



All Things New

When snowdrops appear during the winter, emerging through the frozen ground and then showing such delicacy and fragility, you know that winter won't last forever. These beautiful little flowers bring a message of hope and happiness. However bad things might be, they are harbingers of something better that is coming, hopefully soon.

Much of the developed world is experiencing hard times at present. It seems that people have become accustomed to a lifestyle that their country's productivity cannot maintain, so for years wages have been at a standstill and public services have been cut back.

Many European nations, including Britain, have been facing an "austerity budget" in an attempt to limit national borrowing and "balance the books". It has not

been a popular strategy (ask the Greek people) and the result has been hard for many people, especially those who have lost their jobs and who now struggle to survive. No wonder people ask if there is any end to this process of cutting back and making do. All this is causing political anxiety and further unrest.

At the turn of the year, when pundits review the past twelve months and forecast how the coming year might work out, one headline said it all: "The only certainty is uncertainty". This is particularly true as a General Election draws near.

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About Ormskirk Christadelphians

Have you ever walked past the Christadelphian Hall at the end of Moorgate and asked yourself the question "Who are the Christadelphians?" or "I wonder what Christadelphians believe?" In a series of articles we hope to provide answers to these and other questions with the aim of helping you have a more meaningful faith.

Christadelphians have been meeting in Ormskirk since 1899 and it was in 1922 that our Meeting Hall opened on Moorgate. Since then we have met regularly every Sunday for our communion service and Bible Hour; and on Tuesday evenings for our Bible Study Group. Our name, "Christadelphians", simply means "brothers and sisters in Christ" and our aim is to understand the Bible message in the way in which it was originally taught. We do not have paid ministers or a "head office". Each church, or "ecclesia" as we prefer to call them, is independent and looks after its own affairs.

Christadelphians believe that Jesus, the Son of God, will return to the earth to set up God's kingdom. This is what we pray for in the words of the Lord's prayer "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven". This promises to be a time of peace and plenty and will contrast greatly from the world as it now is.

If we want to share in this promise our responsibility now is to live in a way which is pleasing to God and to show our faith in our daily lives.

Continued overleaf

About Ormskirk Christadelphians (continued)

This means that we need to have a correct understanding of the gospel which is why we spend time reading and studying the pages of scripture. We believe that all 66 books of the Bible are there for a purpose and so we aim to read the whole Bible within each calendar year using the Bible Reading Planner (we can send you a free copy). In Paul's letter to Timothy he reminds us that

"All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work".
(2 Timothy 3:16-17 - ESV).

Next time we will look at this teaching of scripture being inspired or "breathed out by God".

What We Believe

The Bible is God's only true message and reveals the true purpose of life today and tomorrow.

God will solve all human problems completely and forever.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the man appointed by God as King of the world.

Jesus lived, died and rose again to save us from sin and death and to give us hope forever.

Repentance, belief and baptism by immersion are essential for salvation.

Soon Christ will return visibly to the earth to take over world government and establish one worldwide kingdom on earth.

Resurrection of the body at the return of Jesus is the only way to escape from the unconscious sleep of death.

This is great news for all who get ready for the coming of Jesus.



All Things New (continued)

In an uncertain world, some things are unshakably true and unalterable. The promises God has made cannot fail, for when God says something it has to happen. As one apostle put it:

"Let God be true but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

What he meant was that God's words can never fail, even if everyone else is shown to be liars and utterers of falsehood.

This is not just a put-down for mankind (although none of us ever keep our promises absolutely). It is rather a declaration of divine certainty. God will never fail to fulfil what He has said; His words are rock-solid certainties.

God has a purpose with the earth which will include the establishment of His kingdom, or rulership, here once again. Long ago, when there were kings in Israel, God's kingdom existed on earth and people had the opportunity to witness a better way of life in action. But that arrangement only lasted some 400 years before collapsing because of human indifference and unbelief. Then Jesus was born and he showed us what mankind is capable of in terms of a living and vibrant relationship with God. Born the Son of God, the Lord Jesus always obeyed and always pleased his heavenly Father, and he willingly gave his life for us, so that we can also share in a loving relationship with our heavenly Father.

A Living Hope

When Jesus was raised from the dead, three days after he was cruelly crucified, his resurrection was a remarkable expression of hope. When the Bible uses the word "hope", it doesn't mean something that might happen, as in the expression "Oh, we do hope so". We use the word loosely as we can never be absolutely certain what will happen. When God's prophets or apostles talk of the hope of the gospel, or urge us to put our hope in the living God (**Jeremiah 17:7**), they are referring to something that is certain, which gives us hope.

That wonderful hope is available for all who read God's word and act upon it, as God requires.

Sunday Bible Talks

Every Sunday at 1:45pm

April: The Parables of Jesus

- 5th The Prodigal Son
- 12th The Sower
- 19th Blind Bartimaeus
- 26th The Kingdom of Heaven

May: Bible Prophecies

- 3rd About Jesus
- 10th About the Jews
- 17th About the Gentiles
- 24th Does it matter what I Believe
- 31st About Bethlehem

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**Christadelphian Hall
Moorgate
Ormskirk
Lancs
L39 4RT**

01695-768204

Christadelphians brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ