

shoots to new life. Some things in our lives can make us feel dead. But God can turn that around, the grey skies in our lives will turn to blue. He is always there working and being with us, in turning the worst situations into the best for his glory.

You can become richly blessed because God himself taken the time to let you know personally that you don't do things alone in life; when you take him as the all in all of your lives.

In our gospel lesson today, verse 8 'For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me'. We, like the disciples have definitely been given the words and we have

accepted them, and we know that Jesus comes from on high sent by God.

And to those of us, who believe in Him, will shall not perish, but have eternal life. We don't need to create little worlds of our own where we believe we are safe and sound where no one or nothing can hurt us now. We get rid of all idolatry that takes God out of our lives, because he is all the fulfilment we will ever need.

Jesus faced his share of loneliness and rejection, but he still trusted that God the Father always had his eyes on him and would never let him go. Jesus blazed a stand alone trail that made him stand out for ridicule and death. Yet his focus was always on what the Father's will

for his life was, and not on what he wanted or desired.

God wants none of his creation to perish. He is holding out his hands to us today in that whoever believes will receive his guarantee of eternal life. So let us who believe in him, continually, live in our baptism, and continue to join in with the Holy Meal, as remember him until he comes again to take us to be with him forever. Amen.

24.5. 2009.

GOD'S GRACIOUS GRIP..

TEXT: JOHN 3:16 & LUKE 17: 6-19.

THEME: To believe in only what the Bible has to say to us.

Today we are looking at God's gracious gift. Our man Max started out with a very poignant assumption in regards to beliefs and how we perceive ourselves in them. Say that, if you were to take a snapshot of society, then, many many people in general if they were asked the question of where they would spend eternity, then I guess that most of them in their honesty, would tell you that their own personal end would be heaven.

And that a lot of people believe that all roads lead to heaven! I know a lot of people who think that Christianity is a waste of time and life. Because, when our lives are over, everyone goes to heaven. Where they

get this belief from? I don't know where it comes from, but I'll hand it over to you to think about that.

So, what do you reckon? Do you believe that the average man/woman on the street that lives a good life; never hurts or harms anyone, is courteous, charitable, honest as the day is long, worked hard all their lives, paid their taxes, lived in peace with all around them, will certainly find themselves in heaven when their days are over?

I'd like to believe that case, for I know many, many good people out there, and to think that they're going to end up in hell instead is not a very good vision to perceive of these nice people who delude themselves that 'doing the right thing' all their

lives will get them into heaven.

The Bible distinctly [John 3:16] instructs us that 'whoever believes' in Christ will inherit eternal life.

I guess that this was the 'All flights and airlines lead to Rome' illustration that Max was alluding to during the clip.

While looking at that clip, I take it that Max is making the point about 'diversity'. When I think of diversity, I think of the many things that are out there in the world. In our thinking in particular, but, I began to think of diversity in what God has created.

He created the flora [trees and plants, etc] along with their exotic smells and aroma's: and the fauna [living

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

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

and extinct creation, i.e. beliefs shaping the way one can hurt us now, (dodo), the human beings they perceive the world there is no one to lord it over us, and we choose of different colours, for them. whom we want to let shapes and sizes [red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in work for five days a kingdom. That way we his sight]. In a secular week, leisure on are in control of all worldly sense, I think of Saturday, then go to situations that arise, and the opportunities that are church on Sunday and we are in control. out there, whereby we then rest, to begin again. can better ourselves so Nowadays, a lot of There is no escaping this that we don't become a people work all the time, kind of mentality, burden on society and and if the opening for a because we get it that we are doing out bit bit of relaxation can take everywhere in particular to make this country the media outlets, a better place for all the television, radio who live here. and papers. They

WHAT IS YOUR SELF INGRAINED BELIEF?

But... one of the biggest sobering thoughts about the world we live in; is/are place, then Sundays They want you to 'self ingrained beliefs'. become that time for indulge yourself and The brain; the 'little activities, because the find the true Meaning to grey cells', and the other six days are taken happiness and juices that flow from up with being busy that satisfaction because you within them, and the this is the only time deserve it. How true are way that they shape our when the leisure and rest these adverts on TV? intelligence and outlook activities can take place. on the world. Of how we see the world around us; The Seekers had a big crisis hit, elderly people of what we believe as hit in the sixties, "world nearing retirement age people who live in a of our own". It does were encouraged to fallen world of sin, seem that a lot of people spend their life earnings whether we realise it or live in a world of their on themselves, to forget not. I guess that you own choosing and about their children and would have to agree that making. So what grandchildren, don't it is so very obvious in happens when we make they need to do the same this day and age that and live in our own as you did? They need to many, many people do worlds? In our own take care of themselves have self ingrained worlds, absolutely no and you need to take

care of yourself. What's live in the grace of God, means we miss out on going to happen in and be guided by him in all that he is giving to us future when someone all we say and do, as we go through our needs to put their hand instead of cleaving to lives upon this earth. on some hard earned terrified consciences and Sure living the Christian cash in an emergency? holding onto life isn't easy, but we do unnecessary burdens and have a Saviour Jesus Pastor Tim and I have sins! Christ who gave his life just came back from so that God the three day of Pastor's By living in a 'world of Heavenly Father can training on our own' making; what have a relationship with "Peacemaking" and this do you think is us in his kingdom, for is one of the things they occurring? Do you eternity. touched on during the believe that these people course of it. It was Some experiences hard going, but one and things that of the things that YOU ARE RICHLY happen to us in our was touched on was BLESSED. lives are not that if we are to get pleasant. But that to walk and talk doesn't mean we with our give up and do thing congregation members are only protecting s in our own way. God in their hard times, then themselves and as far as put things in our paths to how would you 'coach' anyone should be grow and learn from them [pastors aren't concerned, we all should them. We lose so much, counsellors]. But we do be doing that? That when we leave God out need to speak to them sounds like a very of our lives. He may be obviously, and what human thing to do, but putting you in a place they say, will reveal in reality, that is where you don't like to where they truly are at in idolatry. In our own be, and it may be a very their thoughts, beliefs worlds we push God out trying time for you, but and lives. of our kingdom and put he is there with you. ourselves in his stead.

But we're not here to We're in autumn now, play games. And be We say that we no and the leaves are smug in what is longer need God, for we turning brown, and soon revealed. What we want can do it on our own. they will die over to do is help people Isn't that what people winter, but inside these move into the right are saying? We fill our trees and plants are direction to help heal kingdom with what we already new life, and he lives so that people can want and need, which will touch those new