

SOUL FOOD



November 2009

"As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him." (2 Samuel 22:31)

The Lord's Word (the Bible) is the bedrock for true Christianity. God intended it as a user's guide to life. (from Young Adult connection newchurch.org)

Within the Word are all the guidelines for following a path that leads towards heaven. The book of John opens with the following: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Word can serve as your most direct connection to the Lord — it has a deep spiritual power when you apply its truths to everyday life. All the important things we need to know are contained within the scripture, such as assurance that God is ever-present in our lives, that life after death is real, and heaven and hell exist. The Word also provides us with instructions on how to access lasting happiness.

The New Church teaches that the Bible has multiple layers of meaning. The more significant meanings are the deeper ones. These deep, previously-hidden meanings are now unlocked for anyone to see, in the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. Does this mean that we should ignore the more plain "surface" meaning of the text of the Bible? No way! In fact, the book True Christian Religion says that there are places in the Bible where the deeper meaning rises to the surface of the plain text, where anyone can see it:

"...The Word in that sense resembles a person wearing clothes, but whose face and hands are bare. Everything needed for a person's faith and life, and so everything needed for his salvation, is there uncovered, though the remainder is clothed. In many passages where it is clothed it still shows through, like a woman's features through a thin silk veil over her face. Moreover, since the truths of the Word increase in number as they are loved and this love gives them shape, so they show through and become visible more and more clearly" (True Christian Religion 229).

In other words, the most critical, soul-saving, life-giving teachings in the Bible are the ones that are easiest to understand: for example, the ten commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), the two great commandments (Mark 12:29-31), the new commandment (John 13:34-35), and the Lord's prayer (Mathew 6:9-13). What's more, there are places where the deeper meaning is only thinly veiled; once you know to look for it, it isn't very hard

to find. But what's perhaps most exciting is the final implication of the above paragraph: once you realize that the Bible has this deeper truth in it, you **become more and more attuned to it the more you read!**

So, with the help of the explanations in the Writings of the New Church, along with prayer to the Lord for enlightenment along the way, you will find the deeper meaning of the Bible becomes gradually less and less hidden the more you read. And what you will find is that underneath the plain text of the Bible are new living, spiritual ways of understanding the Lord's Word. Every story in the Bible contains within it deeper truths that relate to God, the church, and your own personal spiritual journey.

News

Birth Michael was born on the 0th September, to Tony and Verity . We all welcome you little boy and thank the Lord for your safe arrival.

Frosts are departing our shores once more to visit family in Durban for an extended time. We wish you every joy with your loved ones but we will miss you!

Exams. The best of luck to our young TEE students who will soon be writing their finals.

"Building Healthy relationships " has been postponed for this year.

Special Prayer

Dear Lord, we have Tony, Verity and Kayla in our hearts constantly; we give thanks for the new life soon to be with them. We ask that You bless their union with a yet deeper love for one another through caring and sharing of the pain they are experiencing. Fill them with Your love, strength and courage for the road they travel; and help us all to be there for them in whatever way we can to support their needs. When they see just one line of footprints in the sand make them to know it is You Lord who is carrying them.

November CALENDAR

	<i>MORNING</i>	<i>EVENING</i>	<i>VENUE</i>
<i>Sun 1st</i>		Worship <i>JF</i> 5.30pm <i>Followed</i> <i>by</i> <i>shared meal</i>	<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Fri 6th</i>	<i>Heaven & hell</i> Study group 10:30am		<i>TBC phone Bernice</i>
<i>Sun 8th</i>	Worship 10:30 BB VH <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun</i>		Worship <i>JF</i> 5.30pm <i>Followed</i> <i>by</i> <i>shared meal</i>	<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Fri 20th</i>	<i>Heaven & hell</i> Study group 10:30am		<i>TBC phone Bernice</i>
<i>Sun 22nd</i>	Worship 10:30am MS <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun 29th</i>		Worship <i>MT</i> 5.30pm <i>Followed</i> <i>by</i> <i>shared meal</i>	<i>Broome St</i>

General Church of the New Jerusalem in Perth

*Worship Services are held weekly at
10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)
the first and third Sunday's services at 5.30pm
the second and fourth at 10.30am
5th Sunday TBA*

www.newchurch.org

*Based on the Holy Bible, The New Church gains further
inspiration and understanding through the Revelation of
18th century scientist and theologian **Emanuel***

***Swedenborg.** In his 35 volumes of theology, Swedenborg
helps set forth the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity,
a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that
means in our lives.*

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home for orphaned children. Donations gladly accepted.*

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