

Dear all,

The Study Service topic for Sunday at 7pm is ESSENTIAL TENETS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH. Christian faith is based on the bible, the record of the one God's action and revelation of himself to the humanity he had created. He chose and formed Israel to be a people covenanted to him that through them he might in Jesus make himself known to all peoples. Hence the tenets of Christian faith simply embody in word the essential features of this concrete history as it developed. The key for the bible is the relation between God and a creation intended to find its head in human knowledge of God and the key points of that can be summed up as follows:

- God is supremely personal: he has made us for personal relation with him through his word and with one another.
- as personal, God "loves us more than he loves himself" - even in judgement, God is for us, not against us.
- in Israel (as in Moses the priest of the word & Aaron the liturgical priest), and above all in Christ (who as substitute & representative died for sin and rose for eternal life) God's action can be seen as being "the one for the many" & "the many in the one", for Jesus not only died & rose for us, but we were included with him in his death & resurrection.
- as in creation, God brought it out of nothing to be physical & bodily before him (and very good!) so in incarnation he affirmed it in becoming flesh himself & rising again in body.
- the resurrection of Jesus is thus the guarantee not only of the permanence of creation and God's covenant love for it, but the of permanence of the difference between God and creation - we are not divine and never will be in any way.
- the fact that God makes himself known to us personally through his word, calling us to dialogue with him in prayer, is the highest affirmation of us as human beings and demonstrates the supreme value of universal education.
- it is in Jesus, in all he did and still is, true God AND true man in one indivisible person, that all of the above is seen most clearly and God revealed as the triune God of grace.

Readings:

John 1.1-4, 14-18

I Corinthians 15.1-6, 17-26

2 Corinthians 5.14-21

7-8.30 by Zoom meet (details on request)

Best wishes - Bob