

Daily Reflection

Daily Update – Thursday, 1st October

Good Morning Everyone,

Today's Reflection is from Ian Maclennan – Thanks Ian!

Today's readings - Job 19:21-27a Psalm 27:13-14 Luke 10:1-12

Pause: *Lord Jesus, still our hearts and minds now, as we prepare to hear from your word. Help us to understand and rejoice in your eternal life, which you have revealed in the scriptures and supremely through your glorious resurrection and ascension. Show us how to live with this eternal hope at the core of our being.*

Amen

The book of Job is so ancient that scholars are uncertain when it was written. Job is believed to have lived in the era of the patriarchs and could well have been a contemporary of Abraham. If this is right that would make Job one of the oldest books in the Bible.

All the more remarkable is the subject which Job tackles and the insight which he gives us about God's purposes and plans. The topic of undeserved suffering looms large in Job. The introductory verses make it clear that Job is "blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil" (1:8). Yet he endures massive personal losses, loss of his health and well-being and the death of practically all who are near and dear to him. Despite this, he continues to trust in God, praise him and not sin in what he said.

As if all this was not enough, Job's friends then make an appearance. They prove to be unsympathetic, to the point of not believing Job and bringing to bear against Job their wrong understanding of God's character and activity.

In the midst of all this drama and all his suffering, Job has an amazing insight:

I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.

Job 19:25-27a

This side of death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus we know the source of Job's confidence in resurrection and life - it is the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The apostle Paul teaches us:

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

What Job glimpsed in the far future, we see clearly and plainly.

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Jesus makes sense of all the undeserved suffering and the consequences of the sin which pervade our world. These consequences are temporary and fleeting. The divine reality is eternal life with justice and everlasting joy which beckons, as Jesus calls us to be with him when he returns.

Armed with this knowledge we can do all things through him who strengthens and equips us for the task of serving him. Elsewhere Paul notes that "our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." Let us fix our eyes on that eternal glory and resolve to serve and persevere, trusting in all God's wonderful promises!

Prayer

Almighty God,
thank you that your eternal plan has always been
to destroy the shroud which enfolds all peoples,
to swallow up death forever.

Thank you that a time is coming when you will wipe away
the tears from all faces and will remove your people's disgrace from all the earth.
As we wait patiently for this time, keep us faithful and persevering, we pray,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Remember...



News

Copyright Overview Training

You are invited to attend our Copyright Overview training session on Thursday 8th October, at 8pm. This training is essential for all those who use images, video and audio on behalf of the church in any form, including posters, service content, programmes, online materials and recordings.

The training will take place on Zoom and last around half an hour. Please contact the office for the connection details.

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Sunday Services in October

Please email me at admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com if you would like to come to any services in October.

The cut-off date for booking for each week's service is the Thursday before.

If you are unable to attend a Sunday service that you have booked, email the admin address of phone 01243 375576.

Have you got flu-like symptoms? Please don't attend Church.

Bags of Compost

They are more bags of compost available around the back of the Centre if you would like to help yourself. Could you please bring the bag back.

Humour

Where the Church is in 2020

