

**B is for .....**

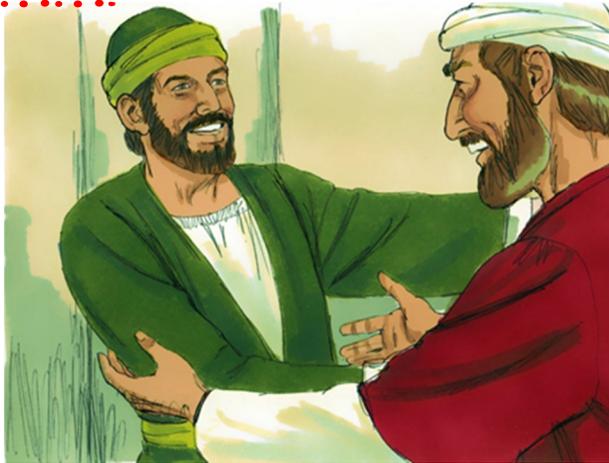
How many Bible characters can you think of whose names begin with B?

There's Balaam in the Old Testament who had a donkey that spoke. You can read his story in the book of Numbers chapter 22.

Bathsheba, the mother of King Solomon, and Barabbas, who was released so that Jesus could be crucified, are other characters.

But the person I want to consider is Barnabas a friend and travel companion of the apostle Paul.

We first read about him in the book of Acts chapter 9 when he supported Saul (later called Paul). Saul had become a follower of Jesus after meeting him on his way to Damascus. This encounter changed Saul's life. No longer did he persecute the followers



of Jesus. But the disciples doubted that Saul was genuine. It was Barnabas who came to his help. Barnabas explained to the other disciples how Saul had seen the Lord and how boldly he had preached about Jesus in Damascus.

Later Barnabas travelled with Paul sharing the good news about Jesus with others.

The name Barnabas means "Son of Encouragement" and that's what he was. How good are you at encouraging others to do the right thing, or do you find it easier to criticise?

**A puzzle** - how many words of 3 letters or more can you make from the word:

**ENCOURAGEMENT**

Market  
Overton  
Free Church

**Insight**

Summer  
2016

## "We are the choices we make"

We have too much choice I hear you say!



Whether it's choosing cereal from the vast array in the supermarket or voting in a general election, we have decisions to make all the time.

The EU Referendum is an important choice we have to make, and there will be long term consequences for our country whatever the outcome. So we need wisdom as to which way to vote.

Someone has said, "we are the choices we make", in other words, our life choices shape us into what we are or what we will be. Our choice of career, where we live, do we marry, etc. will affect us for our lifetime.

There are choices too which have eternal consequences. Joshua, in the Old

Testament, who took over the leadership of the children of Israel from Moses, was nearing the end of his own life. He knew the importance of the decision as to who he trusted in and he was not going to be deflected by others.

Joshua encouraged all the people to "choose for yourselves this day who you will serve, .... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord".

Joshua knew that the God who had been with him through his life would not neglect him now. So he reaffirmed his trust in God. What about us? Who or what do we trust in?

Let us make good choices, because they do shape us into what we will be - and that includes eternity.



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### Insight

- Issued four times a year
- To keep you informed
- To stimulate thought
- To invite you to our events

Market Overton  
Free Church

is an independently governed church and a member of the FIEC



## Good enough for heaven?



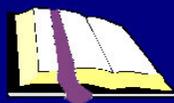
A man of great wealth came to Jesus and asked, 'Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus challenged his concept of "good": 'Why do you call me good? No-one is good – except God alone.' If we measure goodness by human comparisons we inevitably get a wrong result, because we will always be able to find people who are not as good as we are. The absolute standard of goodness is God himself.

Jesus suggested that the divine standard of good is reflected in the Ten Commandments by quoting five of them; 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother.' The man said he had kept

these since he was a boy. Jesus then applied another of the Commandments to him personally: 'You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' You see the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment says, 'You shall not covet' (or yearn to possess) '...anything that belongs to your neighbour.' This man's life had been all about acquiring treasure on earth to satisfy his yearning to possess, and now Jesus was calling him to do a U-turn: Give rather than get. It was too much for him, and he went away sad.

We must each admit we are not good enough for heaven, do a U-turn where we fail, and then follow Jesus, for, "There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin; he only could unlock the gate of heaven, and let us in." (Read Luke 18:18-27)

**Peter Rush**



**Market Overton**  
Free Church

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

### Diary Dates:

**Minister:**  
Rev. Peter Rush

**Elder:**  
Roy Palframan

**Phone:**  
01572 767383

**Email:**  
insight@mofc.org.uk

**Morning Worship** - Every Sunday, 10.30am  
MO Village Hall - suitable for all.

**Evening Worship** - Every Sunday 6.30pm  
Edmondthorpe Social Club

**Midweek meeting** - Most Thursdays, 7.30pm  
MO Village Hall (but check website)

**Coffee Hour** - Friday, 10.30am:  
10 June, 8 July, August - no meeting  
MO Village Hall

For more  
information:  
[www.mofc.org.uk](http://www.mofc.org.uk)

## Which is the shortest verse in the Bible?

We all love quiz questions, in particular the ones when we can get the answers right.

"Which is the shortest verse in the Bible?" may be one of the questions coming up, and the answer is John 11:35 "**Jesus wept.**"

It may be the shortest verse but it is not short on significance. The incident occurred at the death of a friend of Jesus's, Lazarus.

We learn from this that Jesus, the Son of God, demonstrates his humanity and experiences the same emotions that you or I go through at the loss of a loved one. Sometimes that may be for us the unexpected death of someone dear or even death after a long lingering illness, but the same emotions of grief and loss are nevertheless felt. And we weep.

Jesus knows the exact situation we are in and we can turn to him as one who understands us completely, and is able to be our help.

Psalm 46 is a great encouragement to us in times of trouble:

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

However, whilst Jesus demonstrates his humanity, we have to remember that he is also God and in the same chapter of John he tells us that he is more than just a sympathiser. In John 11:25, Jesus speaking to Lazarus's sister tells her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Jesus, the Son of God, can give us everlasting life. Even though we die an earthly death and depart this world, there is an eternity to face. By faith in Jesus we can be sure of heaven itself, he has gone before us to prepare a place for us (John 14:2) for all who trust in him.

This is the gospel - the good news of Jesus Christ as the Saviour. "Do you believe this?", Jesus asked Lazarus's sister. And in the same way he is also asking each one of us to consider him and his claims.

### MOFC Events in 2016

**Saturday/Sunday 25/26th June**  
MO Feast Weekend  
Stall on Saturday  
Hymn singing on Sunday 5.30pm

**Friday, 1st July**  
Women's evening  
7.00pm Country Café

**Saturday, 2nd July**  
Men's breakfast  
9.00am MOVH

**Saturday, 9th July**  
BBQ and Games  
3.00pm MOVH

For more information contact  
**Peter Rush:**  
peter@mofc.org.uk or 01572767383