

Thought for the Day - 21st April 2020

Colossians 1:15-29 – ‘Tuning-In’

Joe Wicks, The Daily Service, Killing Eve? What are you ‘tuning in’ to during the lengthening days of lock-down?

I wake up to the Radio 4 news, then check out the latest Covid-19 update on the internet. Not the most joyful way to start the day – granted - but a symptom of the times! Thankfully, ‘Thought for the Day’, is a hopeful antidote to the gloom. In the evening, we sit down to the happy distraction of ‘Atypical’ or ‘Parks and Recreation’ on the telly. (Lesley Knope is my personal hero – an undauntable optimist)

This morning’s bible reading urges us to stay ‘tuned-in’, not to the radio, internet, or telly, but to the gospel, the ‘good news’, the ‘message’ of Jesus. It comes from a letter Paul wrote to the new Christian church in Colossae when he was concerned they were being discouraged and drawn away from the firm hope held out in the gospel.

Paul himself is a great example of someone who, in the direst circumstances, remained brim-full of hope and good news. He wrote this very letter from a ‘lock-down’ of his own - a prison cell in Rome. Yet he begins it with an outpouring of joyful thanks for what God is doing amongst his people and what Jesus has already won for them.

That said, he knows this ‘good news’ requires a personal response. It’s conditional. He says, Christ has won back for us a right relationship with God and the gift of eternal life, if (...and it’s a big ‘if’) ‘if we continue in our faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.’ (v23 NIV). I love how ‘The Message’ version of the bible translates Paul’s final words:

“You don’t walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted.” So,

- Let’s not let the bad news shape who we are.
- Let’s follow the examples of our heroes of hope.
- Let’s make sure we ‘tune in’ to the gospel message, the real good news, every day.

Hannah Lievesley (St Chad’s)

