



**Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on October 23rd 2022 at 10:45, meeting at Bethesda Chapel.**

Whilst some are able to meet in person, others we know are still at home. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

**Our service today is being led by Tim, as we celebrate Bible Sunday.**

**Tim welcomed everyone**, saying "It's a special morning today because it is Bible Sunday. We have some large copies of the Bible on the table at the front, and we're going to be thinking about why the Bible is so special and wonderful, looking at what the Bible says about itself." Tim shared that he thinks one of the most wonderful things about the Bible is how reliable it is. We sometimes struggle to find reliable things in our world. Tim showed a picture on the screen of the houses of Parliament, which as a congregation we decided was not full of reliable people! The Bible though is totally reliable and will never let us down, and we can believe in the promises written in the Bible. **We can lift our voices in song**, echoing these words

From the breaking of the dawn to the setting of the sun,  
I will stand on every promise of Your word.  
Words of power, strong to save, that will never pass away,  
I will stand on every promise of Your word.  
For Your covenant is sure, and on this I am secure,  
I can stand on every promise of Your word.

When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in,  
I will stand on every promise of Your word.  
You are faithful to forgive, that in freedom I might live,  
so I stand on every promise of Your word.  
Guilt to innocence restored: you remember sins no more!  
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

When I'm faced with anguished choice, I will listen for Your voice,  
and I'll stand on every promise of Your word.  
Through this dark and troubled land you will guide me with your hand  
as I stand on every promise of Your word.  
And you've promised to complete every work begun in me,  
so I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

Hope that lifts me from despair, love that casts out every fear,  
as I stand on every promise of Your word.

Not forsaken, not alone, for the Comforter has come,  
and I stand on every promise of Your word.  
Grace sufficient, grace for me, grace for all who will believe,  
we will stand on every promise of Your word.

Authors: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend Copyright © 2005 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMGPublishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, [songs@integritymusic.com](mailto:songs@integritymusic.com)) CCL N o 5664

**Tim led us in prayer:** "Thank you God that you have given us your word; you haven't left us in the dark, you've shown us through your words who you are and who we are and what you've done for us as the result. Thank you for how your word tells us about Jesus. Thank you for all the wonderful promises that flow from what he has done for us, that we can trust and build our lives upon. So Lord we thank you for your word this morning, we pray that you will be with us now as we think about it a bit more and the wonderful things that it brings to us. So Lord, thank you, and be with us we pray through the rest of our time together this morning. In Jesus name. Amen."  
(Tim reminded us that a little while ago we printed some sheets which showed us the promises of God, which he has reprinted and placed at the front of the church for people to collect on their way for refreshments if they so wished.)

**Time for some science** - Tim had an experiment for us to watch - he was going to do it live but was dissuaded by Debbie as fire was involved, but he showed a recording done at home yesterday!. We were invited to think of our lives like a candle, influenced by something. Tim cut off the base of the candle so that there was a wick at both ends. He balanced the candle over two glasses, representing our lives, confused and swinging from side to side when the candle was lit at both ends- our lives might feel out of control - but when we have a firm base our light can shine.

**The Bible also brings us encouragement and hope** , and Tim asked for volunteers to help find some verses hidden around the church. Tim then asked the volunteers to place their words on the Flipchart, trying to place them in the correct order, (Romans 15 v 4 was the final clue!) It read "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so that through the endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."

**Tim asked Tony to endure** - holding a bible in each hand, whilst the congregation encouraged him to keep his arms horizontal - Tony actually managed a longer time than Tim had anticipated!! The verse we had just read was in the New Testament, but referred to the things in the past - the Old Testament - which served as an introduction to a **song about all the books of the Bible** - sung in the style of the Beach Boys, for those who remember them!! "The Bible Bop" - it really does need to be heard rather than read - sorry!!!

(Bop, bop, bop - Bop, Bible books) (2x)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (Bop, Bible books)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (Bop, Bible books)

We're gonna learn all the books  
from the the bottom to the top  
and do the Bible book bop (Bop, Bible books)

Genesis, Exodus Leviticus, Numbers  
Do the bop (Bop, bop, bop)

Deuteronomy Joshua, Judges, and Ruth  
We'll do the bop (Do the Bop, Do the bop, bop, bop)

First and Second Samuel, First and Second Kings (Uh huh)  
First and Second Chronicles makes me wanna sing  
(Do the bop Do the bop) (Oh yeah!)

We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)

Soak it in your brain like water in a mop  
and do the Bible book bop (Bop, Bible books)

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs  
Do the bop (Bop, bop, bop)

Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah  
Do the bop (Do the Bop, Do the bop, bop, bop)

Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel and Hosea  
Joel and Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum  
Do the bop (Do the bop...oh yeah!)

We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)

If you learn this song you'll impress your mom and pop  
so do the Bible book bop (Bop, Bible books)

Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah  
Malachi (He's quite a guy)  
We made it through the Old, now let's move on to the New, and see what we can do

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John  
Acts, Romans, and Corinthians  
(One and two)

Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians  
Colossians and Thessalonians  
(One and two)

First and Second Timothy Titus and Philemon  
Hebrews, James First and Second Peter and John  
One, two, three  
(And don't forget Jude)

We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)

We had a lot of fun I wish we didn't have to stop (Uh huh)  
Do the Bible book bop (Bop, Bible books)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)  
We'll do the Bible book bop (The Bible book bop)

We're gonna learn all the books from the the bottom to the top,  
soak it in your brain like water in a mop,  
if you learn this song you'll impress your mom and pop  
we had a lot of fun, I wish we didn't have to stop

We'll do the Bible book bop...

...Revelation...

**This was followed by Tim sharing bread with the congregation**, representing food to keep us going ; the Bible provides us with spiritual food, and just like we were offered different types of bread, there are different ways of finding the Bible - in books, online, on our phones etc. Jesus said "Man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Tim reminded us that it's important that we have the Bible in our own language, and went on to say how good it is that we are able to host the Russian speaking church, who last week celebrated their 14th anniversary. He showed a short clip of their celebrations.

We can all hear from God's word, which nourishes and sustains us. Isaiah 55 v 2 and 3, says 'Listen, listen to me and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.'

**Tim asked us all to be quiet** whilst we listened to God's word - but we couldn't hear anything - perhaps because we hadn't opened it - stating the obvious - we need to open it and read it, finding things, such as I have loved you with an everlasting love,

God has said never will I leave you, never will I forsake you - all things to encourage and build us up, as we get nourishment from God's word.

We also get guidance from the Bible - **Tim using GPS as an example** - Global Positioning System - which we use for directions. If we turn the wrong way they can get a bit shirty and tell us to turn round or make a U-turn . The Bible is like GPS in our lives - 2 Timothy 3 v 16 says all scripture is God- breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

**Tim turned on his phone which has GPS**, and typed heaven into the phone, hoping for directions! Surprisingly, it suggested heaven night club in Liverpool and various other possibilities, but these weren't helpful - rather Jesus saying "I am the way, the truth and the life". One of Tim's favourite verses is from Psalm 119, v 105, and we can sing a song based on this verse:

### **Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
still you're there right beside me;  
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near,  
please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I will not forget your love for me and yet  
my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side  
I will love you to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Songwriters: Amy Lee Grant / Michael Whitaker Smith CCLI SONG # 14301 COPYRIGHTS1984 Curb Word Music (Admin. by / Small Stone Media BV, Holland (Admin. in the UK/Eire by Song Solutions [www.songsolutions.org](http://www.songsolutions.org)))Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCL.No 5664

**Tim used an illustration of a blacksmith** to show what God is trying to do in our lives, as he shapes us, which can be a painful experience, but will have a useful purpose and be exactly what is should be.

**Tim reminded us that the Bible** is reliable, it gives us encouragement and hope, it sustains us, it guides us, but we have to read and listen to it. Tim then poured some hot water from a flask he'd brought into 2 glass cups, and added a tea bag to one. We watched as the colour changed and a different aroma arose as the flavour of the tea became stronger. Colossians 3 v 16 says "Let the word of God dwell in you richly" - just as the tea bag changes the longer it is in the hot water, we will be changed from a glass of hot water to a cup of tea, that will make a difference to other people as we

dwell in God richly. We can also broadcast the news of this through our lives - in the way the BBC has been celebrating 100 years of broadcasting this weekend!

**We were invited to sing a final song**, played by Alec, during which the offering was taken:

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you  
to receive the food of your holy word.  
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;  
shape and fashion us in your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us  
all your purposes, for your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise  
cause our eyes to see,  
your majestic love and authority.  
Words of power that can never fail;  
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises;  
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built  
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Authors: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty CCLI SONG #4615235 Copyright © 2005 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMGPublishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, [songs@integritymusic.com](mailto:songs@integritymusic.com)) CCL No 5664

**Tim led a short prayer of thanksgiving** for our gifts, and then invited the congregation to join in a closing prayer together:

We thank you Lord, on this Bible Sunday, for your Word, the Bible, and how we can rely upon it completely - because it comes from you

**Thank you for your unfailing promises to us**

We thank you for the way the Bible gives us a firm and solid foundation for our lives and points us the way to you

**Thank you, Lord, that we have the Bible**

Thank you that every part of the Bible comes from you and is useful for teaching us and correcting us

**Thank you for all the wonderful things we find in your Word to help us**

We thank you that the Bible gives us encouragement even in our times of trouble and teaches us from what you have done in the past

**Thank you for the way the Bible gives us hope**

We pray for everyone in our church who needs the encouragement and hope of your Word right now

**Lord, give them your strength and peace**

Thank you that the Bible feeds and sustains us - keeping us spiritually healthy

**Help us to take it in regularly**

Thank you that your Word points us in the right direction and steers us away from the things that would trip us up

**Thank you for the light your Word shines on our path**

We pray that wisdom from your Word would guide our politicians and leaders at this difficult time

**Lord, be with all Christians in parliament**

Thank you that your Word also points out the areas where we need to change to be more like Jesus

**Help us to soak it in and let it dwell in us richly**

We pray for all those who are working to make sure that everyone can have access to the Bible in their own language

**Lord, please strengthen all Bible translators and distributors in their important work**

We pray for organisations like Scripture Union and Good News for Everyone who are making the Bible available to people who've never read it before

**Please use them to bring the good news of Jesus to many more people**

**And finally: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.**