

July 2023

Dear Friends,

We naturally have a thirst for knowledge, to know facts and to find out about things. There are the various quiz shows on TV which are all about the things of life, some of which we didn't realise we needed to know! Attending quizzes or playing games such as Trivial Pursuit all go some way to helping us to find out about and use a variety of information.

There was a time, not all that long ago, when Google didn't exist - of course, other search engines do exist! Today, encyclopaedias have lost their place on the bookshelf being replaced with Google. Our thirst for knowledge, facts and information has never been greater. Depending on where you look, did you know that there are between 63,000 and 99,000 Google searches made every second? The irony there is I 'googled' it to find out!

As we are seeking this information do we stop and think about where we search for answers? Does Google really have the answers for everything? Can we survive by Google alone? I would like to suggest that this isn't the case. Whilst we have a definite thirst for, and sharing, information with others through social media this doesn't mean that Google can do it all.

In coming to know God in Jesus we come to have a relationship with someone who will transform our lives. Whilst that will include coming to learn some facts about God this is not what it's all about. God takes what we know and transforms it into a living relationship. We come to know the person of God, in Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. Through this relationship we learn more of God, his eternal and constant nature who always works for good in all things. We will never know everything that there is to know of God, but we will always come to know more as we seek him out in prayer and fellowship.

When we look things up on the internet, we often find a range of answers. What is the truth? Is it 63,000 or 99,000 searches per second? Which is true? In Jesus we find the way, the truth, and the life which is deeper than anything we can comprehend. In him we find the meaning of life and faith, in a way that the internet can't provide. For that we are so thankful! Whilst information in general can be good for us in different ways it cannot provide all the answers. A deep, lasting, and meaningful relationship with God assures us of eternal life through him. As we journey with Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, we come to know more of him. Our faith then shines out to others who see the difference that Christ makes.

Next time we type in the Google (or any other) search engine, why don't we stop and think about how this 'information' can be transformed by God to be shared with others. It's not about knowing all the answers but about something that we can't Google - God's love who is for everyone and through whom lives are transformed.

God bless,  
Chris