

Gateway Christian Fellowship

Meeting every Lord's Day (Sunday) in the Maldron Hotel, Butcher Street at 11.30a.m.

Visit us at gatewaycderry.org

Number 1000

What is it all about?



Sitting in the centre of town watching people go past, you can't help asking what it's all about. Some wander along aimlessly, as if they had all the time in the world. Others stride out with purpose, like they're trying to catch time. Some are together, caught up in their own little world. Others are alone, solitary, unaccompanied.

Is there any sense to our life? *Your* life? Is there any meaning?

Seriously, what *is* it all about?

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1).

"Now, we were going well until you brought God into it," you may say. But I didn't bring God into it. Rather, it's the other way round. He has brought me, and you, into it. I can't say anything about this whole business unless He gives me the power. In fact, He's also responsible for the 'it' into which He has brought us. The whole universe owes its creation and its continued existence to Him. And He has kept us alive to this point. He has given the food you eat the



sandy desert and you suddenly see something gleaming on the ground. It turns out to be a pocket watch complete with fancy chain. You sit down and begin to think. Did this watch grow here in the desert? Did certain particles of sand come together to form it? Or is there some other answer? The perfection and beauty of the watch surely point to a skilled, patient and hard-working watch-maker. But that's only your best guess. Until a man comes along and says, "Do you see that watch? I made it!" Then you can get to know Him personally. That's why God has given us the Bible, to tell us who He is and exactly why we're here.



ability to nourish you. He has given your mind the ability to make sense of these marks on this page, so

that I can talk to you without ever having met you. Not only has He made us, and therefore knows best how we work – but He has also given us a book written down by men, but controlled by Himself, in our own language, to help us to understand what it is all about.

Please let me tell you a little story. Imagine you're walking along in a



A PERFECT WORLD

In the beginning there were only two people. A man and a woman. God made them as adults and put them together in a splendid garden where every need was met. Pure air to breathe, crystal-clear water to drink, plants to tend and thousands of trees to eat from. Each evening God would come and talk with them and plan for the future and enjoy their company.



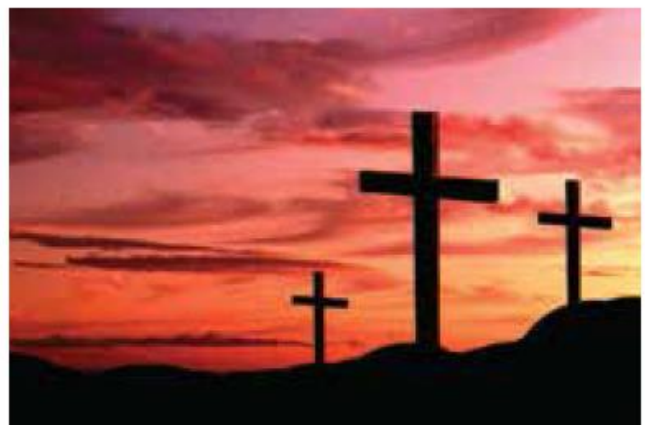
Much scorn has been poured on this simple scene, because people today want to be self-made, not answerable to anyone. But, if we're honest, we all have a dream of a perfect world like this, which is really a memory.

There was purposeful work in the garden; science in studying the animals, separating them and naming them; and companionship and intimacy between Adam and Eve. They were so like each other, but so unlike too, fitting together neatly on so many levels. A day of rest reminded them to thank their

Creator for all of this. And there was just one rule – not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God was very generous, but He was in control.

A WORLD GONE WRONG

The past tenses of that last paragraph tell us things aren't like that any more. The harmony has gone. At Satan's suggestion Eve first, and then Adam, decided to break the one rule. They wanted to be God, and they ended up being less than human. Since, as the geneticists agree, we have *all* descended from one couple, we *all* carry the marks and feel the effects of that first sin. Shame, fear, blame, selfishness, greed, pride, the battle of the sexes, illness, war and death all spring like weeds from what they did. Which one of us can say we're immune from all of those? We know what's right, but we do what's wrong. However, God has done something about it. At great personal expense.



The punishment for sin was death. When Adam sinned God could have killed him on the spot or sent him away for ever. Instead, as the verse below says, He chose to bear that punishment Himself in the person of His Son, Jesus. On a tree shaped like a cross.

A NEW WORLD COMING

Because of Adam and Eve, you and I are born sinners. We prove that every day in our words and actions,

in our thoughts and attitudes. God must punish us for spoiling His world. We need someone to save us. Someone to succeed where Adam and Eve and all others have failed. We need someone to take the eternal death we deserve, and give us eternal life. We need someone to open up to us the new world beyond the judgment we know is coming. Do you know that only person? For *He* is what it's all about.

God said to Satan, "I will put strife between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15).

This leaflet was passed on to you by a member of Gateway Christian Fellowship. We meet to worship God every Lord's Day (Sunday) at 11.30a.m. in the Maldron Hotel and we would be very pleased to see you come and join us.

If you would like to have a Bible or to know more about God's words to us, especially about Jesus, the main person in the Bible, please call or text Pastor Stephen Neilly on 074 2892 5764.

May God show you through the Bible that it's all about Him and trusting His Son Jesus.