

Prayer Points

Please pray for the following people within our Beulah Family in particular:

- Janet Howell: for a successful outcome following a second operation.
- Barry Thick in respite care: pray for future care.
- Tony Tunbridge who is quite poorly at home
- Those recently bereaved; others with the anniversary of the loss of a loved one.

Thank God for the BMS-supported mission training hub at Thailand Karen Baptist Convention. Pray that evangelists will be trained to take the gospel to people who are yet to hear about Jesus.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

May 19th 2024

**Called, Gathered
and Sent. Part 1.**

Communion.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Every now and then it is good to do a 're-set', a mental 'turn off, count to ten and restart'. This is a good thing to do because it can reconnect us to the fundamentals of our life and faith. Hopefully to enable us to re-examine the basics and refresh what we thought we understood about what we think we know.

Even when not on a sabbatical, ministers are advised to go on a retreat now and again so as to unclutter their minds and make them better, with God's help, at what they do.

Likewise, it is good for everyone to have that 'Spring Clean' of the mind to enable us all to be better Christians, not only for our own benefit but so that we can serve others better as Christians.

This series is not exhaustive, but will help us refresh our mindset.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001

If we are going to go back to basics then this passage with the 'words of institution' – the simple words of Communion – is a good place to start.

What we know as the 'Last Supper' (or Communion, or Eucharist) is, in fact, just a small part of the Jewish Passover meal, but, of course, you knew that.

In the very early Christian Church there arose a tradition for, not merely sharing the bread and the cup, but having a full-blown meal, sometimes called an 'agape feast'. The concept was that all should share together but, as we read from Paul's letter, it had degenerated into an 'us and them' situation with the 'haves' having and the 'nots' getting left out. Not much charity going on in Corinth seemingly.

Verses 23-26 are the ones that are usually used in a Communion service (other versions are available) but it isn't very often that service leaders use verses 27 onwards.

I can understand why that would be, but it is something that should be stated, at least once in a while because it is important to recognise that there is a jeopardy as well as a blessing within the Communion.

As in all things, actions have consequences and we ignore them at our peril.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

The opening verse of today's reading shows Paul as being a bit on the grumpy side. We all have good days and bad days so why should we expect Paul to be different? Or is he right?

1. What are the main things that Paul is complaining about and are they justified? Do bear in mind that their culture was different to ours, even so, what would still be unacceptable today?

2. If you read verses 22-26 without the paragraph break you get a completely different slant on what Paul is saying. Instead of words of encouragement and blessing it becomes something else. What do you think? (Or is that just me?)
3. Read verses 23-26 again and, if possible, use different translations to see how various people have translated this passage. What did you learn and what sounded best? Why?
4. What do you understand by 'drinking the cup in an unworthy manner?' In contrast what would be a 'worthy manner?'
5. As stated earlier, actions have consequences. Look again at verse 29. How do you understand that in relation to Jesus taking our sins away on the cross?
6. Paul's letter here suggests that we are under constant review of our actions (and thoughts?). Do you agree with that assessment? Why or why not? Would that be a good or bad thing if we are?
7. I found verses 33-34 left me with more questions than answers, for all sorts of reasons. 'We should all eat together' only works in certain situations for example. 'If hungry eat at home' doesn't/won't work for everyone (it didn't then either). Why should we judge others about eating? Or should we not (but maybe we do anyway)? [Matt 7:1-3]
8. What do you think Paul's 'further directions' might have been having read today's passage?