

I can't always say that about myself. I fear rejection. Rejection can have me shrinking back into my own shell. Thank God Jesus continues to breathe his life giving spirit into us daily. The Holy Spirit, filling us with life and vitality that we too might not be ruled by knockbacks but in Jesus passion, go forth and share this wonderful relationship, inviting people to take Jesus at his word and discover the fullness of life that he has created.

This week let's all be praying that Jesus leads us by the Spirit that we can make him known personally to another person; be that encouraging a brother

or sister, or letting someone know for the first time the amazing love the God, in Jesus has for that person. Inviting them into that destination, that amazing relationship God Father and Son enjoy and have extended to us to live in with them, discovering all that they have dreamed possible, becoming all that they've given their lives for us to be.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

# 13 August 2017

## WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

### Romans 10:5-15



Have you ever been lost? I remember regularly getting lost with my Father. I'd drive him to a preaching engagement, but we'd never take a map. Finding the town was always easy but finding the church could be another story. We'd drive around and around and around, and he's say; 'I remember it being over here' 'I'm sure it's just down this road'. Sometimes I thought we were using the circle way of navigating; if you go around and around and around a small town in reducing circles you'll eventually find what you're looking for.

Guess what we never did? Ask someone!

When you're lost what is the one thing that you're after? Someone to save you; someone to tell you the way. How much easier it would have been to stop and

ask a local where the church was.

Have you ever been lost?

I used to get lost in Sydney all the time. I'd think I knew a short cut, so I'd go for it, but guess what, they never worked. And in Sydney you can't use the ever diminishing circle technique. I know, I've tried it, and I just got more and more confused. Eventually I'd have to break out the map, only to find I was nowhere near where I wanted to be.

Without a map I'd still be driving around Sydney, because like my Dad I wouldn't ask anyone for directions!

When I was lost the one thing I wanted was a saviour; a sign to show me the way so that I could get to where I was going.

Of course in life things are a lot more complicated; I reckon most people don't know where they are meant to be going. What is the purpose of life? Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you die. Is that the purpose of life? Just a meaningless rush of experiences before you're no more!

Is the meaning of life to be found in family and friends? That's the most common response I seem to hear. Life is about family and friends, spending time with them, enjoying their company, loving one another.

Sounds good, but there is one minor hiccup. Just this week I went to the funeral of my oldest cousin. While he was alive I had the opportunity to show love to him; though I didn't take it. Now he's dead, what sort of

relationship is open to us?

What is the meaning of life? Where are we going?

I've noticed that lost people can't find themselves, they stay lost. They need a saviour; a sign or a person to ask.

Does being lost make you a bad person?

Of course that begs the question; how do you determine bad or good?

Paul points to his fellow Israelites who used the Law of Moses to determine if you were bad or good? If you did what it said, you were good. Just not everyone agreed on how to interpret the law. Was it work if you walked a kilometre carrying a 25 kilo load on the Sabbath, or was it Ok to walk 900 meters carrying a 25 kilo load, because that wasn't work.

And in the end who was ticking the score

card so that you could pass and be labelled good? The Pharisees labelled Jesus bad, so bad they had to execute him to save their nation and their temple!

Where are you going? What is the purpose of your life?

This week in the SOAP readings we've been

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### Have you ever been lost? What's the meaning of life?

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looking at the Gospel of John, where I ran across these words of Jesus; "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love." (John 15:9) Wow, now that's the place I want to be.

What a mind blowing statement; the love that God the Father, has for God the Son is extended to us, to me, to you. That's where I want to be, embraced in that love, knowing Father and Son, living with them, letting their loving character find

living expression in my life.

And I know what their loving character looks like; I don't have to make it up, for Jesus has come, born our brother, lived our life, died to save us, returned that we might share this life now, today and never ever be abandoned. Jesus

extends the love of God the Father that he lives in, that shapes his very identity. Jesus extends that to you. Yes, you are Father's precious

child. Yes, you are Father's joy. Yes, Father delights in sharing his life with you. Father delights in seeing his loved child; that's you in Jesus, grow, mature, discover life lived to the full in him.

And Father hates seeing his precious, loved children, who he has the greatest affection for, losing this life as they're seduced by a lie.

But if nobody says anything, and all you

hear is the lie, what is the only option open to you? If all I hear is the lie; that I can do whatever I want, that I know what is best for me, that I won't suffer consequences because it doesn't apply to me – I know better. If all I hear is the lie, what will happen?

Jesus says the thief comes to steal and kill and destroy. (John 10:10)

Today Jesus invites us to speak out his life giving presence. Today I'm reminded of the wonderful privilege of knowing Jesus. Not just knowing him personally, but now being able to introduce him to other people that they too get to know him personally, in that wonderful intimate, affectionate, bond of love that he has extended to each of us.

Today Jesus invites me to share with people so that they know the destination and how to get there. Jesus doesn't want anyone lost. Jesus' passion is that all

people know the destination – to be loved as Father and Son love each other. Jesus' passion is that we tell people the way; using words if we have to. As we live, walk and talk with Jesus, letting him shape our identity and the way we live and respond to life as we are speaking to others about Jesus. We are

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### Jesus: I have loved you even as the Father has loved me!!!

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inviting them to join Jesus in his celebration of life and love that he lives together with Father.

Jesus does tell us that not everyone welcomes the Good News. For me that is important, because I can be sucked in by the devil's lie that I need to be successful. Before you know it my motive becomes how many people are responding, and I've left Jesus out in the cold.

I think Jesus is reminding me that the way I live with him, my destination in him, isn't dependent on how many respond. My motivation flows from Jesus, from the loving relationship he has brought me into, to live in everyday. To grow in, to mature in, to shape my very identity.

It is sad that not everyone will welcome Jesus. It breaks his heart more that I'll probably ever know. But it doesn't stop him putting

himself out there everyday that all people might come to know him; to know him personally. To know his intimate, personal, affectionate, love for them. Jesus isn't ruled by knockbacks, his motive, his passion comes from deep within him, it is his very nature to reach out that more and more people might discover the destination of his Father's love. That they hear him and follow him to that destination. Rejection doesn't shape Jesus.