

Aug-Sep 2003

Newsletter



Thought – “God’s Style”

When we spend time with people we get to know a bit about their style, about how they operate. Some people are bold and think on their feet, whilst others are more the quiet and slowly-but-surely type.

It’s interesting to note that God too has a very distinct style. If we look at his way of operating with many different types of people across the whole of the Bible, we can see a consistent pattern emerging. This pattern can also be recognised in his creation and through how he works in the modern world.

God is extraordinarily patient, the apostle Peter had to remind people who were expecting to see God’s kingdom to come NOW, *“With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day ... He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:8)

God has a hands-off approach. God is not “in your face” or interfering. He will not force himself upon us if he is not wanted. Yet at the same time God is eagerly watching us and his heart wants us to turn to him. Paul notes that God’s purpose in creating us is *“... that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”* (Acts 17:27)

Prepared is God’s middle name, you’d have to get up very, very, very early to be more prepared than him! For example, Jesus talks about a kingdom that has been *“...prepared for you before the creation of the world”.* (Matthew 25:34)

The *prepared* and *hands-off* features of God’s style are easily recognisable in his creation. The natural world around us goes on and on in cycles and with many self-regulating systems that have been prepared and established long ago.

Do you think you know God well enough? There are many ways you can get to know him better. Although he is patient and non-interfering, it’s vital that we realise there is a lot more to him than this. We must not mistake God’s patience for indifference and we must not interpret his hands-off approach as a licence to ignore him. He is currently preparing something big. Our lives will depend upon making a response to him now.

In Focus – “The Meal-a-Day fund”

The Meal-a-Day fund is a charity run by Christadelphians, it was established in 1976 when a small group got together with the aim of addressing the needs of others, especially in the developing world. The U.S. secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, made a speech around that time concerning the need to try and provide at least one ‘meal a day’ to every person on earth. Thus the Meal-a-Day fund was born...

“Our mission is to share the blessings from God with those who have need in less developed parts of the world.

We seek to work with poor and underprivileged people by:

Facilitating self-sufficiency and self-worth. Overcoming the effects of hunger, disease, disability, destitution and homelessness. Promoting basic health care and education. Fostering sharing, learning and service to others. Giving humanitarian aid in acute situations of need.”

(Also see Matthew 25:35-40)

Further information about the Meal-a-Day fund can be found on its website at www.meal-a-day.org

What’s On? (At Henrietta St. unless otherwise stated)

Sunday evening Services at 6:00 pm...

DATE	SUBJECT
3-Aug	Paul's First Journey
10-Aug	Paul's Second Journey
17-Aug	Paul's Third Journey
24-Aug	What do you do when...death stares you in the face
31-Aug	All age service - What's God got to do with it (time 3:00 pm)

DATE	SUBJECT
7-Sep	Daring to be different - Attitudes to Sex
14-Sep	Daring to be different - war
21-Sep	Scenes from Abraham's life
28-Sep	Scenes from Abraham's life
5-Oct	All age service - Harvest (time 3:00 pm)

Regulars:

- Sunday
 - Breaking of Bread Service 10:30 a.m.
 - Sunday School 2:45 p.m. (From Kids aged 4, up to Adult Discussion Group)
 - Evening Service 6:00 p.m. (See above for details)
- Tuesday
 - Junior Youth club 6:45 p.m.
 - “The Bible Course” – www.thebiblecourse.com
7:15 p.m. at Chorlton Adult Education Centre ☎(0161) 286 6471
- Thursday
 - Bible Class 8:00 p.m.
- Friday
 - Senior Youth Club 7:30 p.m.

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