

perish but that all may inherit eternal life.

We are all part of God's calling to be his own for ever. The world we live in; the culture of this nation, Satan's influence, world conditions are all contributing to the way we live and exist. The news isn't that good spiritually at this time in history. We have all heard the Word, but most of our ears have become dulled to hearing of what Christ did for us. If Christ made his Second Coming appearance today, many, many people would be very regretful at this occurrence. There would be a lot of grief. This would be soul shattering to those who profess to love God but would be found out doing other things.

But, as bad as things

look from the outside looking in; that also gives us time to do our little bit for God. Christians have the opportunity to tell those whom we know personally, family members, relatives, friends and acquaintances that the best way to achieving spiritual fulfillment; is not found in 'exclusive clubs', or lived vicariously through their children, but from what God has done for us through his dearly beloved Son, Jesus.

I truly wonder if the time, effort and energy that people put into these clubs are worth all the benefit they get back from them in kind: like being wanted, loved, trusted, showing worth, etc.

With God we don't have to prove a thing, because he has already found us worthy to be

in his kingdom. He has passed sentence upon us and loves us just for whom we are with no questions asked. All we have to do is acknowledge him as Lord of our lives and give him the worship and praise because we want to: not under duress or because everybody else is doing it. We give worship and praise freely because we recognize him as our Lord and Saviour.

You don't have to prove a thing for approval and fulfillment. God loves you, and because you believe and receive, you are special in his eyes forever. Amen.

3.5. 2009.

BELIEVE AND RECEIVE.

TEXT; JOHN 10:11-18.

THEME:

That whoever believes and receives Christ will have eternal life.

This week is the third week of 3:16 and the theme for this week, is: 'believe and receive'. Straight away, this brings me to a question of how do we believe and receive. Max gave us a few examples of believe, in that when we just sat down before, we believe that the pew would hold our weight and that we would not break it. We believed that the sun would rise this morning, and we also believe that it will set this evening. These things are 'givens'. We know and believe without a shadow of a doubt they will occur without a second thought.

Next question! What do people in general believe

about their lives, spiritually? And depending of your roots and origins the answers may be many and varied, but I'm asking a layman's question here to your average man/woman on the street! What is capturing all our interests and thoughts at the moment? What are we contributing our lives to? Are we too busy making a living, doing what the Jones' are doing; or perhaps just surviving on the breadline and don't have time to ponder about our eternal salvation.

Don't get me wrong, we need to be intensely aware of the world in which we live in. In particular of what is the government doing for the well being of the people who put it into power? They're not going to forget and renege on the election promises that got them into power in the first place are they? Or, why don't the banks want

to pass on interest rates to help the struggling home buyer? Are groceries getting cheaper or are we being sucked in once again by fancy talk and figures being thrown at us?

Then, if there's a bit of down time in their lives: are people taking the chance to ask themselves, of where their souls going to go when they die? That is, if they believe in life after death? People's answers will astound you! I wonder if those questions apply to anyone, anymore.

We just had our Lutheran pastors fraternal on Friday gone by, and I was the nominated person to do the Bible study; and it was my time to do the Bible Study, and I chose a topic I found on the internet in

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

regards to American Christians being urged to do all they can to warn and tell people about the dangers of 'Swine Flu'. To tell people about the Lord in case they die in their sins; so that when these people stand before the Lord on Judgment Day, Christians won't be guilty of not telling people about the love of God for all people.

This 'Swine Flu' is the worldwide pandemic, that's in all the news bulletins of the world at the moment. You would have heard of it in one form or another. Anyway, during our time, discussions took place, and what I find interesting is that sometimes, someone will always throw in something that hits the nerve of someone else, whereby the discussions can take the long way home until agreement is reached, or time has expired. But I like that because issues surface that you didn't even

think about. In the end, more likely than not; pastoral get-togethers are primarily filled with wisdom, which we all get to share with each other and with our congregations. And, on a more important note, we come away from these meetings knowing that each and every pastor

People have become attracted to clubs

has Christ's central message close to their hearts all the time. That is the most reassuring knowledge that we can be reassured about if we come away with anything at all. In our gospel lesson today, there are a few reassuring things that we can possess for our lives. Jesus gives us a lot to pin our hopes upon. He tells us the he is "The God Shepherd", and that he knows his sheep and his sheep know him; and that he has laid down his

life for his sheep. When Jesus says that he knows his sheep; then, he knows exactly who his followers are; they are the ones who believe in him. He knows them in the intimate, family type relationships. Where you can feel comfortable and at ease with because there is nothing to be suspicious about, when you know he is in your presence.

We feel that safe knowing that we could share our most deepest innermost thoughts and secrets with him. We also know, without a shadow of doubt in the world, that this is someone whom we can fully, rely and depend upon, in whatever circumstances prevail upon us.

Jesus also states in the second half of verse fourteen that his sheep know him. How do you react to that verse? Maybe this is a good time to give yourself a quick mental evaluation of what your relationship

is like at the moment. The conclusion is that church and worship people are seeking environment. A choice is put upon these people and what is decided is not a favorable outcome for the church and Christian existence. are offering usually

Regardless of how you are feeling at the moment, he loves you, and if you don't refuse and reject that love, then you are his forever. This is why Jesus came to do his Father's will, so that every person who inhabits this earth will have a relationship with our Father in heaven.

God loves you for who you are!

That through Jesus' unselfish act of sacrificing his life for the world, he took our sins upon himself so that all may live forever in heaven with the heavenly host and all the saints.

I spoke earlier on; in the introduction about the last of what transpired, but I didn't relay the conclusion and outcome of the discussion, which was 'club mentality'. That topic took on a main theme, thereafter.

We can only pray that God is still working in these situations and that those who are seeking church and they haven't benefit from what they do, don't forget that God loves then very much, and that there may be a better way of choosing how to do things rather than choose one over the other.

In our gospel lesson, verse 16, tells us that, 'I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.' This is of course is where Jesus is referring to the Gentiles being included into God's kingdom. So, no longer is heaven an all inclusive club for the Jews; but now also open to the Gentiles. Christ died for all, and he is willing that none should