



finder

Jesus said,
"I am the
way..."

A publication of *Bailiesmills* Reformed Presbyterian Church

Autumn 2014

Revolutionary

Why real change is possible

ARE YOU IMPRESSED by the extraordinary changes that have taken place in Western culture in the last generation? Does it please you to see old values overturned and replaced with new values? Would you consider yourself a bit of a revolutionary?

The Gospel Revolution

Then why do you look down your nose at Christianity? David Bentley Hart writes, "Among all the many great transitions that have marked the evolution of Western civilization... there has been only one – the triumph of Christianity – that can be called in the fullest sense a 'revolution': a truly massive

and epochal revision of humanity's prevailing vision of reality."

Revolutionary Message

That was how the leading conservatives in the Greek city of Thessalonica read the gospel when it arrived there in the year AD 50.

"These men who have turned the world upside down have come here."

Acts 17:6

And they got really upset by it, complaining to the city authorities that the Christians were turning the whole world upside down – and if that isn't the definition of a "revolution" then I don't know what is.

Revolutionary Person

Why the upset? The upset was over the revolutionary person proclaimed by the Christians. They were saying that Jesus, the crucified man from Nazareth in Galilee, was Lord.

“...saying that there is another king, Jesus.”
Acts 17:7

Power is not Caesar's, but Jesus'. Jesus, not Caesar – nor Stormont for that matter, nor the economy, nor science – is the source of life, well-being, stability and hope. All authority is in Jesus' hands.

Revolutionary Event

And they are nail-pierced hands. The Jesus proclaimed by the Christians had undergone a revolutionary event – having been nailed to a Roman cross, and having died there in agony and shame, he had been raised from the dead by God to an entirely new quality of life – powerful, incorruptible and glorious life –

physical life suited to dwelling in the presence of God.

The resurrection of Jesus is the revolutionary event. As Tom Wright has observed, “Resurrection is death's overthrow, and with that the overthrow of those whose power depends on it.. Which emperor would have sleepless nights worrying that his subjects were reading the gnostic *Gospel of Thomas*? Resurrection was always bound to get you into trouble, and it regularly did.”

“It was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead.”
Acts 17:3

Revolutionary Change

So what's this to do with you? Everything! The revolutionary person (Jesus) who underwent the revolutionary event (the resurrection) is able to bring revolutionary change to you.

Resurrection isn't just about an event that will happen when Jesus returns to the

earth – though it is that! But the resurrection has implications for life today. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation for real change in your life.

That was the experience of the people in Thessalonica who embraced the message of the gospel – real change

revolutionized their daily lives: their families; their work; their hopes; whole communities!

The same change is here for you and your family because of the resurrection of Jesus.

Consider yourself a bit of a revolutionary? The gospel is the only revolution worth being part of.

“...our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit... and you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”

1 Thessalonians 1:5,9

What's on at Bailiesmills?

Miner

PROPHETS

with a MAJOR

Message

Evening guest services.

7 PM on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

How Shall We sing the LORD's Song?

Join us for a series of Psalm explanations,
7 PM, first Lord's Day of each month



CHILDREN'S WORK

The **Winter Bible Club** (Primary School) is held from 6.30 PM to 8.15 PM on the last Saturday of the month.

The **Youth Club** (Secondary School) lasts from from 7.00 PM to 8.30 PM on the second Saturday of the month.

Both clubs run September to March.

Bailiesmills runs a Sunday School from September to June

for children aged 4 to 18 years. We meet in the church at 10.30 AM and classes run for about 45 minutes. Parents are welcome to attend the Adult Bible Class.



**Bailiesmills
Sunday School**



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...is a publication of

Bailiesmills Reformed Presbyterian Church. It aims to provide a Reformed Outlook on life.

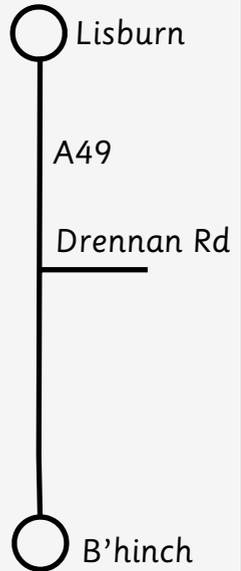
The Reformed outlook endeavours to apply the Bible to every area of life. Its goal is to put into practice the Christian's confession that "Jesus Christ is Lord."

Bailiesmills is a Bible-based, confessional and evangelical congregation of the *Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland*.

We meet for worship at 11.30 AM each Lord's Day and at 7 PM on the first and third Sunday of the month.

The church building is at 15 Drennan Road, Lisburn, BT27 6UT.

Drennan Road is on the A49, 4.0 miles from Lisburn, and 4.7 miles from Ballynahinch.



For more information contact our minister, John Watterson, on (028) 9263 9684, or check out the congregational website, bailiesmills.rpc.org.

