

That's why Jesus' words today are so poignant and merciful: "Repent and believe the good news". Jesus is that good news who has come into the world. He is all for us! So, when we repent and believe, we are going about God's business. Life is sweet, our troubles won't go away, but are made bearable because we know we have a God who cares for us. Even knowing that, isn't it sad that end up doing our own business and follow after our own desires, sometimes even without realising it?

There is another character mentioned in our gospel lesson today as well. Verse 13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. Yes, Satan has been cast out of

heaven to earth and is alive and well. And he is doing his utmost best to turn people away from the love of God. He uses any device and gizmo's he can to catch Christians' out; either by hook or by crook, whatever, to deceive people into thinking about their own goodness which is taking them away from hearing the word of God in this very day and age.

Just in closing, Jesus' baptism is our baptism where we have a relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We have our whole being in them. The Old Testament tells of Noah and his family and their wives being saved in a world that was drowned because of man's wickedness. Pharaoh and his army was drowned in the Red

Sea, and when we were baptised our sins were drowned as well. But we still have to live and we will continue to sin, but we can repent and die daily to our sins when we confess them remembering our baptism. God is also just to forgive us so that we can continue to live in a right relationship with him.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, I thank you that you have planted your word and seed in us to continually hear your word where many voices in this world are trying to drown your word of the good news of Jesus out. Keep us in your love and help us stay strong. Amen.

26.2. 2012.

Repent and believe the good news.

Mark 1: 9-15.

Today in the sermon I want to concentrate particularly on verse 15, with Jesus' words of 'repent and believe the good news.' Let us pray: Heavenly Father, thank you that you have called us and brought us here today, to hear your word in a world that is clamouring out for our attention. Amen.

In today's world, there are many voices, aiming to get our attention so that we tune in to what they're saying to us or what they want to sell us. Whether it's believable or not is up to the individual. You can make your mind up whether you want it or not as well. There are some interesting things out there and it can get to you. In the end you have to know what business you are in! Collectively; all of us gathered here today tell me that we're in the

business of God and his worship. Where I am in Adelaide, I'm in the business of going out into the Aboriginal community and meeting people to see if they want their spiritual needs met or not. Most people I come across are courteous and say they're all right, and that they know where to go when they need a spiritual fix: while others give me their own philosophy of where their life's at and where they see themselves in it, including me as a pastor: which means I have a role in it!

I'm sure that collectively as Christian people, some of you too, would come into contact with people out there [outside of God's kingdom]; with whom you want to share God's love and kingdom with. And making a connection can be hit or

miss; easy or hard, or even downright impossible if people's ears are closed to receiving the 'Good News' that Jesus has come into the world. I still have the venomous words of a distant cousin ringing in my ears, 'if you come around; don't you dare talk that nonsense, blah, blah, blah...'. I guess that if you were to say to some acquaintance, 'Friend, if you're sick of living in sin and you need to "repent and believe the good news, then I'd like to invite you around to our church', then I reckon that you might be in for an interesting discussion [that's if you've got an interesting person you're interacting with – which can go both ways], and I'm speaking in the context



that they are agreeable and comfortable with you. is a reminder to us all, of opinions, emotions, us of how great God's promises, false hopes love is for each and and let downs on a every single one of us in steady basis. So I've

First problematic a world that is offering a been reading my old question they would ask shallow counterfeit philosophy stuff which I would be, 'why should I contentment. I don't skimmed over in ALC, repent when I've done know if you may of read which thankfully I had nothing wrong!' Very this or not, but I was not thrown away, which rarely would you get the reading an interesting has now come in handy other response of 'yes, article the other week in understanding Law I'm a sinner, I'm in about how [the and Gospel in the Bible, trouble and I need God's Australian public] are in regards to preaching help', even though it can being told big fat lies and also in every day and does happen _____ conversations; it when people are receptive and in the right mood. Science and technology have provided a lot of _____

Gift of grace.

but is it enough? directly to our faces i. e. compare philosophy to Mankind has come up politicians, banks, Theology; they are quite with so many clever supermarkets! Very distinct. In a nutshell, inventions and tools to seldom will you see a theology is a gift of make life a lot easier and denial from these people grace from God above; bearable; but we cannot because their faces are and nothing on this earth heal and forgive so stern and believable can compare with that ourselves to be complete in what they're telling truth. Philosophy is and made whole like us. Their philosophy is man's own thinking and God can work and do in amazing. experience he calls upon us. We know ourselves to understand things.

that when we mess up, If you've been thinking even when we don't that I've has been giving realise we're doing this philosophy thing a wrong, we have a bit of a hammering and earth coming Saviour who loves us today; then go to the top together by the Triune and can forgive us our of the class. Because of presence of God the sins. the amount of people I Father, Son and Holy meet and interact with, I Spirit. Mark 1: 10 Just

The gospel lesson today get my fair share of as Jesus was coming up

out of the water, he saw power in those words. over us all the time. heaven being torn open God spoke and all That's something to and the Spirit creation began. In the keep in mind when we descending on him like a Old Testament, God feel like we might want dove. 11 And a voice spoke with Noah and to do the wrong thing for came from heaven: made a covenant with a moment or two. But "You are my Son, whom him that there would there's no need to fear I love; with you I am never be a terrible Flood God, for he is our well pleased." The again and linked it with heavenly Father. God Triune Godhead came to a sign of the rainbow in helps us to overcome earth because they care the sky. In the New fear and punishment and about you and love you; Testament the sign for because he gives us because you are worth it. believers is Jesus hope for blessing and This knowledge should baptism is the Holy mercy. get your spirit going. _____

No modern gizmo's or gadgets can get your heart and mind excited more than knowing that the God of all creation _____

God loves you!

loves you more than Spirit. John said he question blew me away, anything else created baptizes with water, and and I told him there upon this earth. now Jesus baptizes with must be some deep the Holy Spirit. thinking going on there;

With Jesus coming out of the water, and the Another sign that is done? He didn't tell me Spirit descending upon pointing the way is but I guess he must have him; the heavenly Father prophecy being fulfilled; messed something speaking his approval; in the coming of the chronic [maybe an heaven and earth are in Promised One, none uncontrollable vice that unison. I hope your other than Jesus. In the blights his life], and can't help himself in well, that is, as Mathew 28, Jesus tells doing the right thing by Christians we journey his followers that he will God. It got me thinking; through life on earth but be with them until the is that why many people have a final destination end of the age. And he give in to their desires in a heavenly home. with us, we just don't and wander away from Today we hear God's have the spiritual eyes to God; and suffer the spoken words: and when see him. Remember: consequences come God speaks there is God's eyes are watching what may?