

Clifton News

No 265 April - June 2014

Published since 1948





The Odeion theatre in Ephesus built in AD 150 by Publius Vedius Antonius (above)
Houses of the wealthy Romans which had running water and under floor heating
"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach
among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." (Ephesians 3:8)



NEWS

Judith Catchpole's heart bypass operation was a success and after a few weeks of initial problems she is now making good progress. Further prayer is valued for her as she has now developed a macular hole in one eye and needs an urgent operation to correct it.

This month we shall be having another annual Children's Easter Holiday club from the 14th to 17th of April. Meetings will be at 10 am to 12 pm and a prize giving held on the evening of the last day at 7 pm. Last year we had record numbers of children and it is our prayer that this trend will continue and many reached with the gospel.

Good numbers of children still come to the Seekers on Wednesdays but the Friday club has seen a decline as many older ones have now gone off to university or work. Those who come do pay good attention to the Bible story and ask questions. Currently we are going through the book of Acts with them.

We value prayer for gospel outreach planned during the month of September.

There will be another Thornton Heath festival we are told on Sunday 7th September and we plan to book a literature stall in the high street. We hope to reach some of the thousands who attend.

We are also planning to hold a Bible Exhibition and gospel meetings at the end of September with evangelist Jonathan Black. Further details will be published in our next edition.

MEETINGS

THE WEEK AT CLIFTON

Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread 11.00 am

Family Service 4:00 pm

Monday

Prayer & Ministry 7:45 pm

Wednesday

Seekers Club 6:30 pm (Term time only for under 10s)

Friday

Friday Club (Term time only for 10+) 7:30 pm

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE

April

6	Roy Dawson
13	Nitish Patel
20	Andrew Hall
27	Norman Gibbons

May

4	Mike Surry
11	Ferranti Wong
18	Alastair Rodger
25	Alf Taylor

June

1	Nitish Patel
8	Alastair Rodger
15	Norman Gibbons
22	Richard Catchpole
29	Nitish Patel

MONDAY PRAYER & MINISTRY

April

7	Bible Reading
14	Nitish Patel, Ezra 4
21	Easter Bank holiday
28	David Penfold, Ezra 5

May

5	Bank holiday
12	M. Hayward Ezra 6
19	M. Hayward Ezra 7
26	Bank holiday

June

2	Bible Reading
9	Tom Ledger Ezra 8
16	Tom Ledger Ezra 9
23	Michael Surry Ezra 10
30	Nitish Patel, Church history (part 10)

QUESTION BOX



At the Friday Club, we have a question box into which the young people put questions they want answered. We re-print here the answers from the Bible we have given them.

Could the Lord Jesus have chosen to come into this world in a different place, rather than being born in Bethlehem?

The questioner wondered if Jesus could have chosen to be born in a place other than Bethlehem. Could He have been born in Bromley or Belfast or Bedford instead?

In answering this question, the first thing we want to remember is that the plan of salvation, the plan brought the Lord Jesus into this world, was devised by and involved all three persons of the Trinity. We can see each person's role in the scriptures, for instance:

God the Father's role - 1 John 4:14 - The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world

God the Son's role – John 10:17 - Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again

God the Holy Spirit's role – Ephesians 1:13 –[Christ] In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise

So we see that the Father sent the Son into the world, the Son came into the world and laid His own life down to save His people, and the Spirit indwells all who repent and believe in the Son. We could go into more, but we can see that if you are saved, your salvation has come about through the actions of all three persons of the Trinity. How does this help us to answer our question? Well, we have seen that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit work together, not against each

other, their will is united. Jesus couldn't have chose to be born in a place other than Bethlehem as God had prophesised in the Old Testament that He would be born there.

Micah 5:2 - But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

The eternal Son of God would "be made flesh" (John 1:14) and would be born into this world in Bethlehem, just as had been prophesised about Him.

Finally, we also see that the Son was always obedient to the will of His Father; He would always do what the Father would have Him to do:

John 6:38-40 - 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Verse 38 tells us that the Son voluntarily came down to do the will of the Father who sent Him. Verse 39 tells us that it is the will of the Father that every person He has given to the Son, the Son will not lose but will raise them at the last day.

Verse 40 tells us that it is the will of the Father that all who believe on the Son, will have eternal life and will be raised on the last day.

Those of us who have believed in the Lord Jesus can rejoice knowing that we have been saved through the action of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We know that we are saved, secure and kept till we shall be in the presence of God in heaven. We are saved because the Son of God came into this world at Bethlehem to go to Calvary's cross and lay His life down for us in accordance with the Father's will.

Alastair Rodger

BIBLE TEACHING

Elisha Prophet of Water (Part 4)

By the late Charles Wigg (Tasmania)



THE JORDAN

The last great test was the Jordan. This to us, represents death to self, our death with Christ. Death is not a light matter, and humanly speaking most will do all they can to defer it, to prolong their human lives. The Prophet Jeremiah issues a challenge, “how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan” (Jer. 12:5). However the servant of God must face it constantly, as Paul, who could say, “I die daily” (1 Cor. 15:31). By nature we love to hold on to ourselves, to what we are, to save our lives, but we shall surely lose them, if we do (Luke 9:24). However the self-life must go, for God has ordained that no flesh shall glory in His presence (1 Cor. 1:29).

The Jordan was the last great barrier that had to be faced before Israel could enter the promised land and thus enjoy their inheritance. There was no other way for them to enter there. But the ark of the covenant went into the Jordan before them, and when the feet of the priests that bore the ark dipped in the brim of that river, its waters were cut off

as far as the city Adam. Thus we understand that the Jordan means our death with Christ.

This was the last great test for Elisha. The sons of the prophets looked on, but were not prepared to join Elijah and Elisha. When they reached the river, Elijah took the cloak that he was wearing, (the very cloak that Elisha was to wear), and folded it together and smote the waters and they parted, and they two went over on dry ground. When we are willing to face death to self, to deny ourselves. We find that what once seemed to be a horrible prospect, has now lost its terror, and what we thought was death, really is the secret to entering into the enjoyment of life, life at a different level, on a different plane. We begin to enjoy life with a capital L, life as God intended life to be. This explains what the Lord Jesus meant when He said that "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose, (or give up,) his life for my sake shall find it" (Matt. 16:25).

As the young prophet faced this test, it brought him into a much closer fellowship with his master. This is the result of the experience of sanctification, (for us). It brings us into union with our blessed Master (Heb. 2:11). Elijah now encourages Elisha to ask for some gift, for something to be done for him. What an opportunity this was, it was like putting a signed blank cheque into the young prophet's hands. Elisha was quick to respond. He did not make any covetous request, he did not ask for things, or for gifts, but his heart longed for one thing. If he was to carry on his master's work, then he wanted to do so in his master's spirit, so he asked that a double portion of Elijah's spirit be given to him.

Elijah replied, "Thou hast asked an hard thing!" It is only God who can enable us to serve in the spirit of our Master. Elijah put one condition, "If thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not it shall not be so". We can imagine that from that time, Elisha would not take his eyes off his master. This is a lesson to us also, if we would serve the Lord, if we would do so in the power and grace of His own spirit, then we need to keep our eyes constantly fixed on Him (Heb. 12:2). May the Lord help us to have a single eye,

so that our whole body may be full of light; so that our service may be carried out in the sweetness and grace of His own spirit.

When on the evening of the day of His resurrection, the Lord Jesus gave the commission to His disciples He breathed into them and said "Receive ye Holy Spirit", the definite article 'the' is not there in the Greek original. He was not imparting to them then the Person of the Holy Spirit, (He came at Pentecost.) But was breathing His own warmth, and compassion into them. They were then to breathe this out as they obeyed His command, and fulfilled His commission. Paul tells us that even the opposition of those who preached the gospel out of contention, and sought thereby to add to his bonds, would turn out to his own profit; "Through your prayers, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:19).

THE PARTING

As they went on and talked, a chariot and horses of fire appeared and separated them, and while amazed and sorrowful, Elisha looked on, his beloved Master went up into heaven. He felt a deep sense of loss, the one who was his spiritual father and mentor was now gone, (all be it into heaven), and he was left alone to carry on that master's work down here amongst wicked Israel. However, he was not to serve Elijah any more, but now he was to serve Elijah's God, but he was to do so in the very same spirit as Elijah did.

It takes our mind to the summit of the Mount of Olives. There we see our Master surrounded by His adoring disciples. Lifting those hands that were nailed to the cruel cross of Calvary, in the act of bestowing His blessing on those He loved so dearly. While engaged in this blessed act, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven, as if to carry on the work of blessing His own, from that place of exaltation, the right hand of the Majesty on High.

Those disciples filled with awe and wonder, continued to gaze into the heavens where He had gone; only to told by the angels of His promised return. They then returned to Jerusalem, to obey His command, and to await the moment when they would be clothed

upon with power from on High. But while they waited in expectation, they were continually in the temple, 'praising and blessing God'. When they received the 'Promise of the Father', and He gave them utterance, they began to work that continues to this day; and will continue until His shout is heard, and His saints are caught up to be with Him forever.

ELIJAH'S MANTLE

As Elijah went up into heaven, his mantle fell down. That was the mantle that he had cast upon the shoulders of the young ploughman many years before. Only now, after those years of menial service, during which time he had proved himself: Only after passing that final test, was Elisha able to wear that mantle. But first he tore his own garments in two pieces. He no longer wished to be seen in them, but in the mantle of his master. He 'put off', before he 'put on'. We are to do this also (Col. 3:7-10), where we are credited with having 'put on the new man'. This means, that we are now to seen by men; bearing the likeness of our Master. See also Romans 13:14, and Gal. 3:27. This latter verse shows us that it is expected that from the moment we emerge from the waters of baptism, it is expected that Christ should be seen in our lives. The former verse shows us that the putting on of Christ; is a daily thing, we are to do this in prayerful surrender as we begin each day.

.... to be continued

GOOD NEWS

Wrong Way Corrigan

By evangelist Robert Surgenor

From Long Beach, California, to New York he came, landing in what the news media termed, “a crate that looked like a museum piece.” The date was July, 1938. Aviation’s scientific advance in the ten years, since Lindbergh’s 33 1/2 hour historic flight from New York to Paris in 1927, was the talk of the five continents. Howard Hughes’ Lockheed had just whisked around the world in four days. History was made again.

But now aviation history was about to be made in a most unique way.

Douglas Corrigan was now on the scene!

CORRIGAN’S CONTRAPTION As a young lad, Corrigan had obtained a job at the Ryan plant in San Diego where he worked on the Spirit of St. Louis and it was here he determined to become a flier. By 1929 he had saved enough to buy his antiquated Curtiss Robin. Incapable of more than 120 m.p.h. and costing \$900, Corrigan accumulated 1,500 flying hours of experience with his “crate” ere crossing the continent in 28 hours and landing in New York. A year previous to this, Corrigan had asked the Bureau of Air Commerce for a permit to fly across the Atlantic but was refused on the grounds that his flying contraption was unsafe. Even though it resembled Lindbergh’s plane, it was far less modern. Corrigan himself had installed the elementary navigating instruments but his “crate” carried neither radio nor blind flying equipment. Worse than this, he had to tilt his plane and look from a side window to check his course!



THE BIG TAKE OFF

In New York, Corrigan announced that he wanted to “fly by the light of the moon, and be over Arizona in the desert cool of the morning.” Loading his ancient Curtiss Robin with 320 gallons of gasoline, he took off with great difficulty, and vanished, flying low, in the wrong direction-toward the mistshrouded Atlantic! The sun was beaming over Ireland Monday, July 18, 1938, when Belfast citizens reported a plane with American markings flying south. At 1:30pm “Wrong Way” Corrigan’s contraption landed at Dublin’s airport, and “Wrong Way” stepped into the hands of burly customs officials. “Where am I?” he asked. Then he solemnly unfolded this yarn: “I took off from New York early Sunday with the intention of flying back to Los Angeles without a stop. I had to go above the clouds. I was flying at 6,000 feet most of the time. I thought I was heading for California. After 25 hours, I decided to descend. The mountains didn’t look like California. I had only 30 gallons of fuel remaining. I had used 290 gallons at 24 cents a gallon. That’s \$69.60.”

WRONG WAY CORRIGANS OF TODAY

One may chuckle at the thought of “Wrong Way” Corrigan’s episode, but I was recently thinking of all the “Wrong Way Corrigans” we have in our world today. We must admit, all of us are on a journey to somewhere. Psalm 90 declares, “We spend our years as a tale that is told... for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” But where do we “land” afterwards? Some say that when you die, that’s the end of you, but folks who talk like that are afraid to face reality.

Christ plainly taught that there are only two eternal destinies before us-heaven or hell. The big question is-in which direction am I “flying?” Some say, “I’m headed for heaven because I’m doing the best that I can.” Poor souls who talk like that-they are “Wrong Way Corrigans!”

For God plainly declares that the way to heaven is, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done” (Titus 3v5). Others claim that

they are trying to keep Moses' Law to get to heaven, but they also are headed in the wrong direction, for God says, "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight" (Romans 3v20). Only those whom God justifies go to heaven. Others claim that we are all going to heaven one way or another and that God is too merciful to put persons into a burning hell for eternity. I've often wondered on what authority these "Wrong Way Corrigan's" have based their fantasy-thoughts? They certainly didn't get them from God's Word, for the Holy Bible flatly contradicts all such foolish ideas. God says, "I will punish the world for their evil" (Isaiah 13v11). "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire... These shall go away into everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25v41, 46). Sceptics deny this, but Christ says it, so it must be true. It's sad to think that most of humanity are "Wrong Way Corrigan's" (Matthew 7v13). For one to think he is on the way to heaven and then, after dying, land in hell, is a calamity indeed! God warns us, saying, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16v25).

THE RIGHT AND ONLY WAY

However, God "desires all men to be saved" (1 Timothy 2v4). Salvation can be obtained only from God, through your personal faith in Christ. There is absolutely no other way! "I am the way... no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me," says the Lord (John 14v6). That's plain enough, isn't it? Peter says, "neither is there salvation in any other" (Acts 4v12). So that rules out all other ways, doesn't it? Christ says, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish" (John 10v28). How can He do this? Simply on the grounds of His sacrifice for sin at Calvary! He paid the price to set us free from the penalty of sin by shedding His blood. God now offers salvation as a gift. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6v23).

Are you flying in the wrong direction? Well turn around! Abandon your false ideas, rely solely on Christ for salvation and you will start your eternal course in the right direction. You will have heaven before you as your eternal home.

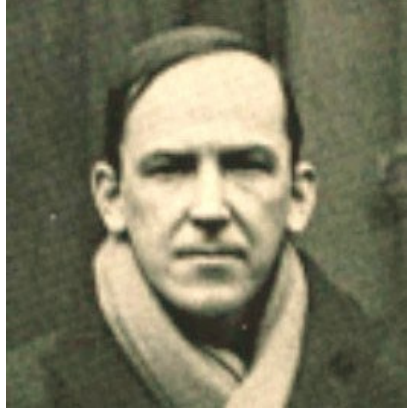
CHURCH HISTORY

The Doctor: The Life of Dr D Martyn Lloyd Jones (part 1)

By Mark Beardall

Martyn Lloyd Jones gave up a successful medical career in order because he felt the Lord had given him the privilege to serve Him as a preacher.

David Martyn Lloyd-Jones was born on the 20th December 1899 in Cardiff. His father Henry Lloyd-Jones owned a local dairy shop and his mother Magdalen was a farmer's daughter. Henry and Magdalen had three sons and Martyn was the middle one.



The family moved from Cardiff to a small town called Llangeitho in West Wales. This was the town where the famous eighteenth century Welsh preacher Daniel Rowlands once lived and there was a statue which had been erected in the town in memory of him. At first Martyn was more interested in playing football than studying but this all changed in 1909 when his father's shop caught fire. Martyn was rescued from the fire being thrown out of an upstairs window and caught in a blanket. Martyn started to study hard and after winning a scholarship in 1911 was sent to school in nearby Tregaron and later to Shrewsbury.

In 1914 Henry Lloyd-Jones went bankrupt and moved with his family to London where he managed to start a milk delivery business. Young Martyn would have to rise up early in the morning and deliver milk in the streets of Westminster, before starting his school day at St Marylebone Grammar. The Lloyd-Jones family were Calvinistic Methodists, a denomination that had seen revival in 1904 but a coldness and formality was settling in. Henry Lloyd-Jones held to Liberal theology which later became a point of contention with his

son Martyn. On arrival in London the Lloyd-Jones's began to attend the Welsh Chapel on the Charing Cross Road. It was on their first visit that Martyn saw his future wife for the first time. Martyn was only 14 at the time and was far too young for Bethan Phillips to even consider him. It took him many years to win her affection.

When Martyn was only sixteen years of age he entered the famous medical school at St Bartholomew's hospital in London and was taught by Sir Thomas Horder. Horder was one of the greatest doctors of his time and was also the doctor for the royal family. Martyn was an exceptional student. He gained a Bachelor of Medicine degree in 1921 and went on to obtain a Doctorate of Medicine. He also became a member of the Royal College of Physicians. He showed such talent that at twenty-three years of age he became Sir Thomas Horder's Chief Clinical Assistant. Martyn was at the beginning of what seemed to be a promising medical career but he felt that the Lord was leading him in another direction. He felt that the Lord wanted him to preach. Martyn had not heard a lot of gospel preaching. Most of the preaching in the chapel was teaching for Christians. Martyn came to realise that he was not a Christian and the problem was not just that he committed certain sins but that by nature his heart was sinful. It was this realisation that caused him to seek God's forgiveness.

Bethan Phillips was also about to graduate as a Doctor at Cardiff University. She was quite an attractive and fashionable young lady, who enjoyed sports, especially Tennis. Martyn hated Tennis and lacked the ability but he made it his mind to learn how to play Tennis in order to win Bethan's heart. Martyn and Bethan were married in January 1927. By this time Martyn had already accepted a call to enter ministry in Aberavon, South Wales and no argument could turn him back. People thought it was foolish to give up a well paid job as a doctor and become a poor preacher. Martyn said later that he did not give up anything. It was not a sacrifice but a privilege to be called to the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In February 1927 Martyn Lloyd-Jones and his bride moved to Aberavon and Martyn began his ministry at Bethlehem Forward Movement Church which was a mission of the Presbyterian Church

of Wales or Calvinistic Methodists. When Lloyd-Jones arrived there were about ninety people in the congregation, which was very small for that time. Martyn was held in suspicion by the local doctor's who were afraid that he might try to steal their patients but after a while they began to call on him to help him in difficult cases. Many people were converted at the Mission and many gave up drinking and gave their bottles to the Lloyd-Jones's. He ended up with a house full of alcohol from the converts, so he gave it all to one of the local doctors. The church had a number of activities that were used to draw people into the building such as a sports club, a drama group and a temperance league. Lloyd-Jones scrapped all of these and just preached the word. Within two years of service they had between 200 and 300 people at the prayer meeting. He saw much blessing in Aberavon it there was almost a revival. In 1929 seventy souls were added to the church and 128 in 1930.

In 1932 Lloyd Jones went on a preaching tour of Canada and the United States of America. He preached in Toronto to the church that the famous fundamentalist preacher T.T Shield's was pastor of. T.T Shields was a great preacher. He was nicknamed the Canadian Spurgeon. However, Lloyd-Jones felt that in seeking to defend the faith that he was spending too much time in attacking the liberals and not enough time in edifying the saints. Lloyd-Jones warned him that he would lose much of his congregation if he continued in this way and he did. Lloyd Jones was not against attacking the liberals, as he himself was an earnest contender for the faith but he was against an excess in it. Lloyd-Jones moved on from Toronto to the Chautauqua Institute near Buffalo in the United States. There was little evangelical teaching there but Lloyd-Jones felt led to go. The institute had reserved a small meeting room for him but such great crowds came out to hear him that they had to use their largest hall. He preached to over 6000 people that night.

Lloyd-Jones or the Doctor as he was affectionately called was very popular among students. In 1935 he was asked to help with the work of the Inter-Varsity Fellowship and in 1939 he became its president. He was always popular with students even in to his old age.

Lloyd-Jones resigned as pastor of the Bethlehem forward mission

due to exhaustion. He needed to take a rest. He was still preaching occasionally. When he was preaching at a church in Philadelphia, in the United States Dr G. Campbell Morgan was in the congregation and was listening intently. Campbell Morgan turned up at many of his meetings and at one meeting timed his preaching. Lloyd-Jones new that Campbell Morgan wanted him to assist him at Westminster Chapel. At the same time he was considering a post at the Presbyterian Church of Wales College in Bala. He was eventually turned down for position of principal because the board members did not like his strong evangelical stance and his opposition to liberalism. Lloyd-Jones preached his first sermon at Westminster Chapel in September 1938 and became assistant pastor in 1939.

Campbell Morgan was an Arminian and Lloyd-Jones was a Calvinist but they worked in complete harmony with each other. Campbell Morgan died in July 1943 and Lloyd Jones became the senior pastor. When Lloyd-Jones took charge he dismissed the choir, he believed there was no substitute to preaching. This was unpopular for some and they left but the Lord blessed the church and it started to grow in number. The congregation had depleted due to the bombing in the war but by 1947 the attendance had increased to about 1500 people in the morning and 2000 in the evening.

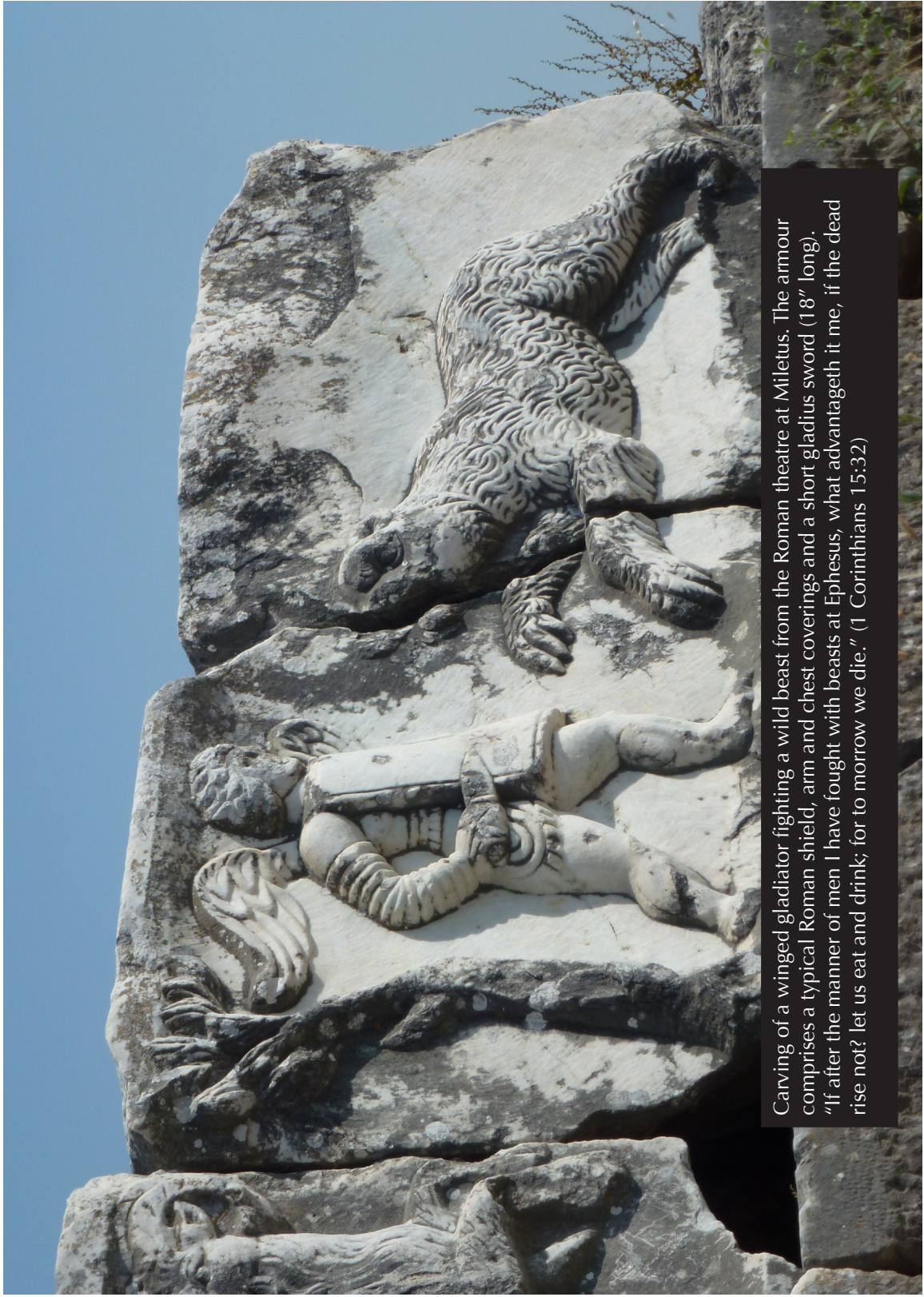
The Doctor was a great expository preacher. He studied the bible in great detail. His manner was to preach through the books of the bible at great length. He would often preach three sermons on one verse! In the morning he ministered to the believers and in the evening he preached the gospel. He never lost that evangelistic zeal. He would argue from scripture and show people logically and persuasively the folly of unbelief and the necessity of faith in Christ. His preaching has been described as logic on fire. He was not a preacher that sought to win souls by great oratory. He often started his sermons slowly and methodically but could be stirred up as the message moved him. He was very passionate about the subject of revival and it was always his desire to see a great revival.

To be continued ...



Gate in Ephesus built by two former slaves to the Emperor Augustus for freeing them (above). Harbour Street which led to the harbour which became silted up and led to the decline of Ephesus as a commercial centre (below).





Carving of a winged gladiator fighting a wild beast from the Roman theatre at Miletus. The armour comprises a typical Roman shield, arm and chest coverings and a short gladius sword (18" long).
"If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die." (1 Corinthians 15:32)