

Father's loved child in whom he delights. I'm a 'Saint'; one of the people set apart for life with God because of his amazing grace.

In Jesus we now have the power to shape our circumstances, not the other way around. In Jesus we have the power to make an eternal difference.

Did you notice that one of the fundamentals was the 'Laying one of Hands'? Where here and now Jesus gets to display his power, his life giving power. Our circumstances aren't judge and jury on what is possible, Jesus is; and he comes to be with us in every circumstance of life, so that every

circumstance of life becomes an opportunity to discover life lived with him. Every circumstance becomes an opportunity to know Jesus more and more, to enrich our relationship with him, that together we grow to maturity.

All Saints day this year is a reminder for me to be daily practicing the fundamentals, living life with God now, through the Spirit, because of Jesus life giving death and resurrection. My future in Jesus overshadows today and takes me into eternity, where I live and grow as Father's child, whom he loves and delights in; even when we walk through the turmoil of living.

3 November 2019

ALL SAINTS



Today I'd like to begin with a question: Does our future shape what we do, or do we shape our future by what we do? What thoughts come to your mind?

Strangely I was reminded of the basic principles that Paul mentions in Hebrews: "Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from dead works (evil deeds) and placing our faith in God. You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement." (Heb. 6:1,2)

It strikes me that all these fundamental

principles have an eternal aspect, a future dimension. The two that jump out at me are; the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement.

What comes to your mind when you think of 'eternal judgement'?

It reminds me that there is much more to life that we first see or experience. Without doubt there is an eternal dimension. An eternal dimension which has two options; either with our loving heavenly Father or without him; lost, confused, without his love for eternity.

Knowing that one day in the future I'll encounter God as my judge; that we all will, gets me to view life

through his lens. My understanding of life; what is important and what can wait is shaped by what God declares as important; he'll have the final say.

And what he says will last; last for eternity.

My future definitely shapes my life today. I'm not aimlessly existing. I'm not simply doing the best I know how. I'm not here today and gone tomorrow. I have a future, and part of that future is wrapped in Jesus returning as judge. Returning as the one who will have the final word, not only the final word but his word actually does what it says.

Thank God our lives do matter. Thank God we're not just existing from the cradle to the grave.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

There's so much more to life than what meets the eye. God's view on life is so much more expansive than what I get to see and experience. Thank God your life matters; you matter.

Thank God death doesn't have the final word; Jesus will.

And Jesus' word will breathe life into us. In Jesus we are forever judged; Father's child, whom he loves and delights in. In Jesus, they are the very words Father spoke over you when he adopted you as his child in the waters of baptism.

Did you notice that one of the fundamentals for life that Paul mentioned was; baptisms. Our baptism isn't a one off event that we then forget. It links us to our future, to Jesus. Did you notice that it was baptisms not baptism? We can wash ourselves in the waters of baptism

daily as we daily live in the promises our heavenly Father has made through his son.

One promise is that Jesus would sent the Holy Spirit that we now live life with God, in person. We're not linked to a statement but to a person, who we share life with; the Holy Spirit.

So as I daily live in the promises my heavenly Father has made in Jesus, I'm living ready to meet Jesus as my judge. In fact, I'm eager for Jesus return, to declare to the world that I'm Father's son, that I hold a place of love in his heart. That he defines me, he shapes my actions, there is no place I'd rather be, than embraced in God's love.

What a wonderful world view we get with Jesus as our judge; with our brother as our judge. The one who gave

his life for us that we might have eternal life in Father's loving embrace.

Life is now all about this relationship; living it each day. Letting God lead, direct, shape, grow, mature. And with the Spirit we have God with us now doing all those very things; God speaking into our lives, that we share life intimately with him.

A life that will not be broken by death; but because of Jesus' death and resurrection we come closer to Father. Barriers are removed and we'll see even more clearly the smile on Dad's face.

Isn't resurrection a beautiful word? Death doesn't have the final word, Jesus speaks resurrection; new life. I won't come to an end; I'll be raised to new life; life free of all that now robs life of all that God intends. I'll be raised in Jesus, daily

living out his love, living in his love, growing in his love, knowing without a shadow of doubt; life matters, I matter to God. What a beautiful new life Jesus has in store for us; a life we get to start living now.

So now we repent of dead works, of evil deeds. For we know, in Jesus, what leads to life. We trust Jesus with our life, because he is the author of life. Jesus shapes my daily actions, he determines my life values, he defines my identity. In other words he shapes how I daily live; because that's what faith is. Daily trusting Jesus with how we live; how we see the world, which directs the decisions we make. It's what we get to practice daily; and daily practice results in maturity.

So when face with an issue like euthanasia, I begin with God's world view, his eternal view. Jesus

will return to judge, and his judgement won't be; you're life has become a waste of time, we're better off without you, goodbye! Jesus won't euthanize anyone, he's come to breath his life into us. Jesus will cure us, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." (Rev. 21:4)

Jesus goal is to cure, not eliminate us. Not only that but we don't face suffering on our own. Jesus comes into our suffering and is there with us

What depth of relationship grows when people face life's pains and heart-aches together. So Jesus points us to life in the face of death. Embracing death as your final solution leaves you with a very bitter judge; we're better off without you.

Jesus is my judge; and his word breathes life, hope, love, strength in the time of suffering. Jesus is my judge; and his judgements are always just and true. He doesn't lie, unlike the devil, who can't help himself.

So I repent of seeking life in death; which just doesn't make any sense. And I look for life in Jesus, the living one. The one who has conquered the grave. The one who has died and come back, so that we too might embrace life, life lived to the full, no matter the circumstance.

Wonderfully in God's eternal view, we are not slaves to the current circumstance we find ourselves in. This isn't all there is. This isn't the best it gets. I'm not shaped by the circumstances I find myself in; Jesus shapes me, so that I might live out his judgement on me in every circumstance I find myself. I'm