

Reflection for the Week: May 11-18th 2020

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.**

Proverbs 3: 5-6

On Sunday we thought about the statement made by Jesus in John's Gospel: *I am the Way, the truth and the life*, (John 14:6).

Christians were originally known as *Followers of the Way*.

But what does it mean to follow in the Way?

In Old Testament terms, the Way to God was associated with obedience to the Law and commands that God had given to his People. To keep these ordinances was to remain in the way – on the right path – and close to the LORD.

In the New Testament, Jesus personifies the Way; the way of triumph through suffering and humility, the way of righteousness and truth, the way of costly obedience to the will of his Father.

Followers of the Way – of Jesus – are called into a relationship of trust, faith and love. Love implies obedience to Jesus: 'Love one another, as I have loved you'. Following the Way will also lead us to self-giving; it will cost and test our patience, humility and endurance. We are not promised that the Way will be easy, but we are promised that we will be led in the right direction, according to God's good purposes.

The verse above from the book of Proverbs is one that has been a personal source of inspiration and reassurance for many years. We don't always know where we are going along the Way or why we have found ourselves in a particular place; we have to have faith and trust in Jesus that we are moving in the direction he wants us to go. What we do know is that a relationship of trust will, despite the ups and downs, keep us along the 'straight' path.

This week, you could pray with the verse from Proverbs and ask the Lord for direction and discernment. How, and in what places are you being called to serve Jesus, the Way, the truth and the Life?