

is. I can trust Jesus, for he has revealed his heart and soul, he has opened up to me his purpose, this thinking and his thinking revolves around a burning passion to see me, to see all people finding life to the full in him.

I don't have to play games with Jesus, but I'm free to be open and honest with him, knowing him for who he is. That's the worship God is after; trusting him for no other reason that we know him for who he is.

I can trust Jesus and talk with him openly about me fears, my mistakes, my greed, knowing he's there ready willing and able to free me, to grow me to be all that he has dreamed possible, no strings attached.

I can be open and honest with Jesus talking with him about my hopes and dreams, listening to him about his hopes and dreams, so that we can walk together into an exciting future characterised by his amazing loving nature.

So in life we have two options; stick with the old covenant and keep playing games, trying to manipulate God to suit our ends. Or we can get to know God, in Jesus, and live an open, honest life, trusting him. We can live with God, in Jesus, through the Spirit, loving him for no other reason that we love him, no strings attached. After all that's how he loves us; not because we're perfect, not because there's

some pay off, but simply because that's who he is and in Jesus God refuses to be anything other than true to himself.

Which thankfully means I get to grow living true to myself, in him, no strings attached. Then his love and wisdom get to flow and grow through me, no strings attached.

My goal, my hope, is to be living with Jesus, knowing him personally, seeking to share life together in an intimate bond of love and affections, as we share openly and honestly from the heart.

What does your life reflect?

20 October 2019
A NEW COVENANT
Jeremiah 31:27-34



In the Old Testament reading we heard Jeremiah prophecy that God was going to make a new covenant.

Through Jeremiah God described the first covenant this way; 'I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife.' (Jer. 31:32)

For some reason the people didn't respond to God's love. He was passionate for his people, but they weren't passionate for him. He was totally committed to his people, but they weren't committed to him. He was totally motivated to live for his people, but they weren't motivated to live for him.

How do you grow passion, commitment, motivation?

God did his best for his people, but they went looking elsewhere. They went looking for what they felt was the best deal for themselves. They went after the best in prosperity, so they could live the good life.

How would you describe such a relationship where you're just in it for what you can get out of it; where you simply manipulate the other person for your own gain? How would you describe such a relationship?

I know some people call it 'Religion'. They simply see religion as people seeking to manipulate God;

either to like them, to bless them, or at least not to be angry with them. Many people I've run across see that this is 'Religion'.

Travelling through Europe I was wondering if that might not be true. I saw all these marvellous buildings. Truly impressive in their size, their grandeur, their art. Why do you think people built these massive buildings? Where they trying to impress God? Where they trying to praise God so he'd bless them? Why did people sacrifice so much to build these edifices?

Does God need what we consider a spectacular building to like us, or to be impressed by us? Does a spectacular

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

building, full of gold and exquisite art impress God? Does it motivate God to be passionate toward us?

What sort of relationship is created by sucking up to someone so they do what you want? Is that 'Religion'; we confess our sins, and are truly humble, so that God will forgive us and bless us. Is that what we're doing today; trying to placate an angry God. Are we trying to get God to bless us so we're prosperous? Is that what we're doing today?

Why do we gather for what we call an act of worship? Is it because if we don't God will be angry, ticked off with us. Do we do it as an act of sacrifice; we sacrifice our time, our money to please God? Why do we gather for what we call an act of worship? Is it so we can feel good about

ourselves; to give us a boost for the week? Is that why we gather to worship God; so we can feel good about ourselves?

God isn't interested in any relationship where we simply use him to get what we want. That isn't 'Christianity'. God doesn't need our

Our passion comes from God's heart.

praise to like us. God doesn't need our grandeur, he's already grand enough. God isn't at all interested in being manipulated, or having to compete with other things to get our attention.

How does God describe the new covenant he will create through Jesus? "I will put my laws in their minds, and will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

And they will not need to teach their neighbours, nor will they need to teach their family, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will already know me." (Jer. 31:33,34)

Did you notice that this new covenant isn't about externals but it changes us from the inside out? We get a

changed way of thinking, and a changed heart, a changed reason for living, our passion comes from the heart. Our passion comes from God's heart; Jesus isn't responding to what we do or don't do, but is living out God's heartfelt passion toward us. Pure and simple, there's no manipulation here. In Jesus, God simply pours out his heart, his motivation flows from the core of his being, his commitment is rock solid because it is a

living reflection of his very nature.

In Jesus, do you notice what changes? In Jesus, we get to know God, personally, for who he is, no strings attached.

And if you want to add strings, to try and pull God into line with you, to manipulate him to do what you want, he cuts them all off. For God lives true to his core, his heart, he lives true to himself, no strings attached.

Which means we now can live life with no strings attached; we can live knowing God personally, allowing his love, his commitment, his motivation to flow into our minds and hearts.

We live knowing God for who he is, simply loving him for who he is, no strings attached. So now we get to live openly and honestly, trusting

God, because we know him. We don't have to play games; what a joy to be able to live openly and honestly, trusting God, simply because we know him for who he is. We love him for who he is; not what we might or might not get out of him.

Isn't that what God is

Is God in it for the money?

after, people who love him simply for who he is, not what they might get from him.

So Jesus comes, not with gold or silver. Jesus comes a human being, just like you and I. He's one with us, so that we might know him for who he is, and then trust him, simply because we know him, know him for who he is. No strings attached.

What a risk God took. Coming with no gifts, just himself. Jesus didn't offer a rich and prosperous life without any suffering. He doesn't even offer a set of steak knives, as we're used to have in all the telly marketing, trying to entice us to buy their product. Wanting to get us to believe they really cared about us and it wasn't all about making a profit.

Is God in it for the money? Is God out to make a profit through you? Is he trying to entice you so that he gets a bonus because he's run a super cost effective business; high output with low expenses. Isn't that the definition of success so many use?

Thank God the answer to all those questions is a resounding no. God, in Jesus, is simply acting true to who he is, so that we get to know him for who he