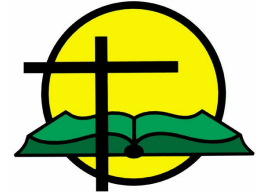


# Westview Baptist Church



*Sunday 1st May 2016*

## Hebrews – Jesus is Supreme!

We have been seeing going through this letter of Hebrews Jesus constantly being contrasted and compared with those who have come before. Jesus is compared with the angels, compared with Moses. And every time He is shown to be Greater. Jesus is shown to be the Supreme One. Because He is the Perfect, Holy and Righteous Son of God. He is the Perfect Prophet, Priest and King.



And in our passage this week (4:14-6:20), Jesus is compared with the priests. And He is shown to be the Sinless Perfect priest who is appointed by God Himself, called by God just as Aaron the Old Testament priest was. Because Jesus is our Great High Priest, who now sits at the Father's right hand in heaven, Jesus – the very Son of God – because of this – 'let us hold onto what we have professed to believe' is the writer's encouragement. Because of Jesus we have full access to talk with God our Father to come to Him in our time of need and find mercy and grace. Let us use our privilege as sons and daughters of the Almighty God.

This passage also speaks about the danger it is for those for whom they might have said at one time they were followers of Jesus and even looked that way, but now there is no evidence in their life of the fruit of God's Spirit. We – each of us – need to examine our own lives to see if God's fruit is bearing in our lives, that we continue to treasure Jesus above all things, loving God and loving fellow believers and those outside. The danger is that if we have no fruit, if we do not see this evidence we have great reason to question our status. Because God's children reflect Him. The beauty is if we find ourselves here, this is a gift from God, to come today, now, through repentance and faith in Jesus' – His perfect sacrifice for all our

wrong. And in Him to find new life, new identity, in relationship with the Eternal God.

## **Family News**

### **A Big Thank You To Spike For Sunday School!**

A big thank you to Spike, who has decided that he will no longer be teaching Sunday School. He has been such a faithful and committed teacher for many years now since David has left. And we want to thank him so much as a church for his hard work, his self-sacrificial service in this way. It is not an easy thing to do, to give up his time being with us each week and to give his time to invest into these children. But we are so thankful for his many years of teaching our children about who God is and His great love for us. For the rest of this year the Elders will be running Sunday school between them on a roster. But if you are interested in teaching Sunday school or being involved in a team of teaching Sunday school in the future (maybe once a month or once every 6 weeks etc), then please speak to us. And of course we can help with resources and even training. Thank you.

### **Scripture in Schools**

Scripture is back for Crawford and Doonside Public next week with Doonside High a weeks from starting off. Please continue to pray for Bay, JJ and Alex (Doony Anglican), and for all the Cobis workers as they continue to share Jesus in our local schools. Pray for God to work in the students hearts as they hear this great news! We also have a new principal at Doonside High, so please pray for her in her role and for her support. Thank you for partnering with us through your prayers and support!

### **Wednesday Friendship Group**

On April 30th this group has been meeting for 19 years! Meeting on Wednesdays for a short Bible devotional, games, friendship and food. It has provided a wonderful opportunity for church members and those who might otherwise never come into a

church to come along, to hear about Jesus, and to find warm and welcoming people. We do thank God especially for Kath, Tony and Lynne for their great help to make this happen.

## **What's Coming Up?**

### **WOW (Women of Westview)**

#### **Tea & Trade!**

**Saturday 7th May 9:30am.**

#### **Fundraiser for Mission Project!**

Calling all women! This is an event where you can bring along a few items you're happy to donate, that you think someone else will love & be willing to pay for. Some cash to buy what you like and a friend or a couple (if you like)! This will be a great opportunity to spend time together, to enjoy a cuppa and chat and raise some money for our mission project. For more information please speak to Wendy.



### **Sunday Morning Prayer**

All welcome, this Sunday 1st May from 8:15am at the church property to prayer praise and thank God for Who He is, to ask Him to continue to work in the lives of our church community, the work of spreading His gospel and for the wider community, our government and our world. This time generally goes to 8:45am

### **Men's Community Group – Tuesday 3rd May**

This Tuesday from 6-8pm at the Doonside Cottage.  
All men welcome. Friends welcome. Speak to JJ.

### **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!



## Sujin's Baby Shower. Saturday May 14th

All Westview ladies are invited. 10-12pm. Speak to Becky for gift ideas and more details.



## Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

**Country:** Oman **Leader:** Sultan and Prime Minister Qaboos bin Said Al-Said  
**Population:** 4.6 million **Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Monarchy  
**Main Source of Persecution:** Islamic Extremism

### Consequences for converting

Oman is one of the few countries where Islam is the state religion, but conversion is not a criminal offence. However converting from Islam is not respected by law, which assumes that all citizens are Muslims. This particularly creates issues related to family matters, for example it prohibits a father from having custody of his children if he leaves Islam.

### A long history

Christianity is believed to have first entered Oman with the Portuguese in 1507–1508. A new era of mission began in the 1880s, bringing the Catholic and Protestant churches to Oman. In recent decades, a number of religious communities have emerged among the expatriate population. Most Christians in Oman are expats, with only a few hundred indigenous Christians.

### Legal and social pressure

Oman's legal system is mainly based on Islamic law. All state school curriculums include instruction in Islam. Foreign Christians are allowed to discretely worship in private homes or work compounds. Their facilities are restricted in order not to offend nationals. There are few Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) in Oman. MBBs risk persecution from family and society. MBBs can lose their family, house, and job and could even be killed, though no violent incidents were documented in the last 12 months.

### Please Pray:

- > For the Sultan of Oman, that he would continue to govern with the principle of tolerance, and do more to respect the human rights of Christians.
- > That God would give boldness to expat Christians, so that they would share the gospel with their indigenous neighbours.



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