

Future Shock

Why we take heart from knowing that Jesus Christ is (still) Lord.

ARE You suffering from Future Shock? Future shock is what you get when you experience too much change in too short a period of time.

Change in the way we communicate

Can you, for example, keep up to speed with social media? If hyper-connectivity leaves you feeling disconnected – if the multiplication of social media sites makes you feeling that your hard-won life skills are obsolete – if you feel that you can't stick the pace at which the web is evolving – then you may be suffering from future shock.



Change in the way we relate

Change is so rapid that only the young keep up – or, at least, some of them can...for a while.

Where once younger people looked to their elders to train them, now the older folk look to the younger for enlightenment in the most basic elements of the latest technologies.

As a result, our relationships are being turned on their head. The old norms are no more. This applies to the sexual norms too. What our fathers (and mothers)

considered normal is now merely optional – to be sure, it's the option chosen by at least 98% of the population, but it's still only considered an option.

Society's moral compass is spinning!



Nothing has brought this home more strikingly than the recent “perfect storm” of the decision of Judge Isobel Brownlie that Ashers Baking Company had broken sexual orientation and political discrimination laws – followed a few days later by the referendum in the Republic of Ireland in which the people voted by a large majority for the legalization of homosexual marriage.

These are disorientating days in which to live. Future shock has taken hold of the island on which we live.

No change in God's authority

But in the midst of all these changes, there is one thing that stays the same: God is still in control.

Actually, the Gospel says more than that. In the last book in the Bible we are given a vision of the throne room of heaven. This is the “command and control” centre for everything. (Read it for yourself in chapter 5 of the book of Revelation.)

We are shown God enthroned, and in his hand is a scroll – this is his plan for world history. But the scroll is sealed – the plan remains to be executed. And Jesus Christ – crucified, but raised to glorious new life – goes and takes the scroll and breaks its seals. He and he alone is worthy to carry God's plan into effect. Jesus Christ is Lord, and he continues to be Lord through all the events of world history.

And the plan that Jesus Christ carries into effect concludes with the greatest future shock of them all – the day of

judgement and the establishment of the new creation. The one seated on the throne says, "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

This was encouragement for Christians living through the turmoil of the 1st century

Roman empire. It is still encouragement for Christians living in the gathering turmoil of 21st century Ireland.

To be sure, we may expect to be "future shocked" in days to come. But while Jesus Christ is still Lord we refuse to lose heart.



For children P1 to P7. From 6.30 PM to 8.15 PM. See church website for more details.

Also on at Bailiesmills...



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



ROUTE *finder*

...is a publication of **Bailliesmills** Reformed Presbyterian Church. It aims to provide a **Reformed Outlook** on life.

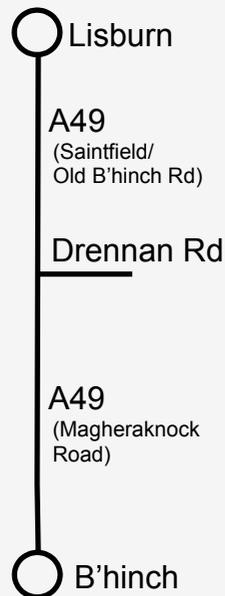
The Reformed outlook endeavours to apply the Bible to every area of life. Its goal is to put into practice the Christian's confession that "Jesus Christ is Lord."

Bailliesmills is a Bible-based, confessional and evangelical congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland (also known as "the Covenanters").

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, bailliesmills.rpc.org.

