



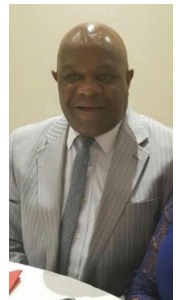
## WILLENHALL FREE CHURCH

# July 2021

### FROM OUR PASTORS

There is a lot of talk of freedom day, one such day has already passed and has now been postponed to July 19<sup>th</sup>, a day in England which could mean the end of mask wearing, social distancing, being able to meet, to sing, to pray out loud, to worship, we seem to be hanging on, waiting, in some kind of prison, waiting to be freed. But what if freedom day is postponed again?

Take a word from Habakkuk instead of looking to the circumstance and what we cannot do, feeling hopeless, look to God and what He can do. ( John )



When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.



## CHURCH? PART 3

Last month we looked at the word church and saw that it means an assembly, a congregation, a group of people called out to meet together, so when Jesus says He will build His Church, He is talking about people.

In this month's study we will see that the word church is used in two ways.

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

This is the first time that the word church is used in the New Testament and here Jesus is talking about all those who are, and will be Christians.

Those living at the time, and those who in the future through salvation become Christians, part of the Church. It is important to see that the word is not plural, there is only one Church, past, present and future, just one group of people that are called Church, followers of Jesus.

**UPON THIS ROCK  
I WILL BUILD  
MY CHURCH**

**AND THE GATES OF HADES WILL NOT OVERPOWER IT**

Matthew 16:18



Church continued

This singular use of the word is used in the writings of Paul.

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NKJV)

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

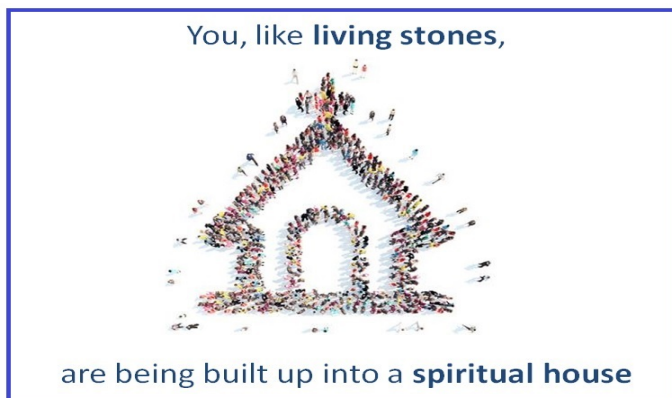
Ephesians 3:10 (NLT)

10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

The second time the word church is used is again by Jesus and we can see another meaning to the word Church.

Matthew 18:17 (NLT)

17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.





## Church Continued

When believers fall out, Jesus give instructions on how to solve issues between people, and if the first two steps have not resulted in reconciliation then He says take it to the Church, and here Jesus cannot mean every Christian alive then and in the future, here the meaning of Church is local, and living.

Again we see this meaning from these Bible verses.

Acts 14:23 (NLT)

23 Paul and Barnabas also appointed elders in every church. With prayer and fasting, they turned the elders over to the care of the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Although we see the phrase every church referring a local assembly of believers there is still one church but in several locations.

Romans 16:5 (NLT)

5 Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ. In this verse the church ( the Christians ) were meeting in peoples home, and the church met in their homes.

1 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

17 That's why I have sent Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of how I follow Christ Jesus, just as I teach in all the churches wherever I go.

Paul taught in all the churches, so again although there is one church, the church was in several locations.

So the word church can refer to the universal, invisible assembly of people past, present, and future or individual congregations which are local, often defined by the name of a city.

So you might say I go to church on Sunday, but the more important question is are you part of the Church that Jesus is building?



## THEME

## HABAKKUK

Evil may seem triumphant,  
but God is on the throne and  
deals with evil in his own time.

### Habakkuk part 2

Please read Habakkuk 1:1-5

The first question Habakkuk asks is how long?

How Habakkuk felt was not unique, and I am sure at some time or another Christians have felt the same, especially during this time, how long God before we can get back to normal, to enjoy peoples company and not wearing masks, so the question that Habakkuk asks is on the minds and hearts of most people.

The thought is how long will this go on for? when will this end? is there light at the end of the tunnel?

In times like this people want hope, they feel deserted, alone, the circumstance has gone on long enough, so how much longer will this go on for?





## Habakkuk continued

The second question Habakkuk asks is why?

This was a concern of Habakkuk and of others, we would all like to know why there is injustice, why evil seems to triumph. Why the innocent suffer, have been questions for the people of God have struggled to answer.

The prophet does not doubt God's ability to help; he just wonders why things have gone on for so long. Things are so bad that he can only cry, "Help!" In fact, it has gotten to the point where he wants to "scream," for the Hebrew word "cry out" means "to shout, to roar." So what happens when society has collapsed, evil seemingly triumphed, God's people complaining of the situation: the word of God has no impact on people, or the laws of the land.

Where is God amongst the suffering.

Have you found yourself asking this questions lately, How long, Why and God where are you? Does God even care?

These are legitimate and understandable questions and thoughts.



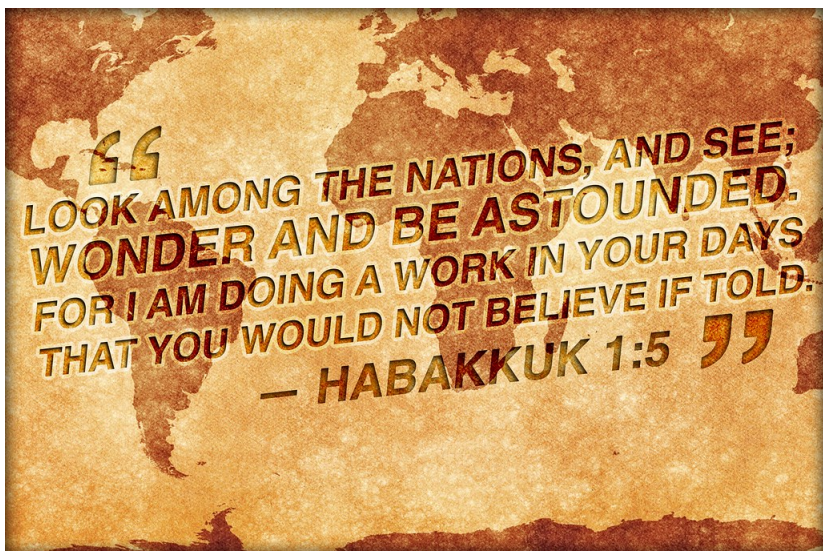
## Habakkuk continued

God's reply is simple, instead of watching, seeing the evil, the suffering, the injustice, look at the nations, see what I am doing, if you are focused on the evil, obsessed with what is wrong you will miss out on what I am actually doing. It's been a long time but God plans and purposes are being fulfilled.

Habakkuk says God will “work a work” “in your days” that will frighten those who are unprepared.

So we need to be focused on the work that God is and will do, we just need eyes to see.

To be continued next month.

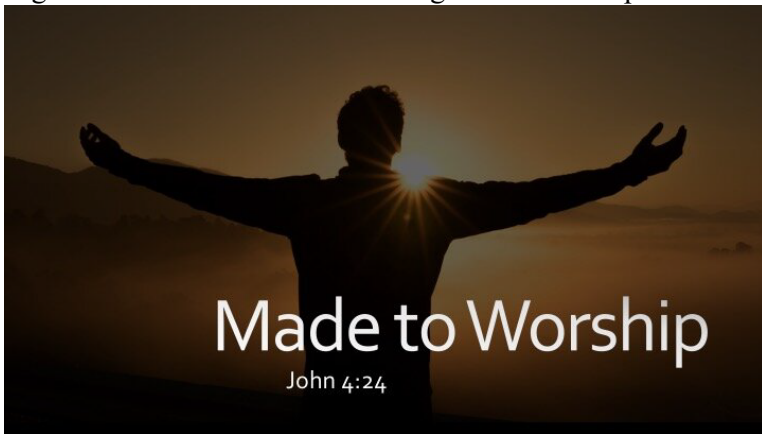




## From our WhatsApp Groups.

Eddie once again has shared quotes from Adolph Saphir lets remind ourselves of a few.

“ Throughout Scripture, God has been revealing Himself, first to Israel and then to His Church. Why? Saphir says, “The object of God’s revealing Himself is worship. God comes to man so that man may come to God. God reveals Himself to us as a holy God. God reveals to us what man is, in order that He may show us the wonderful solution of this problem:- How there can be communion between God and man in the person of His own Son, who is God and man in one person, and who brings us unto the Father. Much there for us all to think about, it has to do with the law, the OT Sacrifices which showed that we require the grace of God and the propitiation of a mediator in order that sin and death might not be a hindrance or obstacle to our having communion with God and being able to worship Him.”







WhatsApp continued

“Although man has forsaken God, the fountain of living water, he has not given up the desire for something to satisfy the thirst of his spirit. He seeks light for the mind, love for the heart, peace for the soul; he seeks honour and glory. He is not content with existence; he wishes to live; he wants fullness of life, vigorous, joyous, long-enduring. He still wants water, though he has left God. This is it which he seeks in broken cisterns. And yet God is the only fountain of living water. Have we returned to Him? Have we found Him whom ignorantly we were seeking? Have we become the disciples and children of the heavenly wisdom? And is our inward eye rejoicing now in the light, so that we can say, ‘It is pleasant to behold the Son?’ “

“God speaks in and through The Word. It is not that God spoke long ago and that the record of His acts and words, His revelation, was embodied in a perfect manner, and preserve red for us in Scripture. This is true. But God gave us the Bible, not to be silent now and let the Bible speak instead of Him, but that He Himself may through His Word speak comfort, and confirm the soul, filling it with His light and love. Did not David possess d love the five Books of Moses? Yet did he not continually pray, “Be not silent unto me”





## WhatsApp Continued

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him". Trust in the Lord and he will make your paths straight." Supplied by Mack

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you;  
The LORD lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26



### **Weekly services.**

Sunday - Service at 11.00am now on WhatsApp

Tuesday - House group 7.30pm on WhatsApp

Wednesday - Praise and Prayer meeting now on WhatsApp

### **For your Diary**

**July 4th Pastor Kirk**

**July 11th Pastor John**

**July 18th Pastor Kirk**

**July 25th Pastor John**

### **Useful Contacts.**

Pastor John: [johngowing@willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com](mailto:johngowing@willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com)

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Church web site: [www.willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com](http://www.willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com)

FIEC web site: <https://fiec.org.uk/>

If you would like to join one of our WhatsApp groups please contact John.