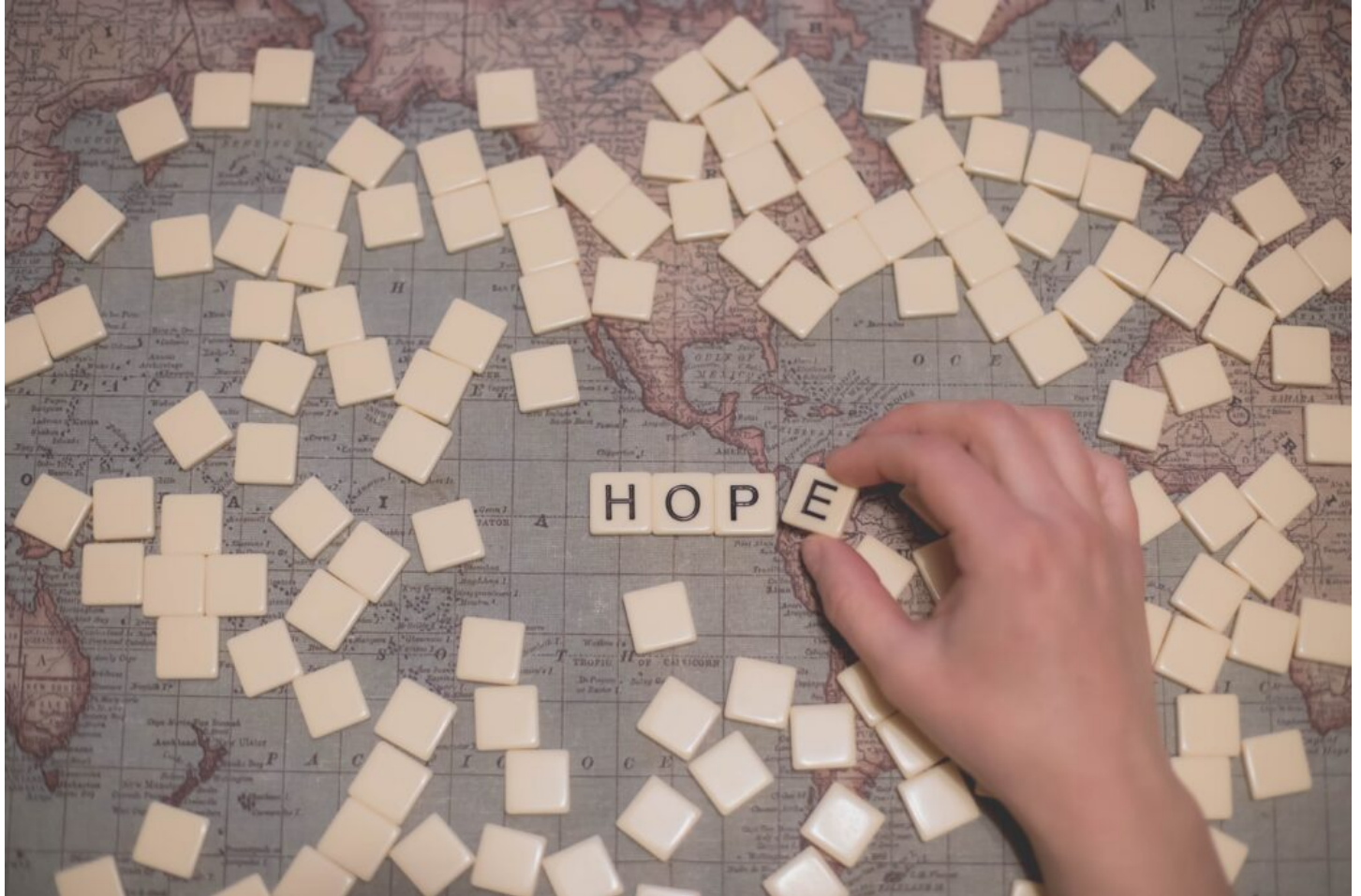


The End...?

April 13, 2022

By Paul Graham



I've been struck recently about the gift of the Christian faith when it comes to death and resurrection. At Easter, we are immediately drawn to the central and essential story of Jesus, his death on the cross on Good Friday and his resurrection from the tomb on Easter Sunday. So far, so good.

But how about the other deaths and resurrections of the Easter story?

Consider Peter. When he denied knowing Jesus, a part of him will have died. His loyalty, for instance. His confidence, even. What happened to the brash man who had stridently declared that Jesus, his constant companion, was no less than the long-awaited messiah? What had become of the man who had served bread and fish to more than 5,000 picnickers, and witnessed countless miracles, even performing a few when sent out by Jesus? Reduced to denials and curses, brought down by fear and panic. And so, Peter died.

But then we read of his own resurrection. Jesus restores him after breakfast by the lake. Peter had stayed in his metaphorical tomb for far longer than Jesus, but his resurrection to Jesus' side was no less miraculous. The sufficient and saving grace, the eternal forgiveness, of Jesus resurrected Peter even as those around finished their fish.

And what of our own "deaths" and "resurrections"? Do we need to know the same as Peter? Do we need to

understand that no matter how deep we bury ourselves, how far we fall, Jesus is there to meet us and restore us? We may feel like we cannot breathe, but Jesus breathes life into us afresh.

The Easter story is one of hope; there is always something more for us all. Even Peter, lost and alone, far even from the few who gathered at the foot of the cross, has the chance of redemption.

Equally, we read of one of Jesus' neighbours on the cross. The man whose past is unknown to us but whose future is secured when he begs not to be forgotten by the dying Jesus. Jesus' words bring comfort and hope to a man condemned by the world. Do we also need to hear those same words of comfort and hope? No need for fanfares, not even the requirement for church membership and baptism (perish the thought!). Just the call of the condemned and the response of the saviour. Grace wins. Love wins. There is always hope.

We are reminded of the cross, a constant image of death, worn by millions as jewellery and displayed in churches worldwide. Maybe we also need an open tomb to remind us that death is not the end of the story with God. An open tomb that gives us the opportunity to hold the scarred hands of Jesus as we step out of the darkness into the light again.

(Photo by [Dayne Topkin](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Will I Ever Learn?

April 13, 2022

By Rebecca Chapman



I like to think of myself as a fairly well-educated person. I have GCSE's, A-levels and a degree and a fair amount of common sense (although those who know me best may tell you otherwise!!).

Why is it then that I often don't think logically and in a sensible way when it comes to making decisions... instead I blindly stumble on by myself trying to find a solution, in the vain hope that it will sort itself out??

I have many favourite Bible verses, and passages, but was introduced to the one I find the most helpful when I attended Bible study classes with Rita Bateman when I was in my late teens (thank you, Rita!!):

Philippians 4:6:

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God'

The words of instruction and encouragement in this verse are clear and concise and have helped me through many situations, decision-making processes and changes in my life.

However, although the words of this verse are clear and easy to follow (and are ingrained on my brain) there have been many times (and still are) when I have chosen to try every other avenue to help with a given situation... because clearly I know better!! I would like to say that this process has improved as I have gotten older, but again this has not been consistent either!

Unfortunately, in some instances, my choice to 'go my own way' has led to many unnecessary sleepless nights, anxious moments, arguments and worry before I finally get to the point where I think... maybe I

should put this in God's hands... maybe I should ask him what to do... oh yes, Philippians 4:6!!!!

Why then do I not learn from my past experiences? Why do I continue to waste valuable time which I could have put to better use talking to God? The words of the Bible are clear and easy to read... aren't they?!?

Now, I am not saying that by following and adhering to the advice in this passage that there have been 'quick fixes' to my problems... on many occasions this has certainly not been the case. And on many occasions 'praying to' and 'petitioning' God has not always given the 'results' I have wanted or expected!

However, I can certainly say, looking back over the years, that the responses or guidance I have received have clearly led to me following a better path... the path that God has planned for me.

Thankfully, my journey with God is encouraged by the person who has eternal patience, love, words of encouragement and who is keen to teach me the right way. It is a life-long journey, and he expects me to make mistakes... that hopefully I will eventually learn from!!

So, maybe there is hope for me yet?!?

(Photo by [Brett Jordan](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Living In The Past

April 13, 2022

By Anne Barrable



I know I'm living in the past - you may have heard me say that Colin calls me a Luddite. I have a mobile phone which sits on the end of my bed, and all I use it for is to receive a 'meaningful' text from my sister every evening - I don't send texts myself, and I don't use the computer, so I don't email.

What a simple, easy life I lead, but where would I be without Colin, who does all these things for me? My old-fashioned way of conversing is to write letters, which I enjoy, and do regularly to all my family and friends (but it's beginning to cost quite a lot in postage stamps!).

Getting back to my musing...

I often wonder what is politically correct or 'Health and Safety'-wise. People say "Anne, you can't say that!", or "You can't do that!", and I'm not being unkind or even thoughtless; it's just that things have changed so much over the years.

I remember as a child going to Warley Woods to pick huge bunches of bluebells, which completely flopped by the time I got home on the bus. Years later, as a Sunday School teacher in Chelmsford, I would go to Galleywood Common to pick Pussy Willow for the children to wave on Palm Sunday (Not sure if I should have done that even then!).

Going back to my Guiding days, when going off to camp we would all pile into the back of an open-backed lorry and ride with the tents and equipment. Then as a 16-year-old I went dancing in Romford every Saturday night and was never transported or collected to keep me safe - I went on the bus! I'm sure you have equally important memories of your own which you cherish.

Now, I confess I like watching repeats of 'Heartbeat' on the TV while preparing our evening meal. I know the storylines are sometimes silly, but I love the scenery, the 60's music they play throughout, and I love the way the police are always in evidence, and the doctor is always on call whenever she is needed. So,

you see, in many ways I love living in the past. Can anyone please help me to move on?

My recent contribution to our previous church's magazine (I still write every month) was a rather negative article - 'Where is the church going? People are not coming forward to take on jobs, etc.'

Then I read a piece from the Chief Executive of Evangelical Alliance[\[1\]](#), and whilst I agree with some of what he was saying about how things have changed, and how 'online church' has its uses, especially for the housebound, I personally do not like sitting in my living room in front of the TV screen for a service. I believe an important part of worship is having others around me with whom I can share - is this yet another instance of me wanting to live in the past?

[\[1\]](#) "Don't Write Off The Church Just Yet" published in The Times 29th January 2022 - web version here: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dont-write-off-the-church-just-yet-ldb053fp>

(Photo by [Towfiqu barbhuiya](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Everybody Needs Good Neighbours

April 13, 2022

By Paul Graham



It was two years and a lifetime ago today that the first lockdown of COVID-19 was announced by Boris Johnson^[1], schools moved lessons online, people started counting toilet rolls, and facemasks rapidly became part of everyday wear. At the time, I remember conversations that sounded scarily akin to the early days of the world wars of the twentieth century; “It’ll be over by Easter.” How little we knew...

And yet, two years later we have seen so much change that will now become part of our future lives that the quest to return to the “normal” of 2019 is nothing more than a pipedream. Hand sanitiser, the aforementioned face masks and social distancing are probably wise precautions to tackle the annual winter flu season. We might see a continuation of the reduction in illnesses and deaths caused by winter flu, a small positive that lockdowns, isolation and a lack of movement gave us over these past two winters.

But we might also want to take into the future the growing sense of neighbourliness that the pandemic gave to us. As tragic as the deaths, the isolation, and the loss of opportunities to share in the fulness of life that COVID caused, there was an outpouring of love, community support and service that brought people together in ways that probably surprised all who took part. The COVID Community Support Group in Clare, with over a hundred volunteers supporting an almost equal number of their neighbours, showed that the human capacity for compassion hadn’t been reduced.

And we see that today, in the many responses to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. The vast amounts donated to charitable causes, the number of lorries stuffed to their limits with much-needed essentials and the number of people across Europe opening their homes to refugees, tells its own story of our drive to love. And in Ukraine, there are stories of the most challenging demonstration of love, with families supporting Russian soldiers even in the midst of the chaos caused by their bombs.^[2]

Thinking back to those strange days in March 2020, I’m reminded of those naïve thoughts about how long the pandemic would last. That phrase, “It’ll be over by Easter” must also have found its echoes in the Kremlin as the Russian forces were sent in on the understanding that it would be a short incursion.

However, this brief tussle for local control has changed the world's view of a whole nation, and not for the better in most cases. For those emerging now after two long years of the pandemic (and with cases on the rise again, we're not out of the woods yet), we've seen much of our world changed.

On that first Good Friday, the Roman authorities and the Jewish religious elite must have thought they had seen the brutal end of a short interlude by yet another person claiming to be the long-awaited Messiah. Instead, we see not the end of a brief story, but the beginning of a world-changing, life-shaping movement. At Easter, we celebrate life that brings hope in the depths of despair, love in the midst of hate, and grace that sees enemies as neighbours, strangers as friends, and God's Spirit moving the most ordinary people to do the most extraordinary things in the name of compassion.

My hope is that one day we'll learn that we don't need a pandemic or a war to be good neighbours, but until that day, may we continue to meet each challenge with hope, love, grace and mercy. Just as God meets us.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-the-nation-on-coronavirus-23-march-2020>

[2] "Tearful Russian soldier surrenders to Ukrainians who feed him and ring his mum" from The Metro 3rd March 2022:
<https://metro.co.uk/2022/03/03/ukraine-war-russian-soldier-surrenders-to-ukrainians-who-feed-him-and-ring-his-mum-16207575/>

(Photo by [Gleren Meneghin](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Perhaps I Should Have Been A Teacher

April 13, 2022

By Colin Barrable



Treble C's rehearsals have resumed - thank goodness - but have moved to the hall of Stour Valley school (where we met when I first joined).

There are a couple of trampolines folded away along the wall, and this took me back to my years working for the company which introduced trampolining to British gymnastics, led by Ted Blake, a former army physical training instructor.

Under his leadership, the company, Nissen, a subsidiary of the US company of the same name, was very successful until it got snarled up with all sorts of litigation problems - not here but in the USA, where even a drunk trampolinist was able to sue the company for damages after an accident! Ted was passionate about training, and during his time as MD, every employee was taught the basics of every job in the company, and learnt how to read a balance sheet (my first teaching role).

On a different tack, I've been thinking back to my boarding school days since I found out very recently that my good friend Bob died back in December. Bob's dementia started a while before the pandemic began. He was in a care home, and I was able to talk with him on his phone for a while, but that gradually became impractical. I made an attempt to visit after the worst of the Covid troubles, but couldn't as they had an outbreak. Then to my great regret I left it too long, and missed the chance to see him.

Bob and I, with another friend, were very close at school, and even spent holiday times together. Bob was more of a sportsman than an academic. Chris and I were really not so hot at the sport, but we three were fast friends, and whenever we met in later life, would agree that school really was a happy time, and that certain teachers were particularly inspiring and a great example for us.

When I did a few trips to Kenya with a group from our previous church, we worked with an American who was teaching subsistence farmers how to organise themselves in local groups, so that they could start to earn enough to pay for their children's secondary education. I quickly learned how important this was for the future, and it is one of the reasons why I started volunteering at our primary school here in Clare, something I found very fulfilling, until COVID-19 put a stop to it - education is the key to so much!

The Great Teacher is of course always there for us to turn to:

When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things. (Mark 6:34)

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you. (Psalm 32:8)*

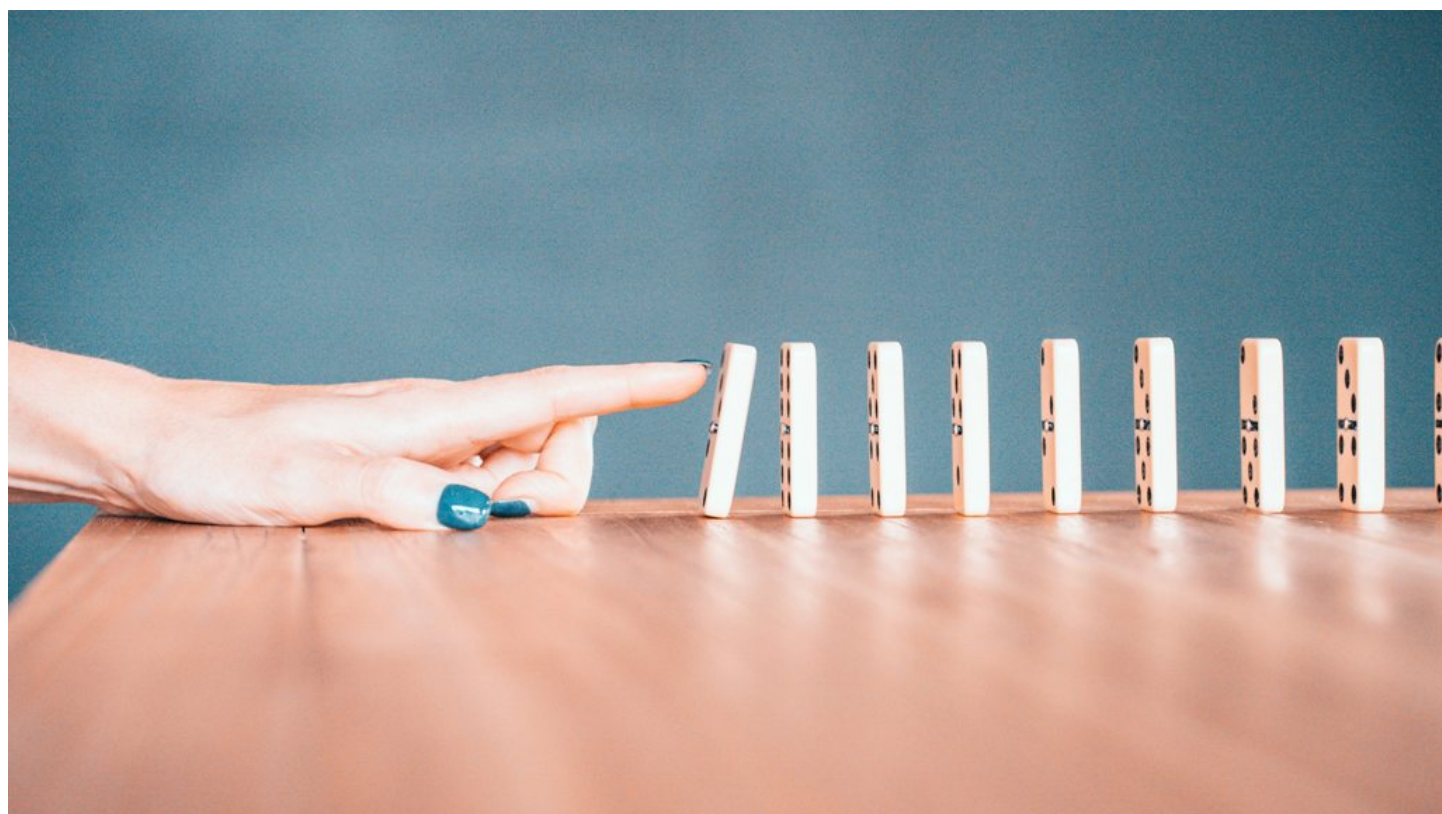
And of course, as Janet Baillie reminded us recently, Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer.

(Photo by author)

[Are You In Control Of Your Choices?](#)

April 13, 2022

By Peter Meyer



Romans 8:13 says, “For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.”

Our daily lives are full of making decisions and choices, with them comes responsibility and consequences, but often when choices turn out bad, we try shift that responsibility and consequence by blaming someone else as the cause for that decision.

(Genesis 3:12-13... Adam blamed Eve... Eve blamed the Serpent... Historically, the greatest bad decision ever!) How often we use the phrases, or hear our children say; “I had to” or “She (he) made me” or “He (she) told me to” or “Everyone else does it!” or “It’s on YouTube” as a reason why we did or did not do something?

Out of necessity we, including myself, tend to use these statements as an illusion that we are not the responsible active agent in many of our own choices so endeavour to claim someone else or media is in control, thereby relieving us of our basic responsibility and guilt. 2 Corinthians 9:7 – “Let each man do according to what he intends in his heart. Not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

To make sure we avoid making choices to give “reluctantly or under compulsion”, we need to realize that we are in control of our choices, no matter how we feel or how we are influenced by outside media or peer pressure.

Paul would not even accept a gift that he felt was given because the giver felt he “had to” give it. He once sent a gift back so “that any favour you do will be spontaneous and not forced” (Philemon 1:14). Jesus said a similar thing of the worker who was angry about the wage for which he had agreed to work: “Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?” (Matthew 20:13). The man had made a free choice to work for a certain amount and was angry because someone who had worked fewer hours had gotten the same wage.

Throughout the Scriptures, people are reminded of their choices and asked to take responsibility for them. Like Paul says, if we choose to live by the Spirit, we will live; if we choose to follow our sinful nature, we will die (Romans 8:13). Making decisions based on others’ approval or on guilt only breeds resentment, a product of our sinful nature. We have been so trained by others on what we “should” do that we think we are being loving when we do things out of compulsion.

With choices comes great responsibility and, as we are the ones who makes them, we ultimately have to live with their consequences. More often than we realize, we forget to involve God in our decisions and don’t stop to think “is this in His will or does our decision honour the Lord?” We are the ones who may be keeping ourselves from making the choices we could be happy with and the blessings that follow.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

In conclusion, the Word of God is given to us for instruction and learning in order that we may be able to make good decisions and choices according to God’s will and avoid bad consequences so that we can enjoy His blessings and fellowship.

As believers, there are two main choices:

Trusting Christ as our Saviour and learning to become like Him by following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Both have eternal consequences. Therefore, we must remember that every choice has a consequence.

All You Need Is...

April 13, 2022

By Chris Grist



A while ago, one of my friends on Facebook shared a picture of the actor Robin Williams, with the words:

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always."

I then shared it with my friends, a number of which then went on to share it with their friends. So in a short space of time, how many people actually saw the picture and read the words?

But (you should never start a sentence with 'but').... Jesus said, "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34) This goes much deeper. This is a much bigger challenge. How far would you take this? I have many friends and family who I love deeply, but when push comes to shove, how much do we really love, how far would we really go?

At the gym and Ickworth (for those of you who don't know, I volunteer for the National Trust at Ickworth, in Food and Beverage Admin), I spend much time offering that listening ear, showing care and concern,

often going that extra mile. Not having children, I don't fully relate to this, but I understand that parents would die for their children – the greatest sacrifice of all. I have had many close friends who I have given a great deal for, but we all fall short, when we consider Jesus' sacrifice for us.

At times in my life, I have loved and cared so much, that in the end, it is me who gets hurt; although, to date, I haven't had to die for anyone.

I'm sure you can all relate to this. Do be kind, do care, do love. Remember as Christians, we don't just do it; we do it to show the love that Jesus showed us and wants us to share with the world.

(Photo by [Adam Nemeroff](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Communicating

April 13, 2022

By Janet Baillie



Recently Russell bought a new mobile phone, and I inherited his old one, something we have done before without too much trouble. He knows this is the only way I will upgrade my phone; left to my own devices I

would leave it till my phone no longer worked.

This time it wasn't straight forward, and we got locked out. No problem, all we needed was a PUK code. Of course, I couldn't find any record of the said code, so we travelled into the store in Sudbury. They asked various questions, most of which I couldn't answer but eventually found the PUK code and unlocked the phone, only for us to get locked out again a couple of days later.

Back to Sudbury. I was helped by a different girl. And once again I had to answer various questions. Answers which had been correct last time were now wrong. Finally, I got a new SIM card, the phone seems to work, and I have made a note of the PUK code!

I don't use my mobile phone very often, the odd call, a few texts, a Costa app – only downloaded because it was the only way I could access the points on my Costa card, and trying to be a good citizen the NHS app. Since the phone spends a lot of its time switched off in the study I've never been pinged!

I do sometimes use Royal Mail, mainly to send various greeting cards. In order to save money when I learn that the cost of stamps is about to increase, I buy books of them at the original price. Seemingly this practise is likely to cause me a problem. By next year all stamps will have to have a bar code to be legal. Any that haven't, can be exchanged by getting a form from somewhere, filling it in and sending it to somewhere with my surplus stamps. As long as they don't get lost in the post I should be reimbursed. I'm sure I read this and didn't dream it (but if it was later in the year, I would think it was an April fool), the said bar code will contain a video that the recipient will be able to play. Presumably on a mobile phone. Really?

How relieved I am that communicating with our Heavenly Father is so much easier, no password or pin number, no fancy stamps with a barcode. Just a quiet place and simple language. Jesus tells us how to do it in Matthew 6:6-8: *'But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.'* He even gives us a pattern to use in the Lord's Prayer:

'This, then, is how you should pray:

*“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.”*

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.'

(Matthew 6:9-15)

(Photo by [Priscilla Du Preez](#) on [Unsplash](#))

The Whole Body

April 13, 2022

By Elvena Dew



I have found, since we have been hearing the sermons on discipleship each Sunday, my thoughts have persistently been drawn to 1 Corinthians 12:12-30.

In the past, as I have read these verses, I have predominantly noticed the obvious ways people serve the Lord. Our minister, those who preach, those who lead Bible studies, etc. As it says in the Scripture “first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers...” (v28). These roles are ‘centre stage’. How we value them as they help us to grow in faith and relationship to Christ.

However, this time as I have been reading something new has struck me. Before mentioning the above roles in the body of Christ, the Scripture uses the illustration of our physical bodies to aid us in our thinking (vv12-20). As I have pondered this, what hit me so forcibly is how the ‘centre stage’ parts of our bodies, important though they are, could not function without those parts of our body that are ‘backstage’ and ‘in the wings’.

When we see each other, we focus on our faces, our eyes, our gestures with arms and hands, the expressions on our faces... the visible ‘centre stage’ parts of our bodies. Yet the five vital organs we need to exist... namely the heart, kidneys, lungs, brain and liver... are ‘backstage’ and mostly go unnoticed in

our consciousness... we pay little attention to them unless they are not functioning properly. We don't ask "How are your lungs today?!" Yet these vital organs are so absolutely essential that, if they fail to work, our bodies become increasingly sick and die.

Other parts of our body go unnoticed too... the seemingly insignificant bits like our nails and our toes, etc, etc. Have you ever had an itch you are desperate to scratch? It totally distracts your mind from what you are doing! Without our toes we would be forever falling over! We are extremely intricate and every bit of us, down to the finest detail, is needed for our well-being.

In Psalm 139 it is put so succinctly.... "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made". (v13 & 14).

How hard it has been during this pandemic. So many of the fellowship have told me that they have felt somewhat fragmented from the church. Paul made an excellent job of holding us together through Zoom and encouraging us to look after one another through phone calls etc, etc... but I am sure we all felt we missed meeting face-to-face. It is wonderful that gradually more and more of us feel able to meet in the church again.

As the Diaconate has met over recent months, we have often spoken of how that fragmentation has affected the church. Also, the sad realisation that we have lost the precious service of several beloved members during this time as they now worship with Christ in heaven. We are struggling to fill even the basic roles necessary for the smooth running of the fellowship... without even considering our part in making Jesus known in the community and among our friends who do not know Him.

Paul has mentioned the extreme concern regarding work with children... something our church has always considered of great importance. Not only are we failing to reach out to the community in this way... but we are also at risk of losing the young families who worship in our midst if we do not provide for their children. Serious indeed.

So where is all this leading me?

It seems to me that the above thoughts on 1 Corinthians 12 link in with how God spoke to us through 2 Chronicles 7:14 when we had the gift day for the kitchen and tech. To remind you of the words of that verse: "...if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land."

The devil would love to distract us to focus on a problematic dishwasher and minor technical hiccups as operating expertise grows. Certainly, as we kneel before Jesus, we are worth attacking.

Will we resist this attack? Are our eyes fixed on the King of kings and Lord of lords...? His people humbly seeking His face... to let Him piece us back together to function healthily as His body again as we recover from the effects of the pandemic?

To function fruitfully, we all have to play our part. Once again, it is not about looking at each other to compare... but rather it is about each individual humbly seeking the Lord's face and asking "how do you want ME to serve you in Clare Baptist Church?"

Some of us will fulfil 'centre stage' roles and some will fulfil 'backstage' roles ... like the vital organs of the body... and some will be 'in the wings'... like the teeth and nails! Some of us are able to be more physically active... others not. Whatever our capabilities we are all part of His body, and the Lord has a role for each and every one of us. Without these 'backstage' roles being fulfilled the 'centre stage' roles simply cannot function!

This means all roles are equally important... no person in our church is more important than another... not even Paul! We are “a chosen people, a royal priesthood” of believers (1 Peter 2:9-10), and everyone is needed so that we may regain strength to once again become a fit and healthy body of Christ “to follow and worship Jesus and make Him known.”

May our dear Lord richly bless us all as we humbly pray and seek His face. May He form and unite us as a cohesive whole to work together in His service and to worship His holy name... Amen.

(Photo by [engin akyurt](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Lost And Found

April 13, 2022

By Elsa Day



I was just having a think this week, and my mind drifted to the three “Lost” stories in the Bible: the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, and the Lost Son (Luke 15).

I have heard so many sermons preached on all three, but it struck me that one of the things they all have

in common, quite apart from the word “lost”, is that each character involved is in some way an outsider.

The main figure in the first story is a woman. I added up how many women are recorded as having some kind of association with Jesus and I think it was eleven or twelve that are actually named, or a story is written about the incident in which they were the central figure.

Women had such a lowly position yet this woman when she finds her lost coin calls her neighbours to a party... unusual, I would have thought: a woman, an “outsider”, throwing a party.

Then I thought of the story of the lost sheep, and who is the star of this episode?

It is a shepherd. Now, no-one cared for shepherds as they lived with sheep. They had few opportunities to wash and clean up and so were ritually unclean men, outsiders of society, and yet Jesus points out the man’s care for his flock. A man with a heart, braving all kinds of difficulties for the sake of a sheep. A responsible man, yet one that no law-abiding Jew would sit down with at a table and share a meal.

Then I thought of the lost son. What a disgrace he was to his family, his father in particular, and to his people, as a Jewish son. What good Jewish son would treat his father so: in effect telling him he could not wait for him to die? Deservedly an outcast.

Yet maybe it is the father who would be deemed disgraceful as he, on his son’s return, loses all decorum and runs to greet him. He hugs this filthy young man who has been mixing with pigs! Demanding the finest robe to be put on his back and sandals for his blackened feet... demanding nothing in return for his son’s disgraceful behaviour. This man must be a lunatic and, as such, an outsider too.

Then I thought how Jesus not only welcomed outsiders ... tax-gatherers and swindlers, prostitutes and lepers, madmen, people maimed in some way, aliens (that is, foreigners) but depicted Himself as a Shepherd on many occasions, an Outsider. An Other.

He calls us to be like Him. So, who would you consider to be outsiders today?

What is our response to them?

(Image by [Pexels](#) from [Pixabay](#))