

The passage we read today is not easy, but it does contain our theme for the year: three times here Paul refers to Jesus as Lord. Verse 2 says: 'Do you not know that the **Lord's** people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?' And verse 11: 'You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the **Lord** Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.'

Jesus is Lord of each individual person, of the Church and of history. Let's explore that a bit.

This week we commemorated D-Day, 80 years ago. What struck me in the celebrations is how the allegiances and alliances have changed since that time. This year Russia was not invited, but Ukraine was. Germany is no longer the enemy it was in 1944; we are now with the Americans and the Germans against the Russian aggression.

It has always been thus. There's always change: for example, in the 17th century there were four 'Dutch Wars', mainly at sea. The Dutch obviously call these the 'English Wars'. The Dutch won the first two but lost the last two. The result was that England became the most powerful nation on earth. But today you can't imagine a war between England and the Netherlands; at least I can't. Likewise, around 1800 the French emperor Napoleon was our greatest enemy; but in 1944 we fought to liberate France from the Nazis.

Allegiances change: people turn their back to the church, and to Christianity. Once Jesus was widely recognised as Lord, but no longer. (And by 'turning their back to the church' I don't mean worshiping in another church; I mean that people no longer attend any church.) This is a very sad situation indeed. People are changing allegiance.

I am glad to say that there are also other stories, stories that go against the grain. In this week's notices you can read about growing Baptist churches in Eastbourne, Willesborough and Addlestone. All three in SEBA. Last week we saw the story of growth in Chiddingfold. Praise God!

Do you know what is so great? The one who does not change is God, and Jesus our Lord.

Allegiances change, but God is always the same. See for example these texts from Revelation: Revelation 1:8: 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the **Lord** God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'

Revelation 4:11: 'You are worthy, our **Lord** and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.'

Revelation 15:4: Who will not fear you, **Lord**, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.'

Revelation 17:14: They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is **Lord** of **lords** and King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.'

We are serving an unchanging, victorious Lord. Paul says that this gives us a high status! (1 Cor 6:2). Shall we proclaim His glory?