



Our greatest need...

When I began preparing the Village circular to invite people to our Easter services and chose the caption I had no idea that a dreadful pandemic was just days away. We are thankful for the strenuous efforts our leaders are making to control this deadly disease, but even the complete eradication of Coronavirus would not deal with the *greatest need* we have either as a nation or as individuals.

In God's message to the world - the Bible - we read in Psalm 73 that a very discouraged Godly man, Asaph, was deeply upset as he considered some wicked people who (to use his words which are in colour) *were not in trouble as other men* and had *more than heart could wish*. His own experience was so different! *All day long I have been plagued and chastened every morning.* He acknowledged - *When I thought to understand all this it was too painful for me.*

Then he realised the significance of something he had overlooked. Our life in this world is not the end! So he adds these very solemn words: *until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end.* These prosperous, trouble free people actually did have an appalling need - they were heedlessly heading for everlasting destruction. And the Bible in many places clearly warns us of this possibility - as for example in the words of Hebrews 9:27: *It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment.*

I greatly regret that I must attend a Motorway Awareness course. I was driving on the M25 at 61 mph and the speed limit was 50mph. I was guilty and must suffer the consequences. What kind of life must I live to avoid being pronounced *not guilty* by God? What is His standard for all of us who were created by Him and who belong to Him? *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second like it, is this: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.* This was Jesus' reply to someone who asked Him what was the greatest commandment. His words clearly reveal my greatest need - I have broken His Law. I am guilty. I need to be reconciled to God. I need mercy! And this is true of every one of us.

The Good News is that God is merciful and has, at tremendous cost to Himself, made it possible for us to be forgiven. He is holy - and therefore **must** deal with our sin. But instead of punishing us He sent His eternal Son to save us. In

the Bible (to be exact in John chapter 3 and verse 16) this is what He says: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* God dealt with our greatest need by sending His Son to suffer the penalty for our sin. This was what happened on the day we call Good Friday - the day when Jesus was nailed to a cross and, to quote another Bible verse (Isaiah 53 verse 6): *the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all.* This is **the** most important thing in the world because this is the **only** way of forgiveness. It is the **only** way to heaven. He invites us all to come to Him but if we refuse - we must and will bear the penalty for our sins. There is no other way. As Jesus said: *No one comes to the Father but by Me.*

We are sorry that this year we cannot have our usual special services over the Easter period to praise God together for the death and resurrection of our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. We hope that when we are able to resume our regular meetings you will join us!

In the meantime we invite you to get in touch with us by phone or email. We would love to send you a free copy of *Ultimate Questions*, a booklet that gives the Bible's answers to life's most important questions, and a leaflet *Hope beyond Corona Virus*. We pray God will draw all of us to Himself that we may know His comfort and help in the encouraging words of Psalm 46!

In our Saviour's love

George Rabey, Pastor



Abide with me fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see:
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight and tears no bitterness:
where is death's sting? where, grave thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

Five Ash Down Chapel Services

We regret that due to the Coronavirus the Chapel will be closed for services until further notice.

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