

you speak. Otherwise it might just sound like people are bad and they need to change to be good. That's not what Jesus gave his life for.

Jesus loves people, so he gave his life that they might live loved. Live loved in him, knowing personally Father's love for them, living today in the Spirit's loving presence with them.

I pray that Jesus blesses us all with the same passion as Paul, that we too emulate Jesus in giving our lives that other people come into this life giving

relationship of intimate love that Jesus has created for all people to celebrate with him. I pray that the Spirit gives each of us the wisdom, love and courage to bless someone, that they discover and enter into this amazing relationship that Jesus offers, knowing him personally, living loved as one of Fathers children in whom he delights.

6 August 2017

WHAT'S YOUR MISSION?

Romans 9:1-5



On reading these verses I'm struck by Paul's passion for his nation. What an amazing thing to say; "If there were any way I could be cursed by the Messiah so they could be blessed by him, I'd do it in a minute." (Rom. 9:3 Message Paraphrase) Paul's life is driven by an amazing passion, a passion which flows from Jesus himself.

Jesus, in a sense, was cursed that we might be blessed. Jesus was crucified; and the people of Jesus' day believed to be crucified meant you were cursed of God. Jesus has literally given his life that we might have life; life lived to the full with God. Jesus' passion for us, for people, for you, is all consuming. He holds nothing back, but literally gives his life that we might be saved.

That's an interesting phrase; 'That we might be saved'. What comes to your mind when you think of Jesus saving us, saving you?

This week I read this chapter from Paul's letter to the community of faith in Colossae. Paul wrote; "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God's right hand.... So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking with you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater... now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behaviour, slander and dirty language. Don't lie to each other... Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your

Creator and become like him... clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience... forgive others... Above all clothe yourselves with love... let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts." (Colossians 3:1-15 NLT)

From this I gather that being saved involves having a new nature; a new nature that Jesus creates in me. A new nature where I grow to become like Jesus, knowing him personally, growing to maturity in Jesus, so that my new nature in him finds living expression in the way I live.

Sadly so many of Paul's Israelite brothers and sisters had taken God's promise and sought to bring it about through their hard

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

work. Instead of being focused on God's amazing promises to them they were hard at work trying to make it happen, trying to prove themselves. They were hard at work making sure they'd never go into exile again; so they were responding to a fear agenda. The fear of punishment, the fear of losing their nation and their temple.

If you're driven by a fear agenda what sort of way will you act? Who would want to be consumed by a fear agenda?

Jesus came that we might live from a loving, intimate personal relationship with him. That's our new nature; Jesus has re-created us in his image, that we might know him, personally, that we can live life walking and talking with him, growing to ever greater maturity as Father's children, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life.

We have this amazing relationship, that Jesus has created, to live in, to rejoice in, to relish. Jesus was prepared to experience being rejected so that we might live accepted. That we might live knowing Father for who he really is; our loving Dad. What an amazing relationship Jesus invites us to live

Who do you want existing in fear?

with him, as he re-creates us in his image, and he's the very image of God.

Jesus' passion is to breathe his life giving Spirit into you, that together you might share life lived in Father's loving embrace. For me, this gives the flavour of what it means to be saved.

Who in your life would you want to be living from a fear agenda? Fear of failure, fear of rejections, not knowing

why you're here, having no sense of the future, just having the dark shadow of death. The fear of having to get it right or be punished. Who in your life would you want existing under fear?

Who in your life would you want knowing, experiencing, living loved? The love of God that is in Christ Jesus. Jesus' passion being breathed into your very soul, that together you celebrate life lived in Father's love.

Who in your life would you want living in the reality of Father's love that we have in Jesus?

Paul's passionate answer was that he wanted all his Israelite brothers and sisters to live loved, to live knowing Father's love, experiencing the reality of that relationship in Jesus, every day. This wasn't just a passion, it was the reality of his life; he literally gave his life that all people might come to know this most intimate relationship of love that

Jesus has created. Paul was beheaded, rather than deny those Jesus is passionate to save.

In a sense Paul was cursed that others might be blessed. I'm assuming having your head cut off is a curse.

So who would I want to be living under fear, trapped by fear, imprisoned by the hurts and pains of life, with no way out? Who would I want destroyed by fear, by evil, by the devil's lies?

This description of hell is too awful for anyone to be left there. I wouldn't want anyone ending in such a hellish existence.

Who would I want knowing, experiencing, living loved like Jesus? Living healthy and free, knowing their true identity and purpose in Father. Discovering the joy of life lived up close and personal with Father, through the Son, in the Spirit. Who would I want being in, discovering and living in this most wonderful,

heavenly relationship? Everyone!

Who do you want existing in fear? Who do you want living loved, loved by the author of love, God himself?

As I read Paul's passion, his willingness to give his all, I'm inspired to want to do

Who would you want living loved?

the same. As I reflect on the fact that Paul's passion is simply a living expression of Jesus' passion, I'm not only inspired but know it is possible; for Jesus is always true to his word. I can always depend on Jesus promise; it doesn't depend on how clever I am. Jesus is dependable; he always keeps his promise.

Thankfully this eliminates fear as a motivating force. Thankfully in Jesus my motivating force is him;

is the smile on Father's face that he reveals. Thankfully in Jesus my motivating force is this incredible relationship of love that he has created for all people to enjoy, to celebrate, to revel in.

Trusting Jesus, I join with him in wanting to share with all people the wonderful life and hope he has to offer. Trusting Jesus, I join with him in wanting to share with all people the heavenly love that he has made possible for all people to live in and experience. Experience the joy of life with their heavenly Father, knowing his smile, living accepted, living purposefully, living authentic. Trusting Jesus, I too can have the courage to step out and share this most wonderful relationship with those I'll meet this week.

Not only does Jesus give the desire, the courage, but he has sent the Spirit so you might have the wisdom and the love needed when