

# Searching for Normal

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fully appreciated by many in the community as fear still drives much of the public debate surrounding the measures taken to curb the impact of the disease. And we have been willing to accept the measures taken because this is not normal.

been normal for vast stretches of human history. Much of the society's reaction to the disease has come because we have not lived under the constant threats of death and disease that have plagued man throughout his history.

But the truth is, the general prosperity and security experienced by the West with the associated increases in the standard of living have not

The Bible reminds Christians that the true normal of this creation is death and decay, and that the end we should truly long for has not yet come. The end of Revelation paints a picture of



God's new creation, one truly free of death and disease. That's the one God calls us to long for, that's the one where Christians should place their hope. And so as we experience this pandemic, Christians like their brothers and sisters throughout the ages need to cry – Come Lord Jesus Come!

## Evangelism Made Easy

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Don't feel bad if people say 'no' to watching something. Remember people might check out the website later for interest sake. Also, mention Joe's daily devotionals on Youtube, as they are a short concise explanation of the Bible that might interest people.

We do want to return to meeting together, and when this time ends we will come together in praise of God. May I suggest this article at [au.thegospelcoalition.org](http://au.thegospelcoalition.org) called 'online church isn't the ideal, don't get used to it'. As David keeps reminding us - 'Everything has changed, but nothing has changed.' Though the world has changed, the gospel has not. Let us use this opportunity to preach the gospel.

# In the Barn!

## Barney's Newsletter



No. 2 – April 3rd

## Searching for the Normal at the End

The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own' or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life – the life God is sending one day by day: what one calls one's 'real life' is a phantom of one's own imagination. *C.S. Lewis*

The current sermon series has been eerily timed given the Corona-virus crisis

hoping for a reason to get out of the house, I'm sure many of us have been wondering when this will end. This will end eventually – surely in three, six or twelve months from now! Then we will get back to normal – right?

“what one calls one's 'real life' is a phantom of one's own imagination.”

It has been fascinating talking to people this week as the full impact of how the current crisis continues to disrupt their lives and the right hopes they share about it ending. More than likely though, we are still far from certain how our lives will be affected by the Coronavirus and the societal quarantine. Certainly some disturbing issues about the loss of civil liberties have not been

and the world economic shutdown enforced as a response to it. As we sit and contemplate our new existence,

### Your Links to Barney's

[www.barneysingleburn.com/livestream](http://www.barneysingleburn.com/livestream)  
[www.facebook.com/Stbarnabasingleburn/](https://www.facebook.com/Stbarnabasingleburn/)

Email: [leonie.russell@barneysingleburn.com](mailto:leonie.russell@barneysingleburn.com)



## Words from Revelation

Magog	Dragon	Seals	Judgement
Gog	Beast	Nations	God
Trumpets	Jesus	Merchants	Holy Spirit
Babylon	Lamb	World	Worship
Harlet	Elders	Heavens	Come Lord
Prostitute	Messengers	Throne	Jesus
Zion	Angels	River	
Jerusalem	Censers	Life	

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

# Evangelism

## Made Easy - As Simple as 1,2,3!



The current crisis will be with us for a while, and though presenting plenty of challenges – it does create some unique opportunities.

Many people have a Netflix subscription, which fills their inboxes with the latest picks for them to watch. But how many re-runs can a person bare!

There is that new series everyone raves about (over social media) – ok that covers another 10-12 hours - what then? Why not invite them to watch something more substantial. Invite your friends to come to church - [www.barneysingleburn.com/livestream](http://www.barneysingleburn.com/livestream), use the QR code below.

Church online does have its issues, and we should not ignore them. We should meet, and personally I am looking forward to meeting together once again as a church family in the flesh. But the current circumstances have created evangelism opportunities, which make it easy to

invite others to hear the gospel. Here are some things we could be doing to evangelise our neighbours.

1. Pray - Prayer is always the first step in evangelism. God creates Christians. Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians that we are a new creation. The implication of being a new creation in Christ is that the only person capable of creating is God, therefore we ask God to work in people to trust Jesus. Paul often calls on Christians to call for opportunities to preach the gospel, and though we are now doing church through the internet, we need to praying that God will bring people to know Him through His Son.
2. Ask people what they are watching. Everyone is now at home in

quarantine, even with work they are most likely going to be watching more T.V. Not everyone can livestream, though most people these days have the ability to watch streamed material, even if they don't know it. So ask them what they are watching. This will not be an invasive question now as most people don't have much to do with their free time. As you talk to people about what they are watching, it is a great opportunity to suggest the Barney's livestream.

3. Invite people out for a virtual coffee. For the more adventerous, have a coffee over the internet, there are plenty of free tools allowing us to meet online. The longer this quarantine continues, the more people will long for personal contact. When talking to people have something with the Barney's web address to easily share available. The QR code with this artile will lead people to the webiste.

‘Everything has changed, but nothing has changed.’

Lately T.V had become a bit of a bore to me. In fact the aerial where we live has not worked for a long-time, creating intermittent and distorted images courtesy of the new and improved digital signals the networks beam into our homes. And though we have asked the real estate agent to have someone fix it, the landlord has stubbornly fixed every other problem except the T.V aerial. I have not been all that concerned though, as the few times I could be bothered to watch terrestrial T.V. (mainly to watch sport), we receive nothing but the constant hectoring of incessant advertisements. And so given internet streaming, we unplugged from the terrestrial networks long ago, probably for better.

