

Jesus through the Spirit.

I'm not on a sinking ship; I've been invited to begin living in the Promised Land. I'm a citizen of heaven; the Kingdom of God.

I mightn't be all that I'll become when Jesus returns, but when Jesus returns the reality of his Kingdom of God, of his rule, will be plain for all to see.

So I'm focused on my King; on knowing him, on listening to him, of sharing from the heart with him, of following his lead in life. I'm out to be living that wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection that Jesus has given his life for. Living it through the Spirit. So when Jesus returns he won't be a stranger; but the very person

I've been sharing life with all along. The very person I've been growing to maturity in. When Jesus returns the identity he's blessed me with and is growing me to live true to will shine bright. I'll discover a wonderful new depth of living loved; loved by Father, in the Son, through the Spirit. I'm looking forward to that day; that's my focus.

Where's yours?

Let's help each other grow and mature in this wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection that Jesus has made a reality for us to live in each and every day.

Let's pray. Jesus, I invite you to change me, to grow me to be all you've given your life for me to be. I invite you to

open my eyes, my mind, and my heart to know you and be aware of your presence. Save me from being distracted, missing the opportunity to share you with those I meet this week. Jesus show me where you want me to change, show us as a community of faith where you want us to change; then breathe the Spirit upon us so we change through your power and authority to Father's glory.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

4 November 2018

ALL SAINTS

Mark 12:28-34



This week I feel like I've had a convergence of ideas from an array of different sources.

We have this door from our Reformation Day celebration with the word 'Change'. What do you think God is saying to us, to you, through this word 'Change'? Have you changed anything? What might God be wanting us to change, or you personally to change? What is the Spirit saying to you; 'Change!'

Then as I was doing my regular 'SOAP' time with God the word 'Repentance' jumped out at me. 'Repentance' is a change word, and is found throughout God's word. God is often calling people to change, to repent.

As I was reflecting on repentance I jotted down this thought; 'To seek to repent in my own strength, means I'm still the central figure. I'm doing it, it's up to me, that's no repentance. Who's the central figure?'

Who the central figure is, is answered by Jesus where Mark records him saying; "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' No other commandments are greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

I know I get distracted, and my focus shifts from what's most important to what I feel I need, what I believe will make me feel good, happy. Does anyone else ever get distracted?

I could just see myself on the Titanic, rushing up from third class as the boat fills with water. Rushing through first class, seeing the amazing food on offer. I then imagined myself stopping to have a quick bit, tasting this, enjoying that, wanting more. I think I could be distracted by the food on offer.

The ship is sinking, what would you see as the most important thing to do? Stop for lamb roast! The ship is sinking. Do you stop and listen to the band. I love music. The ship is sinking and the life

rafts are disappearing. What would you see yourself doing?

Don't ask me why, but that got me thinking of today; All Saints Day.

My ship is sinking. It's only a matter of time, could be today, before my ship sinks. That means before I die. In life am I being distracted by the wonderful array of goodies to feast on? The ship is sinking; what am I focused on?

Do you remember those first words we started with; Change, Repent.

Where, as a congregation, might we have been distracted? Where might you have been distracted? The ship is sinking, and we're rearranging the furniture! Where is Jesus calling us, calling you to change? Where is Jesus calling us, calling me to repent? To keep my focus clearly on him.

Please note that repentance isn't a negative word designed to produce a guilt response.

Repentance is one of the most positive words we have. God is not only inviting you to change but pours in the Spirit so we have his power and strength to do it. It would be horrible to be unable

CHANGE!

to change knowing you needed to change.

Jesus call to repent is a wonderful invitation to hear his word, to experience the reality of his presence in our lives, to grow to be all that he has dreamt possible.

Jesus has given his life that you might change and grow to be all that he has dreamt possible. That you grow to maturity in Jesus. What an amazing change

Jesus has made possible, through his life, death and resurrection.

Actually that reminds me that it's not my death that I need to focus on, but the fact that Jesus is returning. My death isn't the end of the story. My death isn't the goal of my life. I'm not simply filling in time between the cradle and the grave.

The ship is sinking; Jesus is returning. We're going to meet him face to face. You're going to meet Jesus face to face. Coming ready or not. The thought that the ship is sinking is a reminder to me to focus on what's most important. To focus on what Jesus is focused on.

I could get distracted trying to keep the Ten Commandments in an effort to be good with God. I could seek to do acts of love so that God would accept me. And that almost

sounds right, doesn't it. There's just one problem, who's the focus if I'm doing something to gain something for myself? I'm doing acts of love for God so that he'll like me. Is that love, or me acting to gain for myself. When I act to gain for myself where is my focus?

Does anyone spot a dilemma here?

Jesus wonderfully has empowered us to live loved, because in him we are. In Jesus we are loved, so we have love to give. In Jesus we have hope, so we have hope to give. In Jesus we are secure, our identity is secure, so we are free to give ourselves away in service to others, no strings attached. Wonderfully Jesus has sent the Spirit to be with us giving us his power and authority that we might grow to be more and more a living reflection of Jesus.

So my goal in life isn't to win God's favour. In Jesus I have it already; so now I can be living favoured.

That's one reason we've been focusing on baptism this year; for there God speaks and claims us as his children, his favoured children, whom he delights in. What a gift.

The ship is sinking!

A gift we get to unwrap and enjoy as we daily share life with Jesus through the Spirit.

In Jesus we are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. We now live and breathe in the love of God, the favour of God, knowing who we are in Jesus, living true to who we are through the Spirit.

I know at times I lose focus on this reality and need to repent; need to get my mind

back in sync with Jesus. I need to keep my heart beating to the rhythm of Jesus heart; inviting him in, inviting the Spirit to fill me with his presence.

There seems so much clutter that wants to crowd out the Spirit. So much demanding my time, my attention, my life that I become deaf to the Spirit's voice. Maybe I need to repent daily; not because I'm bad, but because I want to hear the Spirit's voice. I want to be led by the Spirit, and if I don't make time, it doesn't happen.

The Spirit is speaking, I just have trouble hearing. That is definitely a change I'm asking Jesus for in my life; to daily, every second of every minute hear the Spirit, being aware of his leading, being aware of his presence. I want to be walking in an intimate, conversational, relationship of love and affection, with