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Weekly Letter – 16 November 2025

Luke 21.5-19

**It is God who gives life, and it is by daily choosing His ways that
you will secure your future with Him (v.19)**

We all know, for all sorts of reasons that repentance, forgiveness, humility, seeking truth in all that we do, and learning to love our enemies is not a message that will easily excite many people! But, historically people from all sorts of backgrounds and cultures have shown their disdain for Christ's message, and consequently have tried to eradicate its followers. (vs. 16 and 17). Jesus never said being a follower of His was a doddle! Therefore, in this passage we can see that Jesus combines realism with a necessary choice if you are to persist with this wonderful gift of new life from God.

It's important to note that Jesus is once again not just saying to his disciples what will happen. For in time it will dawn on the disciples (you and I) that the Christ is also asking us to follow Him down the same path. It seems to me that rarely do the churches talk about this choice, but it's a common theme in the gospels and Paul's letter – i.e. Christ is inviting us to join ourselves to Him, to share in his suffering and his glory. We are called to choose His way and make it our way. Is this true?

Well, we know that a flourishing human life is most definitely not found in the pursuit of pleasure, or in fleeing from pain. Neither is a good life obtained through seeking power or success for it simply keeps God at an arm's length. We flourish (which is what deep down what we all desire) in service i.e. when we belong to others through loving them.

In following Christ and His way, we freely choose to work with this reality and to live out of this truth. For sure, we know we are often frail and lack courage, and of course we waver and are indecisive. But Christ does not want us to stagnate, and therefore he set us high standards (Matthew 5.1-10). And for all the criticism Nietzsche receives, he often shows that he understands Christ's message for he writes, 'a man's worth is determined by how much truth he can tolerate'. Christ might not put his message in those terms, but He does reveal a way, a path that he knows will help you to move away from chaos to order, from deceit to truth, from stagnation to joy. For it is in persisting in Christ's honesty that you and I will secure our lives in him.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Martin Spain

Bible Readings: Psalm 41.1-13: Mark 2.1-12

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles

Tuesday – 18th November - Tea and Chat – 2-4pm

The 2025 international climate conference, COP30, takes place in Belem, Brazil from 10 to 21 November. All are welcome to join Green Christian online for ten minutes of prayer and reflection at 8am every morning of these crucial negotiations. Find out more and register - <https://greenchristian.org.uk/pray-with-us-for-cop30/>



**Swansea & District
Group
Christmas**



Coffee Morning

Thursday 27th November

10.30 am — 12 noon

at

Christ Well URC

Suggested donation: £2

Includes a cup of tea/coffee and a mince pie

