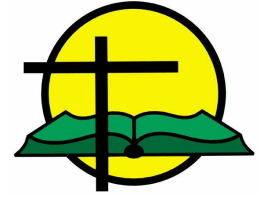


Westview Baptist Church



Sunday 15th May 2016

Hebrews 8-9: Jesus brings the New Covenant!

A covenant is 'an unchangeable God imposed agreement that sets out the conditions of the relationship between God and His people'. We see here in our passage this week *the shadow and fault of the Old Covenant and its systems*. This Old Covenant and the sacrificial system pointed forward, it was made as a replica of the heavenly one. There was fault with this system because it was not able to bring redemption and final forgiveness of sins because it did not do away with sin. The Old Covenant's fault was that the heart of humanity continued to turn away from the God that they had agreed to follow after.

The covenant and sacrificial system always pointed forward. Forward to something greater, forward to the fulfilment of the sacrifices: the Perfect Sacrifice. Jesus Christ the perfect man; the Son of God. Jesus the perfect sinless High Priest who did not have his own sin to deal with. He laid down His perfect life on behalf of the sins of His people. And so Jesus has brought the fulfilment of what the Old Covenant could never bring, and he is now the Mediator of the New and Better Covenant built on better promises. We see in Christ Jesus the *promise and the fulfilment of the New Covenant*.

This New Covenant was promised by God centuries and centuries earlier through the prophet Jeremiah. A covenant where God himself would put his laws into his people's minds, and write them on their hearts. A covenant where all his people would intimately know him their God, where he would forgive all of their sins. In Jesus, God has brought this for all who trust in him. So now "Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." This is a certain hope for his followers that even death itself cannot destroy. Jesus is coming, he is coming soon, for all who eagerly waiting for him.

Family News

Tea & Trade Thank you!

The ladies event last Saturday was a great time! Thanks so much to all who attended and donated towards our 2016 Mission Project. \$284.70 was raised on the day that will go towards the Mission Project. A big thank you to Wendy and all who helped make the day possible.

A thank you from Linda Bonney

Linda Bonney wanted to thank those who were able to attend her birthday celebration a few weeks ago. It was a lovely time and she said that she felt very supported. We are thankful for her life and for the gift she is to our church community.

Bob Stock in Hospital

Bob is presently in Nowra Hospital. He attended church last Sunday but his health went downhill over the next few days. It seems he has pneumonia. He is presently receiving oxygen. He is short of breath and there has been some difficulty in him speaking. He wanted to reassure the church that he is receiving wonderful care. Both Jay and Liam work at the hospital now, and so they drop in regularly. Jay was on in emergency when Bob came in. Please keep him and the family in your prayers.

Our Online Profile

On facebook? Friends or family that have Facebook? Why not 'like' us or get others too. This is one more way to let people know about our church, what's happening, and for them to hear the good news of Jesus! Find us on:

www.facebook.com/westviewbaptistchurchdoonside

We're also on [Twitter.com/westviewbaps](https://twitter.com/westviewbaps) and on

[Instagram.com/westviewbaptist](https://www.instagram.com/westviewbaptist). If you have any ideas for our online profile or any questions please speak to JJ or Tony.



Missed a week? Why not listen online?

Just a reminder that all the teachings/sermons are available on: www.westviewbaptistchurch.com.au



Thanks so much to Bill for his help with this over so many years! If you would like a copy of something and do not currently have access to the internet please speak to JJ or Bill.

What's Coming Up?

Soccer in the Park – Sunday 15th May – 2PM

All welcome for some soccer in the Park.
Charlie Bali Reserve, Doonside from 2pm.
Bring your friends!



Sunday Prayer Night – 22nd May – 7pm

All welcome, Sunday 22nd May from 7pm at the church property to praise and thank God for Who He is, to ask Him to continue to work in the lives of our church community, to empower the work of spreading His gospel and in the wider community, our government and our world. This usually goes for about an hour.

100 Days of Prayer Starts Monday 6th of June

Join with us from Monday 6th June for 100 days of prayer. 20 weeks. Monday to Friday. Daily reflections and prayers + suggestions of things to pray for. More will be said about this over the next few weeks.

www.facebook.com/100daysofprayer2016



Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Iraq **Leader:** President Faud Masum **Population:** 37 million

Main Religion: Islam **Government:** Parliamentary Democracy

Main Source of Persecution: Islamic Extremism

Persecution increase

Since the early 2000s, the situation in Iraq has been deteriorating. This escalated in June 2014, when Islamic State (IS) invaded many parts of northern Iraq. They implemented strict Islamic rules and are responsible for most of the violence against Christians. Iraq sits second on the 2016 World Watch List.

Christianity on the verge of extinction

Christians have been in Iraq for almost 2,000 years, however the church is currently on the verge of extinction. During Saddam Hussein's reign (1979-2003), people groups, including Christians, were forcibly removed from their homes and moved around the country. After the 2003 US-led invasion, persecution continued, with anti-Western (and anti-Christian) attitudes increasing.

Impossible to be a Christian under Islamic State

Violence from Islamic extremist groups has increased, especially from IS. In areas under IS rule, it is impossible to have any church life or publicly proclaim to be a Christian. Public gatherings that are not organised by IS are forbidden and all women are forced to wear a full veil (niqab). Being a convert from Islam to Christianity is like a death warrant in IS controlled territory. Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) face pressure from community and family for converting to Christianity. They risk being threatened and abandoned by their families for the shame it brings and are often discriminated by their communities. Iraqi law forbids Muslims from converting to other religions.

In the early 1990s there were 1.5 - 2 million Christians in Iraq. Now there are only an estimated 250,000 Christians left, with 130,000 displaced because of IS.

Please Pray:

- > For believers living in regions ruled by IS; pray that their faith would be strengthened and that God would use them as light in this darkness.
- > For the thousands of Internally Displaced People (IDP) who have fled because of IS. Praise God that he is using His church to reach out to the suffering and lost.
- > That the gospel of Jesus Christ would be revealed to members of Islamic State; that they would repent and turn to Christ.

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Eldership Contact: Lee Arundel 02 9621 6907; leearundel@yahoo.com

Electronic Giving: 'Westview Baptist Church' BSB: 704 922 Account:100003291

Address: Corner of Crawford Road & Coveny Street, Doonside NSW 2767

Post: PO Box 965 Kings Langley NSW 2147