

our world view, equipping us to expose the devil's lies, that we can speak his truth setting people free. Why wouldn't I build into my life a regular time for building my relationship with Jesus, listening to him and sharing my highs and lows with him.

This week if you don't have a regular time of fellowship with Jesus reading the bible, give me a call and let's start. The devil's had the upper hand for too long, flooding your brain with TV morals, and a world view that has nothing to do with Jesus. Let's take up the fight; too many people have been lost in Australia.

Remember we're not fighting the good people against the bad. It's the people we love and cherish who the devil is seducing into

hell. I don't want to tell people I love to go to hell, they're worth fighting for; well Jesus certainly believed so. He laid his life on the line for them.

This week consciously take up the fight; get your prayer list pumping, read the bible; inviting Jesus to lead you, then invite him to speak and listen. Then take what he says and do it. Seek to be attentive to the people the Father brings into your presence that you might be his presence to them, that through the power of Jesus they might be saved to live life with him.

Let us pray.
Jesus, thank you for fighting of us, for fighting with your life

for me. Fill me with the Holy Spirit that I also have the courage, the wisdom and the love to fight with you against the devil that people might be saved. Fill me with the Holy Spirit today so that I'm not complacent, but can't rest easy and feel compelled, feel driven to take up the battle for the lives of those you love. Save me from hearing and doing nothing. Amen.



Christ Church Lutheran

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

Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

26 August 2018

IN FOR THE BATTLE OF YOUR LIFE

Ephesians 6:10-20



Paul finishes his letter to the Ephesians with a call to arms. Why else would you put on your full armour, unless you were answering the call to war. War isn't a pretty picture. It's something I'm sure we'd all rather do without, and not be involved in; but through Paul Jesus is calling each of us here today to take up the fight. A life and death battle is what we are involved in.

And Paul reminds me what the battle is over, and who it is with.

What's the battle for? It's not for land or riches. What are we willing to take up arms for? What are we joining Jesus in being willing to die for? It's not for wealth, it's not for power or influence, we're fighting to save people. Jesus has called us to arms to fight to

save people's lives. To save the people he loves.

Do you notice the battle isn't with other people, but for other people.

I'm not called to kill the bad people and save the good people. I'm not called to fight against those who have different ideas to me, or who I don't get on with. Jesus hasn't called me to kill another person, but to be willing to join him in putting my life on the line to save people.

Who's the battle with? Paul reminds me; "Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devils schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood (other people), but against the rulers, against authorities, against the powers of the dark world and

against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:11,12)

Who's the battle with? The devil. I'm not called to fight against other people but the devil. The devil who wants to take you captive, that you also suffer the same punishment as he is doomed to; God's punishment of hell. The devil is going there; and it's the last place he wants to be, but he's determined to take as many of the people God the Father loves as he can with him into hell. Into this eternal punishment.

How many people did Jesus die for? How many of your sins did Jesus pay for? In our Heavenly Father's heart there's room for everyone; but sadly not everyone is going to

make it. The devil is out to make sure of that.

And one of the devil's best weapons is to get us fighting each other. For one thing, then we're not fighting him, and we're destroying the very people the Father loves. Have you ever been tempted to fight with another person, to be envious of them, to wish they got what they deserved? Have people ever irritated you so much that you thought they needed a good kick in the pants as a form of punishment? The devil loves getting us to fight with other people; to label them, to condemn them, to be furious with them, to think they need to change to become good like me. The devil loves getting me agitated and grumpy with other people, because them I'm fighting with them and not for them!

Jesus hasn't called me to condemn anyone. Jesus hasn't called me

to fight with anyone. My battle is with the devil and his demons who want to destroy the people the Father loves, the people Jesus paid for with his life.

Out of the people you'll meet this week; who of them are loved by the Father though the Son? Don't fight them, fight for them. Out of the

The battle isn't WITH other people but FOR other people.

people you love who do you want to go to hell? Don't fight with them, fight for them.

So how do we fight for them?

We can always pray for them; "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests... keep on praying for all the Lord's people." (Ephesians 6:18) Take the time to bring the people and the situations in your life to the Father and talk it over with him, so that

you get his slant on things. So that you get his ability to love, to forgive, to bring Jesus life giving breathe into the words you speak.

In reading John this week I was reminded of this promise from Jesus; "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and **I will do it.**" (John 14:13,14)

One great aspect about knowing that our fight is with the devil is that we know he can't defeat Jesus. In fact we all know that through Jesus' death on the cross the devil has been completely defeated. No one need go to hell under God's punishment, because in Jesus we have the Father's forgiveness, and are the people he loves; loves to share his life with.

The breathe of Jesus' word blows the devil away; we are victorious, loved,

precious, given the infinite worth of Jesus life. Forgiven with no more to pay. What a powerful weapon prayer is, as I bring every situation, every person to Jesus, not hiding anything, that he breathes his life giving breath into that relationship, setting us free to love one another as he loves us.

When I go into battle the devil isn't fighting my strength, because I'm not doing it off my own back, but because Jesus has sent me. I was also reminded of that in John this week; "Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgiven, if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'" (John 20:21-23) What power you have as a sent warrior of Jesus.

How else can we fight for others?

We fight for other people by loving them, by giving our best for them. Especially for our brothers and sisters in Christ, our Heavenly Father's loved precious children. Love isn't some sweet, gooie feeling, but it's the very nature of our Heavenly

What power you have as a 'Sent' warrior of Jesus.

Father finding expression in our life as we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus. Then we are equipped to expose the devil's lie and not condemn people to hell, but rather be the body of Christ present in their lives. We fight by forgiving out of love, expecting nothing in return, only wanting that person to live free in the Father's love for them.

This week take the time to once again read through Paul's letter to

the Ephesians and write down how Jesus has equipped you to take on the battle that is raging around us. Ask Jesus to show you that you might apply what he says in your tactical response to the devil's attacks.

One way the devil attacks is by making what will kill you look appealing, and making what gives life look boring. Why did Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit? It looked like fun – but lead to death.

Why would we build into our lives a regular time for reading the bible and talking with Jesus? The devil wants you to believe that is boring compared to the TV. Feasting on the bread of life. Allowing Jesus to breath his life giving breathe into us, that we might reap the fullness of life that our Father so eagerly wants us to experience. The battle rages when we read the bible, letting Jesus shape us, our thinking, our acting,