



*The General Church of the*  
***New Jerusalem***

*PERTH CIRCLE*

*August 2004*



*Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, That I am the Lord who exercises loving kindness, judgement, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.*

*Jeremiah 9: 23-24*

Church of the New Jerusalem

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LOVE OF SELF ( Reading on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July) Read by Lisa Smuts

HH 558. [b.] That the love of self is the opposite of love to the neighbor can be seen from the origin and essence of both. The love of the neighbor of one who is in the love of self begins with oneself, for he claims that everyone is neighbor to himself; and it goes forth from him as its center to all who make one with him, diminishing in accordance with the degree of their conjunction with him by love. All outside of this circle are regarded as of no account; and those who are opposed to those in the circle and to their evils are accounted as enemies, whatever their character may be, however wise, upright, honest, or just. But spiritual love to the neighbor begins with the Lord, and goes forth from Him as its center to all who are conjoined to Him by love and faith, going forth in accordance with the quality of their love and faith. Evidently, then, the love of the neighbor that has its beginning in man is the opposite of the love to the neighbor that has its beginning in the Lord; and the former proceeds from evil because it proceeds from what is man's own, while the latter proceeds from good because it proceeds from the Lord, who is good itself. Evidently, also, the love of the neighbor that proceeds from man and from what is his own is corporeal, while the love to the neighbor that proceeds from the Lord is heavenly. In a word, in the man in whom love of self prevails that love constitutes the head, and heavenly love constitutes the feet. On that love he stands; and if it does not serve him he tramples it under foot. This is the cause of the appearance that those who are cast down into hell fall with the head downward towards hell, and with the feet upwards towards heaven (see above, n. 548).

From the New Church Vineyard

The Lord loves everyone. Like the sun shining around the world, the Lord's love goes out to everyone, whether good or evil. He is perpetually present with us, sustaining our life. Like the prodigal son, we can distance ourselves from the Lord. Yet He still loves us and yearns to be conjoined with us and bring us genuine happiness. The story of the prodigal son provides a beautiful picture of the Lord's gift of spiritual freedom to all and the power of repentance to overcome the barriers we construct. Like the father who has compassion on his son and runs to embrace him, the Lord's love constantly urges us to receive Him.

What does it take to receive the Lord? The Lord cannot be conjoined with someone who loves to do what is evil. Such a person turns from the Lord just as the younger son went to a far country and wasted his inheritance. But the prodigal son repented and humbly returned to his father. So the Lord can forgive us when we make mistakes, if we acknowledge that we are doing what is wrong and then stop doing it. He does not respond with anger or punishment but with mercy. The Lord rejoices when we look to Him and follow the teachings of the Word, because this can lead us to the eternal happiness that, from His infinite love, He longs to give everyone.

Readers Submissions

*Submitted by Tony Phan*

Does evil exist?

The university professor challenged his students with this question. Did God create everything that exists? A student bravely replied, "Yes, he did!"

"God created everything? The professor asked.

"Yes sir", the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are then God is evil".

The student became quiet before such an answer.

The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question professor?" "Of course", replied the professor

The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?"

"What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you never beencold?" The students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 degrees F) is the total absence of heat; all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."

The student continued, "Professor, does darkness exist?"

The professor responded, "Of course it does."

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?"

Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not like faith, or love that exist just as does light and heat. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.

**The young man's name - Albert Einstein.**

We read from the Writings .....and see that Einstein was on the right track!.....see below

Evil is a perversion of good.

and falsity is a perversion of truth.

**AC 1820...** evils and falsities are chosen by humans when they are tempted to turn away from the Lord (the origin of good and truth)  
Church of the New Jerusalem August 2004

## News

### Retreat

A booking has been made to go to Moore River in the school holidays so that Ros and the other teachers /lecturers are free to join in. ***The dates are 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October.***

*Unfortunately Gary will not be able top attend but the retreat will still be on.*

### Young People

During the absence of John and Moira Frost we have been delighted that the young people have contributed to the worship by reading lessons and sermons.

Thanks to Verity, and Lisa for reading lessons on two occasions, Anni for reading the sermon, and to Tony for the reading of a lesson and a sermon. We were delighted to have this input.

**Congratulations** to Tony Phan who has been invited to give talks in Seattle, and Melbourne, during 2004.

To Lisa and Anni Smuts, and friends Rowan Clarke, and Daniel Burcell for credits and distinctions in the semester examinations at Murdoch and Edith Cowan.

To Mary Smuts who has been invited to do a presentation at an ICT Conference in October.

### Stalwarts

Thank you Richard for your incredible ongoing support setting up, and Val with the magic fingers who supplies us with the most wonderful music Sunday after Sunday, and the milk for our tea!

**Refreshments after church** Those who prefer to turn the morning cuppa into a light lunch, are invited to bring a plate if they wish to enjoy their lunch with the cuppa. The setting in the sun outside in the park (just through the door is outstanding!)

**Doctrinal Study** As we all need to read the Word for ourselves and discover precious teachings to apply to life, perhaps a sharing of individual discoveries would be a great way to go. If people are interested in presenting and sharing what they have read, whatever topic, then we can get together month by month to share and learn from each other.

If this is what you would like to do please contact John.

HOME PAGE <http://www.newchurch.org/>

At the above address you will find a welcome, slide shows and inreactive books and topical discussions for example....

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## The Passion of the Christ Discussion Points

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### What was it all for?

The following are New Church (Swedenborgian) teachings about the meaning of the Crucifixion.

*Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.*  
*Luke 24.46*

### Why was Jesus Crucified?

#### ***New Church (Swedenborgian) Teachings about the Crucifixion***

"The Lord from eternity, who is Jehovah, came into the world to subjugate the hells and to glorify

last combat by which He fully conquered the hells, and fully glorified His Human."  
Doctrine of the Lord 12, Emanuel Swedenborg

"The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies."  
Isaiah 42:13

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."  
John 16:33

"He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly."  
Luke 1: 51, 52

#### Young People's Social

All young adults 18+ to 35 are invited to a BBQ at 35 Ewing Avenue on 29<sup>th</sup> August at 11.30am.

Bring some friends! BYO meat and drinks.

RSVP 9498 50 89 or 0421 87 36 59 .....Verity.

## August Calendar 2004

Sun 1st	<b>Worship 10.30am</b> followed by a cuppa	10 Broome Street <u>upstairs</u> South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Mon 2nd	<b>Beginners Class</b>	35 Ewing Ave Bullcreek
Sun 8 th	<b>Worship 10.30am</b> followed by a cuppa	10 Broome Street <u>upstairs</u> South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Thurs12 th	<b>Doctrinal Class</b>	TBA
Sun 15th	<b>Worship 10.30am</b> followed by a cuppa	10 Broome Street <u>upstairs</u> South Perth (off Douglas St.)
Mon 16 th	<b>Beginners Class</b>	35 Ewing Ave Bullcreek
Sun 21st	<b>Worship 10.30am</b> followed by a cuppa	10 Broome Street <u>upstairs</u> (off Douglas St.) South Perth
Thurs	<b>Doctrinal Class</b>	TBA

26th		
Sunday 29th	<b>Worship 5pm</b> followed by a cuppa	10 Broome Street <b>upstairs</b> (off Douglas St.) South Perth

## ***10 Broome Street, South Perth***

*(off Douglas Street)*

### ***Worship at 10.30am every Sunday***

*Experience a new meaning and level of understanding  
the Bible and Creation.*

*Reach new satisfying states of peaceful tranquillity  
and calm through inner faith and deep conviction in  
God's Divine plan for us.*

*Enjoy happiness and joy by living principles of  
charity and use in your everyday life as taught us by  
the Lord God Jesus Christ.*

*Reach out to others with love and understanding.*

### **Contacts on the net**

<http://www.newchurchvineyard.org/>

[www.newchurch.org/perth-gcnj](http://www.newchurch.org/perth-gcnj)

[info@swedenborg.com.au](mailto:info@swedenborg.com.au)

[newchurch@optusnet.com.au](mailto:newchurch@optusnet.com.au).

***New Church Radio Listen on line at***

***<http://www.newchurchradio.org/>***

**Walk to Emmaus** (*an online discussion group*)

[walktoemmaus@topica.com](mailto:walktoemmaus@topica.com)

[SRLibrary@newchurch.edu](mailto:SRLibrary@newchurch.edu) for sound recordings and music