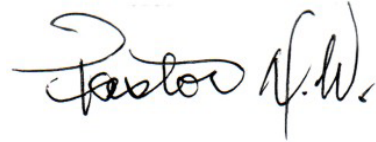


The Barnabas Letter

This month we embark upon our Lenten journey; we journey to the glorious day of Easter and we long for that day. But what is this journey for and why do we, year by year, embark upon it? Well, the first thing to remember is the reason for our Lord's advent among us. Christ Jesus came to give his life and to shed his perfectly innocent blood to redeem us, his sinful and rebellious creatures, from the very devil himself! Because of our first parents' sin, we became the property of the evil one! Our God is holy, perfectly righteous, and perfectly just, he will not abide the presence of sin. Where sin is present our God is not present. Therefore, when Adam and Eve sinned, they removed themselves from the kingdom of God and landed right in the kingdom of the devil. Because our Lord will not abrogate his perfect law, a sacrifice must be made. The only sacrifice perfect enough to satisfy the just demands of the law was our Lord. Christ Jesus did all of this willingly, no demand was made of him, he offered himself because of his great love for us, our Father God allowed this because, he too, loves us far more than our feeble minds can even begin to comprehend. That is the first and most important reason for Lent. The second reason is that we, who dearly love our Lord, still fail him miserably! We do this, not because we want to, but because of our fallen nature. We are corrupted by sin to the point that we sometimes don't notice it! Yes, we avoid the big sins but it is the little nagging sins that we repeat over and over again that will get us every time. For this reason we, year by year, take our journey through the season of Lent. We fast, we pray, we do penance, and as we journey we are filled with greater and greater joy. We see the great light that shines, evermore brightly in this lost and dying world. We know that every day our redemption draws closer and those nagging little sins are, one by one,

defeated. We see, as those who are not Christians, cannot see, the approaching banners of our great and good God and King who is coming soon to take us home to live forever in his presence. Once we arrive there the sin that so often has defeated us will be fully and completely destroyed. And so, my beloved brethren, let us take up our crosses and follow our Lord Jesus, repenting of our many sins and giving our Lord thanks and praise for his wonderful love toward us! May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your brother in Christ Jesus:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor J. W." with a stylized flourish at the end.