



## Live your faith 4-10 October 2020

Read, pray, reflect and live your faith this week

 This week's Bible readings Isaiah 5.1-7 · Psalm 80.7-15 · Philippians 3.4b-14 · Matthew 21.33-46

## Reaching for the goal

### Notes on the Bible readings

- Paul's change of identity from a Pharisee to a follower of Christ would have been life-changing. He says that he is 'forgetting what lies behind'. This is not easy: being able to forget things is hard to do, even if it affects our attitude as we go forward. But rather than looking to the past, Paul speaks here of 'straining forward', of pressing on to reach the goal; it is clear that he knows his calling. Knowing your path and the decisions you make to stay on that path help you to know who you are in Christ and where you are headed.
- How does knowing Christ influence your identity and help give you the confidence in knowing yourself and where you are headed? The challenge for us is how we free ourselves from the past in order to 'press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus'.

### If the hat fits

People often say that they are 'wearing a different hat' to indicate a particular role or job or identity. How many 'hats' (i.e. roles/identities) do you wear during, say, a typical week. What hat(s) might best represent the role of being a follower of Christ.

FREE [worship at home](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

### Questions for reflection

- ▶ What are the goals you are reaching for?
- ▶ How does it feel to see heaven as a 'goal'?
- ▶ What impact does 'knowing Christ' have on your identity?



### A prayer for others

*God of one and God of all, we pray:  
for those who don't know who they are, who can't understand themselves or their place in society;  
for those who don't 'fit in', who are or seem to be different;  
for those who don't know where they come from, their heritage or home, their family or bloodline;  
for those who feel lost and isolated, confused and afraid, rudderless or homeless, strangers in a strange land;  
for those who wish they were someone else, or somewhere else, in some other time and place;  
In your great mercy, Lord, hear our prayers and grant surer journeys for them all. Amen.*

### A prayer for all ages

*O God, help us to:  
see Christ in all things,  
hear Christ through all things  
understand Christ from all things,  
know Christ in all things. Amen.*

### A personal prayer

*I am me, Lord, and I know I get things wrong.  
I also know I get some things right.  
I am me and I know you love me.  
Help me to follow the way you would have me travel. Amen.*

### Live your faith

Try to be aware of the different 'hats' you wear during your day (see If the hat fits above). At the end of each day, think about whether you have worn any hat that fits the role of being a follower of Jesus. If not, think about how you might do so the next day.



Thanks to all who supported our virtual balloon race. It was fun watching the colourful balloons launch online from Red Square and fly west over the Baltics and Scandinavia, although some of us caught a different wind and dawdled east and some popped early! Our furthest balloon, Annabel Holt's, flew 968.3 km to win our £50 first prize, with nine further prizes being awarded. We had 52 supporters, sold 163 balloons and raised a net total of £410, which was great and will go into our building fund.



### Harvest Songs of Praise

**Available to view on the YouTube channel from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October.**

Readings, Prayers, Reflection and favourite Harvest Hymns.

Please support the Food Bank if possible, for your harvest offering.

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to say that from this Sunday we are able to worship together again at Ronkswood Community Centre. Obviously, there will be strict restrictions in place, and we ask you to read the enclosed information about attending public worship carefully. We can only have 15 people at any one time, so do email or ring me as soon as possible to let me know that you are coming.

Should we have more than 15 people we will split into two groups, one meeting for worship at 10.00 and the other at 10.45. We plan to record the services to be uploaded to our YouTube channel for those who still want to watch online. Singing is not allowed, but I will insert some hymns into the recorded version so you can sing at home later.

There will inevitably be some teething problems – please bear with us as we gain our bearings again.

Blessings,

Rob.

Daily Readings for week commencing 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2020		
<b>Monday</b>	1 Kings 21	Acts 21: 37-22:21
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Kings 22: 1-28	Acts 22: 22-23:11
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Kings 22: 29-45	Acts 23: 12-end
<b>Thursday</b>	2 Kings 1: 2-17	Acts 24: 1-23
<b>Friday</b>	2 Kings 2: 1-18	Acts 24: 24-25:12
<b>Saturday</b>	2 Kings 4: 1-37	Acts 25: 13-end

**Pray for those in need...**Sally, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy Lily, Tim, and Joyce. **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...we remember Cathy and Enid...**