

The Good News Paper

The Good News Paper is prepared by the Mt Waverley Christadelphians to spread the good news from God in the Bible. We welcome your comments and questions.

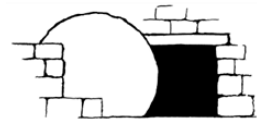
This edition includes the Bible's answer to the question "What must we do to be saved?", a Bible Tip to Read the Bible, a quiz about people in the Bible who were known by 2 different names and a brief look at doing everything you can with what is at hand.

God bless you as you read, and may your thoughts and meditations be acceptable to our God in heaven.

The editor

What must we do to be saved?

We must start by being completely honest with ourselves. We need to acknowledge to God in prayer that we have sinned and that we can do nothing to save ourselves. At the beginning of his ministry Jesus taught his disciples, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:2). Being "*poor in spirit*" means being humble, knowing our need of God and His forgiveness.



We then need to understand how God can save us from our sins through His Son. This can only come from a prayerful reading and thinking about the Bible, the word of God. The knowledge we gain must touch our hearts so that we really want to become people like Jesus. If this happens to us then we must be baptized in water as a sign that we truly accept his life and death as the way in which we can be saved. Jesus told us that this is an essential step for true disciples (Mark 16:16). Finally we need to live lives as faithful disciples of Jesus-following his pattern of behaviour in all we do.

If we do these things, when Jesus returns he will greet us with the wonderful words, "*Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world*" (Matthew 25:34).

Bible Tip: Reading the Bible

The Bible is a compilation of 66 books including history, songs, prayers, prophecies, letters, records of kings and kingdoms, and accounts of everyday people's lives. We read different books in different ways – think about how you read a manual for a new appliance, an email, a motivational

book, a novel or text book. It's the same with the Bible, you need to read different books in different ways. Here are some examples:

- The Psalms – great to read when you want to pray to God or to meditate on his greatness. I find reading a single psalm in solitude followed by some quiet thinking time useful (similar to a motivational book).
- The Gospels – great to read to learn about Jesus' life on earth. You may think of this like reading a biography or even a novel.
- Prophets such as Jeremiah – I recommend reading small sections, possibly with some study guides, pausing to think and ask questions. Similar to reading a text book.
- Letters such as 1&2 Peter or 1,2&3 John. Imagine reading a letter from the past – looking for clues about what the letter was talking about and trying to gain insights and solutions that had been shared. The bible has lots of these letters – each deals with issues and provides advice. I recommend John's letters for insight on loving our neighbour, and the letters to the Thessalonians has some lovely verses about looking forward to the return of Jesus to raise faithful Christians from the dead.

Parts of the bible can be difficult to read, and other parts are easier. Flipping between sections of differing difficulty will help you. Pray to God for guidance and help, but also remember that we can help one another by asking questions and sharing our own discoveries.

Puzzle: By any other name

Many Bible characters had more than one name. How else were the people listed below named?

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Abram |
| 2 | Sarai |
| 3 | Jacob |
| 4 | Jesus Christ |
| 5 | Saul |
| 6 | Cephas |
| 7 | Matthew |
| 8 | Mara |
| 9 | Tabitha |

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are!

In 2 Kings 5, we are told the story of how God cured the leprosy of Naaman the captain of Syria. It all started with one young girl who lived in Israel in ~900BC. We don't know her name, but we do know that she had been taken captive from her home by Naaman to be a maid to Naaman's wife.

Although, far away from home, she held onto her faith in God, and she did not let her circumstances prevent her from telling her captors that God's prophet in Israel could heal Naaman.

The little girl must have been convincing, as Naaman headed to the King of Israel to ask for help. Unfortunately, the King of Israel did not have a similar faith and complained that the Syrian's were seeking a quarrel (2 Kings 5:7), but God's prophet intervened and asked the King to send Naaman to him (and eventually Naaman was healed).

What a contrast. The little girl had lost family, possessions and was in slavery, but trusted in God implicitly. The king of Israel had power and possessions, but had no relationship with God. The little girl felt compassion for her captors and opened the way for them to connect with the only true God.

What do we do in the circumstances that God has put us? Do we see the obstacles or make the most of the opportunities?

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should work in them" Eph. 2:10

She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

Mark 14:8-9

(NRSV)

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