

Precept Ministries Scotland e-Newsletter

May 2010

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.

(1 Thessalonians 1 v 3-4)

A PERSONAL NOTE

Dear Ones,

How often we have wanted to sit down and write to you, members of the Precept Scotland family, over the past months. Instead, due to a variety of circumstances, we have been assailed by anxiety, weakness, weariness and a feeling of being trapped in a long, dark tunnel.

But, we want to testify to the Lord's saving power! Truly 'a bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish' (Isaiah 42 v 3). He is utterly and forever FAITHFUL.

James tells us in chapter 1 verse 2 to 'Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.'

We all know how hard this is in practice and yet what a lifting of darkness and dreariness there is as we choose to praise and bless our God and Saviour from the heart. How precious it is to awaken with a song or hymn of praise to God on our lips and to find oneself singing it throughout the day.

The Greek word translated 'various' in verse 2 above has the meaning of variegated, multi-coloured, manifold and diverse. The same Greek word is used in 1 Peter 1 v 6: 'In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by *various* trials.'

1 Peter 4 v 10 also uses the same Greek word to describe God's 'manifold' grace. He exhorts the members of the church body to serve one another with their gifting as good stewards of this grace. 'As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the *manifold* grace of God.'

Isn't it wonderful when times are really grim to receive a timely word of exhortation by email or letter, a loving affirmation in a cheerful card or by a phone call, or that most wonderful of 'strengtheners' - a great big HUG?

Father God pours into our lives His 'multi-coloured' grace to meet all and every need. Truly His grace is sufficient. Whatever we go through, His touch of grace is so specific, and completely able to meet that need.

We read over and over again in the Bible words of exhortation calling us to 'persevere, endure to the end, hold on, wait patiently'.

In many cases, the Greek root of these words is *hupomeno*, which literally means to 'abide under'. We are called to a cheerful, constant 'staying put' under trials and tribulations. Rather than succumbing to trials, we are encouraged to simply surrender ourselves fully into the arms of our Heavenly Father. He has life in

Himself, and He has granted the Son to have life in Himself. He, Jesus, became a 'life-giving spirit' (1 Corinthians 15 v 45). As we yield ourselves to Him, He will fill us to overflowing - so let us come, together, to Jesus, to the life-giver, and let Him pour His life on us.

Let us encourage one another to 'keep on keeping on' as we reach out to our family, friends, church family, neighbours and community. And let us show others how to discover God's truth for themselves as they read and study His Word.

May the Lord richly bless you and strengthen you in Him as you feed daily on life-giving bread and disciple others to do the same.

In His Service,

Ian & Anna

Stop press. Many of you will be aware that our daughter Katharine (24) has been living at home since Easter 2009, suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome. Katharine shared something very special with our church family on 23 May – click [here](#) if you would like to listen to her testimony to God's grace.

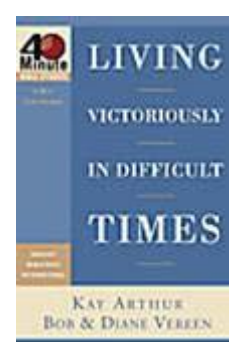
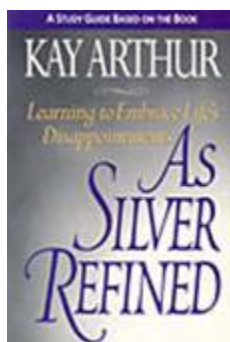


WHAT IS PRECEPT?!

- A short video clip (2½ minutes long) entitled 'What is Precept?' has recently been posted on the website [home page](#) – see how many of the video stars you recognise!
- Ian & Anna were interviewed last month on local radio (Revival FM) by Dr Kenny Russell, about inductive Bible study and the work of Precept Scotland. Click [here](#) to listen to the podcast of the interview.

RESOURCES

Finding life tough? [Click on the book images below](#) to find out more about the wide range of Bible study resources that are available from Precept Ministries Scotland.



FORTHCOMING EVENT

Ian & Anna will be attending Week 1 at the Keswick Convention (17-23 July), assisting Nigel & Molly Watts (National Directors, PMUK) to man the Precept Ministries stand in the Resources area – if you're attending the convention, do drop by and visit the stand!

DID YOU KNOW.....?!

- Precept Ministries Scotland offers a number of Precept Workshops – click [here](#) for further information. If you would like to consider hosting a workshop, either in your church or your home,

drop us an [email](#) or give us a call (see contact details below).

- Also, if you would like us to visit in order to help you start a new Precept study group, or perhaps to familiarise you and/or your group with Precept Bible study materials that you have not used before, please be in touch!
- There is a daily Precept Ministries 'Precepts for Life' (PFL) broadcast that you can listen to or watch on-line. [Click on the images below](#), or click [here](#) to take a look at the Precept Scotland website for further information about PFL.



Precept Ministries Scotland

41 Charles Way

Limekilns

Dunfermline

KY11 3LH

Tel: 01383-873232

e-mail: office@preceptscotland.org

website: www.preceptscotland.org