

1. Living in less than ideal circumstances

- Esther starts 482BC – Xerxes in the emperor of Persian Empire
- Esther – orphan, Jewess, rounded up placed in harem
- One shot at pleasing the king and maybe becoming his wife
- God’s people sometimes find themselves in less than ideal circumstances
- There are circumstances we can change, but some we can't
- God calls us to live for him in hard circumstances we can't change

2. The unseen God works in these circumstances for our good

- God is not mentioned in the book of Esther!
- About 20 ‘coincidences’ - Did all these events just happen?
- When God seems most absent, he is utterly in control
- God cannot be thwarted by a Haman’s plans
- Esther - female, orphan and racial minority
- God uses the weak and powerless to carry out his purposes
- The church - weak, powerless - is God’s agent for change in this world

3. Living for God whatever the circumstances

a. Called to live for God and not ourselves

- Esther had to be challenged by Mordecai to live for God rather than herself – 4:12
- Esther had the palace and didn't want to lose it or her life
- What are you not prepared to let go of in order to follow God?
- If we live for ourselves we lose, if we live for God we gain
- To live for God we need to be convinced that he is worth living for
- Until you see the one to whom Esther points you'll not see God as worth living for, and you'll always lose ultimately
- Jesus didn't simply say, “If I perish I perish”, but “When I perish I perish” in order to rescue

b. Called to trust the unseen God who rules

- Although you can't see him, you can trust him
- We can't sit back, when we follow we see God work
- When we trust and follow, God will delight us with his work.

c. Called to bring good to the whole of society

- Esther called to live out her faith for the good of society
- The Christian is not to withdraw from the world, but to be involved to see transformation
- God would have us live in such a way to bring good to others

Milford RPC

www.milfordrpc.org

Sabbath 1st March 09

Notices

Sun 1st	Evening service in Milford - The Story of Gomer (Hosea 1-3)	8pm
Wed	Study 3 in 10 Commandments	8pm
Sat 7 th	Young People's Spring Conference Cloughmills - 6.30pm for tea, 7pm for meeting (over 8.45pm) Christians in a world that rejects Christ - Rev Peter Jemphrey	
Thu 12 th	Banner of Truth NI Conference for young people The Book that Changed the World - Can we Trust the Bible? The Crescent Church, University Road, Belfast. Speakers Include: Ted Donnelly & Mark Johnston	
Sab 15 th	Church Lunch	
Mon 16 th	Letterkenny prayer evening Come and go at whatever time suits The house beside the Open Door Bookshop	7-11pm
Sat 21 st	Go-relief team meeting - Cloughmills RP Church @ 3.00pm	

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sabbath 8th - Mary & Martha (Luke 10:39-42, John 11:1-12:7)

Opening Psalm: 81:5-8

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