

By the end of June we shall have been 'locked in' for 15 weeks! (Because of age and vulnerability our GP recommended it a week before the Government insisted.)

And after 2 or 3 days we were wondering how we'd face a couple of weeks let alone a couple of months, but we've gradually become more used to it! We seem to have read a lot, and watched a variety of television repeats, including numerous Antique Road Trips! The knowledge of the experts is amazing. One chap specialises in militaria and he can pick up a sword and, after a seemingly short glance at it, tell its age, whether it belonged to an officer or an ordinary soldier, and sometimes even which battle it was used in. He'd then go on to explain how it would have been cleaned and worn so that it was ready to be used at a moment's notice.

Paul tells the Ephesians to "be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes and... take the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God." Ephesians 6 vv 10, 11, 16

Jesus showed how our 'sword' should be used when we are attacked when the devil tempted Him in the wilderness. Each time "the tempter came to him... Jesus answered 'It is written..'" Matthew 4 vv 1 to 11.

Paul wrote to Timothy "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" "2 Timothy 2 v1 5.

There are times when we face difficult moral choices – so we turn to the Bible for examples and guidance. There are times when we need comfort, or courage, so we turn to the Bible to see what God has promised us.

It can sometimes seem when we read passages that are particularly familiar to us that we know them so well that we can't possibly find anything new in them. I've just been reading a biography of Robert Cleaver Chapman, the founder of Grosvenor Church and it quotes a saying from his sermons: "The Bible is always a new book to those well-acquainted with it".

Lets pray that as we read our Bibles each day and as God speaks to us, we will listen, so that we always have our 'sword of the Spirit' ready for use when we are attacked.