

This year I (Pastor Tim) would like to challenge us to do five things that will invest our time, our energy, our possessions in growing Jesus kingdom together. This world is passing away, Jesus kingdom is coming.

So here are the five ways I'd like to challenge us to together invest in Jesus' kingdom. First to pray for the entire world. To emphasis prayer, and this Wednesday morning you have an opportunity to gather for prayer. Second to read through the bible in a year. No, to listen through the bible in a year, letting Jesus influence you, guide you, shape you, as you read the bible. Thirdly

that we sacrifice our money for a specific purpose which grows and extends Jesus kingdom. Fourthly to spend time in another context. To personally go and be Jesus presence in a different community. I dream I've long had was to go as a church community overseas to live out God's love to a particular community, and build a personal relationship with that community. The fifth is to commit to a multiplying community. An example would be getting together with three other people to read the bible, pray for each other, care for each other, with the intention of inviting

other's to join in, so that they could go and find two others and start a similar community.

This year let's deal as sparingly as possible with the things this world thrusts on us, and invest our biggest and best efforts in what grows Jesus' kingdom.

Let us pray.
Jesus we thank you for calling us into your kingdom. Help us this year to use our time, our energy, our money and possession, our person to grow your kingdom. Help us apply these five ways of growing your kingdom.

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

22 January 2012

IN WHAT DO YOU INVEST?

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

In this chapter of 1 Corinthians Paul is replying to questions about marriage. One question was whether to marry or not. Of course marriage is a wonderful relationship, created and blessed by God. Paul in answering this question raises a principle which is good for all aspects of life. In the Message Paraphrase we heard; "Deal as sparingly as possible with the things the world thrusts on you. This world as you see it is on its way out." (1 Cor. 7:31)

That got me thinking about the Ship that recently sank. After it hit the rocks, people could have rushed down into the hull and tried to repair the damage, or they could have got busy lowering the life boats. To get down in the hull of the

ship with your angle grinder and welding gear might have been a bit futile. The ship was on the way out, and the need was to get out.

Paul paints the big picture; the world is on the way out. No amount of patchwork is going to save it. Jesus kingdom is on the way in, and when Jesus returns it will burst in. Nothing and nobody can stop Jesus return and his kingdom.

So Paul's advice is to make your decisions based on what is going to happen in the future. Invest your life in what is coming, Jesus and his kingdom, and not on what is on the way out.

This is sound investment advice. If I asked you to invest all your money, to sell your house and

everything you owned in a company making ploughs for horses, what might be your response? You'd call me crazy and go and invest in a company which is developing and making the latest in technology. Here's a growth industry which will reap benefits and not lose everything.

So Paul's advice is to make your decisions based on Jesus return and his kingdom. That's the future.

Investing yourself, body and soul into a sinking ship is quite plainly a bad investment, which can only reap loss. Where investing in Jesus and his kingdom will result in life, love, eternity. Following Jesus is the best investment, because he's the future, he's returning to establish his kingdom,



everything else is passing away.

The reading from Jonah is an example of people investing in God's future. Jonah was sent to call this community to repent. He didn't want to go because he knew God would be merciful, and he wanted to see them burn. The community did repent, and God spared them.

If they had chosen to hold onto their old way of living; it brought them wealth, comfort, prosperity, power and position, they would have lost everything.

Jesus once told a story; I know as the 'Shrewd Steward'. A man was going to lose his job. What would he do? He didn't want to beg and he didn't want to dig. So he used the resources he had at his disposal to build a secure future. He gave generous reductions on

all the accounts to win people's favour.

Then I read the story of 'Lazarus and the Rich Man'. The Rich Man lived in luxury all his life. He lived for himself and all he could get out of this life. Where did he end up? Regretting his life and wishing he could

The Best Investment, Jesus' Kingdom

change, but he couldn't do anything. Lazarus lived dependent on God, which looked a failed life, but where did he end up? In God's loving embrace, with far more than he ever could have achieved by his own ability. He'd trusted God, and God always comes through on his promises.

Then I was reminded of the 'Rich Fool'. He has a great harvest, so he built bigger barns and said to himself: "You

have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:19-21)

What was wrong with the 'Rich Fool'? He thought life and the world revolved around who? Himself! He'd invested in himself, but that proved to be a poor investment, because he lost himself.

Notice when Jesus calls people to follow him they; 'Deny themselves'. When Jesus called Andrew and Peter we heard; "They dropped their nets and followed." (Mk 1:18) When Jesus called James and John;

'Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands and followed.' (Mk 1:20) When Jesus calls people to follow him, it is a call to invest your whole self in this relationship.

Andrew, Peter, James and John all walk away from their previous lives and now invest themselves in this person Jesus and his future, his kingdom.

Lot's wife, when they were fleeing for their life from Sodom and Gomorrah, looked back. She looked back to find her life there and became a pillar of salt. She had the wonderful opportunity of escaping and finding life in the LORD, but she lost everything for a few fading experiences.

Thankfully in Jesus, God has called us to be part of his kingdom, to invest our lives in what he's doing. What a

wonderful privilege and opportunity, to be building a life that isn't just here today and gone tomorrow, but is here today and flourishing tomorrow. Investing your all in Jesus is the wisest investment of your life, your money, your possessions, your time and your energy. Jesus'

This world is on the way out!

kingdom is the future. Jesus will return, and his kingdom of love, mercy, grace, joy and peace will be established.

This reminds me that the resources I have now are gifts to be used to grow Jesus' kingdom. I have food, so now I can love the hungry. I don't live for food, it's a resource God has blessed me with so I can invest it in him, in his will, in his kingdom.

I have money, not so I can feel secure and do what I want, but then I'm resourced to show love, to care, to give expression to my trust in Jesus as I give it away, knowing Jesus holds me in his hands. The money I have will leave me, Jesus won't. He's coming to embrace me in his loving arms that together we join in the Father's celebration of life.

Today I am reminded; "This world as you see it is on its way out." (1 Cor. 7:31) Jesus kingdom is on its way in. Jesus is returning, and he will fulfill all the promises he has made.

As citizens of Jesus kingdom this is our world view, the big picture which helps us to invest life wisely. To invest in Jesus and the future he will bring, as we use the resources we have for his kingdom.