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Letters to the Church during COVID-19: 3 June 2020

To the Church Family at KBC,

I hope this finds you well and keeping safe! I have a great passage to share with you this morning for your encouragement. They are really familiar words which you would have heard time and time again. They are words of Jesus found in John 14:6. You may know them instinctively by heart because you memorised them but why don't you grab your Bible and read them again. All done? Do you find these words a bit of a paradox this morning, perhaps encouraging or maybe even instructive? I wonder if it is not all these things?

The words are a paradox because, as one commentator points out, with the cross looming we are soon going to see that Jesus' way is the cross, He will be convicted by blatant liars who do not tell the truth and His body would soon be laid lifeless in a tomb. However when the resurrection dawns we realise that it is because He went to the cross that He is the way, because all the liars and the lies were proved false through the resurrection we can conclude that He is the truth and because He was willing to die in perfect obedience to the Father's will, He was vindicated and raised by the Father opening the way of life for us. Thanks be to God!

The words are also incredibly encouraging. In a culture that offers so many alternative ways to pursue with their empty promises of fulfilment and satisfaction, Jesus words triumph saying, "I am the way". In a culture that offers a wide variety of fact and fiction and fake news which can leave us confused and not knowing what to think, Jesus words triumph saying, "I am the truth". And in a culture that says life can be found in material pursuit, pursuit of pleasure and pursuit of power, Jesus words triumph saying, those are all dead end roads because "I am the life".

You are probably wondering, 'So what encouraging things do these words have to say to me during this pandemic?' I think quite a bit, and this is the way these words are instructive for us in this season. Do you know that you are uniquely positioned and placed by God in this season to be a beacon of undiminished hope, peace and healing? Not because you are a super positive, glass half full and insanely optimistic 'can't-get-me-down' kind of person. Not at all. It's because you are a child of God, a blood bought believer who has God as their Father, Jesus as their closest friend and the Holy Spirit as a seal and deposit guaranteeing that all Jesus said is 100% true. Basically, you know the Way, the Truth and the Life and that makes you a beacon of hope.

As one writer eloquently points out, 'As Christians we can help our friends navigate their path through confusion and crisis because we know the Way. We can quiet the voices of fear and anxiety because we listen to the Truth. And we can bring hope into the gravest of situations because we know the Life. These are the days in which faith in Jesus should make the most difference and as the ground quakes, we can demonstrate the power of standing on the Rock'.

So here's the instructive challenge of these words. Who are you going to walk with, invest time with, connect with that you may be a beacon of hope in a season full of uncertainty? Who can you stand alongside pointing them to the Way, the Truth and the Life? I encourage you, once you have someone in mind, pray for them regularly asking the Father to reveal the truth of the Son to them through the Holy Spirit.

Grace be with you friends!

Stu

#KeepTrusting #KeepConnected #Call4Support

Notices and Upcoming events on Zoom:

Thursday: Monthly cooperate prayer meeting from 7:45pm.

Friday: Children and Youth on line for those aged 11+ at 7pm.

Sunday: 10:30am, Sunday Morning Service (we will open the room at 10am for people to gather to chat and leave it open after the service for people to chat as well).

Sunday: 7pm, there will be a time of worship until about 8.30pm led by a few of us from the music group. It's very informal, but an opportunity to worship God in song.

Thursday 25 June: Church meeting for members.

KBC YouTube channel: Here you will find our new daily mini devotional series 'Therefore..' and back copies of Stu's daily devotional series 'You are....' and our sermons each week. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0lqZEJkxDYGSeCQCw6onJw/featured>

Resources: Do not forget to check out our resources page on our website, which is constantly being updated, including resources for families and activities for children and youth: <https://kingswoodbaptistchurch.co.uk/resources/>