

Bearfield Church

Rev David Jewell, Email - pastor@bearfield.org

OWORSHIP THE LORD
IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS.

Sunday 28th February

'Not giving up' - 2 Corinthians 4 v 7 - 18

Morning service 10.30m

Everyone is welcome to join on Zoom
(link available from secretary@bearfield.org)

Lighthouses children's group on Zoom at 10am

JAM children's group on Zoom at 10am

TGI youth meeting on Zoom at 10.30am

Followed by **Coffee and Chat at 11.45am** and **Prayer room**

This Week



Tuesday 2nd March

10.30am - morning homegroup

8pm - evening homegroup

Wednesday 3rd March

8pm - evening homegroup

Thursday 4th March

8 pm - Craft and Chat

Weekly wonderings ...



We recognise that punctuation is hugely important in helping us read correctly. However, in the ancient world, the Greeks had written their texts so that their letters ran together 'withnospacesorpunctuation' and without any distinction between lowercase and capitals. It was up to the reader to pick their way through this unforgiving mass of letters to discover where each word or sentence ended and the next began.

Yet the lack of punctuation and word spaces was not seen as a problem. In early democracies such as Greece and Rome, where elected officials debated to promote their points of view, eloquent and persuasive speech was considered more important than written language and readers fully expected that they would have to pore over a scroll before reciting it in public. To be able to understand a text on a first reading was unheard of: when asked to read aloud from an unfamiliar document, a Second Century writer named Aulus Gellius protested that he would mangle its meaning and emphasise its words incorrectly. (When a bystander stepped in to read the document instead, he did just that.)

One of the many challenges in reading the Bible is knowing what are the words of Jesus and what is commentary. In some Bibles, the words of Jesus are emphasised by being marked in red ink. However, the issue is that the ancient writers did not use punctuation, so that full stops, commas, and speech marks have been added in later, along with verse numbers and chapters. This means that we cannot be sure when the words of Jesus in John 3 stopped. It is clear that the apostle John is writing about a conversation, but does Jesus stop speaking at verse 15 and the rest is John's commentary amplifying what Jesus was saying, or do the words of Jesus continue to verse 21? Nobody knows. What we do know is that the words of the Bible were all written under the inspiration of God. In some areas of Scripture, for example the discourses in the book of Job and some of the writer of Ecclesiastes

more pessimistic statements, we cannot declare them to be true, only in the broader sense that someone wrote or spoke the words recorded.

For those who are reading through the Bible for the first time, they receive some big shocks when they come across some of the more violent passages in Judges, the books of Chronicles and Jeremiah. Scripture contains legend, poetry, history, philosophy, and words directly from God. I have been reading a book titled 'God of violence yesterday, God of love today?' which seeks to wrestle honestly with some of the more violent passages in the Old Testament. I will write more about that when I have finished!

We have a living God whom we worship, and we seek His grace in bringing alive to us this ancient manuscript, whilst recognising the dangers in treating it at face value and forgetting the context.

God bless, *David*

Bible Apps

Now days most people have some form of Smart phone, and we are inundated with 'apps' and always being told how great a new app it. David and myself talked a while back about how it would be go to have some form of review of some 'Christian' apps particularly as there are so many out there.

I could not review every app around so I have selected a few apps that can be downloaded free from Google Play Store. First I have looked at Bible reading apps following on from Liz's article about the Bible in one year. Here is a summary of three that I have looked at - more to come.

Sarah-Ann

'NLT Bible' by Bible App Offline

- Simple app with just one translation of the Bible - New Living Translation
 - Daily verse with 'thoughts' and prayer linked to it
 - Easy to navigate though books, chapters and verses
 - Settings enables 'Red Letter' for words of Jesus, and you can change font size
 - Search function to search key words
 - —**ve** Adverts crop up every so often when you switch between items
- ⇒ Overall a simple app if you just want one translation

'The Bible App' by Life.Church

This app you to be called YouVersion Holy Bible.

- More than just a copy of the Bible
 - Multiple translations of the Bible available of which many can be downloaded
 - Easy to navigate through the different books, chapters and verses
 - You can switch between translations easily while reading a passage
 - Audio available of each chapter for many translations
 - ve only able to start audio at beginning of a chapter, no way to fast forward though the chapter
 - Easy to share verses with other apps eg. WhatsApp or Facebook
 - Can create prayer lists - gives a daily prayer to help you get started
 - Verse of the day and image of the day (linked to verse)
 - You can create and save your own images with verses
 - Large selection of daily reading plans - again with audio
 - Videos of teaching and understanding the Bible
 - ve many feeds on home screen can get confusing/distracting
- ⇒ Overall a very useful app - I have been using it for years

'Bible gateway Pro' by help7daysapps

- —ve Adverts! It might be a free app but it has lots of Adverts
 - Boasts of 90+ translations accessible of which 61 are in English
 - Audio Bible available
 - ve audio is separate to written text so you can't follow along
 - You have to have an account to access reading plans
 - —ve Have to upgrade to paid app to access devotionals
 - Can search by keyword
- ⇒ I did not get on with this app and quickly removed it from my phone.

Please let me know if you know of any (free) apps you think I should be reviewing -SA