

**DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC**  
**TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA**

18 August 2019

Bulletin for the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 463 197 376 789 294 266

**INTROIT:** My soul has been longing for Your salvation. I have been waiting for Your Word.  
My eyes have become weak from looking for Your Promise. I ask, "When will You comfort me?"  
Although I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, I have not forgotten Your Prescriptions.  
How many are the days of Your servant? When will You carry out judgment on those who are persecuting me?  
Arrogant people have dug pits for me, which are contrary to Your Instruction.  
All Your Commandments are sure. Help me! People have been persecuting me with falsehood.  
They had almost brought me to an end on the earth, but I have not forsaken Your Directions.  
Preserve my life according to Your mercy, that I may keep the Testimony from Your mouth!

Psalm 119:81-88

**COLLECT:** Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Jeremiah 23:16-29 "Do not I fill heaven and earth?... Is not My word like fire?"

Hebrews 11:17-40; 12:1-3 Let us run the race marked out for us

Luke 12:49-56 I have come to bring fire and division on the earth

**SERMON:** Luke 12:49-53 Division

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the AELC Statement of Faith, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

### **Life Has No Meaning? 9 in 10 Young People in the UK Believe That**

by Ken Ham

A recent poll in the United Kingdom revealed that 89% - nearly 9 in 10 - of young people, aged 16 to 29, "believe that their lives have no meaning or purpose." This saddening statistic is explained with a corresponding statistic shared in the same article - only 1% of this age group identifies as belonging to the Church of England, the largest denomination in the UK, meaning that very few young people in the UK hold to any semblance of Christianity (half of UK residents are atheists). This is being reflected in decreasing church attendance. In England, such attendance is down to less than 5%.

The study also found that 30% of these young people say they are "stuck in a rut," and 84% don't believe they are living "their best life." But if there is no meaning or purpose to life, what makes you "stuck in a rut" or not stuck in a rut? What is your "best life"? In this worldview, there is no way even to define these things, apart from arbitrary feelings and opinions.

This belief that life has no meaning or purpose is the outworking of the religion of evolutionary secularism that permeates the education system and the media throughout the UK, and here in the United States (also Australia! PZ). When you adopt the religion of atheism, you have to deal with the consequences - and one consequence is that ultimately there's absolutely no meaning or purpose to life!

Now, many atheists get all emotional about this and say they have purpose here and now (i.e., being happy or making others happy). And yes, they can subjectively decide what purpose and meaning to believe they have now, but the fact is that they know they will die - everyone will! They know it, but I believe they really refuse to accept it, even though it's inevitable. And, in their present existence, they have to borrow from the Christian worldview to even talk about purpose and meaning!

Atheists just don't want to face the fact their worldview means, as Bill Nye said to me, "when you die, you're done." In other words, an atheist has to admit that when they die, that's the end of them since everything is purely material in that worldview. So ultimately, nothing matters! More and more the younger generations, who have been indoctrinated in evolutionary naturalism (atheism), are realizing the hopelessness and purposelessness of the naturalistic worldview.

But as God's Word teaches in Romans 1, God has made it evident to all that He exists, and so everyone is without excuse. God's Word clearly teaches where we came from, what our problem is (sin), and what the solution is - Jesus Christ.

And the incredible inconsistency is that, from an atheistic perspective, eventually everyone dies, the whole universe dies, and no one will know they ever existed. So, why do so many of them get so emotional over fighting Christians/creationists? The fact that they get so emotional about it is because it's a spiritual battle, and in their heart, they know they're rebelling against God. Otherwise, they wouldn't care! It shows their hypocrisy and utter insecurity in their ultimately meaningless and purposeless existence in the here and now that, to them, is doomed to become... nothing!

Where do meaning and purpose come from? It comes from our Creator! It comes from having a proper perspective on the history of the universe and humanity - one that starts with God's Word. We're not accidents, the result of millions of years of random, chance processes. We're fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14) in the image of our Creator (Genesis 1:27). He has given us His Word, which clearly tells us our purpose and meaning. As Ecclesiastes puts it, "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). We're created to bring glory to our Creator and enjoy Him forever. That's ultimate meaning and purpose.

We can only find this purpose, and the joy that comes from walking in it, when we repent and put our faith and trust in Christ alone for salvation. When this happens, we die to our old selves and our old ways of thinking and living, and we are remade to live for Him (2 Corinthians 5:17) - and we find great joy in doing so (Psalm 119:162-168)! If you want true meaning and purpose in your life, turn to Christ. He alone satisfies (Matthew 13:45-46; Isaiah 61:10; 1 Peter 1:8-9).

*Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!*

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Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au).

**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

25 August 11 Pentecost	1 September 12 Pentecost	8 September 13 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC	8.00am Bible Study & 9.00am HC TMBA 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR
<b>Sunday, 25 August</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 66:18-23;      Hebrews 12:4-29;      Luke 13:22-30		
HYMNS: 526 178 492 (311 284) 187		
<b>Sunday, 1 September</b>		
READINGS: Proverbs 25:2-10;      Hebrews 13:1-17;      Luke 14:1-14		
HYMNS: 499 451 493 (313 839) 436		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DOWNNS PARISH

#### Bible Studies:

Greenwood: Friday, 23 August.

Aubigny/Oakey: Friday, 30 August at Oakey.

Toowoomba, Sunday, 1 September.

The next Youth Group will be a bushwalk at picnic point, followed by a picnic on the 7th of September. Time to be confirmed.

### MARBURG PARISH

Thursday, 22 August, 10.00am. Bible Study at Lowood. We will be studying the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of James. Please bring something for a shared morning tea.

FORWARD ANNOUNCEMENT: Saturday, 7 September, 10.00am. CoC/Sem. Committee meeting at Troys Road.