



Vision Christian College

August - September 2023

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Welcome to the August September 2023 edition of *The Visionary* newsletter. Paul's prayer to the Philippian church is as real for you today as it was for the church in his day.

Paul and Timothy, bond servants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:1-11 NKJV)

The New Website Is Live!

Getting the new website created, relocated, up and running has been a long and difficult struggle with many issues and obstacles to overcome. We started this journey two years ago, expecting it to be over before Christmas 2021. Finally, the site and associate work is completed, and we are pleased with the result.

From now on, our URL will be <https://visionbiblecollege.edu.au>. All of our other URL's will point to this one, which speaks more accurately of who and what we are. You can use the existing URL's you are familiar with. They will take you to the same place.

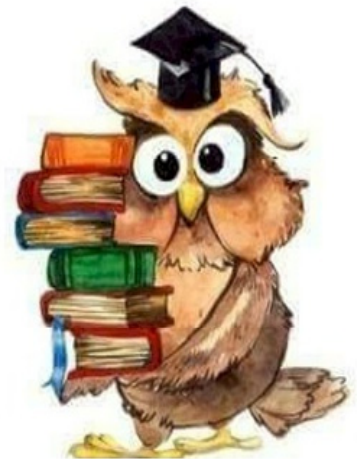
Ken's Corner

Speak What You Believe

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:21-22 NKJV)

Note that true faith always expresses itself in confident speech. Many verses in the Bible, in both Testaments, stress the importance of what we say; our lives are shaped by the words we speak – see Pr 13:3; 16:24; 18:20-21; Mt 21:18-22; Ro 10:8-10; 2 Co 4:13-14; etc.

All those verses express a spiritual law – what you truly believe is what you will speak; what you speak is what you will get.



So then, away with that false humility, that spurious servility, that hidden carnal pride, that lustful desire to create one's own goodness, that wicked unbelief that godlessly clings to a position of defeat and of separation from God's blessing.

How dare we say we are not alive when God says we are! How dare we deny the resurrection that God says has happened to us in Christ! How dare we shun our throne rights when God says we are seated with Christ in the heavenlies! How dare we detract from his glorious demonstration throughout "*the coming ages of the immeasurable riches of his grace and of his love for us in Christ*" (2:7). How dare we try to secure his favour on the grounds of our own good works!

The order is plain. Not good works first, then the throne; but the throne first, then good works. Not overcome sin first, then every spiritual blessing; but first every spiritual blessing, then overcome sin. This is a fact – unless you first grasp "every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ", you will never correctly overcome anything! But when you understand your throne rights, and possess them, and begin to use them, then you will find yourself more than a conqueror through Christ!

Illustration. Have you ever used a camera that is brought into focus by bringing two images together in its view-finder? You begin with separate, blurred images; you end with one distinct image in sharp focus.

Just so, you begin with yourself and Christ separated and out of focus; but as you learn to identify yourself with Christ, bringing yourself together with him by faith, your whole perspective will change. You will see the world from the throne, looking down from the heavenlies; you will no longer be controlled by situational fact, but by positional truth.

Exercising your throne rights will change your situation to conform to your true identity and position.

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS

Through your union with Christ by faith, you are a king. So think like a king. Speak like a king. Act like a king. Let nothing deny you your throne rights – not even being arrested, flogged, and crucified! Christ never for a moment surrendered to his enemies. Even when they believed themselves his conquerors, he was still Master, for he knew that they could not truly harm him. He knew that he would rise victorious over every foe. He knew that he would reign for ever in unassailable majesty. And so will you, if you bind yourself to him by faith.

But you must be ready to contend vigorously for your rights, to refuse to be denied what is yours in Christ. Unhappily, "every spiritual blessing" is not the only thing to be found in "the heavenlies"; there are also "spiritual hosts of wickedness" (Ep 6:10-12), and one of their main weapons is to implant doubt in your mind as to the reality or security of your position in Christ.

But notice also that victory is closely allied with faith; thus all the parts of "the whole armour of God" (Ep 6:13-17) are linked with righteousness, peace, and salvation, which come out of the word of truth and out of our faith in that word. So the "armour" is another vivid way of describing what God has wrought for us in Christ, and of bidding us to stand unwaveringly in that heavenly provision.

The inference is this – whoever will take his/her position in the heavenlies, clothed in that "armour", will be inviolable against Satan. So resist the devil, steadfast in faith, holding fast to the profession of your God-given identity in Christ.

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

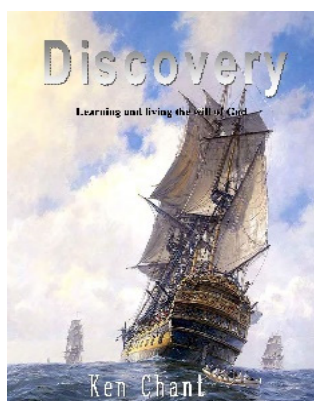
"What if I sin; will I not lose my heavenly position?" Normally, sin does not affect the believer's position in Christ. However, if someone persists in sin, or refuses to allow God's gift of righteousness to be translated into practical holiness, then a condition can be reached where "Christ is crucified afresh" and that person may become cut off from the grace of God (He 6:4-8; 12:15-17).

But I do not think such a condition can be reached easily or lightly; it is the result of a long process of careless neglect of the means of grace and of deliberately stifling the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit (He 2:1-3; Ep 4:30). (From Ken Chant's book, Treasures from Paul series: Ephesians.) order from this link:

<https://visionbiblecollege.edu.au/product/treasures-from-paul-ephesians/>

Book of the Month

Discovery Learning and Living God's Will



In both scripture and in life there is an inescapable tension between the two sides of every truth. Thus the Bible contains a message of prosperity, but also one of poverty; of happiness, but also of tears; of triumph, but also of defeat. The art of Christian living is knowing each day on which side of the truth to stand; or, more bluntly, knowing when to change your mind! Indeed, every sensible person knows that it is quite possible to keep together several apparently contradictory opinions –

“The test of a first-class intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function.”

Discovery Learning and Living God's Will. This paradox is merely a reflection of the general untidiness and ambiguity of all human experience. That is why the most dangerous people in the world are those with a single-minded obsession that blinds them to all other possibilities. But most ordinary people find themselves well able to look at things from several different viewpoints. Hence they are prone to shift from one opinion on a matter to another, depending upon what is presently influencing them.

Therefore I follow Paul's example. Today you might find me enjoying the abundance of the Lord, while tomorrow you would hear me welcome abasement in Christ. Today, by a miracle of answered prayer, I grasp everything; tomorrow I stand helpless while it is all stolen from me; but on the day after, you might see me pray it all back again!

We all find ourselves facing multiple realities mixed in with a single event. Thus we look at a happening and at once find in it some things that make us happy, and some that make us sad. Which should we choose? Whichever is most appropriate for the moment! Or again, every day we are confronted by competing inadequacies, which clamour for preference. When every decision is a bad one, how can you make one that is right? But that is life.

So then does the Bible teach prosperity or poverty? It teaches both! The trick lies in knowing which one is right for you at the present time and then being able to embrace that state by faith.

The book of the month attracts a 10% discount when ordered as a subject. It can be found in the Christian Living Stream on the website <https://visionbiblecollege.edu.au> or you can order it from this link:

<https://visionbiblecollege.edu.au/product/discovery/>

Did You Know

The Sinner's Bible?

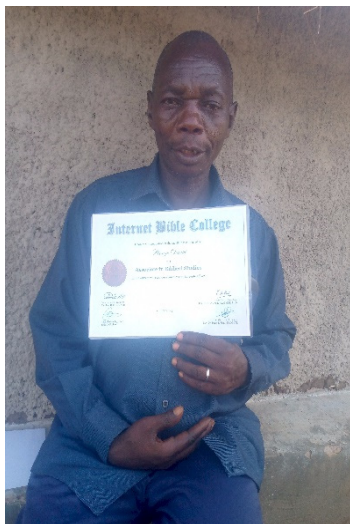
In 1631, when English-language Bibles were legalised, publisher Robert Barker came out with a version most notable for its omission of a certain word in the 7th Commandment: “Thou shalt commit adultery.” About 1,000 copies of this Sinner's Bible (aka the Adulterous Bible or the Wicked Bible) were distributed before anyone noticed. We'll never know how many people obeyed the amended Commandment. But 400 years later, there are only nine copies of the Sinner's Bible left.

The Bible kickstarted the publishing industry

Though the word Bible comes from the Greek word biblios, meaning “scrolls,” the Bible was actually the first book to be printed by movable type (instead of being written by hand). Johann Gutenberg probably finished his first printing in 1455, in Mainz, Germany. Almost 600 years later, just 49 copies of the Gutenberg Bible are still in existence, and less than half of those are complete copies. One is under lock and key at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

From the Student Body

We love hearing from our students as they graduate at each level, especially when they send us a photo with a few comments. As a distance education programme, we rarely get to put a face to the name of our students. Often the closest we get is a phone call or an email. So when we get the photo and feedback we love to publish them and we do so largely unedited. So, when you graduate, send us a photo and a little information about you and why you studies with us so we can give you the honour you deserve.



Ps. Abongo Daniel. Diploma of Ministry Uganda

It is my high time to thank God for blessing me to join Vision Christian College Australia for the quality biblical studies. I also thank all the Vision Christian college leaders for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding God has granted as a result of their commitment in the field of services for Biblical studies worldwide.

I thank God for leading them to reached me from Uganda and it seems I am the first student to get the associate award.

From the study, I have gained wisdom, knowledge, and deep understanding of the word of God which has raised me to deeper need for more biblical studies to higher level if I will be blessed with computer and printer to make my study online easier.

Thank be to all professional Authors of all the subjects.

Nathaniel Searle, Certificate In Biblical Studies

Nathaniel grew up a pastor's kid. He and met his wife in 2005 and were married in 2007, and moved to the Sunshine Coast in 2008. They have 2 daughters.

They have been involved in ministry and leadership in the church for the last 12yrs. Nathaniel has run small discipleship groups and participated in many church events. He was set apart in 2019 and looking at being in July.

The family loves the Lord and aims to live our lives according to God's will and word. Noosa church, Noosaville. INC church. Snr Ps is Joshua Usher



Travis Jones, Certificate in Biblical Studies.

My name is Travis Jones, and I am currently studying at Vision Bible College.

I am enjoying the flexibility of the course, which allows me to work full-time as a courier still.

I find myself constantly using the wisdom I have learnt from studying to minister the Gospel at my local Church and on the streets of Miller and Cabramatta.

Travis has continued on to the Associate in Biblical Studies.



Alison's Corner

A Morning Prayer Using Scripture References

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

Yes, dear Lord, I will sing of your strength; in the morning, I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. You are my strength. I sing praise to you; you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.

Lord, I pray for your guidance for this day and rejoice in your promise to be with me. You have promised that if I delight in you, though I may stumble, I will not fall, because you uphold me with your hand.

Thank you that you have promised that if I trust in you with all my heart and don't rely on my own understanding, and if I submit this day to you, that you will make my paths straight.

I pray this day also for the protection of my family, and thank you for your promise that, *"from everlasting to everlasting your love is with those who fear you and your righteousness is with their children's children – with those who keep your covenant and remember to obey your precepts"*.

I pray for wisdom to live each moment within your will. I have accepted your Word and have stored your commands in my heart. I have turned my ear to your wisdom and applied my heart to insight and to understanding what pleases you. I have looked for this as for hidden treasure and I am in awe of your holiness. Because of this I know you will teach me the knowledge I need to understand who you are and the way you work.

You have urged us to petition you, and to intercede for those in authority, so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Therefore, I pray today for our government here in Australia and for all world leaders, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Now Lord, I ask that you speak to me. Are there any changes I need to make in my life or in my prayer? Is there anything I need to write down and attend to later? Is there any revelation, any treasure you have for me today from your Word?

I thank you Lord for this time together and thank you most of all for your everlasting, unfailing love. Amen
Psalm 37:23-24; 49:6-7; 59:16-17; 103:17-18. Proverbs 2:1-5; 3:3-5.A



6 Reasons We Should Study the Bible

1. We quest for meaning beyond ourselves. In the Word, we find our ultimate meaning in a Person, not a concept. Our goal in studying is to come closer and closer to the purpose God intends us to receive and ultimately closer to him. Scripture is the breath of God carrying the weight of who he is with its message, which means the more we interact with it, the more we engage with the Spirit himself. When we refuse to open God's Word, it is not just a rejection of a material book. It is a rejection of a relationship with God himself.

2. His Word creates life. Paul often begins his letters with some form of "grace TO you" statement and concludes with some form of "grace be WITH you" phrase. When we open God's Word, its truth will be imparted to us in some way, and when we close it, we are left WITH his Word to shape us further. You see, Jesus' words are his actions—just like Christ created life at the beginning of time, his words to us now are living and active to create new life in us (Hebrews 4). God's Word promises to accomplish what it sets

out to change within us (Isaiah 55:11). I am not alive, the Bible is, and when I read it, it makes me come alive.

3. The Word responds to our deepest needs. 2 Timothy 3:17 is a bold verse claiming that the Word is sufficient to speak to every human need, even the darkest ones—pain, insecurity, confusion, shame, stress, disability, betrayal, more. Scripture informs our brokenness and our joys, thoroughly equipping our minds and informing our everyday actions. No matter the magnitude of the mess we carry, the Word is alive and powerful to speak to those needs. In fact, our brokenness is what compels us to go deeper into it, and back to it, again and again.

4. Bible study is God's will for our lives. God's ultimate will for our lives is that we display his character no matter who we are or what we're going through. While many struggles we face are more an indication of issues outside our own making or control, it may also be true that some of our struggles are because we are not prioritising the pursuit of Jesus' words in our lives to influence our thinking and behaviour.

5. Bible study deepens godly community. It's easier to study when we're not alone. Consider grabbing some friends to plunge into God's Word together as a community. In doing so, we'll deepen our relationships, keep one another accountable and encouraged, and reflect the nature of God, who characterises community himself being Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

6. Bible study grounds evangelism. Scripture is beneficial not only for the discipleship of believers but for bringing us to Jesus at salvation (2 Timothy 3:15).

In conclusion, the Bible is not merely a good book about God, it is God actually speaking to us. It is not inspiring, it is inspired. It is not a book with words for academics only, it's a Person with a voice and he's wanting to engage with YOU. In Nehemiah 8 we see ALL of God's people listening attentively to the Word of God, and the teachers coming alongside them to make sense of what they were hearing.

We don't need to walk through Bible depth alone all the time. We can engage with Bible study material that will plunge us directly into the Word so that we can "listen attentively" to it ourselves, and offers trustworthy, gospel-centred commentary that will help us make sense of what we are hearing where it's confusing. So let's ditch our excuses and link in with those who will help us pursue him! No matter who we are, we can come just as we are and be prepared to meet Christ for who he actually is.

New Program for Pastors

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse concluded that all people in religious or pastoral ministry, including leader pastors, ministry directors, and lay elders, engage in professional supervision with a qualified supervisor with some degree of separation from the institution within which they minister.

Recommendation 16.45 Consistent with Child Safe Standard 5, each religious institution should ensure that all people in religious or pastoral ministry, including religious leaders, have professional supervision with a trained professional or pastoral supervisor who has a degree of independence from the institution within which the person is in ministry.

Note Child Safe Standard 5 reads... "People working with children are suitable and supported."

Beyond their recommendation, professional supervision has been a part of many professions, including nearly all the 'caring' professions, for almost fifty years. It is a helpful, functional, developed form of support. This kind of support is often lacking within Church or para-church ministry environments.

This means that EVERY pastor or senior church worker should seek out a qualified pastoral supervisor and meet at least twice a year or as often as needed.

Consider for a moment the number of churches in any state of Australia. The need for pastoral supervisors, thanks to legislation, is huge. Where will we find them?

Who better to be a pastoral supervisor than pastors from the coalface of ministry? Who can better understand the trials and issues faced by pastors than an experienced man or woman of God? To this end,

Vision Colleges has introduced a new qualification, the Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology emphasis on Pastoral Supervision.

We need to turn to each other locally, within and without our denominations. As pastors, we need to reach out to each other, but only if we are qualified.

Two parts of the solution

Part One, we as a pastor now need to be willing to seek out someone qualified and enter into a relationship with a Pastoral Supervisor. We are now at a greater risk of falling foul of legislation than ever before. Not having supervision can place us in serious breach of the law.

Part Two is for as many pastors, active or retired, to be willing to care for our fellow workers in Christ and undertake the necessary qualifications to stand and share and care for each other.

To this end, we have started a new programme, Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology Emphasis Pastoral Supervision. For more details on this programme, go to our website link:

<https://visionbiblecollege.edu.au/study-2/accruited/diploma-of-pastoral-supervision/>



Student Honour Roll

We picked up 20 new students in June and July and sent 125 books, which is an excellent increase from our previous two months. This is a difficult time for many of us as the cost of living issues make it so difficult for many to find the fees for Bible college study, so we are more appreciative of each new enrolment and every new subject order.

Our congratulations go to all our graduates. We pray for the richest blessing upon them as they study and apply what they have learned.

Andrea Gibbons	Award in Biblical Studies	Shellharbour	NSW	Australia
Ken Hutchinson	Award in Biblical Studies	Shellharbour	NSW	Australia
Maria Garcia-Morales	Award in Biblical Studies	Shellharbour	NSW	Australia
Nathaniel Searle	Certificate in Biblical Studies	Noosaville	QLD	Australia
Cassandra Beckett	Certificate in Biblical Studies	Penrith	NSW	Australia
Travis Jones	Certificate in Biblical Studies	Miller	NSW	Australia
Susan Carrey	Associate in Biblical Studies	Bilpin	NSW	Australia
Abongo Daniel	Associate in Biblical Studies			Uganda
Sidney Martin	Associate in Biblical Studies	Cambrils	Tarragona	Spain
Okwir Tom	Diploma of Ministry			Uganda
Noel Barton	Diploma of Ministry	Dunedin	Otego	New Zealand
Anna Piggot	Cert IV in Liberal Arts	Berry	NSW	Australia
Elijah Markey	Cert IV in Liberal Arts	Avoca Beach	NSW	Australia
Lauren Chapman	Cert IV Christian Ministry & Theology	Brighton	Qld	Australia
Charlene Wright	Cert IV Christian Ministry & Theology	Encounter Bay	SA	Australia

Corn Corner

Middle-Aged Woman

A middle-aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to the hospital. While on the operating table, she has a near-death experience. During this experience, she sees God and asks him, “Is this it”? God says, “No” and explains that she has another 30 years to live.

Upon her recovery, she decides to stay in the hospital and have a facelift, liposuction, tummy tuck, and so on. She even has someone come in and change her hair colour. She figures since she’s got another 30 years, she might as well make the most of it.

After the last operation, she walks out of the hospital and is killed by an ambulance speeding by. She arrives before God and complains, “I thought you said I had another 30 years.”

God replies, “I didn’t recognise you!”

Father Would Not Like It

One day a young boy was driving a load of grain to the market. He came around a corner too fast and his trailer load of grain tipped over. A farmer was watching nearby and asked the boy to come into his house for lunch. The boy replied, “my father would not like it.”

The farmer insisted and told him it would not take too long and afterwards he would help this boy reload the grain onto his trailer. The boy agreed and went into the house for lunch.

The lunch was wonderful and was exactly what he needed. When the farmer and boy went out of the house, the farmer asked why the boy said his dad would not like for him to eat lunch with him.

The boy replied, “well, my father is under the trailer!”



Why Recognised Studies

There is a lot of debate and misunderstanding over the value of recognised¹ and accredited² studies. The simple truth is that both have their part and provide a valuable method of understanding God’s Word.

There is a growing hunger to know the Bible. Still, not everyone wants to be a pastor, an evangelist, or other such front-line ministry. Some want to study as new Christians and need some structure. Sometimes it is enough to know more and understand God’s Word better. Sometimes it is to help us to be better Christians. For others, there is a desire to serve in the church and be effective in some capacity – but there is no definite direction. The recognised Bible Study is an excellent option for all of these and the seeker of truth. If necessary, they can be upgraded to accredited.

The programme is much less costly and far more affordable. There is no need for hefty upfront fees or a student loan. The studies are ideal for self-study, bible study groups, and local church Bible colleges and available world-wide and a distance education programme.

Contact Vision

President and Founder

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¹ While not accredited the [studies are recognised for ministry training](#) in many churches and denominations and offer from Certificate to Degree ² Accredited by ASQA Australian Skills Quality Authority offering [Cert III to Grad Dip in Christian Ministry and Theology](#).