

### **433 *Totally utterly positive Good News!***

Sorry, I've had a rather negative May – I wrote four articles, two of which I scrapped as they were too negative. Thankfully, the last one was tinged with hope.<sup>[432]</sup> Now, having had Trinity Sunday, I'm wonderfully hope-full again, and I'm ready to share the Wonderful Good News with all the lovely people around me<sup>[432]</sup> who don't (won't?) believe in the God-who-looks-like-I've-portrayed-God-in-the-past, so I'm trying to show them the God who looks like Jesus.

Now, I confess to mixed feelings on the emphasis some churches place on 'The Church Year', but our preacher really clicked things into place for me on Sunday (thanks, Rachel!): the rest of the year, up to Advent – the first and second comings of God into the world – is 'put-it-into-practice time'.

God's overall plan is to set the *whole world* to rights – to right all wrongs, to restore all that's broken, to renew that wonderful relationship, with us in Trinity-God and Trinity-God in us (gloriously complex, yet simple). So, that Plan was: God came to earth (Jesus-self) to confront religious bigotry, to restore people then and there, to suffer death-by-religious-bigotry, to totally and utterly destroy death, to go from this humble life to his glorious heavenly throne, to send the Holy Spirit, not confined to space and time, to give us fruit (love, joy, peace, etc), to give us gifts – tools for the job – and then to say, 'Right, now, in the places I'll put you, do the work of bringing God's kingdom into the here-and-now.' What a Wonderful Plan: thy kingdom come!

But what is this 'work' that God wants us to do right through the years, right up to the time God returns in glory? Well, obviously, people need to know about Jesus – who he was, what he did – so let's all stand on street corners and preach! Well, that *might* be what God is calling you to do, but more generally it's about loving God big time, and loving others big time – like Jesus said – and make them Jesus-followers!

Too vague?! Sure, but we're a team, right? We're a body with different parts, all with the Spirit's fruit, each with individual Spirit gifts, complementing one another.

One more totally amazing thing: God's love for people is sooo strong that, even though I wasted so many years telling other people I was right ('what the Bible teaches' according to me/my group), and even though I apparently don't have the Holy Spirit,<sup>[429]</sup> God has still used me to help (some) other people. Again, that Love is so strong that God even uses people who say women must not lead churches, that gay Christians can't have intimate loving relationships, that we have to believe Endtimes-Theory A, -Theory B, or -Theory C. And God even uses people who use hell to try to scare people into believing, and people who have wrong ideas about communion, and wrong ideas about baptism, etc, etc, each being, 'what the Bible teaches'.

God is so amazing!

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