

*But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"* 1 COR 2:9

Current Link



WELCOME BACK!



It was an experience never to be forgotten – those weeks of only online services. Appreciated, yes, but so different from how we were meeting together physically before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Never before in the 95-year history of Lisburn Baptist was this the case. No doubt reasons and counter-reasons for so many actions during this world-wide pandemic will prevail for decades to come.

While impacting many of our members and friends, directly or indirectly, we want to thank the Lord –

**1) that services did not cease though changed in form; preaching the Word of God did not stop; Easter was not cancelled!**

**2) that once again we are meeting together in our building; celebrating the death and resurrection of our Saviour; teaching children and youth.**

So welcome back!

NOT IN THE CATACOMBS

Let us remember we are not meeting in the catacombs of Rome, under the threat of Counter-Reformation martyrdom, in the Gulag Archipelago of the Soviet Union, in secret forest meetings behind the Iron Curtain, or even today in countries where following Christ Jesus costs sacrificially – in North Korea, Libya, Northern Nigeria, India and many more.

We still have freedom of worship and, above all, have been set free by our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."** (John 8:36)

Scripture tells us not only to live a godly life 24/7; to be concerned about the poor and the stranger; to care for our brothers and sisters in Christ. **"... let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works"** (Hebrews 10:24)

But the Bible is also clear when it states that we should not be **"neglecting to meet together..."** (Hebrews 10:25a)

**Welcome back then to all who can make it for Sundays (AM & PM), Bible Class, Crèche, BYF, SM Seekers, SM Live, and on Wednesdays for Bible Study and Prayer.**

VICTOR WATSON

SERMON TITLES FOR MAY:

**2/5/21 - Pastor Daniel Ashby**  
 - AM: Gathering to Worship (3): Components of a Worship Service in the Local Church  
 - PM: Encounters with Jesus (3)

**9/5/21 - ASSOCIATION SUNDAY**  
 - AM: Gary Ellison (Finaghy Baptist)  
 - PM: Andrew Curry (Emmanuel Baptist)

**16/5/21 - Pastor Daniel Ashby**  
 - AM: Gathering to Worship (4): Praying Together in the Local Church  
 - PM: Encounters with Jesus (4)

**23/5/21 - Pastor Daniel Ashby**  
 - AM: Gathering to Worship (5): Reading and Preaching the Word in the Local Church  
 - PM: Encounters with Jesus (5)

**30/5/21 - Pastor Daniel Ashby**  
 - AM: Gathering to Worship (6): Celebrating the Ordinances  
 - PM: Encounters with Jesus (6)

Baptist Women will be hosting 'Women's Night Online' on Monday 10 May 2021 at 7.30pm.

This event is open to women of all ages as we look at 'Joy Fuelled Perseverance' from Hebrews 12 with Philomena Fitzpatrick.



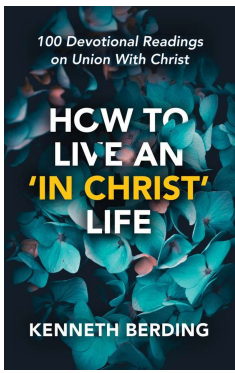
MONDAY 10 MAY 2021 @ 7.30PM

Women's Night Online

with PHILOMENA FITZPATRICK  
 register at [irishbaptistwomen.org](http://irishbaptistwomen.org)



This is a free event but you do need to register at [irishbaptistwomen.org](http://irishbaptistwomen.org) to receive the Zoom details.



## BOOK REVIEW

The following devotional is taken from the book **How To Live An 'In Christ' Life**, written by Kenneth Berding and published by Christian Focus.

*In Christ' is the term or expression most frequently used by the apostle Paul to describe the believer. Berding takes up the expression, or ones like it, and with clear examples and illustrations, gives us an easily readable daily devotional that focusses our minds on our position in Christ. Over the course of a 100 readings the book examines Our Position and Identity In Christ, Our Daily Life in Christ, and Community and Mission In Christ. There is comfort, challenge and instruction within these pages. The following example is taken from chapter 48:*

### Thought-life in Christ

Joaquín Guzmán, better known to the world as El Chapo, was a Mexican drug lord who wielded extensive power and committed terrible crimes as the leader of the cartel. But he is perhaps best known as the guy who kept getting away. He eluded the police and military personnel on multiple occasions when they tried to arrest him, and even twice escaped from maximum-security federal prison.

In 2 Corinthians 10:5, Paul writes, "We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." Paul here suggests the analogy of an elusive prisoner who keeps trying to break away to describe the tendencies of our thoughts. We try to 'take every thought captive to obey Christ' but some how our thoughts keeping breaking out of jail – similar to El Chapo.

Our minds wander so easily so what do we need to do in order to take every thought captive to obey Christ?

**Think about it; even during worship services when everything is designed to focus on God – music, message, testimonies – sometimes we find our minds not only wondering, but even wandering into areas that don't honour God. Our minds wander so easily so what do we need to do in order to take every thought captive to obey Christ?**

**Here are six suggestions:**

**1.** Be honest about how often you allow your thoughts to wander. Confess to the

Lord your need for Him to help you with your wayward thoughts.

We need to constantly remind ourselves of the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ on our behalf.

**2.** Remind yourself of gospel truth. One of my friends from many years ago often reminded me to keep preaching the gospel to myself! That's a good word. Challenge your own wrong thoughts about the character of God whenever they cross your mind (e.g. thoughts like, He isn't concerned about holiness, or thoughts like, He doesn't actually love me, or that He doesn't care about my problems). We need to constantly remind ourselves of the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ on our behalf.

**3.** Keep bringing to mind not just general biblical truth, but specific Scriptures you have memorised. Paragraphs are better than individual verses (and whole chapters and books are better than paragraphs), but keep reciting whatever Scripture you know. Of course, this assumes that you have at least some Scripture memorised.

**4.** Fill your thinking with prayer. By constantly talking to God, your thoughts will have neither the time nor the desire to jailbreak.

**5.** Lessen your media input. Put the brakes on thousands of messages that keep bombarding your mind. Watch less television; look at your phone and computer screen less frequently than you typically do.

**6.** Remember to connect your thought-life to your inChristness. **Here are a few examples:**

- *When you start to despair and start thinking that no one cares about you or that God isn't interested in you, remember the Lord Jesus is always with you and always cares.*

- *When you're tempted to pursue something merely to gratify your flesh, remember Jesus suffered in the flesh for you and that your body belongs to him.*

- *When you start to believe the lie that Jesus cannot handle your problems, remember that Jesus took on humanity, identified with your suffering, and has invited you into a new life with Him.*

- *When you start focusing on yourself, or begin seeking your own pleasure, remember that Christ is your life.*

- *When you begin to desire the property or lifestyle of another, remember that all the spiritual riches in the world are yours because you belong to Christ.*

## Fellowship Link

### Deaths:

It is with deep sadness that as a church fellowship we pass on our deepest sympathies to Mark, Evette, Evie, Neil, Frank and Evan Thompson on the sudden loss of their son and their brother Luke. Please continue to pray that they would know the presence of their God in days ahead.

### Births:

As a fellowship we give thanks for the safe birth of Cordelia Foster's great grandson Ashton in April, and to the parents Lindsay and Bradley.

## BAPTIST MISSIONS NIGHT...

**Tuesday 11th May at 7.30pm**

<https://youtu.be/pwFNA3m62hg>

## Quote of the month:

“ *Being a Christian demands being like Christ. As someone once asked...*

*If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? ”*

Andrew Dalrymple (College Sunday, 11th April 2021 AM) reading from Acts ch 11 v 19 -30, speaking on the topic 'Together for the Gospel'. Ask for a CD or listen online at <https://lisburnbaptist.org/live>

**Pastor:** Daniel Ashby  
**Secretary:** Peter Spence  
**Treasurer:** Ernest Reddick  
**Elders:** Noel Spence  
Victor Watson

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- *If you're already in Christ, then nothing you have on earth can separate you from that connection. Constantly think about the truths that connect to that reality. Let such thoughts be at the forefront of your mind.*

- **Don't let your thoughts jailbreak. Focus instead on the truth that you are in Christ.**

JONATHAN KEARNEY