

set about living in that joy, knowing the pain is worth it.

Don't ever focus on the pain, it'll only feel worse, focus on the joy, on the outcome, on the wonderful day of celebration when Jesus returns and his Father hands him his bride, on the wonderful day of celebration when the Father takes up living in his new home, on the wonderful day of celebration when all of the Father's children are together at once, feasting around the family table celebrating life together.

Let us pray.  
Jesus thank you for going to the cross and enduring it's horrors that we might join with you in the joy of being loved by the Father, the joy of shared lives together now and forever. Help us when we grow weary. Fill us with the joy of our salvation, fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might know deep in our hearts the wonderful hope we have of sharing life with you as the Father's loved, precious child, who he is well pleased with. Keep our focus on the wonderful joy you bring. Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



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

10 March 2010

## WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED

### The Reason to Endure



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:1-3

The theme set for tonight is; ‘The Reason to Endure’.

From this reading what was Jesus’ reason to endure? Paul writes; ‘For the joy set before

him Jesus endured the cross.’ What was the joy set before Jesus? A holiday home on the coast, a new car, guaranteed income, a pain free life. We all know that they weren’t the joy Jesus set his focus on. What was the joy set before Jesus? Ask the person next to you what they think.

As I reflected on that question, it reminded me of something I read recently that highlighted that the Father has come to gain a bride for his son.

When I reflect on weddings people jump through a lot of hoops, and spend lots of money and time because they’re focused on the joy that is set before them. We go to great efforts to celebrate a wedding, that the couple might be

blessed and have a wonderful life together.

Jesus endured the cross, for it was through the cross that he woos his bride, that he forms his bride. That’s what the church is; the Bride of Christ. When Jesus returns it will be to take his bride. And as part of the bride I look forward to Jesus’ return to celebrate our life together. A life that has begun but will move from courting to living together as a married couple under the Father’s blessing.

I also read that God is looking to build himself a new home. When you shift into a new home there is joy. While the building is happening there are times of frustration, anticipation, and rectification. Sometimes things aren’t according to the

architects plan and they need to be knocked down and done again. But the pain and frustration is worth it. It is endured because of the hope of a wonderful new home, built just right. The joy of the finished home helps you to endure.

Of course the church is the new home that God is building. Jesus is the master architect – not to be confused with Freemasons who worship the devil as their architect. How does Jesus build this new temple? With you and I. Jesus builds with people of faith, who he has claimed through his death and resurrection. Jesus builds with people who follow him, denying themselves, taking up their cross and living intimately, living daily with Jesus. Jesus is the one who shapes them, both as an individual and as a community.

Jesus is building a new home for his Father. That means there is no such thing as an isolated Christian. That's a contradiction in terms. Jesus saves us individually that we might live together as his community, as the new temple where the Living God resides.

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### What was the joy set before Jesus?

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That's why we now have the Holy Spirit. God in person residing in his new temple directing the construction according to Jesus plan, so it will be just how the Father dreamed it would be.

We can look forward and rejoice as our Father's home is being built, and not focus on the odd rectification, but focus on the joy of the finished home and the wonderful times that will be shared

there. The wonderful family times that will be enjoyed at home with Dad.

Which is also what Jesus was joyful about; birthing a new family, so that the love Father and Son have for each other is shared and the family is multiplied.

There certainly is great joy at the birth of a child. If mother's focused on the pain and not the joy of the child we might end up with zero population growth. When a child is born into a family there is great joy.

Jesus focused on the many births that his death and resurrection would make possible. The pure joy of celebrating the birth of so many new sisters and brothers. The pure joy of a wonderful, large, enormous family.

The other day I saw on TV a family of nineteen thinking about twenty.

Compared to the Father's dreams that's nothing. He's after a family of billions. A family that reflects his image, as children do. We all reflect our parents, some traits more than others.

Jesus is after a huge family. Maybe that's why the one rite he gave us was a family meal. On the night Jesus was betrayed he's found doing what? Having dinner with his family, celebrating the Father's love, as it was expressed in the Exodus story of the 'Children of Israel'. Notice building a family a community family that bears his image isn't anything new, but that's part of God's eternal plan, part of the joy he looks forward to and so was willing to go through the birth pains of the cross, which make any birth pains look like a picnic.

Jesus wasn't simply suffering the pain of a few nails, and the agony of suffocation. They were the least of his worries, by far his greatest pain was bearing the punishment of the sins of the world, tasting the depths of hell so that we don't have to. So that we might know the joy of

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### Keep focused on the Joy of Jesus.

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birth and life as part of the Father's family.

So when Jesus taught us to pray, how does he begin; 'Our Father'. What joy. Jesus doesn't keep us at some formal distance from God, but draws us up close and personal. Hey Dad, did you hear what happened today. Hey Dad do you want to come and watch me play this week. Hey Dad, sorry, I know I hurt you, forgive me. I wonder why in services

we tend to make our prayers formal and impressive, but not real. Jesus endured the cross for the pure joy of birthing a new family. A family that would reflect his Father's family image, so when you looked at them you could see the family likeness. That's why we forgive, it's our DNA.

That's why when we talk about loving one another, we mean we're prepared to die for each other, just like Jesus, it's our DNA in the Father.

So Paul encourages us not to grow weary and lose heart, but to focus on Jesus and there see his joy in his bride, in the home he is making, in the family that is being birthed and grown to maturity. I'm sure Jesus is in heaven right now smiling, bursting with joy as he sees all this coming to be. Let's not lose heart, but keep our focus on those things that bring joy to Jesus and then