

the way is crystal clear – go out and be about Jesus’

unfinished business. Go out and be his witness, even using words, but Jesus does say that the way people will know we are his disciples is by our love for one another. A lifestyle that puts flesh and

blood on Jesus today. Jesus won’t be asking me about the number of bedrooms in my house, or the colour of my car or what style of music I preferred, or where my favourite holiday location was.

He’s got one simple agenda item. Be my witness, so that other people might come to know me and build a loving, intimate,

vibrant relationship with me.

Jesus’ one simple focus is to build healthy relationships with people, so that he might love them for all eternity, and they might celebrate that loving relationship with him.

Where might we start? Prayer. Asking Jesus to give me a heart for people and not things. Asking Jesus to forgive my loveless actions, where I’ve put things ahead of the people Jesus loves. Asking Jesus to grow me, that I might better reflect him. Asking Jesus to give me the love and courage to go where he sends me, not because of what’s in it for me,

but that I might be about Jesus’ unfinished business.

Let us Pray.

Jesus bring to my mind those areas I need to repent of because I’ve put things ahead of the people you love. Thank you that you love me more than that thing. Free me to live a life of love that reflects you, not just as an individual but as part of your body. Jesus this week give me the courage and the love to be about your unfinished business, being a faithful witness to you, giving you a great reputation, an attractive reputation through the way I live for you. Amen.

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

4 May 2008

The Art of Communication Jesus’ Way.

Jesus is Ready, Expect a Reply

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to PRAYER.” Acts 2:42

Today we remember that Jesus has ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of the Father. Why is that important? What does that have to do with prayer?

It is important because it reminds us that Jesus is now in a position of power and authority. That’s the symbolism of the right hand. Not that Jesus literally sits at the Father’s right hand, but that he now exercises power and authority. A power and authority which

no-one nor anything can refuse.

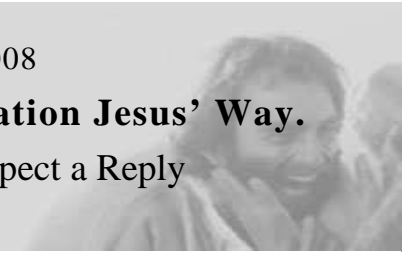
What does that have to do with prayer? It reminds us that the person we’re talking to, who has invited us to talk with him has the power and authority to do what he says. Jesus has ascended to heaven not to ignore us, but to use his power and authority so that we might do his will.

Jesus has left us with some unfinished business. Jesus ascended to heaven that he might empower us to finish what he started. We don’t exist to be entertained, living comfortable lives. That’s not the goal of life. The goal of all

Jesus’ disciples is to finish off what he started. And we have the power and authority to do it, for Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father. He does have the power and authority, so that when we speak in his name we’re not speaking empty words, or making empty promises, or when we pray, we’re not speaking into the wind.

Jesus is alive, and he is at the Father’s right hand exercising that power and authority so that his people can finish off what he started. We’re left with unfinished business.

Jesus told his disciples; “This is



what is written. The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:46,47)

Jesus’ unfinished business is that he wants all people to know him, to trust him, to give their lives into his hands. He can be trusted. He has died for us. He is alive and well, and has the power and authority to forgive sins, to heal that which is broken, because his words aren’t empty pipe-dreams.

So we go out in Jesus’ power and authority being his witness to those who don’t yet know Jesus. We are empowered to share how Jesus is at

work in our lives and what a difference he makes. That’s why people are to tell that we are his disciples by the way we love each other, because Jesus wants it evident through our actions that he really can make a difference. A difference that sets

The disciples were devoted to prayer

people free, that is fruitful. Jesus ascension also reminds me that he’s coming back. That’s part of the message; Jesus hasn’t left never to return, but he will return to finish what he started. He will return to claim those who are his own, to claim those who follow him as his disciples. What a great promise – Jesus is returning.

Returning to claim us, that we might share life with him in his home. Which in Jesus, and through his power and authority is also our home.

Jesus will be returning to finish what he started. That’s the goal of the church, to be about Jesus’ unfinished business, till he comes and finishes things.

Jesus sits at the Father’s right hand using his power and authority for the church, so that we might boldly go where he is sending us. So that when we speak our words are full of his power to change people’s hearts and bring them into a loving relationship with the Father through the Son, lived out in the Spirit.

We’re not constructing some earthly structure that can stand the test of time, but we are bringing people into a loving relationship with Jesus that will last for eternity. Structures come and structures go, but Jesus’ love never ends.

When Jesus returns what will he be wanting to talk with you about? One thing I’m sure he’ll be keen on is you introducing him to all your friends, that together you might spend eternity celebrating his love.

We don’t have to wait till Jesus returns to talk with him about those we love and are dear to us. We can daily bring them to the foot of his throne and ask him to make himself known to

them, in the way we love, in the words we speak, through the community life we have. As we put flesh and blood around Jesus in the way we love each other and those people we love, but who as yet don’t know Jesus’ amazing love for them.

Jesus invites you to pray about his unfinished business

My one simple, constant prayer is that all the people I love, my family as far as it extends, and all my friends might come to know Jesus, in a deep intimate relationship, and that they then might share that most wonderful relationship and live it to the full. Live it to the full today, tomorrow and for all eternity.

Eternity is way too long to exist unloved.

Part of the ‘Good News’ is that as we witness to other people that become our family and friends in Jesus. Jesus becomes wonderfully inclusive, if we let him.

Sometimes though we want to tell Jesus what to do, and then that becomes rather exclusive. In Jesus’ kingdom there is only room for one King, and that position, in Jesus, is already taken. My goal isn’t to tell Jesus what to do, but to listen and go. To go out and be about Jesus’ unfinished business.

When Jesus returns it will be to bring completion to what he started, nothing else will count. So if I want my life to count,