

3. It's a GLORIOUS CHURCH.

Ultimately, God's church is going to shine with God's glory—full of His holiness and purity (Ephesians 5:27).

It will be perfect. We know it's not there yet. But one day it will be cleansed from every fault, and it will be radiant, all aglow with God's Glory.

The glory of Heaven will be the Lord.
The glory of the church is the Lord.

We're not there yet. One day it will be glorious. As the Lord changes us day by day we get closer (2 Cor. 3:18).

You can make your life count. You can glorify God. Be a part of what God's doing in His church today! Find a church where people care, and where it's real. The people won't be perfect, but one day they will be. Find a church that cares about what's real and puts faith into action. You'll be eternally glad you did!



**Church
For You**
**@ 3 Kirk Street
Elizabeth Park,
South Australia**

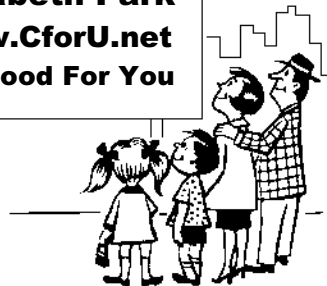
...offers a bus for collecting folk for services plus outreach . We could do with some help to renew or replace our buses. Hoping to find two Toyota Comuter Buses. If you can help we'd be grateful. Andrew — 0417 016 160

**How To Contact:
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It's Good For You**



A New Way of Living

Impacting Our Community

Fair Dinkum #64

Fair Dinkum #64

~February 2007~

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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Being a Person of Influence

Whoever you are, you've a circle of influence. YOU can touch the world around you, and uplift and bless others!

Life's full of tremendous opportunities. Sure, it can seem an uphill battle. But it's worth the climb when you get to the mountaintop. One step at a time will get you there!

It's great to reflect on the goodness of God when He accompanies us through our life's journey. I'm grateful to be able to share with you, our friends, through these pages. After eight years as a pastor I've found so much to learn and also give to others.

Life for all of us can be filled with intensity and pain, yet quiet, joyful seasons too, of blessing and fruit. Though weeping may endure for a night, Joy will follow in the morning (Psalm 30:5).

You can take heart and find lasting hope in the God Who "put skin on" and became a part of our world (1 Tim 3:16).

Be a person of influence in your world for Christ. Instead of it influencing you in harmful ways—see if you can make a difference in the lives of others.



Sharpening The Focus

How is your focus? Do you search for all that is wrong in the world about you? Do you spend your life finding fault and being a critic? Why not, instead, be a ray of sunshine where there's a shadow? Shift your focus onto what really matters. You'll feel better for it.

Take a thought for others and stand in their shoes. Maybe you can take a different approach? Be a positive person and find words that will cheer and bring hope.

In deciding what to focus on in this issue I've wanted it to be a help to many. We love being able to serve you and want to give our very best. Thanks for showing your love and care, and writing in to encourage. It sure means a lot to us.

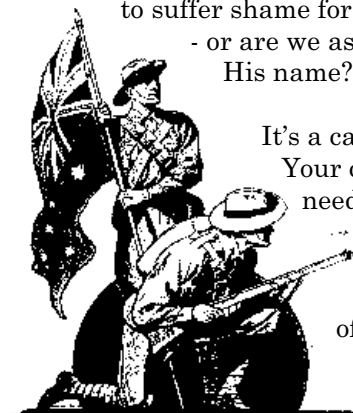
Fair Dinkum Magazine is still alive and well, despite the delay! Hope-fully we can increase its regularity, with increasing encouraging and uplifting content. Please write and share your words of wisdom to other readers! Also note — our new address!

Andrew Craig
28 Birch Grove
Craigmore
South Australia 5114

jokes-book for preachers. The Glory is departed. The music of the world has been brought into church. There's a famine in the land... (Amos 8:11-12) Have we settled for a shabby, ineffective, make-believe, second-rate Christianity? An ineffective, wimpy, counterfeit, feel-good, social gospel? Or will we have a powerful cross-centred, Christ-centred, Bible-based, soul-saving Gospel? A strong message has to be sounded forth. Not a weak, diluted, watered down message that is easy on the flesh.

God wants workmen - who'll pay the price, who'll go the distance. It is time to get serious and determined for Christ and His truth. Time to take the offensive. Storm the gates of hell.

Be a Christian with character. With spine. With backbone. Take action. Stand for the right, against the wrong. Sacrifice. Say with Paul, "I am ready... for the Name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:13). Are we willing to suffer shame for His name - or are we ashamed of His name?



It's a call to arms.
Your country needs you!

Join the offensive!

Church— The Real Thing

The church is not a building. It's a gathering of God's own people, joining together with each other.

1. It's GOD'S CHURCH. The Lord Jesus says, I will build my church (Matthew 16:18). He is its builder - its owner, director and head. It is His church. God-built. God-centred. Not all who attend churches are real Christians. Some people play "the church game". They're not fair dinkum. But still God has His people, and His people will want to gather together to obey the Lord. That's what God says we are to do.

2. It's a GATE-BREAKING CHURCH. The gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). In biblical days walls and heavy gates surrounded the cities, as a defence against attacking armies. If a city's gates were breached it meant they were completely conquered (Genesis 22:17). Without Christ, all humanity is held captive behind the gates of hell!

We can storm the gates – of drug abuse, domestic violence, doubt, deception, godlessness. We can lay siege to hell, break down the gates and release its prisoners. God wants His church to demolish the gates of hell and rescue those the enemy has taken captive. God's Church is advancing, victorious, conquering. It's going forward, taking territory.

Temple of a thousand buddhas. You can take your pick. Choose your own “god”. Maybe swap and change it. Yet, truth is, there is only ONE SAVIOUR (Hosea 13:4). The Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ - Titus 2:13.

There’s not many paths to God. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6). A bold claim! Yet this is the One Who extends compassion and forgiveness to the sinner. “If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him” - C. T. Studd.

3. THE CHURCH IS OFFENSIVE (- at least it should be!)

Daniel talks of people who know their God - who shall be strong and do exploits. A dynamic force to be reckoned with. Nonconformists, radical, real. Consistent, uncompromising. What a thrill! Faith that sings when it's suffering. It proclaims the Truth boldly.

Christianity is illegal in some nations. Brutal torture and persecution is going on in China.

Believers face years of prison and punishment. In some villages in South Sudan, all



Christian males have been crucified. More believers have died for Christ around the world in the 20th century than in all the other 19 centuries combined.

It's never been popular or comfortable to be a real Christian. As believers we are offensive to our pagan, idol-worshipping nation. The values of decency and truth we uphold differ from those of a sick and godless society. To many this kind of message is going to be unpleasant (Isaiah 30:8-10), but it's what we need to bring healing to our terminally sick world.

The battle lines are being drawn.

We are on the front line.

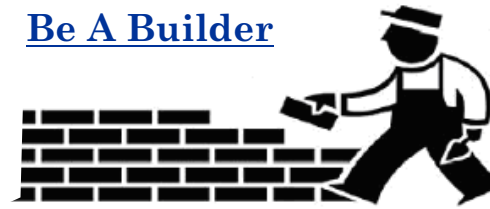
They're trying to outlaw the open preaching of the Gospel. Our nation is sinking in a cesspool of sin, gambling, drugs, permissiveness.



The TV is filled with blasphemy and Hollywood's propaganda. Schools are indoctrinating our kids with immorality. We're surrounded by a modern Sodom. Alcohol abuse. Abortion. The morality level is "as it was in the days of Noah" - at an all-time low. Prayer is banned in different ways. Profanity, porn and vice is promoted. Offensive language and cursing is common.

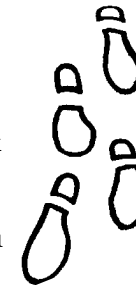
God's word offers the answer: "Repent". Sadly, people want a Gospel of ease and plenty. They want "Amusing Grace" - the name of a

Be A Builder



How do you treat others?

An old American Indian proverb says we should not criticise our neighbour until “we have walked a mile in his moccasins”. What about the “coaches” in your life — can you walk a mile in their shoes? They are there to help you be a winner. Are you a cheerleader? A team player? Whose side are you on?



Spare a thought for your pastor. Caring for people can be tough and discouraging. Give your support. For all his faults, what you do unto him you do unto the Lord.

God has given men to His church, as His “gifts” (Ephesians 4:11). How do you look after them? If they're truly God's servants, what honour should they receive (1 Timothy 5:17)?

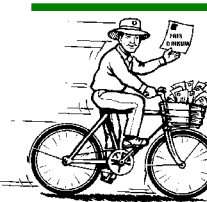
Workers for God are square in the target sights of the devil— as they extend themselves, exhausting time, in sacrifice, and expending their resources to help people. Will you be one of the few who will commit to “be

there”, or offer to do something, or one of the fewer still who faithfully give?

We can all be part of the construction process or part of the demolition crew. It's up to you. Be a builder. Watch you get your own foundation right (Matthew 7:24-27)! And build a life that counts. And help build up others. Be a support. Help others to grow. Extend your hand to help. Don't join the band of the critics and the divisive (Jude 1:19). Stand with the man of God, the people of God. Lift others up. Be a lifter—not a weight.

You can help to play an important role in “community capacity building” by being an active part of your local community. That's why I am an elected member of my local Council. Find ways to help to build a better world where you live.

Be a builder. Bless your pastor and his wife by your giving and encouragement. Thank God for your church and your pastor! Pray for the faithful men of God. Join the loyal band, who labour on, and stick with it!



On your Bike!

Do you still want to get *Fair Dinkum*?

Please take time to jot us a line.

A lot of readers have not been in contact. If you make contact we will update you for **TWO years** of free mailings. You don't want to miss out! Put pen to paper NOW!

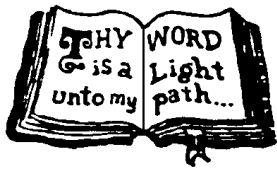
What's GOOD For You!

"Truth" today is being redefined by the "spin doctors". "Truth" — they say — is what you believe to be your truth for you. It's all "relative". And it all changes like the shifting sands of public opinion, or the fashions of the day. So they say.



Really and truly, though, there has to be Absolute Truth. It's whether it is true, or not. It doesn't change with what is popular or trendy at the time. Question is... Is there — when everything's turned upside down, and we need something to believe in — something we can hang on to and "know that we know" it IS true? Something we can depend on.

The good news is — Yes! There is such Truth. We can hold fast, in fact, "the Word of God" (Titus 1:9) — like the believers at Philadelphia — who "kept" the Word (Revelation 3:8).



Thank God for the time tested Book—the Holy Bible! I Timothy 6:3 call it "wholesome". That means it's good for you! A good healthy dose of wholesome teaching will do us good.

Even the songs we love to sing will be filled with truth and doctrine (Colossians 3:16), and create a melody in our heart to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19). That's why we love to be there—whenever the doors open—to get this good stuff!

You might be accused of being "politically incorrect" if you dare speak the truth. But speak you must, balanced with love, what is true (Ephesians 4:15, 25).

That means speaking up when a cultist tries to say it's faith PLUS something that saves us. Or when well-meaning people knock on our door and talk about a Jesus who was a good guy, but not Almighty God like the Bible says. They've got the wrong Jesus and have missed the boat. Fact is GOD paid a visit to Planet Earth — in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. And our faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour, by God's grace and mercy, is all it takes to save us for time and eternity. That's the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth!

Often the truth we need is what we don't want to hear—take care not to shoot the messenger if that happens to you (Galatians 1:10)!

Avoid the danger of "Truth Decay". Learn to be a lover of the Truth—it will make an eternal difference in your life (2 Thessalonians 2:10)!

liver, heart, bladder, kidneys, glands and your brain... It brings loss of coordination, confusion... stupor, anaesthesia, coma, death. Alcohol kills brain cells and brain damage is permanent." Pregnant women have a much greater chance of permanently damaging their unborn children even a few days after conception! Choose not to drink. Choose not to take drugs... Give your life over instead to the Lord. Surveys have found that "one of the top five reasons teenagers drink is because their parents drink... Parents, you must remember that whatever you do in moderation your children will likely do in excess."

If you are addicted to drink you will lose- every which way... You will lose your credibility... You will be a mockery, a fool, sucked in - into a whirlpool of destruction and misery. You will lose your cool... You will get caught up—swept away—by the party, the company. You will hurt those you love and yourself by actions you can't control, and a temper you will lose.

Be sober. It is not for you, fellow believer, to lose your senses and your Christlikeness. You will lose your commonsense... your capacity to think and judge rationally... You will be deceived, duped... You will lose your ability to make right decisions. Don't be fooled... Thank God. There is hope... He can give you victory over alcohol. Talk it over with Him.

OFFENSIVE CHRISTIANITY

OFFENSIVE CONTENT

Warning - this message may offend some readers. It contains offensive language from some offensive literature - a book banned in some countries as too hot to handle... the Bible.

1. THE CROSS IS OFFENSIVE

The cross is offensive - to the World - the Flesh - the Devil. An instrument of death. Painful. God's dealings are not always comfortable. The Cross hurts. It means self-denial, hardship, dying to self (Luke 14:27). Discipleship means the consecrated heart. Total commitment. One of the problems of our day is "Truth decay" - a watered down gospel. The world wants a religion that makes no challenges - no demands. If it feels good, do it. The cross doesn't feel good. The Cross is offensive. It is costly. Yet, in terms of eternity, it is worth it.

2. THE CHRIST IS OFFENSIVE

They were offended at him... (Mark 6:3). No easy believism. No sugar coated gospel. Jesus wasn't in the ecumenical outfit. He upset the Pharisees. He was not out to "please" people. He wasn't a church growth guru (Matthew 26:56). His message was straight, demanding (John 6:66). He confronted - He cast out the fakes. It seems like Australia would rather serve a "god" of lust, gold, humanism, entertainment, or sport. Like a temple in Kyoto, Japan - the



DRINKERS ARE LOSERS!

Proverbs 20:1 - Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. If

you're a drunkard...

1. YOU LOSE YOUR CREDIBILITY

Wine is a mocker. It makes people act crazy. A drinker is a joke, a waster, a disgrace. He loses his sense, his standing, his commonsense. He becomes a clown, a fool. He staggers and reels and vomits. He is addicted, chained, controlled. He becomes a laughing stock, a spectacle, a pathetic drunk. He becomes a shame to his family. It's a sad, pathetic sight. Booze brings heartache, sorrow and death to the families of our nation. Don't make the mistake. Don't be a drunkard. It's a dumb thing to do.

2. YOU LOSE YOUR COOL

Strong drink is raging. Drink can lead to violence and rage. It can send people into fits of temper and fighting. Drink turns people into monsters.



Families can be torn apart by violence and abuse. People lose control of their faculties – their self control, their reason. Drink makes men fight and argue. Drink damages a Christian's influence. It destroys our ability to control ourselves, and leads directly to more and more sin. Don't give way to this addiction. It will dominate and destroy you and the lives of those you love.

3. YOU LOSE YOUR COMMONSENSE

Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. It's stupid. It's a trap. Don't fall for it. Drink damages your capacity to think and make moral judgments. It can lead to fornication and sin because people are not thinking straight. Alcohol brings pain, misery, sin, and death. Waste, disappointment, hangovers and regrets, hurts and wounds. It leaves a trail of wrecked relationships and despair. Drink is powerfully addictive – The drunkard says, "I will seek it yet again" (Prov. 23:35). Drink is poison. Literally. Alcohol contains C₂H₆O - Ethyl Alcohol - it burns the mouth and sours the stomach – that's why people often vomit.

A study found that alcohol was responsible for 20% of divorces, 25% of insanity, 27% of poverty, 47% of child misery, and 50% of crime. Medical reports show that alcohol affects your "oesophagus, stomach, intestines, bloodstream, pancreas,

Be A Rock

It's easy to just be trendy. To drift along. To go with the flow. To follow the crowd (Exodus 23:2). It's easy to not stop to question, or check if what's going on "lines up" with the ultimate Truth-Source that God has given to planet earth (Acts 17:11, Isaiah 8:20). It's the B.I.B.L.E.—Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.

Truth is not always trendy. People's opinions and contrary teachings can leave us feeling tempest tossed and confused (Ephesians 4:14) - and that's not of God (1 Corinthians 14:33). In fact we're told this will be a feature of Planet Earth's "last days" and to look out for it (1 Timothy 4:1).

You can be rock solid. Be a rock. The Lord Jesus likened Peter to a rock, because of his unshakeable faith (Matthew 16:18). Strong and true. In a shaky world how we need to find what's really Sure and steadfast — unmoveable (1 Cor. 15:58).

As a Bible-based church we seek to stand, unshaken, with those who have stood against errors and have shed their life's blood for the truth.

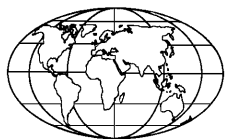
It seems like the trendy "Fad-driven" church sets the make believe, the mind-control, and the mystic magic at centre stage. Don't mess with it (Revelation 18:4).

As a preacher and an editor I urge people to "wake up and smell" the false doctrine! Check out what is going on and "hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Does it line up with the Bible—our rule of faith and conduct? Beware of ecumenism, false teachers, rock music, immodest clothing styles, unscriptural roles for women, subjective experience and charismatic deception, to name a few! Stand straight and true.

I urge people — Be part of God's church, striving together (Phil. 1:27), united in a bond of faith and truth. Not regimented or starchy, yet reverent and solid.

Be a part of a "fair dinkum" church with a real love for the true Word of God, with a commitment to a lived-out faith and the abundant living that comes from knowing the Lord Jesus as your own personal Saviour!

As a church and ministry we uphold the Bible as God's absolute and true Word for modern man — it doesn't need adding to with some supposed extra prophecies. We believe that God created the world by His mighty power, just like the Book says. God's church has a pure and bright eternal purpose and it's great to be a part of it! There's no time for neutrality. Sound an alarm (Isaiah 58:1) Get rock solid and enjoy!

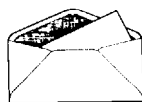


New World Order Conspiracies

The crises, confusion, and lack of stability in our world today are planned. The World Bank is enslaving debt-ridden nations and their governments. The press is manipulating a global conspiracy of thought control and discontent. They proclaim that a one-world government is the only hope for mankind. A group known as the Illuminati (‘the enlightened ones’), allied with freemasons, are working behind the scenes to establish the New World Order. The mastermind of it all is really ‘the angel of light’ - satan.

The modern Christian church is being infiltrated and destroyed from within. The Bible foretells this ‘falling away’ from the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8) and a one-world government system, led by the Anti-Christ. Pagan religion mixed with Christianity when the Roman Catholic church was formed.

Today we are seeing a reversal of the reformation as churches rejoin Rome. Rome is promoting a respect for all ‘sacred books’. Ultimately an international church will unite all pagan and Christian religions together. Eventually a one-world ruler will take charge as its patriarch and Pope. Ultimately we know that the Lord Jesus is coming for His own. (Based on info from Y., Kilburn, SA)



Pen Friends...

Home schooling family from rural South Australia invites contact:

- Mr & Mrs D. J. Peter, Peter Road, Sherlock, SA 5301.
- Also: Rachel - PO Box 212, Waikerie, SA 5330.

Worthy of Support

If you are considering sponsoring needy youngsters overseas... A great alternative to ecumenical organizations (like World Vision) is the solidly Christian ministry of Gospel Mission Worldwide – 165 Ewen Street, Doubleview 6018 – Don Galloway – (08) 9446 8260. Funds are channelled in tandem with sound Bible teaching and ministry in India, including Children’s Homes.

Quips

Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord. Give God what’s right – not what’s left. He who angers you controls you. Birthdays are good for you – the more you have the longer you live.

We should think of our churches as hospitals, where wounded people, sinners, find loving tender care (Pastor Kiefa, Kenya).

**NO EXCUSES. Don’t miss out!
Get along to church
every Sunday.**

Lip Service

‘Hypocrisy’ comes from a Greek word which meant playing a part on the stage, or putting on a mask to misrepresent reality.



The Lord says that some honour God with their lips – yet their heart is far from Him (Matthew 15:7-9). They are not ‘the real deal’. All talk, no action. Pretenders. Putting on appearances. Fakes and phonies.

Many claim they are a Christian, but don’t darken the doorstep of a church. Who are they kidding? Sadder still, some fakes and frauds sit in the pews. Living a lie. Pretenders. They are NOT SAVED. HOW CAN we tell who is really saved – or not? Here are three tests or signs to help us tell the real Christian from the false...

1. FICTION. Do they love Fiction above the Truth? Some ‘shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables’ (2 Tim. 4:1-4). Fiction. False teachers, false teachings, false Bibles, false doctrine - doctrines of devils. People prefer their fiction instead of the truth. Wilfully ignorant (1 Corinthians 14:38). Deceiving themselves. Believing a lie. And they won’t be corrected. Mean-time the real church and the real truth suffers for funds and support. Instead of fiction – choose truth– God’s Word.

2. FLESH. 2 Timothy 3:1-15. Another sign is that people who aren’t real Christians will prefer sin, rather than following and obeying God. They’ll live for the flesh, lusts, and pleasures of sin; to ‘eat, drink and be merry’. No thought about right and wrong. Reprobate concerning the faith –rejected, Titus 3:10-11. They are not really in the faith. Will you choose what side you are going to stand on? ‘Will the real Christian please stand up?’



3. FRUIT. By their fruits ye shall know them (Matthew 7:20). Have they the FRUIT of the Spirit? They maybe can counterfeit it for a while, but eventually, their true nature will show through—just like a fruit tree can’t help

but show what kind of a tree it is! Unbelievers can only imitate the saved for so long, then their true nature will come out! Their fruit will show!

There is going to be a dividing – a separation between the false and the true. Three refused to bow down to the king’s golden image. It was like that in Noah’s day, too - only eight were saved. In Lot’s day, only four. Prepare for separation. All the fakes will be shown for what they are. Judgment Day is coming. The sheep will be separated from the goats. Then we’ll see who is really saved. One day God will reveal who His real people are—and those who are just pretenders. Are you paying lip service – or are you for real? Are you a genuine Christian or a false one?

Coming Back! Ready or Not

Jesus is coming again!!! Note the promises and the purposes of Christ's coming: John 14:3, Acts 1:11-12, Zechariah 14:3-5, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. He will receive the church to himself, overcome the Anti-Christ, deliver Israel, judge the nations, and establish His kingdom from Jerusalem.

The Lord told his disciples: "Watch!" Mark 13:3. Be eagerly expectant! Paul urges us also to holy living (Titus 2:11-13). Christ is coming for those eagerly expect Him (Hebrews 9:28). He will come like a thief (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6). You are not going to get an advance warning! Mark 13:32, Matthew 24:44.

Recognise the signs of His coming - Matthew 16:2-3, Luke 17:26-30, Matthew 24:7-51... Our love growing cold. Wars, famines, pestilences, the upbuilding of Zion. Daniel 12:4 - increasing knowledge and travel. 1 Timothy 4:1-2 - a departure from the faith. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 - dangerous times. 2 Thessalonians 2:3 - a falling away first, great apostasy.

Be ready! Cultivate holiness and right relationships - Hebrews 12:14. Live in peace, without spot, blameless (2 Peter 3:10-12) and purify yourselves (1 John 3:2-3). Help proclaim the gospel to all nations (2 Peter 3:12, Matthew 24:14). Pray and labour for Israel's restoration. (Ps Bell, Mitcham, Vic.)

The Fear of the Lord in Proverbs

"Tendeth to life" - 19:23.
"Is a fountain of life" - 14:27.
"Is the beginning of knowledge" - 1:7.
"Is the beginning of wisdom" - 9:10.
"By it men depart from evil" - 9:16.
"Is instruction of wisdom" - 15:33.
"Is strong confidence" - 14:26.
"Is better than treasure" - 15:16
"Is riches, honour, and life" - 22:4.
"Prolongeth days" - 10:27.
"Is to be chosen" - 1:29.
"Be in it all the day long" - 23:17.
(The Bible Student)

Christians are Kept...

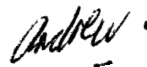
1. By The Power of God - 1 Peter 1:5
2. By The Peace Of God - Phil. 4:7
3. From All Evil - 2 Thess. 3:3
4. From Falling - Jude 24, John 17:12
(The Stand - Nov 2005)

Editor's Bit...

Julie and I celebrate 25 years of marriage this month. We're also doting grandparents—see the front cover! It's also a milestone of 8 challenging years serving at Church 4U.

Pray for us—I'm intent on building a major new meeting hall for the church. Also want to construct a useful course to help build young people in character and faith.

I'd really love to hear from you. Please write in! THANKS for caring and keeping in touch with us!!!



Feedback

It is better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie. (Joseph, Perth, WA)
Tell the truth as it is and you have a good chance of landing in gaol! (Jack, Green Point, NSW)
A magazine that isn't ashamed to speak the truth! (Debra, Quambatook, Vic)
Cultish... Antichrist material (Don, Northgate, SA) (At least he's got the guts to not be anonymous. Good on you, Don. I bless you (Matt. 5:44).)
Good godly teaching (Laurel, Boronia, Vic).
Cheers up so many people and encourages them in their down times to keep on keeping on for God (Muriel & Les, Blackwater, Qld).
A lot of 'good stuff' in it (Ivy, Kingaroy Hts, Qld).
A real ministry which is not full of hype and hysteria (Chris, Toowoomba, Qld).

Oh that God would send again his soul stirring refreshing revival upon this spiritually drought stricken land! (John & Annette, Coffs Harbour, NSW)

Please Write in and Share!



Sharing The Message

I work in a Christian aged-care facility where all of the staff are Christian and recently I had the privilege of leading an elderly lady to the Lord.

I gave my personal testimony to a number of residents and this lady came to me in tears... She asked me if she could give her life to the Lord... Praise God! One is never too old to come to Him! One of our other staff members also was able to lead a gentleman who was in for respite, to the Lord also. This man has since become high-care and we most probably won't see him again. "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season..." - 2 Timothy 4:2.

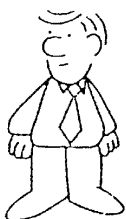
When our facility first opened, I was on night duty one night and a resident rang the buzzer in the night. When I went to see what was wrong, she told me that she felt that she was going to die soon.

I asked her if she knew Jesus as her saviour and she said no. I then told how she could know Him and I described the steps and how easy it was to make a decision for Him.

I never actually lead her in a prayer, although I prayed for her that night. The next day, she had a fall, hit her head and died. I decided then and there that I wouldn't miss an opportunity again if I could help it. (Rose, Petrie, Qld)

Television

This amazing invention has completely programmed the world and changed its culture.



How can you live without a television?? I live without a television the same way everyone lived without a television before televisions came out. We have family time; we read books; we talk; we pray; we hug; we kiss; we play instruments; we learn other languages; we strive to think as Jesus would, without anyone else programming us to think as they do!!

The philosophy on the television is backed up by Satan himself. The devil is known as “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2). Satan truly has control of the “air waves” today.

Most Christians know more about the television than they do about their Bibles. They know the names and information about movies stars, but can't recite the books of the Bible, the names of the disciples, the names of the prophets of God, or the main teachings from God's Word and where they can be found.

Jeremiah 10:2 tells us, “Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen.” Proverbs 19:27 commands us, “Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.” Proverbs 14:9

teaches us, “Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.” Television mocks righteousness and belittles holiness.

I John 2:15, 16, teaches, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...” Television promotes pleasure, loose women, immoral living, etc. It promotes the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life that will cast the world into hell and keep them from loving the Lord with all of their hearts.

John 15:19 explains that we have been chosen out of the world... Television makes the viewer part of the world and grieves the Holy Spirit of God that is within the Christian.

The more you watch, the harder your heart becomes to the holiness and righteousness of God. You can't serve the Lord and watch the devil's programming for long without the wicked philosophy rubbing off. Can you imagine how fast all the right teaching is erased from the mind of your young child as you put them in front of the television?? 1 Thess. 5:17 commands, “Pray without ceasing.” Do you have a good prayer time in front of the television???

God's Word tells us the difference between the philosophy of the television and the righteousness of God taught in His Word. Romans 12:2 tells us, “...be not conformed to

this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind (in God's Word), that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” We are pilgrims and strangers on this earth. Psalm 101:3 says, “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.”



It wastes time. Ephesians 5:16, “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” We as Christians need to make the most of the time that we have, as sojourners and pilgrims in this wicked world. We are not to waste our time learning the “ways of the heathen.” What a waste of time not only to be entertained by the world's filth, but to waste time that should be spent with your children and spouse. TV will cause people to miss their family altar time, their prayer time, their Bible reading, church attendance, soul-winning time, their spousal time, their paying-attention-to-the-children time, and their work-for-the-Lord time. How many Christians have forsaken the Lord's Day and the fellowship with other believers in order to see “the game,” or a movie?

Here are a few questions that you should answer to see if you have time for TV. Do you go over your children's homework with them every night? Do you have three homemade meals at home each day?

Do you pray with your children before they go to bed? Do you read your Bible every morning after you wake up? Do you read your Bible every evening before going to bed? Do you spend time helping others, every single day? Do you spend time witnessing to the unsaved, every day? Do you know how to perform your duties as a husband, wife, worker, employer, etc., since God has outlined a role for you for which you will answer to Him? Do you as a wife know how to cook, sew, clean, and love your husband? Do you have a time that you and your spouse set aside to “fool around”? Are you debt free, as the Bible commands us to “owe no man” (sitting in front of the TV will not pay your bills!!!)? Do you have a time set aside in your schedule to listen to your wife or children? Do your children know how to read and write at 3 and 4 years old? Do your children know how to sit still and behave or do they always have to be entertained?? Do your children run around the house imitating Bible stories and Bible characters, or do they talk of Sesame Street, Barney, and the Simpsons.



If you answered “no” to any one of these questions, then throw your television out, because it is keeping you from fulfilling your duties before God! (Condensed, with permission www.graceandtruthfellowship.net by Pastor RJ Bruno, Gary, IN, USA)