

Jesus to send the Spirit, that you are aware of his presence. Enjoy his presence. Invite Jesus to speak to your heart, then listen, grabbing the first thought that comes to your mind.

Grab that thought and mull it over with Jesus. Invite Jesus to be real, not a nice theory, but invite him to send the Spirit that you experience in some way shape or form his reality; the reality of his love, of his forgiveness, of the Spirit's presence with you. Invite Jesus in, open the door. Invite Jesus in because you want more than a theory; you want the real person.

Guess what, that's what Jesus is after. Open the door and

invite Jesus in. Invite the Spirit in. Respond to the promptings, thoughts, images, ideas, people's names or faces that come. Share from the heart, and give Jesus space to share with you from his heart.

Today I'm wonderfully reminded that Jesus doesn't want to be a nice theological theory, but he's given his life so that you might share a living, vibrant relationship of love and affections with him; talking with him about everything

because he's the most trusted person in your life.

Today I invite you to do; not talk about, not read about it, but this week find time to be alone with just you and Jesus. Open the door, invite the Spirit in, expect a response, grab that first response. Why wouldn't it be Jesus?

I invite you to live the relationship, Jesus is sick of being a theory.

27 October 2019

WHAT'S ESSENTIAL

Reformation Day



The Reformation celebration is a time for me to stop and reflect on what is essential. Over time lots of good things can be added, good habits picked up, good traditions developed. Over time lots of good things can be added to the point they over shadow what's essential. The good things become more important, or more prominent, than what's essential.

If I were to ask you today, what's the purpose of life? Or more pointedly, what's the purpose of your life? Your answer would reflect what you believe is essential.

Of course that's what Jesus is all about, the purpose of life, the purpose of your life. Is that an important

question? Essential, I'd say, for the way you answer it will either mean you live a life of meaning or waste your life. You may waste your life on good things, but in the end if I've missed what life is all about, I've wasted my life.

Who wants to waste their life?

Today we heard Jesus talking with a bunch of people who believed they were living out the meaning of life; but they were deceived. Honestly, devotedly, passionately, deceived. They were in danger of wasting their life, not only their life but also the lives of those who followed them.

Who wants to live a wasted life? Today I'm reminded that the stakes are high; it is

my life, it is me that is on the line. I don't want to hear at the end of my life; it was a spectacular waste, it all came to nothing, you did your best but you were barking up the wrong tree, you're irrelevant and boring.

Any of those options sound good to you? I know I get the last one thrown at me repeatedly; you're irrelevant and boring.

By the way, I hope you notice that I'm not talking about some nice theology. Good theological statements can also cloud what is essential. We can argue over theology, passionately, believing we're right and it is important, but totally miss what is essential.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Have you noticed that's the Pharisees of Jesus' day? They spent their time talking about God's word, debating the correct interpretation, they were passionate, committed people; but when the purpose of life stands in front of them, he doesn't fit in with their ideas. So they kill him.

I always find that a bit unsettling. Could I be doing that; passionately debating, wanting to do what's right, but miss Jesus, the person. Am I in danger of killing Jesus on the altar of what I consider correct theology?

What's essential? What's the purpose of life, of your life, of you?

Here are three pointers to what is essential; Christ alone, Faith alone, Word alone.

The trap is getting lost in debating these

three pointers and missing what they point to.

What does 'Christ alone' point you to?

It points me to the very real, living, breathing person Jesus. Jesus, the pre-existent God, who was born my brother, lived on this earth,

Jesus is alive.

was crucified and rose, who will return to judge the world. Without Jesus at the core, we've totally missed the point.

And it's not some nice theological statement, it is the real, living, breathing person, Jesus, having a real, living breathing relationship with you today.

If Jesus is just a nice theological statement, I've totally missed the point. Jesus is alive. Jesus

has sent the Spirit so that we know him, today; that we live in a dynamic relationship of love and affection. That we have a dynamic conversational relationship, where we share openly and honestly about what's on our hearts.

Listening to what's on Jesus' heart, seeking to walk intimately together through life.

That's 'Faith alone'. We live out this dynamic relationship of love and trust with Jesus, based on his self-revelation. I don't tell Jesus what he thinks and what he has to do. I listen as Jesus reveals who he is.

Reveals his character; what he loves, what gets him hot under the collar. I let Jesus reveal his true identity to me; and seek to live with him as he has revealed himself.

That's why 'Word alone' is important, for it is the Word, the

Bible, where God reveals himself to use, for who he is. We're not left with guess work, we don't have to make it up ourselves, we have God revealing himself, specifically revealing himself in Jesus.

It is this Jesus who I get to share a living, vibrant, relationship of love and affection with. Daily talking with him about everything, being open to him, listening to him as I seek to walk intimately with him. This is not a theory, but a living, vibrant relationship with a living, vibrant person.

It is so easy to get into a debate about Jesus, about the bible, about our interpretation of faith, that we miss the person. That we don't actually find ourselves living out that relationship with Jesus.

The Pharisees read the bible daily. They memorised it. They debated what it said. But they didn't live in a dynamic relationship with God. They ended up treating him like a theory to be argued over.

Life is not a theory.

Talk with him today.

Life is not a theory, but a relationship to live.

If Jesus can't speak to me, then what do I have. If Jesus doesn't make himself real through the Spirit; are we simply left with a book and some good principles to follow?

Of course that will lead to us debating which are the most important principles. All of a sudden people disappear, Jesus disappears

and I'm left with theories to defend, to debate, to show I'm right and you're wrong.

Is this what Jesus gave his life for?

So today I'm reminded of the essential importance of living life with Jesus; as he has made possible. Jesus birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, sending of the Spirit, has created the reality of living life with Jesus today.

Jesus, through the Spirit, does want to move your emotions, affect your thinking, inspire you, challenge you, motivate you, grow you to be a living reflection of him. This is to be a dynamic, living relationship.

So I encourage you to do something simple this week; find a quiet place, no phone, no noise, no distraction, and invite