

faithful, and his goal hasn't changed. Jesus goal for Kevin is still that he lives a rich and satisfying life.

Today Jesus invites you to join him and Kevin in this wonderful relationship, that you enjoy being known and knowing Jesus and each other, just as Jesus and his Father know each other.

Jesus wants you to have the crown of life; today as you share life with him, personally, intimately,

conversationally, affectionately. Which means when Jesus returns it won't be as a stranger but the very one you've been sharing life with all along.

I'm sure Kevin jumped for joy when he met Jesus, the one he's sought to walk faithfully with throughout his life. Kevin, continues living in Jesus crown of life.

30 November 2017

Kevin Desmond Thiele

8 June 1929—22 November 2017



Kevin's confirmation text was part of a reading from the book of Revelation, to the church at Smyrna. A community that was facing persecution for following Jesus.

These are Jesus' words; "...be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Rev. 2:10)

When I first read these words they sounded a bit like a deal; you do this and then I'll respond. You stay faithful and then I'll reward you, and the reward sounded great; the crown of life.

But I don't think that is how Jesus lives; he's not into making deals to get people to do what he says. That would hardly be faith; doing something only because there was something in it for you. It wouldn't be faith either if you were to act out of fear; the fear of missing out.

Neither of those options reflect Jesus heart to me. He isn't some salesman with the best deal in the world, and he's no fear monger.

Rather this is an invitation into life, in the face of other people's threats. This community of faith is being threatened with death if they continue to follow Jesus. Now that's fear mongering.

Is that the sort of relationship you'd want to be part of?

I hear Jesus reminding me not to fear death, because he is the author of life. Fear as a motive doesn't produce life, it imprisons people. Fear doesn't produce life; and life is Jesus goal as he states in the reading.

Jesus wants you to have the crown of life. Isn't that good to know; Jesus passion is that you live life, that you

live life well, that you live life with his passion, that you live life with him. That's still Jesus' passion for Kevin.

I think the faith Jesus is talking about is reflected in our reading from the Gospel of John, where Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd.

Here Jesus is describing a relationship of trust; the shepherd knows his sheep and his sheep know him. They trust his voice and follow. The motive is trust; they know they can trust this guy with their daily lives.

I think the crown of life refers to much more than a reward at the end of your life. The crown of life refers to the fact that in Jesus you can live a rich and full life now and into the future.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

So Jesus says; "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." (John 10:10)

What is Jesus' stated purpose? That you have a rich and satisfying life. Not just here today and gone tomorrow. Not eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die. Not work hard and be the one with the most toys.

Did you notice the thief's purpose; to steal your life, to kill your life, to destroy your life. Living from a fear motive steals life. Living to gain what you'll lose kills your life. Working hard to get other people's approval destroys your life.

Jesus talks about knowing his sheep, and them knowing him personally, just like his Father and him. What an amazing relationship Jesus is inviting us to share with him. That thought blows my mind; 'just as my Father knows me and I know my Father'. That's the sort of relationship Jesus is inviting us to

live with him; today, tomorrow, forever.

In this life we start living that relationship all be it in baby steps. Learning to trust Jesus, taking him at his word, so that we step out and do what we hear him calling us to do.

Sometimes tentatively; we risk taking a step into the unknown with

Jesus comes to save

Jesus, because we trust him. Which is a living reflection of Jesus, who boldly risked his life trusting his Father.

That's Jesus life, an act of trust in his Father. Jesus goal was to do what he saw his Father doing, to say what he heard his Father saying. For Jesus that was where life was to be found, where life was to be lived in its richest and most satisfying; in this passionate relationship he shared with Father.

I think Kevin also sought life in this passionate relationship which Jesus opens up for us to be living in. I'm sure Kevin's passion for farming was a reflection of his relationship with God. I'm sure Kevin's love for his wife was a reflection of God's passion; for it is in our relationship that we live life.

Jesus shows that it is our relationships of love and affection, when they flow from his, that is where we begin living that rich and satisfying life

Jesus has given his life for us to live.

And the apostle Paul reminds us not to panic if we don't quite get these relationship right; we're taking baby steps. Paul wrote; "I'm convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love... revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:38,39)

We don't have a God waving a carrot in front of our face enticing us to act for what we can get. Nor do we have a God with a big stick threatening us if we don't get it right.

We do have a loving Father, who affectionately, and tenderly picks up his child as they learn to walk like their Dad.

I reckon Kevin was faithful, and sought to walk with his Dad. Did he always get it right? Who does? But his loving Father walked faithfully with his precious child, seeking to grow him in his love. Seeking to bless Kevin with life.

And Kevin was blessed in his life. Blessed with significant relationship of love where I'm sure he got a taste of God's love for him in Jesus. And I'm sure Kevin at times gave a taste of God's love to those he shared life with. God was with Kevin, leading his loved child by the hand, picking him up when he feel, embracing him in times of hurt, encouraging

him in times of struggle. I'm sure in all of life his loving heavenly Father was with him, seeking through Jesus, to share his life with Kevin.

That's the crown of life; life lived up close and personal with God, our heavenly Father. With Jesus our passionate brother. With the Spirit our intimate friend. That's the crown of life;

I need a saviour

being able to walk through every situation in that intimate, conversational, affectionate relationship of love that Jesus gave his life for us to live in every day.

All be it now in baby steps; looking forward to that wonderful new day when we get to run with Father through life, we'll jump for joy with our brother Jesus, we'll love as we are loved through the Spirit.

In Jesus there is so much more life to look forward to. Kevin, in Jesus, has been given

the crown of life. Kevin wasn't, isn't a stranger to Jesus, they just shared the last eighty odd years together. And now look forward to an eternity of life, of a rich and satisfying life as Kevin discovers more and more of the amazing love his heavenly Father has for him. Kevin's life hasn't come to an end; he's just getting ready to move on from baby steps, and walk, then run through life with God.

Jesus invites you to walk with him now through life. To trust him as your good shepherd; listening to his voice, following his lead, for he wants you to discover a rich and satisfying life. A life which flows from the very heart of God.

I'm sure Kevin is also keen to share this life with you as together you walk and run with God, living in and out of his amazing passion for you.

Kevin walked faithfully with Jesus and Jesus walked with Kevin, that's the crown of life. Kevin still lives in Jesus, for Jesus is