



E News

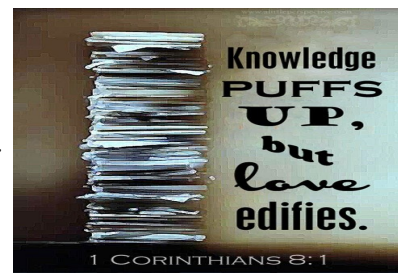
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Welcome to the December edition of Street Jesus e-news. The Christ life continues as challenging and interesting as ever. Always something of interest, always something to learn and always a sense that there is more. The Bible tells us that we only see dimly as if through a cloudy mirror this side of the grave. I love this sense of mystery about our faith and the fact that we cannot attain all knowledge, this elusiveness encourages us to seek in order to find. As human beings we like to know stuff, we like to win the quiz. Not knowing though can be good in the sense that it dampens our ego and in 1 Corinthians 8:1 we are told that Knowledge puffeth up but love edifies us. In Genesis Adam and Eve are told not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Once we have this knowledge we can certainly veer toward sin. We love to soak up information from the bible to help us grow closer to God. We also know from Corinthians that if we have all knowledge but do not have love we are nothing. There is knowledge in the sense of knowing facts but also in the personal sense of being acquainted with. It is this knowledge of Gods presence that helps us flourish as human beings.



Naturally we live to share this with others. Last month I wrote about a conversation I had with a tutor and student who both posed some interesting questions. In particular the issues around the various tribes in Canaan in the Old Testament and another law code similar to the 10 commandments that preceeded the giving of the law to Moses on Sinai. The implication being that the law was not given by God and the new testament themes are borrowed from ancient Greek myths



It is certainly true that Johns Greek focus alluded to Greek mythical culture possibly as a way of communicating effectively although he made it clear that the teachings of Jesus were very different from the Gnostic and other philosophical outlooks of the Greeks.

One example of borrowing given, was the virgin birth yet the nature of the virgin birth in ancient myths are very different. Some were born of rocks, some involved no intercourse but rather transmitted by the mind. Some were born by the union of two Gods who were in human form, this was a case with Dionysus who was mentioned. Some were not virgins in the strictest sense having had a number of previous children. Many of the Gods were half human half



Street Jesus News:

animal. They are cracking stories, interesting and entertaining and do reflect some aspects of human nature but are significantly different from the biblical narrative that carry these consistent threads running through them. Where there are supernatural events in the bible they are not stand alone stories there is mostly a reason that fits with the overall narrative of Gods plan. Balaam's donkey is a common one, Donkeys just don't talk but in this story Balaam repents because he is doing the wrong thing rather than doing what God wants him to do.



The Greeks had many Gods, we have just one, They had many children, God has just one son the saviour of the world. Greek Gods have human bodies, our God is spirit. Zeus the ultimate God shared his power with other Gods, our God shares his power with humanity through the holy spirit by sending his son in human form. Greek Gods make mistakes and have strengths and weaknesses, our God is perfect. Greek Gods and goddesses marry one another and were reincarnated. Our God is a groom to his bride the church and all who believe live into eternity. Greek Gods fought one another for dominance. God is in the spiritual battle against Satan so that Good triumphs over evil to the benefit of mankind.

So why mention these things when there is such a difference of opinion. Many Christians believe that these sorts of conversations bear little fruit and that we should avoid any contention. Just get alongside people, love them and pray for them. We do all of those things of course but it is true that the mind can be a barrier to faith. The way that people think and their attitudes can be a stumbling block. Some people have a number of objections to our faith. Should we remain silent? We liken our work to a brick wall with Jesus on one side and a non believer on the other. There is a barrier between the two. A brick may represent a reason why not to believe. Our job is to kick out a few of those bricks by sharing our faith and helping people think in a different way. This was how I was before 2007, and whilst i had a few bricks to dismantle i knew also that people were praying for me. Let us not be afraid to speak of the Lord. Generally we look for the people of peace, those who are interested and curious to know more. We say, always give reason for your hope but do so in a gentle and respectful way. Romans tell us to renew our minds. These things can help us to move from a solely 'head faith' to a 'heart faith' in love of the lord. Its rare for us to challenge a strong critique but occasionally and prayerfully I believe God wants us to do so.

We had a very enjoyable outreach at Wickham market Christmas market We had lots of conversations, Two young people went through Jesus at the door, we had two other faith conversations, one with a humanist another with an agnostic. Remarkably we had five conversations with people who have recently been bereaved, it was a privilege to provide support and a listening ear. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all. Lots of free chocolates, bibles, Christian literature, animal bible verses and Christmas poems were given out. £85 was raised for the Beehive ' foundation. A huge thankyou to the organisers who did a brilliant job. Our next outreach is on March 1st on Wickham Market hill. Happy Christmas to you all Graham





The Filling Station is an informal way of expressing the Christian Faith, using celebration meetings to encourage the local church, predominantly in rural areas across the UK.

What to expect when we meet:

A warm welcome with light refreshments... Contemporary worship led by local worship leaders... Stories of God at work today... Guest Speakers to refresh our faith... Prayer together for worldwide and personal needs...

Thursday
January 23rd 2024 -
Dan Holland TFM

The Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew
Refreshments at 7pm for a 7:30 start.

Everyone is Welcome

<https://thefillingstation.org.uk/>

All Saints
Wickham Market

SS Peter & Paul
Tottistree

OPEN DOOR

LOVE

Coffee, tea,
biscuits and
friends

Friday morning
Drop in from
10:00am

At All Saints Church
Every Friday Morning

Network
SUFFOLK

Connecting Christian Communities in Suffolk

GOOD NEWS
www.goodnews-paper.org.uk

Evangelistic Newspaper

**All Saints Church
Wickham Market**

Prayer & Praise Evenings
3rd Sunday of the month
at 6:30pm

Informal service for all ages



Every third Sunday of the month at 11am
All Saints Church, refreshments from 10.30am

Oasis

Informal Service @ All Saints Church
3pm every Second Sunday. All invited!

A time of worship, fellowship,
and light refreshments.

Meet old friends and make new ones





Follow the Star...

Come and join us...

<i>December 13th</i>	<i>Carol Singing on the Hill 5pm</i>
<i>December 15th</i>	<i>Holy Communion 9:30am</i>
	<i>Christingle (Together@11) 11am</i>
	<i>Carol Service 6:30pm</i>
<i>December 24th</i>	<i>Midnight Holy Communion 11:30pm</i>
<i>December 25th</i>	<i>Christmas Day service 10:30am</i>

...and find new life in Jesus!

All Saints Church

Market Market



Street Jesus– Fruit of the spirit messaging.
Wickham Market Christmas Market

*CD of the
month*

*Book of the
month*

STREET JESUS



Our next outreach is at
Wickham Market Square
Saturday March 1st

Facebook



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facebook page
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