Dorset South & West Circuit written Service

31st October 2021 by Rev J.E.M. Barber

**Please use your own bible for the scripture readings**

Hymn SF 567

We are here to praise you, Lift our hearts and sing

We are here to give you the best that we can bring

And it is our love, rising from our hearts

Everything within us cries Abba Father

Help us now to give you pleasure and delight

Heart and mind and will that say I love you Lord.

We may say it, but we do not always do it so we must confess our failures to live up to what we profess and sing.

Confession:

Heavenly Father, we may sing those lovely words

But when we are honest we confess that we do not always live up to them. We are often selfish, we go the ways of a world that does not know you, we ignore your teachings that are in the scriptures and only think about our own material gains rather than the spiritual and physical needs of others. Have mercy upon us and tell each one of us clearly what you want each one of us to do so that your kingdom may grow and the whole world come to know you and worship you. Forgive us Lord we pray for all our failings and make your way clear for each one of us so that your name may be glorified when we live according to your word.

Hymn MPs 476

Lord thy word abideth

And our footsteps guideth

Who its truth believeth

Light and joy receiveth

Word of mercy giving

Succour to our living

Word of life supplying

Comfort to the dying

When our foes are near us

then thy word doth cheer us

Word of consolation,

Message of salvation

O that we discerning

Its most Holy learning

Lord may love and fear thee

Ever more be near thee.

Reading Deuteronomy ch 6 v 1 – 9

Comment

We are often tempted to ignore much of the Old Testament but forget that God does not change. If we do not believe all God’s rules in the Old Testament, how can we expect to understand His rules as given to us in the New Testament.

We tend to think that the world has changed so much that the rules for living here will have changed but forget that God has not changed and that He still wants the best for all of us. I do not think that you will find anything in the New Testament that contradicts the Old.

Hymn SF 1065

Thy hand O God has guided thy flock from age to age

The wondrous tale is written full clear on every page

Our Fathers owned thy goodness and we their deeds record

And both of this bear witness one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings to greatest as to least

They bade them rise and hasten to share the great king’s feast

And this was all their teaching in every deed and word

To all alike proclaiming One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness, through many a scene of strife,

The faithful few fought bravely to guard the nation’s life.

Their gospel of redemption, sin pardoned, man restored,

Was all in this enfolded, One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Reading:- Mark ch 12 v 28 – 34

Comment

Which is the greatest commandment?

I wonder how many of the leaders in or members of the church today would answer that question by quoting the Old Testament. I think that because the world has changed so much that some think that the rules for life should have changed although God has not changed. There are so many rules today even in the church for which there is no basis in the bible. Each denomination has its own rules some of which have no basis in scripture and these can cause divisions between denominations. I am sure that we all can think of some. It is then up to each one of us to decide whether or not we should obey them. I am sure that we all can think of incidents or rules that do not agree with scripture and then we have had to decide what to do in order to please God rather than man. This is not a new problem. Look at the first letter of Paul to Timothy, things were very different then and when the bible was written but God has not changed. Sometimes we may need the New Testament to help us to correctly understand some of God’s commandments in the Old Testament and we can find a lot of help in the epistles. Remember that some of these were written to help new Christians, especially Jewish ones, understand the scriptures.

Hymn Hps 694

God be in my head and in my understanding

God be in mine eyes and in my looking

God be in my mouth and in my speaking

God be in my heart and in my thinking

God be at mine end and in my departing

Intercessions:-

Let us pray

For all the leaders in the Christian church especially for those whom we know

The local Christian congregations that there may be unity, understanding and cooperation between them,

Missionary societies especially those whom we support and all those who work for them

For all our families and friends and especially any whom we know that are in need at this time

That we may be faithful witnesses for Jesus.

God Bless you as you go to serve Him. Amen

CCL licence number 178041

SUGGESTION

From Revd Michael Barber

WE all need help at times in understanding some passages in the bible. Daily Bible Reading notes can be very helpful. These can be obtained from either the Bible Reading Fellowship or Scripture Union by ordering through Keith Jones Bookshop, Bournemouth – Tel No. 01202292272. Alternatively notes can be obtained from CWR Tel No. 01252784700.

These can also be very helpful in fulfilling one’s duties as a Godparent. My mother got me knots from the time when I could read. They were the only resource for learning that I had apart from attending church services. Then at the age of 25 I was left to take weekly services and preach sermons at a church in Bangladesh for 6 months while the chaplain was away on leave. On never know what God may have in store for us – it is good to get prepared.