

Live that truth.
Celebrate that truth.

When you're tempted to feel successful, worthwhile and important because of all the things you've achieved, don't. "Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant – dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ – *God's* righteousness. I gave up all that inferior stuff so I

could know Christ personally..." (Phil. 3:7-10 Message)

Let us pray. Jesus thank you for coming that I might come to life in you. I thank and praise you for your amazing grace, in being born my brother that I might live as the Father's loved child, with whom he is well pleased. As I face each day remind me of this truth that I might live true to who I am in you. And as I seek to live true to who I am in you, remind me always to find my strength through the Holy Spirit, that I might be doing your will in this crazy mixed up world in which we live. God as you love me, let my life be an expression of love to you, especially in the

way I treat the people you bring into my life and in the way I care for the world you have blessed us with. Jesus I only ever want to be found in you, living for you, living from you, living because of you. Amen.

7 January 2018

JESUS' BAPTISM

Mark 1:4-11



If I were to stand in MacDonalds would that make me a hamburger? No more than sitting in this building makes me a Christian. A 'Big Mac' doesn't have the power to change me into a hamburger. Any more than this building has the power to change me into a Christian. What has changed me into a Christian? What power can take me from death to life, from being outside of God's heart to being his loved child, who he's well pleased with?

Of course there's only one person who has the power to make that amazing change; Jesus has the power of life. Through Jesus, God once again has come to breath his breathe

of life into us that we might become living beings.

"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life... count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ

Jesus." (Romans 6:1-4,8)

Christ Jesus has the amazing power to change me from being dead to God, to being alive in God, as one of his precious children.

Jesus was baptised not to make him God's son, but to show to everyone that's who he was, the chosen one of God, the Messiah. The good news is that in Jesus I am also adopted as one of God's chosen children. My baptism is a sign that in Jesus I am one of the Father's precious children, whom he loves and is well pleased with.

Being in MacDonalds doesn't change me into a hamburger, but being found in Christ does change me into a Christian, into a

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

person who's whole life if found in Christ. Outside of Christ there is nothing, all I am is found in Christ. In Christ I am God's loved child, with whom he is well pleased.

In case you didn't pick up the connection they're the words spoken at Jesus' baptism by the Father: "You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11) I think it is important to notice that these words were spoken at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and not the end. They're not spoken as a pass mark for work done, but they tell us about the Father's love for his child.

Child, as you step-out on this risky road, go knowing you're loved, you're precious to me, go knowing who you

are, and live it. Live it in that mad mixed up world, always staying true to who you are; 'My precious Child'.

In Jesus that's who you are. Through you're baptism, you were linked with Jesus, and there God spoke those words over you. Not at the

You are my child whom I love with you I am well pleased.

end of your life as a pass mark but at the beginning of your life.

God everyday is saying; 'Loved child, as you step-out on this risky road of life, go knowing you're loved, you're precious to me, go knowing who you

are, and live it. Live it in this mad mixed up world staying true to who you are; 'My precious Child'.

That way you'll bring my love into all you do. That way you'll bring glory to your Father, in all you say and do. Stay true to who you are!

And an important part of who you are is that you are a person who has the Holy Spirit.

God, through Jesus, has breathed his breathe of life into you, that you might be alive to God, for God is present with you, empowering all you do with his presence.

"He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." (1 Cor. 1:22)

God doesn't only say remember who you are but also remember who is going with you as you step out into that crazy mixed up

world, risking life and limb. The Holy Spirit, God's very presence is going with you.

And as you step out don't do it without any concept of what the future holds. There are many unknowns, but we also have some rock solid certainties.

Jesus is returning. Returning to take all God's children home to live enjoying the Father's presence forever. Forever loved, forever precious, forever worthwhile, forever celebrating the Father's love.

We also know that it won't be all smooth sailing. We also know that the devil doesn't want anyone, least of all you, enjoying the Father's love. If he can't have it then he figures nobody should. The devil figures if he's going to miss out,

you too, should be thrown into hell, coming to nothing outside of Christ, screaming in despair, sorrow and regret for eternity.

Thankfully the devil doesn't determine who I am. I've got God's seal of ownership on me. In

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baptism God promised to love me, and adopt me as his own, in Christ Jesus. In Christ Jesus, God has determined who I am; his child, whom he loves and is well pleased with. The child he shares his life with now through the Holy Spirit. The child who belongs with his Father, that when Jesus returns it will be a great home coming. For Jesus has prepared my room in the Father's home,

because that's where the children belong, with the Father. What incredible joy we have to look forward to when Jesus returns.

"See what great love the Father has lavished on *you*, that *you* should be called a *child* of God! And that is what *you* are!" (1 John 3:1)

So this week when you look at this crazy mixed up world and are tempted to despair, don't. This crazy mixed up world doesn't determine who you are; you're God's child, whom he loves and is well pleased with. Believe it. Live it. Enjoy it.

When you're tempted to feel rejected and unloved, don't believe it. These feelings don't determine the truth; you're God's child, whom he loves and is well pleased with. Believe that truth.