



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton, Crawley. Reg. Charity no. 1081321

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NewsFlash!

Sunday 10th September 2017

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| This morning | 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall <i>Worship: Vivienne Evans; Speaker: Ian Johnson</i> |
| <i>We offer a warm welcome to all visitors to our worship today If you would like to know more about us, please ask one of the leaders</i> | |
| Monday | 7.00pm: Prayer time in the Church |
| Tuesday | 7.00pm: House Group at Caroline's home 7.45pm: House Group at Ben & Pauline's home |
| Wednesday | 9.15am: Coffee Shop in the Social Hall |
| Friday | 2.30pm: Dave Time in the Church Quiet Room 5.00pm: Friday Meal in the Social Hall |
| Next Sunday | 9.00am: Open up and set up hall for worship 9.30am: Prayer meeting 10.00am: Tea and coffee 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including communion <i>Worship: Kevin Gordon; Speaker: David Evans</i> |

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Romans 3:18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (NIV)

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (NIV)

My Bible explains Romans 3:18 as the corrupt and depraved state of all men, till grace restrain or change them. Proverbs 9:10 begins with our surrender and repentance to Jesus. We grow in wisdom, insight and understanding as we learn to trust Him, worship Him, listen to Him, obey Him, read His word and humble ourselves before Him. Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

So what is fear of the Lord and do we have it in our personal and church lives? Well it doesn't mean we are scared of God, although non-believers are headed for the judgment of God and eternal death, which is eternal separation from God and that is scary (that's why we need to show them how to escape that), but for believers it is an awe and reverence of the Divine (God). So are we showing awe and reverence when we play on our phones, chat to each other during communion, treat God sometimes like He is our buddy (although He is our friend)? I am not being legalistic but come on! Would you do that if the Queen was visiting? I do realise that Sunday morning church is a public meeting and we could well have non-believers and unchurched among us but that's all the more reason for us who know to show them we are different. Also I get the feeling sometimes that there is a casual flippancy towards sin and lifestyles. Somebody told me that in their church someone "came out as gay," that's fair enough, we must be open to one another but he was being congratulated in a "gay pride" worldly way not because of his honesty, openness and help with confusion. I have known many lovely "gay" people (though no Christian ones) and we must love them and pray that they will hear God, but never have I said God is happy and OK with their life choices. There are many Christian unmarried couples living together and divorce is never mentioned any more. I am not going to just pick on the sexual issues (and there are many, Satan is having a "heyday") that confront the church because it is so much more, fear of the Lord is about everything, our integrity, our behaviour, our attitudes, our speech and how much we put God FIRST, how much we consider Him in all our comings and goings, not leaning on our own understanding. I am preaching to myself as much as anybody, believe me.

Pastor Shane Idleman says:

We must lovingly proclaim the fear of the Lord again in our pulpits if we are to experience genuine change. Fear often motivates a person to repent. The fear of the Lord will cause an adulterer to seek forgiveness. It will motivate the prodigal to return. It will cause pastors to spend extended time in prayer for anointed sermons. When the fear of the Lord is preached the world will repent: "Falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you" (1 Corinthians 14:25). A true fear of the Lord saves man from himself. We should take His commands seriously...not legalistically, but reverently.

Diary Dates

Friday 20th April–Sunday 22nd April 2018: Church Weekend at Ashburnham Place with Phil Tate