

## Henley-in-Arden Baptist Church

“Staying Connected” 16 – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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*Staying connected to God and each other while not meeting as church in the normal way*

We continue to monitor the situation. Detailed guidance has now been published as to how church gatherings could operate, but it does look very limited as to what could work safely and within the guidelines at present. We will be working through this over the coming weeks and consulting to see what may or may not be practical and safe. We will clearly need wisdom and holy patience in all things, as we trust Him. Your ongoing prayers in this regard are appreciated.

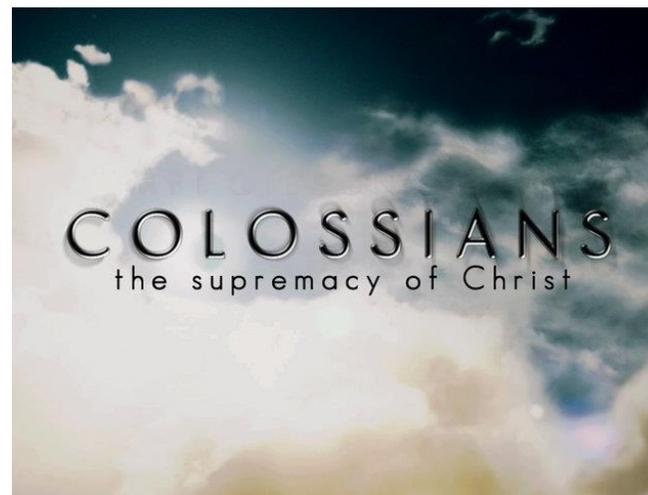
### *Other news*

A charity we support: DFN, have been in touch to encourage us, and thank us for our prayers and support by way of child-sponsorship in India. It is good to be active in our wider responsibilities, and to be reminded of the global nature of things and God’s big agenda. The situation in India is very difficult at present. Similarly, we pray for the work of the Leprosy Mission.

“Whatever you did for (these), you did for me” (Matthew 25:40)

Today is our final week in our series looking at extracts from the letter of Colossians

[next week we turn to the last few chapters in Paul’s letter to Romans (starting at chapter 12)]



It seems that Paul never visited the church at Colossae (he was liaising with Epaphras, who founded the church there). But his pastoral concern is evident through the various personal greetings and instructions in this last chapter (Col.4:2-18). It’s a lovely part of the letter. A reminder for us, perhaps, that good relationships are the key to fruitful Christian living. We saw last week the need to practice the virtues of love and forgiveness (for this is God’s way with us!) (Col.3:13-14).

In this spirit we pray for others, not just in our churches, but wider afield too. As we pray, we are forced to our knees (symbolically or actually) in humility.

Lord God, our heavenly Father, we thank You for all Your good gifts. For a world full of beauty and good things; for the love of family and friends...

We turn to You with our prayers for those on our hearts: knowing that Your love goes deeper and wider than we can imagine.

For those struggling, gracious God, we ask You to draw near with Your help, support and tender care.

At this time of continuing crisis really, we pray for those in leadership and support roles in the denominations, and especially our Baptist Union, and for our Regional Ministers – Lord, give them the resources they need to serve the churches well; and bless them, we pray. And for our government, with the responsibilities they carry: Give wisdom and grace we pray.

Following our pattern of systematically praying for those in certain occupations, we pray for opticians, occupational therapists, oceanographers...and for pharmacists, policemen, production managers... Lord, give courage, skill, protection... and may You be glorified in their work.

*And the Lord's prayer: with its intimacy, its reverence, and its pleading for God's ways to be brought in...*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

For those not online, especially:

Worship services on radio and TV this Sunday include:

- Radio 4 8:10am Sunday Worship
- BBC1 1:15pm Songs of Praise

And finally, please do get in touch with me at any time

May God bless you with His peace.

Mike

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“Devote yourselves to prayer.” (Colossians 4:2)

*Joke corner:*

(keep them coming in – high standards to maintain!)

Q: Where was Solomon's temple located?

A: On the side of his head. Duh!