

much more to Henk's story. It hasn't finished, not by a long shot.

Jesus will raise him to new life when he returns. Jesus will judge Henk; not perfect, better, much better. Jesus on the day he returns will declare to the whole world, the whole universe, that Hendrick Jacob (Henk) Visser is the heavenly Father's child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life. And then together with the rest of the family they'll begin that great feast of life

that Jesus has prepared.

Today I'm happy to be humble and join Henk in trusting Jesus; relying on his power and authority. In Jesus the future shines bright.

I'm sure Henk is inviting you to join him in trusting Jesus, relying on Jesus' power and authority. I'm sure Henk's greatest desire is to share life with you, as together with him you join in that great feast

of life that Jesus has prepared.

I'm happy to humble myself, and join Henk, humbly trusting Jesus, relying on Jesus' power and authority for life. Life today. Life that has a future, for my life's foundation is Jesus; the risen Lord, and he always keeps his promises.

31 May 2018

Hendrik Jacob (Henk) Visser

4 November 1939—24 May 2018



When I looked at the reading from Peter the first word that struck me was 'humble'.

Peter calls us to 'humble ourselves'. It struck me because it points me to the core of what is called sin.

What comes to your mind when you hear the word sin?

I've been told by quite a few people that God would like them because they're a good person. In other words they're not 'bad'. Sin gets people jumping to the idea of being a bad person.

Is that what sin is? I don't think so.

That's part of the devil's lie to deceive us. To rob us of life with God. To steal away a healthy

identity. To destroy your ability to know God's love for you.

Peter invites you to 'humble yourself under the mighty power of God'. In other words, trust him. Take him at his word; trusting that he's got your best interest at heart; and can do it.

Peter is inviting us to trust in God's strength. The God, who has given his life for us, being born our brother; Jesus. Jesus, going to the cross to heal and restore our relationship with our heavenly Father. To create a living, vibrant relationship of love. Jesus has laid his life on the line for us, so that we might find life in him. So that we might live life in his power and authority.

Today Peter in his letter invites us to trust this Jesus with our lives. To place our lives in Jesus power and authority. Accepting Jesus' invitation, trusting him with our lives, with our identity, relying on his power and authority; that's being humble.

The opposite would be to rely on myself. To face life relying on my power and authority, my ability to achieve what I want.

If Henk had relied on his own power and authority, where would he be now?

The reading from 2 Corinthians, to me, speaks powerfully into the reality that was Henk's life, especially in his last years. We heard;

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Cor. 4:16)

Henk certainly wasted away. Nothing he could do about it, and if he’d relied solely on himself he would have lost heart.

I’m sure all through this time the devil was tempting Henk to lose heart, to give up. And I’m sure he had his bouts of depression, but Henk didn’t rely on his own power and authority. Henk is backed by a power and authority which is greater than death itself.

If I’m self-reliant, what hope do I have when I’m dead and buried?

What hope does Henk have today? What hope do we have today?

The hope that death doesn’t have the final word; Jesus will return and speak a word of resurrection, where Henk will be raised to new life.

Healthy and strong, wonderfully humble, relying on Jesus’ power and authority.

One of the key themes of Jesus’ life

Peter is inviting us to trust Jesus.

is that he always keeps his promises. You can trust him. Jesus always delivers on what he promises. He speaks the truth; in other words, what he says he does.

The devil on the other hand will offer you the world. He invites you to trust in him, that he’ll give you the world. He just doesn’t have the world to give. That’s what makes him a liar; what he says he

can’t do. He’s the ultimate con man.

The Henk I knew invite me to pray with him on the day he died. The Henk I knew was relying on Jesus’ power and authority to do what he promised. Henk placed his life in Jesus’ hands.

So where is Henk now? Jesus’ promise is that Henk is still in his hands; knowing the love God the Father has for

him. Henk is in Jesus’ hands, safe, secure, looking forward to life lived up close and personal with Jesus, and all those who have placed their lives in Jesus’ hands.

Henk hasn’t come to an end. I know many people believe that when you’re dead, that’s it. What a horrible judgement to pass on Henk; he came from nothing, has come to nothing. So add nothing to

nothing and what do you get? Nothing.

Really! Is that really what Henk’s life amounted to? Nothing! Is that the best we can say about Henk; he’s nothing now!

Where is the foundation for this life sapping faith? Is it that I rely on what I can see and perceive as real? Where is the foundation for this hope destroying faith?

I can tell you the foundation for Henk’s faith; it’s a person by the name of Jesus. Who came to this earth, because he couldn’t bear the thought of a future without Henk to share it with him. Jesus passionate love motivates his life, his action, his promises.

The foundation to Henk’s life is the very real Jesus, born his brother, gave his life on a cross rather

than deny Henk, rose from the grave so that Henk would have the hope of new life. Not wishful thinking; Jesus has done it. Jesus has the power and authority to raise Henk to new life when he returns.

The foundation to Henk is Jesus, the one who always

The foundation for Henk’s faith; Jesus.

keeps his promises, because he has the power and authority to do what he says.

I know there are many things I’d like to do, but I just don’t have the power and authority. I admit, I’m limited. I admit, I need more than I can give. I admit, I trust in Jesus; to forgive, to heal, to restore, to send the Holy Spirit, that I share life with God as my loving heavenly Father, knowing his voice, looking forward to life

forever celebrating with Father and his family; my brothers and sisters in Jesus.

So today I’m happy to humble myself and take Jesus at his word; trusting he has the power and authority to do what he says.

Today I’m trusting Henk in Jesus’ hands, choosing to believe Jesus when he tells me that we are always in his hands, and that

he is the safest place on earth to be.

Today I’m happy to be humble, and let Jesus be God above my logic. I’m happy to be humble and trust Jesus; that there is more to this life than meets the eye, so I’m going to keep my eyes on him.

Today I’m happy to be humble, and rejoice in the hope Jesus brings. In Jesus today is not the end; there is so much more to life, so