

everything, following his lead, grabbing what he places on your heart, boldly stepping out doing it.

Then Jesus will get to celebrate a life lived by faith in him; a life lived intimately, personally with him. Then we'll continue that celebration of life with Jesus living in his love and affection.

Today I invite you to give up arguing and quarrelling over disputable matters; like hymns verses songs, liturgy verses no liturgy, gowns verses no gowns, Holdens verses Fords, give up arguing and quarrelling.

Let's all seek to encourage each other to be living by faith in Jesus. Let's

all passionately seek to support the other person to live by their Jesus conscience. Encourage them to risk boldly stepping out in faith doing what they feel Jesus has placed on their heart.

I encourage everyone here today to regularly stop and talk with Jesus about your life choices; no matter how big or small. Invite Jesus to lead, to prompt, to inspire, to convict, to lead your shopping.

That's why we have that wonderful gift called prayer; so we can talk with Jesus, so we can be in conversation with Jesus, and then

boldly step out living life with him.

I talked with Jesus and felt this desire to visit, I got an image of a Nissan, I had the smell of a roast and an image of a table set for guests. I talked with Jesus, he responded, I grabbed that first thought, and went with it, talked it over with him, sought to live by faith; trusting Jesus, risking everything in him.

Jesus I pray that you place on each of our hearts your conviction so that we might live boldly for you, with you, risking everything in you.

13 September 2020

LIVE BY FAITH

Romans 14:1-12



I think this is a delicious reading. I love the way Paul leads us in settling what is a disputable matter.

We're not encouraged to try and win. Paul presents a way of dealing with things without quarrelling. Importantly without quarrelling over, 'disputable matters'.

There are plenty of matters that Jesus makes clear cut. When you look at the story of Joseph it is clear cut, you don't throw you brother into a well and later sell him as a slave and then lie about it to your father. That's not a disputable matter.

There are disputable matters. Paul uses the example of eating meat or not. For

many of Paul's era this was more than just eating meat, it was about eating meat sacrificed to an idol. By eating that meat were they worshipping an idol? This was no little matter.

Paul writes; "Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters." Notice, that puts the onus on you. It isn't meant to bring up a debate about who's weak and who's strong. No, if you think you're right, you're taking the position of the strong. So you are invited to accept the person you consider wrong, in other words has a weak faith.

I'm not encouraged to argue them into my way of thinking. I'm not told to make

then agree with me. That's what I am tempted to do, argue my point, till I win. I'm tempted to dominate the other person.

That reminds me of these words of Jesus; "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant." (Matt. 20:25; Mk 10:43, Lk 22:25,26)

Quarrelling over disputable matters creates what? It creates winners and losers. It creates division. You have a debate followed by a vote; 51% say yes and 49% say no, what tension you are left with.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

<p>You're left with one person doubting themselves, and another on an ego trip.</p>	<p>person eats meat thanking Jesus, knowing it's only meat and they aren't worshipping anything other than Jesus, the creator of meat. It is an act of faith.</p>	<p>When I pray, that's what I'm after. I'm after Jesus guiding my life, because I want to follow him. I seek to risk everything on Jesus, trusting him.</p>	<p>But there are so many areas in life that are disputable, like what computer to buy, what car to buy ,when's the best time to take a holiday, should we only use the organ for worship, we have to meet on Sunday in a designated church building.</p>	<p>Of course in a democracy we have the wonderful privilege to debate certain rules and regulations. Some feel lead to speak, some don't. Whichever way you go let it be an act of faith. Talk it over with Jesus; if he places it on your heart to speak, to write a</p>	<p>I'd encourage you to daily be reading the bible, inviting Jesus to send the Spirit and cultivate in you a conscience that is shaped and motivated by Jesus.</p>
<p>What are we being lead to do?</p>	<p>What is Jesus after? What is Jesus after if it isn't life lived by faith. Faith in Jesus.</p>	<p>I love hearing this passage from Paul; it leads me away from arguing. It leads me to help you take a</p>	<p>Life is full of disputable matters. For those leaving high school, what will you do next year. Jesus invites you</p>	<p>he wrote; "For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: 'As surely as I live, ' says the Lord,</p>	<p>At the end of this portion of Paul's letter to the community at Rome</p>
<p>Paul writes; "Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord.</p>	<p>'Disputable Matters'</p>	<p>risk in hearing Jesus, trusting his lead, and then boldly doing it. Why? Because you believe that's where Jesus is calling you.</p>	<p>to talk with him about it, to share from your heart, to listen to his heart, to grab what he places on your heart, then do it.</p>	<p>'Be Fully Convinced'</p> <p>letter to the Premier, or to peacefully protest, then do it. If Jesus doesn't place it on your heart, don't do it.</p>	<p>he wrote; "For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: 'As surely as I live, ' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God." (Rom. 14:11,12)</p>
<p>Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God." (Rom. 14:5,6)</p>	<p>After teaching on prayer Jesus finishes with these words; "when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?" (Lk 18:8)</p>	<p>An important reminder; this is talking about disputable matters. If you feel lead to worship money, making your life's goal to be rich, clearly that isn't Jesus. Idolatry, no matter the form, isn't a disputable matter, it clearly isn't walking in step with Jesus. He worships Father, and only his heavenly Father.</p>	<p>Following the laws of the land, even the ones you think, know are stupid, isn't a disputable matter. We are clearly told to obey the laws of the land, except when we are told not to follow Jesus. Then we follow Jesus; his clear words.</p>	<p>Don't do it because it won't be an act of faith.</p> <p>The key phrase in Paul's words for me is; "be fully convinced". In other words, let it be an act of faith. I'm doing this because with all my heart I believe it's Jesus' call, it's Jesus' leading.</p>	<p>What will Jesus be hoping to see? Acts of faith. A life lived trusting him, down-to-earth. Jesus will be looking for people who are living by their conscience, a conscience shaped by him, daily in touch with him. Risking</p>
<p>This is a call to live by faith. I am being lead to grow people that they live by faith. That is their action is a result of their trust in Jesus.</p>	<p>Notice Jesus isn't going to ask how many arguments I won. How often I got my way, because I was right. No, importantly Jesus will be looking for people who trust him, who risk following his lead in their lives.</p>	<p>clearly isn't walking in step with Jesus. He worships Father, and only his heavenly Father.</p>	<p>clear words.</p>	<p>leading.</p>	<p>with him. Risking</p>
<p>One person doesn't eat meat sacrificed to idols because to do so would for them be a denial of Jesus. It is an act of faith; faith in Jesus. The other</p>	<p>in their lives.</p>	<p>Father.</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>