

- God appears in the fire – a good illustration of 2 aspects of his character
- 1. A God of the Broken and the Needy**
- Fire – warms, comforts and gives life. 5 soul-warming aspects:
- a) **The God who comes – v1-10**
- God is not oblivious to the troubles of his people – v7, 8, 16
 - Picture of Jesus coming to rescue enslaved peoples – 1st coming
 - Reminder that Christ will come again to finally rescue - 2nd coming
- b) **The God who calls – v4, 15-17**
- Summons Moses – He still calls today so that we can have life
- c) **The God who is constant – v8, 14**
- Bush doesn't burn up, this flame is everlasting – illustrating God
 - His name "I Am" reinforces his unchangingness
 - He is the great promise keeping God who doesn't change - always there
- d) **The God who cares, corrects and equips – 3:12-4:17**
- Moses gives a series of 5 excuses. God answers:
 - God cares – he answers Moses' fears
 - God corrects – Moses asks about Moses, God answers about God
 - God equips – When God commands he also equips (Miracles, Aaron)
 - Have you ever felt God is asking too much? He is the God of the fearful
- e) **The God who conquers v16-22**
- Pharaoh is defeated before he begins. Likewise Christ has already won
- 2. A God not to be messed with**
- Too often we make assumptions about God, and treat him lightly.
 - Fire is dangerous. "*Of course he's not safe*" – CS Lewis
 - God underlines his holiness to Moses in 5 ways
 - Fire - Fire deserves a healthy respect - likewise God
 - Sandals - Moses told to show respect and stay back
The unholy cannot mix with the Holy
 - Victory - Pharaoh will learn that God is not to be treated lightly
 - Excuses - God is patient, but only for so long.
4:14 – Continued excuses for obedience provokes God
 - Circumcision - Moses seems to have disregarded God's command (4:24-26) God won't tolerate sloppiness towards his law
 - When sin & holiness collide there is only one winner. Our only hope is Jesus who offers to take our sin & give his holiness so we can come to God
 - Christians must never treat Christ's donated holiness lightly – we must live to honour it. Don't make assumptions about God, or put him in a box



Notices

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----|
| Sun | Evening service at Day Centre | 8pm |
| Tues | Midweek meeting at Robert & Judith's - Planning | 8pm |
| 26-28th | Southern/Western Presbytery weekend in Cullybackey
Application forms on table - NOTE Price change €28, €23, €17 for 1st, 2nd, 3rd child | |
| April 17 th | Family Day Conference - Keeping our Children in the Church in the 21st Century
Cullybackey RPC, 10:30 - 15:00 - Cost: £5 per adult, Childcare provided
Bring a packed lunch. For application:
Email details to: rpfamilyconference@googlemail.com
Details required: Names of adults, names & ages of children, church | |
| May | The Choir of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, USA - Alley Theatre Strabane
Overnight accommodation required for the weekend 14 – 17 May. Speak to Mark if you are able to offer accommodation | |

getting to know the WIDER CHURCH

Congregation: Cloughmills
 Location: Co Antrim, between Ballymoney and Ballymena
 Presbytery: North
 Pastor: Peter Jemphrey, married to Jenny with 4 children
 Thomas, Rachel, Christopher & Timothy
 Attendance: 45



- Pray for the 50+ children & teenagers who attended the youth clubs in February and March. Pray that they will be struck by the need for Christ.
- Pray that the members will be prayerful and vigilant in their personal witness.
- Pray for a special week of evangelistic services in early May.
- Pray for God's guidance as they prepare to elect deacons.

Next week's passage: Exodus 5-6

Opening Psalm: 118

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352