

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter May 31 2020

Values

In ancient China, the people desired security from the barbaric, invading hordes to the north. To get this protection, they built the Great Wall of China. It's 9 metres high, 5 metres wide and 2,400 kilometres long!

The Chinese goal was to build an absolutely impenetrable defense. But during the first one hundred years of the wall's existence China was invaded three times.

It wasn't the wall's fault. During all three invasions, the barbaric hordes never climbed over the wall, broke it down, or went around it; they simply bribed a gatekeeper and then marched right in through an open gate.

The purpose of the wall failed because of a breakdown in values. Any society or community can be ostensibly rich in materialistic terms but if the values of righteousness, honesty and charity are not adhered to, then that community will fall apart. The Roman Empire is an example, albeit on a rather grand scale. We have even seen religious organisations/communities falter and fail because the very values they promote have not been abided by. We are all human!

On a personal level, integrity, compassion and humility are invariably the hallmarks of a person who has mana and is held in high regard, not the size of their bank balance or any power they might wield.

'Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body of armour of God's righteousness.' Ephesians 6:14

Word for Today

Finally arrived! I have posted out to those who have requested copies. If you would like a copy, please let me know.

Finances

Many thanks for those of you who have managed to help out in terms of keeping our heads above water financially to date. Just a reminder that if you would like to contribute, our bank account number is 06 0991 0056055 00 (St Paul's in the Park)

Time for a Smile

A man goes for a doctor's appointment. 'I haven't seen you for quite some time,' says the doctor. 'I know,' replies the man, 'I've not been well.'

Back to Church

Many churches are gathering for worship this Sunday, albeit with restrictions on distancing, greeting, singing, Holy Communion and sharing of refreshments. I will be watching with interest as to how this impacts on the worshipping experience. I will also be guided by the wishes of our congregation, many of whom at the moment, it would be fair to say, are wary of meeting in large groups.

If we decide to go ahead with a service of worship next Sunday, a communication will go out in the next couple of days.

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Thanks to Josiah Gilman

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LEPERS ... I HEAL LEPERS

To Ponder

'There is nothing wrong with people possessing riches. The wrong comes when riches possess people.' Billy Graham

'Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your mouth is moving.' Anon

YouTube clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhpGNeRJ-Pk>

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