

OXON LINK

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**You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart
(*Jeremiah 29.13*).**

Tempus fugit, 'time marches on' or literally "time flees". Life's not a rehearsal...etc. September 8th was my first anniversary at Oxon Church. We had a meeting in the Church Hall that evening so the church members bought me a bottle of wine and also baked two cakes; which we shared of course.

As I write this on the warmest October day that anyone can remember, I am aware that Harvest is upon us; November the 5th is looming; Christmas is lurking; and I know, New Year is loitering.

Reflecting on the brevity of life and the speed at which time goes by, I have a question for each of us. What would happen if we took these verses from Jeremiah and decided to act upon them every day from now on for the rest of our lives? But why search for God? Firstly, because time is fleeting. Secondly, if God 'is'; don't we need to find out? Thirdly, God promises we will find him.

Still, we may ask, why doesn't God just show Himself to us? Why do we have to search? I was wondering about this the other day, when I was re-reading the account of an Indian Christian mystic from the last century, Sundhar Singh. In his book '*At the feet of the Master*', Jesus reveals himself in visions. In a dialogue with Jesus concerning prayer, Jesus reminds him that God blesses us all the time. But without prayer we are not able to receive what God gives to us. So often we think of prayer as just asking. However, the disciple is reminded that, prayer is first of all desiring God for Himself. When we desire God, our hearts are prepared to receive what God wants to give to us.

It is with this perspective that I believe we are invited to seek God. It is to seek God with all our heart, for Himself. Jesus said 'seek you first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you as well'.

What a challenge, what a promise, what an opportunity, what a year ahead if we take God at His word. What are we waiting for? Only you can answer that question.

Every blessing for Autumn, Christmas, and the New Year.

David