

years ago.

The other key words he said about John 3:16 near the closing of the clip, is that, *Jesus died so that we can live.* That Jesus' death is the rock solid guarantee from God the Father, who gave up his only beloved Son, so that he could gain all people into his kingdom to share his glory forever. He gave his best prized possession so that he could gain us.

Like the Unforgiving Servant Parable, we all have a debt so great debt to God the King, that even all of humanity collectively, could not possibly even make a dent in payment for what Jesus done for us. Nothing else could ever do, or no one else could ever stand in the place of Jesus, he was the only one found worthy to satisfy the Father's

needs for sacrifice.

Jesus blazed a stand alone trail that could lead sinners from death to eternal life. All God wants from us; is our belief, time, efforts, devotion etc, to prove to him we have the hearts and minds that he requires from us, so that his kingdom grows, and that we allow him to lead us in all we say, do and think.

When we hand ourselves completely over to God, verse 13 tell us. 'But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.'

The Holy Spirit is alive and well and is working in many lives today. We gathered

here today, have certainly been touched and moved by the Holy Spirit. Perhaps, even through this sermon, that, if you've heard anything that has touched your thought patterns and conscience, then that is certainly the Holy Spirit speaking to you of God's goodness and grace and the love he has for you.

You may now feel that you want to respond and act? One thing is for sure, you do have the opportunity to tell others of his gift of eternal life for them. I pray that you will see the opening when it comes and that the Holy Spirit will provide the comforting words through you, to those who will face a bleak lost eternity, if you don't tell them. Amen.

31.5. 2009.

THE 3:16'ed LIFE.

TEXT:JOHN 15: 26, 27; 16: 4b – 15.

THEME:
Take, accept and believe what God is offering to you for your eternal future.

Today is the last sermon on the series of 3:16. I don't know if this was done well enough to make everyone aware of this series or if it was a success or not. Mainly because this series came hard on the heels of 'One Month to Live', and by all accounts the last series was very well received, and perhaps we were still all going through the motions of what struck us about that.

In today's grand finale of the series [yes, you heard right], Max puts before us the gift that God has given to us and of how we can accept or reject that offer. The offer is in fact based on John 3:16, in that Jesus gave his life so that we

can live, and that whoever believes will receive this gift. It is an easy offer to accept, with no heavy conditions upon put upon it. But is it as easy as that.

That is, if something doesn't have many conditions attached to it, then, that's a worry.

If something seems too good to be true, then there's something wrong with it, right! What do you reckon, what do you think? Are you the sort of person that will snap up anything that is offered to you at a bargain basement price, or for free? What's the old saying; NEVER LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH. By the way,

does anyone know of the origins of where that saying came from?

Here's what I got off the net in the 'trivia department of local sayings'. Who Said It: St. Jerome When: 400 A.D. The Story behind It: This

proverb is based on the fact that a horse's value is determined by his age, which, in turn, can be roughly determined by an examination of his teeth. The message conveyed is that a gift should be appreciated for the thought and spirit behind it, not according to its value [the point of it]. St. Jerome, who never accepted payment for his writings, first used the phrase in reply to his literary critics. His exact words: "Never inspect the teeth of a gift horse."

If you have an eye for a bargain, or for a freebie, and if something is offered far below the original value of the asking price or given away for free, then our suspicions will warn us that things may not be what they seem. That what is given away

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

may be a dud. But there is also another adage that says, never judge a book by its cover. But we do worry and why not!

In this day and age, nothing is given away for free. To the unwary, there are ulterior motives in the selling of products and merchandise these days by some people's and companies. How many times have you

observed on the television screens, many practical necessary things and gifts being thrown at you for a pittance or

for just about nothing, but with underlying conditions? Then in the not too distant future you hear of someone being terribly hurt by the real truth in their selling [they should have read the fine print, after all]. Then they find themselves on the verge of wreck and ruin, suicidal, desperate and teary eyed, warning others out there in real life land, not to fall into the trap that they were lured into.

You only have to watch

Today Tonight or A Current Affair and you see these sorts of occurrences all the time. I don't know about you, but, I can't help but to laugh, giggle, chuckle or look in stymied disbelief that people and businesses can be so deceitful and unscrupulous, that they will go to such lengths to relieve people of their

Why is a gift a worry?

themselves into huge debts to get their hands on money. Some institutions who do deal with people sometimes make unrealistic expectations on the terms [especially desperate people, who will do anything to obtain the cash] and more often than not, they end up with a stream of money coming into them for the rest of their lives. The people lured or pressured into signing the deals end up with an endless debt that never seems to end.

But speaking about money and debts; it would be fair to say that humanity has a debt to God that it cannot pay

back. The debt we all owe to God, is for the sacrificial death of his dearly beloved Son Jesus. We hear and read of the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, how the king pardoned his debt yet he was unwilling to let his fellow servant who owed him a minor debt of the hook for a paltry sum of the money.

We are somewhat likened the Unmerciful Servant [Matt 18: 21-35], in that we are the ones who owe the king

God wants you in his kingdom!

[God] a debt so great that we could never, ever pay it back. But this is where God's mercy and grace is so great; in that He offers us a way out, by forgiving us our debts, and us in turn forgiving our debtors, so that we can be in the right relationship with him once again. That is an offer that no one should refuse, but many do.

God is allowing us to enter into his kingdom if we accept and believe that Jesus gave his life

This is the gift of eternal life that is offered to the whole world? And if 'Woolies' it has been in existence since Jesus died on the cross and gave his life for us. In the meant time a few thousand years have elapsed since that promise was made. So, a big question arises here: why aren't people flocking into churches, or places of worship

Yet watch the TV set and if 'Woolies' is offering four two litre bottles of Coke for ten dollars, or a variety of cans of Campbell's Soup at half their regular asking price, then people flock there to snap up these bargains, no questions asked. It seems easier to feed the physical needs and the

spiritual needs can wait a little longer to be attended to, maybe on the deathbed or near death. An important point that Max made [if you had to listened closely] was that he reconsidered that offer of that free flight ticket for carrying a mail bag from South America to the States. The key word he used was 'reconsider'. We may have to tell those who may have forgotten about this gracious gift of eternal life, to 'reconsider' that promise which it is still guaranteed today. That this offer stands as good as it did, when it was made a few thousand years or so.