

Kingswood Baptist Church,
Codenhall Straight,
Kingswood,
Basildon,
Essex,
SS16 5DH.



Telephone: 01268 271707

Email: admin@kingswoodbaptistchurch.co.uk

Website: www.kingswoodbaptistchurch.co.uk

Registered Charity: 1131656

Senior Minister: Stuart Elmes
Associate Minister: Nick Braithwaite

Letters to the Church during COVID-19: 29 July 2020

Dear brothers and sisters!

I hope you are well, keeping safe and experiencing the joy of the Lord as your strength! Are you feeling encouraged these days, full of hope and peace? It's sometimes hard to keep our head and heart in a good place to maintain these things, isn't it? Sometimes disappointment, discouragement and disheartenment seem to crowd in too close and stifle out these blessings from God. If you are feeling a little like that this morning, then let me share a great few verses with you to meditate on. They are found in Lamentations 3:21-23.

Lamentation is one of the prophetic books written by Jeremiah following the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. This destruction was not something that caught Jeremiah by surprise because he had been warning the people of God, of God's coming judgement throughout his ministry but they failed to listen. So, God fulfilled His word and discipline came to His people through the Babylonians. Now Jerusalem lies in ruins, people are carried off into exile and things look hopeless. The whole book is a lament (a passionate expression of grief and sorrow) over the destruction of Jerusalem. Until 3:21-23 - turn to your Bible and have a read. All done?

It's amazing right? If you read the whole book these words are like a shaft of light breaking in through the gloom, a breeze of fresh air expelling the fetid stench of defeat, the melodic notes of hope over the chaotic rumble of destruction. Look carefully at the words and allow them to renew your mind and lift your heart.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Jeremiah is chasing to remember; amidst all the hopelessness and gloom he is making a conscious choice to remember. He is looking to a distant future and allowing hope to surface. But what is it that Jeremiah calls to mind that causes hope to start simmering in his heart? Several things worth noting.

First, it is because of the Lord's great love that they are not consumed. Although they have been beaten down and defeated, they were not completely consumed. There was still a remnant and with that remnant the promise of restoration. As one author put it wherever God leaves life, God leaves hope. Second it is because the Lord's compassion never fails. Even in the severity of his correction the Lord's compassion shines through. This reminds us that the tender affection of God for His creation cannot be snuffed out. Thirdly it is because these compassions are new every morning. Take note of that, every morning.

Every morning ends the night. Every morning brings a new day. Every morning brings provision of a new day. Every morning brings new forgiveness of new sins. Every morning brings new strength for new challenges, trials and temptations. No wonder he concludes 'great is your faithfulness'.

I wonder if during this COVID19 season you have had time to call these things to mind. Yes, this pandemic has caused havoc across the globe bringing with it great tragedy, loss and destruction of things we thought very secure. It is likely that when it passes completely, the aftershocks of it will be felt for months if not years. But these things should not overwhelm us and why? Because we are not consumed, his compassions never fail, they are new every morning and His faithfulness towards His people is very great.

So, fix your eyes on the Lord, immerse your mind and heart in His unfailing word and allow His promise to bring encouragement, hope and peace.

Grace be with you!

Stu

#KeepTrusting #KeepConnected #Call4Support

Notices and Upcoming events on Zoom:

Thursday: Unpack the Preach discussion from 7:45pm.

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).

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/>

Advance notices:

Keswick Convention their five-day online event ends on Friday. For more details click here: [Virtually Keswick Convention](#)

DREAMING STREAMING THE IMPOSSIBLE for *Ages 12-18, Friday 31st July 2020 from 7pm and Saturday 1st August 2020 from 12pm.* Gathering online with worship, talks, time of prayer and a bunch of fun stuff featuring speakers such as Mike Pilavachi (Soul Survivor). To find out more and to book, visit <https://dreamingtheimpossible.org/>

LIMITLESS FESTIVAL for *Ages 11-17 and 17-30, from Friday 8th August 2020 from 8pm to 9pm and Saturday 9th August 2020 from 10am to 9.10pm.* The online festival for youth and young adults includes 3 main session messages, songs from the worship band and a range of live seminars including topics such as life with God, life Online and life at Uni. To find out more visit https://www.elim.org.uk/Groups/341609/Limitless_Festival_2020.aspx

CAP Student Money Course: starting university this year or returning? Sign up for a free course, held on Zoom, to help you manage your money better and learn to budget, save and spend well. To register contact Lyn Knowles/Paul Dorrington. Details: 6:30-8:30pm, Friday 7th August, Wednesday 12th August and Friday 4th September.