



# BRIAR STREET NEWS



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November 2016

## IMPORTANT EVENTS:

|          |          |   |
|----------|----------|---|
| NOVEMBER | 6        | Daylight Savings Times Ends - turn clock BACK |
|          | <b>8</b> | <b>ELECTION DAY - BE SURE TO VOTE</b>         |
|          | 11       | Veteran's Day                                 |
|          | 20       | Church Thanksgiving Dinner                    |
|          | 24       | Thanksgiving Day                              |

## **A word from Pastor BJ:**

JC Ryle was an evangelical Anglican clergyman and first Bishop of Liverpool. He was renowned for his powerful preaching and extensive tracts. Ryle was born on May 10th, 1816, the eldest son of John Ryle and Susannah Ryle. His family had made their money in the silk mills of the Industrial Revolution, and were prominent members of Cheshire society. Accordingly, Ryle was educated at Eton College and then Christ Church, Oxford.

Ryle's family were nominal Anglicans, and until his time as an undergraduate Ryle had a similar attitude to Christianity. However, he became seriously ill with a chest infection, and was confined to his bed. During this time he began to pray and seriously read the Scriptures. He was converted when he attended an unknown church, where he heard the reading Ephesians 2:8-9. The force of these words changed his heart, and from that point on he was assured of his salvation.

After leaving Oxford, he returned to assist his father in business, with the assumption that he would inherit the estate. However in June 1841 Ryle Senior was bankrupted, and the family was left ruined, and forced to leave Macclesfield. As a result, he offered himself for ministry in the Church of England. He was duly accepted and ordained in December 1841.

During the next 20 years, while serving two or three different congregations, Ryle began to read the Reformed theologians, and himself, began to produce many of the writings for which he has become known.

In 1861 he moved on to his final pastorate where he became nationally known for his firm preaching and staunch defense of evangelical principles. He continued to write many books, mainly based on his tracts and sermons, and often addressing issues of contemporary relevance for the Church from a Biblical standpoint.

In 1880 he was offered the position of Bishop of the newly-created Diocese of Liverpool. (A position similar to what Baptists might call a "Director of Missions", he over saw the ministries of the churches of the area.) Ryle would stay until his death in 1900. He encouraging the building of more churches and missions to reach out to the growing urban communities, and generally seeking to develop the new diocese as best he could.

Here is a quote from some of Ryle's writing. It is as true today as it was over 100 years ago. It is a gauge by which we can measure our profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"A man who is born again is careful of his own soul. He tries not only to avoid sin but also to avoid everything which may lead to it. He is careful about the company he keeps. He knows that "bad company corrupts good morals" and that evil is more contagious than good, just as disease is more infectious than health. He is careful about the use of his time; his chief desire is to spend it profitably. He desires to live like a soldier in an enemy country - to wear his armor continually and to be prepared for temptation. He is diligent to be a watchful, humble, prayerful man."*

Pastor B.J.