Christian journey

Ware Christadelphians

A Christian Voice in the Community

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www.christian-journey.org

Law and Order in the Bible

Competition

We have 4 Bibles to give away this month.

Harvest Time

... plus The Story of Henry

This newsletter is produced by the Ware Christadelphians and is dedicated to promoting a Christian way of living, understanding the Word of God and how it applies to our lives.

for study, guidance and ideas on living a christian life

Welcome

Did you know that there are 39 different books in the Old Testament of the Bible and 27 different books in the New Testament? Each book is broken down into chapters so it's easy to pick up an read, just like other books. There are also a number of different versions, so there will be one with a style of language to suite you. Study Bibles, Bible Dictionaries and Concordances can also provide you with commentaries, explanations and references to help you understand the passage you are ready,

Here are some tips for getting more our of reading you Bible:

O ***Make time*** – set time aside when it will be easy for you to concentrate.

O ***Plan you reading*** – reading a little each day is much better than reading a lot in one day.

O ***Pray*** – before you read, ask God to help you understand his Word.

O ***Ask questions*** – what is this about? Who is the main character? What lessons are there for me?

If you need any help please feel free to contact us.

How to contact us

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Law and Order in the Bible

The Bible contains many laws for society. Take a look at the 10 commandments in **Exodus 20:1-17**. These excellent principles are useful guidelines for the law makers of 2011 and some of these laws are still in place in the UK today, for example, "You shall not murder", "You shall not steal".

The establishment of the first law is recorded in **Genesis 2:16**. "And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden"". It wasn't long before that law was broken by Adam and Eve and they ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. With the introduction of lawlessness to the world, came the introduction of death. Lawlessness (or sin) and death are connected. In **Romans 6:23**, the Bible tells us "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The Bible gives advice on life today; the law makers of the world have been placed in their positions of power by God and the Bible advocates respect for them. E.g. **Romans 13:1** "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

Whereas mankind will only ever be able to seek to contain the problem of crime and lawlessness, God says that he can remove it all together. **Revelation 21:4** describes the world in the future, without lawlessness. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Jesus Christ is the means by which the problem of lawlessness (sin) will be removed. We are told in **John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." When Jesus returns to earth, a new structure of law and order will be established and it will be a world without lawlessness and death. He will govern the world from Jerusalem. People all over the world want to learn God's ways.

The good news is that we can all be a part of this wonderful future for the world if we choose to accept Jesus Christ as our saviour and King.

Harvest Time

Over the last few months we have seen the green fields slowly change as the plants grew and turned, first to yellow and then to gold. Around August, farmers will inspect their crops and decide when harvest should begin. There have been big changes over the ages in the way that we harvest; from very labour intensive to highly automated. Growing crops and harvest-time is mentioned a number of times in the Bible.

The book of Ruth, (Old Testament), has several references to harvesting. The story starts at a time when the harvest in Israel failed and there was a famine. Later, when there was a good harvest, Ruth, by then a young widow, went to a farmer's field to "glean after the reapers", that is, to gather up loose stalks which had been left behind. (Gleaning was permitted under Jewish law, a custom which instructed farmers to leave such pieces for those in need. In fact, the law stressed that any sheaves dropped should not then be collected by the farmer). It was a dramatic day in Ruth's life. She eventually married the farmer and became an ancestor of Jesus Christ.



In the parable of "The Sower", seed was scattered by the farmer (following the practice of thousands of years) and fell in various places. The seed that fell on the paths was quickly eaten by birds. Some fell where there was very little earth, the plants began to grow, but quickly withered. Some fell among vigorously growing weeds and were choked. But some seed fell on to good ground where it grew to produce a good crop of grain. Jesus said that this illustrated his teaching; some people rejected it immediately, other listened and tried to follow it at first but soon decided to follow other interests in their lives, but the seed in the good ground produced a rich harvest. These people heard what Jesus said and chose to live their lives the way he commanded. This is also what it will be like when Jesus returns to establish his kingdom here on earth. People who have listened and tried to follow his teaching will be the harvest for him and will be granted immortality. They will be with him in his kingdom of peace and righteousness. This is going to be another big change in history and is one that we can all look forward to.

Whats On!

Bible Reading Group: 8 - 9pm

These fortnightly classes are ideal for someone wishing to start reading the Bible. Each session is presented by a member and there is plenty of time to discuss the topics. Refreshments are provided at the beginning of the session.

Sept	6	Romans 1: Introduction and sins of the Gentiles
Sept	20	Romans 2: God shows no partiality
Oct	4	Romans 3: Righteousness through faith
Oct	18	Romans 4: Promise based on faith
Nov	1	Romans 5: The grace of God through Jesus
Nov	15	Romans 6: Dead to sin

Bibles are provided!

Competition

We have 4 Bibles to give away this month. Just answer the simple question and return your answer to us stating your name and address, by 30th September 2011.

Question:
What is the first book in the Bible called?

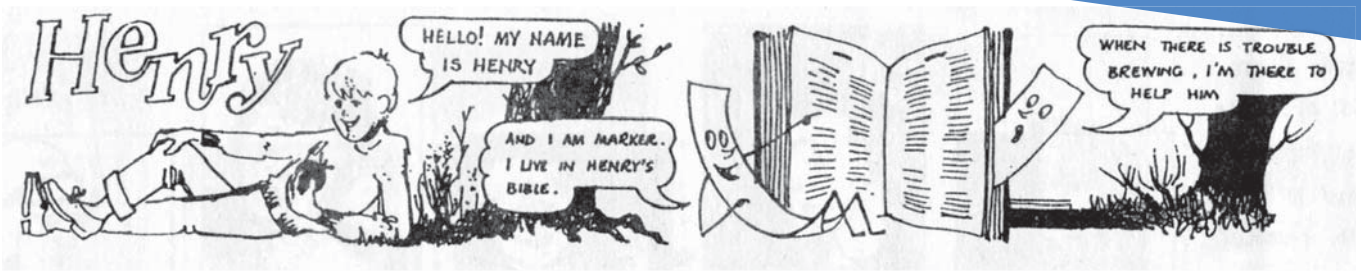
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Send your answers to the address given on page 2.

We would like to send you a free magazine, "Glad Tidings".
If you would prefer not to receive this publication please tick the box. ☐

Your name and address will not be passed onto any third parties.

The Story of Henry





Henry cartoon is printed by kind permission

A	L	O	R	D	T	B	G	C	O	L
D	E	J	A	R	F	H	R	G	A	Q
D	O	G	E	H	I	A	E	W	J	U
E	B	P	O	S	M	M	A	A	L	E
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H	H	K	M	E	A	E	S	S	D	I
C	E	A	I	V	H	G	T	R	F	O
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E	O	V	E	L	R	O	A	F	M	K
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WORDSEARCH** – from **Matthew 22 verse 34-40
Find the words that have been underlined.

When Jesus was asked about the commandments, this was his reply :

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself".