

F is for ... Felix and Festus

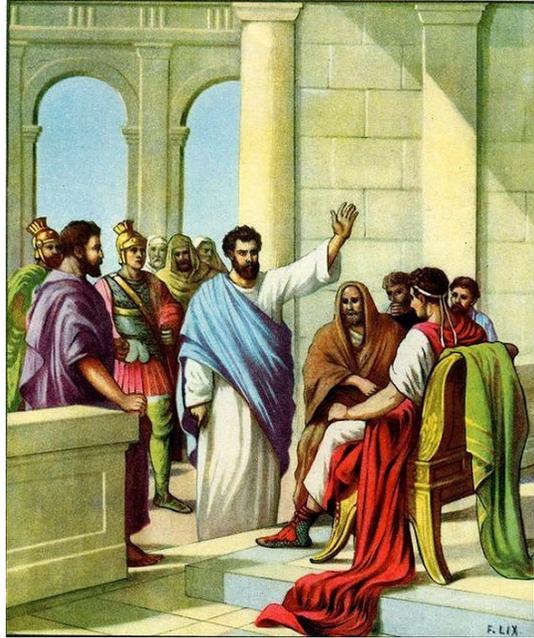
Felix and Festus are two men we read about in the book of Acts in the New Testament part of the Bible. They have at least 3 things in common as well as having names beginning with 'F'. In fact they have something in common with lots of people today maybe even you.

First - they both met Paul and heard him speak about his hope in God. No doubt you haven't heard Paul speak but you may have read in the Bible or heard someone tell you about the hope we can have if we put our trust in Jesus.

Second - they both put off making up their minds about what they heard and whether or not they should believe it.

Third - they both wanted to please other people and so they didn't think for themselves.

You can read about them in the book of Acts chapters 24, 25 & 26.



The Bible doesn't tell us what happened to Felix and Festus but it does tell us that Paul went on telling people about the good news of Jesus.

Can you fill in the blank words? They all begin with 'F'

If we _____ Jesus and have _____ in him we do not need to _____ what other people think.

However, if we _____ to have _____ we make a _____ mistake.

Missing words: fear faith follow fatal fall

Oh Dear - what a result!

The recent general election result has stunned many. It was assumed a foregone conclusion that Theresa May would achieve a larger majority and a personal mandate for the Brexit negotiations. Instead we now have a hung parliament.

The Bible urges us to pray for those in authority over us so that we will be governed well and be able to lead "peaceful and quiet lives". The dreadful atrocities in Manchester and London are another major problem for those in authority.

So how should we be praying for our leaders?

For Wisdom - The Bible tells us that if we lack wisdom, we should pray for it. Let us pray that God will give leaders the wisdom they need to root out the threats, negotiate Brexit and manage all the other aspects of our country's life.

For Perseverance - When the terrorists strike our cities it feels like failure and often party politics come into play and we criticize the

government for cutting police numbers and budgets. We need to pray that those in authority persevere despite the setbacks, learning lessons, maintaining vigilance and taking appropriate action.

For Cooperation - The recent electioneering has been divisive in many ways. The BBC TV debate was likened to "cats in a sack" with leaders shouting over one another. It would be really encouraging to see a different style of politics where the opposition criticizes as a critical friend in a constructive way. Let us pray for more constructive politics.

For Reliance upon God - During WW2 King George 6th called the nation to prayer when we were on the point of defeat. The result was "the miracle of Dunkirk". A national day of thanksgiving was held on 9 June 1940. Let us pray for a turning back to God, both personally and nationally, looking to God for his help and strength and deliverance.



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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



Is it a sin?



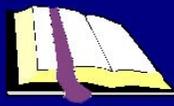
It was a question that dogged Tim Farron, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, for a while: Did he consider a particular behaviour sinful? We need to

make sure we understand what was being asked: What is sin? The word and concept has come to us via the Bible. There, the word translated 'sin' means to miss the target. But who sets the target? The story is told of a man visiting a farm who saw the farmer's young son practicing archery against the wooden barn. He was pulling his arrow from the dead centre of the bullseye on the chalk target. The impressed visitor watched with interest as the boy took aim again. This time he missed by six feet. However,

the boy walked to the barn, took out his chalk and drew a target round his arrow, placing it in the bullseye once more! Our society seems to have adopted this practice – we set the target to match our behaviour: This is how I am and what I want to do, therefore it can't be sin. The Bible tells a different story. It is not us, or society, or prevailing opinion, but God who sets up the target and reveals what we should be aiming at. The 10 commandments are a clear summary of this. See if you can list them now and then check in Exodus chapter 20.

What is the answer to the question asked of Tim Farron? God's target is that marriage between one man and one woman is the only proper context for sex – anything and everything outside of this is sin.

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:
14 July, (no Coffee Hour in August)
MO Village Hall

For latest
information:
www.mofc.org.uk

Lion film review

Lion tells the true story of Saroo, a five year old Indian boy who becomes displaced from his family and home when he falls asleep on a decommissioned passenger train whilst out foraging with his brother. Saroo wakes up to find himself in Calcutta, alone and frightened in an unknown place with an unfamiliar language. Unable to successfully communicate where he came from, Saroo becomes lost in a sea of other street children until he is eventually adopted by a Tasmanian couple.



The second half of the film skips forward about 20 years and, on the surface, Saroo is successful and well-settled, en route to a career in hotel

management, and on great terms with his adoptive parents. Yet he has a deep longing to find his biological family and, with the

help of Google Earth, embarks on a quest to retrace his train journey and identify his home village.

Without giving too much away, the conclusion of Saroo's search is both heart breaking and remarkable, made even more so by the closing footage of the characters' real-life counterparts. The film covers big topics including cultural and familial identity, homelessness and loss, and gently raises political and social questions. Yet the resonating theme is the search for truth and belonging, things

we are all looking for to some extent.

Where are you looking for these things? The Bible teaches they are only to be found in Jesus.

Songs of Praise

Sunday, 23rd July
4.30pm

Market Overton
Village Green

Come and
join us

