

The Bigger Picture

Doing Church Differently

14th June 2020

Welcome

Welcome to the 9th
The Bigger Picture.
We hope it will inspire
you and help you to
connect with God this
week.

May the Lord bless you.

Mike & Sharon

Word for the week

Words of wisdom from our Pastor, Mike...

Are you noticing more people getting, 'hot under the collar' after nearly 12 weeks of lockdown? Linda and I observed two men getting very irate about social distancing. We wondered whether social distancing would disappear completely and they would trade physical blows!

Also, I've been aware that people who are normally calm and composed have been getting quite cross with me and I confess that I became angry at virtually nothing not so long ago.

So what's going on and how, as Christians, are we supposed to deal with all of this? In the book of James we read, 'Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.'

Easier said than done, but we know we have the Holy Spirit within us and one segment of the 'Fruit of the Spirit' is self-control. This term is actually an oxymoron. Who produces this self-control? It sounds like we do and it is always our choice whether we control ourselves or not. We cannot use the frustrations of lockdown as an excuse to speak and act angrily.

However, we are unlikely to maintain self-control indefinitely, especially under pressure or provocation, without the enabling power and help of the Holy Spirit. He is the one who can prod us to give the other person the benefit of the doubt. He is the one who can whisper in our ear that there is a bigger picture here. He is the one who can assure us that some things just don't really matter. So, next time you are about to explode, stop and ask the Holy Spirit to come to the rescue!



CONNECT

Sunday 14th June

Sermon - Looking at John 4 to find out about worship - <https://youtu.be/iCzVKvFOIWE>

A short message "What do you worship?" - <https://youtu.be/LseU838684E>

Thursday 18th June

10.30am - Encounter - Bible Study on Zoom - Mike will lead us in a study of Psalm 91.

Sunday 21st June

10.30am - Worship & Praise - a church gathering on Zoom, including, a short talk by Mike, and songs chosen and led by Marinella.

Church at Home

On the MRBC website are resources for families who want to worship together.

This week the worship is based on The Fruit of the Spirit, with an all age talk on YouTube <https://youtu.be/-sLOXpTe5hY>

Grow the fruit—grow more like Jesus.

www.mrb-church.org.uk/children-and-families-on-sunday/

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

(John 13:35)

Psalm 19

Mike's thoughts on Psalm 19, this week looking at the final verses, 12 to 14....

The Guilty Conscience

'Two things', according to Kant, 'fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe... the starry heavens above and the moral law within.'
Psalm 19 eloquently glories about the heavens and the earth in the first stanza and poetically delights in God's moral law in the second stanza. We now consider the final stanza where David comes back to

Psalm 19:12-14

- ¹²But who can discern their own errors?
 Forgive my hidden faults.
¹³Keep your servant also from wilful sins;
 may they not rule over me.
 Then I will be blameless,
 innocent of great transgression.
¹⁴May these words of my mouth and this
 meditation of my heart
 be pleasing in your sight,
 Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Prayer Challenge

For those who want to go deeper with God....

Prayer Chanting

How familiar are you with prayer chanting? This can be a useful form of Christian meditation that can draw you closer to God. The idea is to give complete concentration to a repeated word or phrase.

The first phrase I ever used in this way was the Jesus Prayer – 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

This humble cry to the Lord makes me think about the tax collector in Jesus' parable in Luke 18 who also calls out to God as a sinner needing mercy and forgiveness.

You will need to find a quiet place and make yourself comfortable. You should ask God to reveal to you any recent instances when you have let him down. Then ask him to help you fully concentrate on the Lord Jesus and all that he achieved for you when he died in your place on the cross.

earth with a bump as he faces up to his own failings.

He contrasts his tendency towards wilful sins, which he always regretted, with smaller habitual failings that he hardly noticed most of the time. However, when faced with the demands of God's holy laws, he wants God to bring every offensive thing to the surface.

David was very good at saying sorry to God, very good at seeking God's forgiveness, as he does here, and very good at making a fresh start in his spiritual pilgrimage. He ends the Psalm very positively by asking for God's help to keep both his inward meditations and his outward speech pure and pleasing to God.

Finally, he describes God as his rock and redeemer. 'Rock' carries the idea of strong refuge and 'redeemer' denotes God as a great champion. Now read the whole Psalm again and ask God to thrill you about his creation, challenge you through his laws and convict you about your sin. Then thank him that he is, indeed, your rock and redeemer.



Then, when you are ready, shout out the Jesus Prayer. Wait a few moments and repeat this phrase 7 or 8 times, but do not rush, gradually speaking out the words more and more quietly until you are barely whispering the phrase.

Then, spend some moments, continuing to be quiet and still in God's presence. Give God time to speak to you. Thank him for what he shows you before ending this prayer challenge.

Mike

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people"

Prayer & Praise for the Week

Prayer Pointers

This week please pray for

- Sunday** wisdom for Boris Johnson and his many advisors as he tentatively continues to ease lockdown restrictions.
- Monday** Terry R as he goes for keyhole surgery today. While he is under anaesthetic, the surgeon will look for cancer, and if discovered, he will remove more of Terry's lung.
- Tuesday** for Sue and Terry's son-in-law, Simon, who has a rare form of cancer and underwent surgery recently.
- Wednesday** all the social workers struggling to keep a track of vulnerable children under the restrictions. Particularly pray for those who are dealing with difficult and heart breaking cases. Pray they have the resources and support they need and for their mental health. Also, pray for all children (and adults) living in abusive households.
- Thursday** anyone you know with mental health issues. Pray they are able to access the therapy and support they need. Pray they seek and find comfort in our Lord.
- Friday** everyone you know, or know of, who have cancer, particularly at this time when they are high risks, and treatment is being postponed. May they be protected from the virus and know God's hand in their treatment.
- Saturday** all those in our church and other churches who are prayer walking Coventry this week



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Sing Your Praises to the LORD 🎵 🎵

A week of worship from worship leader, Gill.

**"Strength for today, and
bright hope for tomorrow"**

I wonder how many of us if we were totally honest would say we have had moments of feeling lost and weak in these last few months. It has certainly been a rollercoaster of emotions for me. Normal routine has been turned upside down; having to face situations where all you wanted was the comfort and support of your family which was not possible in person.

However we have a faithful God, who walks beside us every day. Hold onto the promise that God is with you in every individual situation. Remember when God gave Noah a rainbow of the sign that God keeps His promises. As He was faithful to Noah, He will be faithful to you, and will give you the strength you need to soar, and not grow weary.

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

(Jeremiah 29:11)

As we trust in Gods promises in the days and weeks ahead and hope for a healing of the world. May your that hope be anchored in God, and in the word of God who can do all things.

Songs (*click on the title for the link to YouTube*)

[Through it All](#)

[Yet not I but through Christ in me](#)

[Be Thou my vision](#)

[All my hope](#)

[Your promises](#)

[Eagles wings](#)

[Everlasting Arms](#)

[Playlist](#)