light of God's eternal plan.

However, then the psalmist's perspective shifts, as he begins to see life in light of God's eternal plan. 'I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny (v.17).' He remembers that God will bring evil to judgement, and prosperity now is but a fleeting shadow: 'Those far from you will certainly perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you' (v.27). The psalmist recognises

glory' (v.27). His doubt turns into certain hope, that God is goodness itself and that nothing in this life is better than knowing him. 'Who do I have in heaven but you? And I desire nothing on earth but you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever' (v.25-26).

member is seriously ill, or when the loneliness of social isolation feels unbearable? Do you find yourself questioning whether God really is good to his people, or feel envy toward those who seem to be prospering while everyone else is suffering? I want to encourage you to read Psalm 73.

Psalm 73 begins with a statement of confidence: 'Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart' (v.1). The psalmist knows in his heart that God is good to those who love

During this time of global pandemic, have you ever found yourself asking "Why God"? Perhaps it has been as you have seen the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths ever-rising on the news. Maybe it has been walking the aisles of a supermarket, surrounded by shoppers with trolleys overflowing with enough food to last months, while you ran out of toilet paper days ago. Or has it been when you have lost your job, a beloved family



*I will say
it again:
Rejoice! Let
your graciousness
be known to everyone.*

*The Lord is near. Don't
worry about anything, but in
everything, through prayer
and petition with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.
And the peace of God, which
surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and
minds in Christ Jesus."*

Paul's exhortation to the
Philippians to rejoice comes
as he finds himself in Roman
shackles. It is not a mindless
exhortation despite the
circumstances, but a gentle
reminder that our current
circumstances need to be
framed against God's cosmic
act of redemption. We can get
so lost thinking about what we

can, could or should be doing,
that we lose sight of what God
has done for us in Jesus.

Our feelings can suck us
down into the moment and in
the seeming drudgery of life
we lose sight of the bigger
picture. The call to rejoice
exhorts us not to forget the
situations and feelings we
may be experiencing, but to
place them within the greater
framework of God's great love
for us. It calls us to remember
the death and resurrection of
Jesus Christ for the forgiveness
of our sins, a gift greater than
we could possibly imagine and
reflect upon the moment in the
light of Him. I pray that you
have great week in Him.

In Christ,
Adam.

John Mason Asks...

A confused
mother
writing to
her son:



About your
father,
he has a lovely new job. He
has five hundred men under
him. He is cutting grass at the
cementary.

There was a washing machine
in the new house when we
moved in, but it isn't very good.
Last week I put fourteen shirts
in it, pulled the chain, and I
haven't seen the shirts since.

Your father didn't have much to
drink at Christmas. I put a bottle
of castor oil in his pint of beer.
It kept him going until New
Year's day.

P.S I was going to send you ten
dollars, but I had already sealed
the envelope.

Find-A-Word

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

Anger	Justice
Bad	Meaningless
Biscuit	Meeting
Castor	Melancholy
Church	Morning
Coffee	Oil
Confusion	Prayer
Emotion	Rejoice
Enough	Relationship
Envelope	Return
Faith	Screens
Feelings	Situation
Forgiveness	Soon
Frustration	Sorrow
Government	State
Had	Supper
Hollow	Tea
Jesus	Together
Jump	Zoom