

he lives. His life is serving the Father, trusting him with every aspect of his life. His life is evangelism, for whatever he does reveals his Father, inviting people to join him in this wonderful relationship. Jesus life is worship for everything he does is telling the world how precious the Father is to him, what the Father is worth to him.

Paul reminded the leaders he wrote to to keep focused. To keep focused on the person Jesus and the relationship he created for people to share with him and each other. Don't get side tracked

debating over words; love as you are loved. Don't have add-ons, your life with Jesus is your ministry, your life with Jesus is your evangelism, your life with Jesus is your worship. In the end all we have is Jesus, the person. All we have is a person we are sharing life with, would you like to get to know him. I'd like to get to know him more and more each day, growing in his love and intimacy everyday.

If I'm not doing this, walking with you and encouraging you in this same relationship them I'd be wasting my time.

Let us pray.
Jesus there is nothing more we want that to share your life with you. Come and fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we are open to you, getting to know you more and more, growing in our relationship with you. Jesus save us from distractions and arguing over words, may we always use all we have and all we are to give living expression to the precious relationship we have with you.
Amen.

30 September 2012

PAUL TO THE LEADERS

E100



The heading for this week's E100 readings was; 'Paul to the Leaders'. If you were to write a letter to the leaders of the church what would you write?

This week we have a short story about 'Honest Pete'. Let's see what Pete gets up to. (DVD 'Hones Pete')

He wasn't very honest was he? What was 'Honest Pete' motivated by? This week we read; "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." (1Tim 6:10) Pete had sold his soul in his pursuit of wealth to achieve his promised land. Pete was looking for the good life; good life in the sun. But to get there Pete lost himself, lost his conscience, lost respect for other people, he lost

all that was of true worth.

So interestingly the reading for Friday focused on Jesus return. I too long for life in the sun, but not the sun in the sky but life lived with Jesus, the Son of God. This is the Promised Land I'm seeking to live in. Life in the Son, life with the Son of God, Jesus, is where I'm wanting to lead people.

When the sun sets it can become very bleak, cold and miserable. I'm sure if 'Honest Pete' ever got to his dream land it wouldn't be all that he hoped for, because he's be there with all his broken promises, all his fears and regrets. Pete would still be using people as a commodity to fulfil what he wants. Selfishness simply

doesn't have the power to produce a fulfilling life. I've noticed that my appetite always wants more!

But life lived in the Son, Jesus, is wonderfully different. I'm reminded of that great promise of Jesus; "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10) In Jesus I don't drag with me all my hurts and pains. I don't drag with me my regrets and failures. In Jesus I don't drag with me my insecurities and unfulfilled desires.

The joy of living in the warmth of the Son is that he heals me. I love standing outside on a sunny day, feeling the warmth of the sun soak into me. I also love standing in Jesus' presence feeling the warmth of his love soak

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

into me. Standing in the sun is invigorating. Life with the Son is invigorating.

My goal is to lead people into a living relationship with Jesus, the Son, so that they might be living invigorated by this relationship. One thread that came to me was that of 'living life together'. A shared relationship between us and Jesus, empowered through the Spirit. That's Jesus' passion, to share his life with us, that we might be invigorated by his presence.

Paul warns Timothy about getting sidetracked. He warns Timothy about pointless arguments about words; "Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen... Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will

become more and more ungodly." (2 Tim 2:14,16)

It is so easy to get sidetracked and miss living with Jesus. Jesus hasn't come to join my debating team, he's come that I might share life with him; today, tomorrow, forever.

Have you ever noticed that debating with people doesn't create love, even if you happen to win the argument? Talking through a personal issue. Taking the time to listen and understand. Risking being open and vulnerable is a different thing all together. That's how we live a relationship.

Winning an argument can become more important that the

person I'm talking with. After all I'm right, and you should acknowledge that, and then everything will be fine.

If that's how Jesus treated us what sort of relationship would we have? I'd give up talking with him, because being

argumentative is really boring after awhile, especially seeing he'd always be right. That would just be infuriating, and deflating.

Jesus doesn't need to win an argument, his goal is to love you. He's invited you to trust him with your life and follow him as his disciple. Discipleship isn't primarily an education tool, but here Jesus shares his life with us that we grow to maturity and depth of character. That we grow to be all that he has given his life for us to be; the Father's

children whom he loves and delights in.

Ultimately Jesus is returning, not to set an exam to see how much we've learned, but to take our relationship with him to a new level of intimacy. Then we'll share life with Jesus person to person. The love we have will reach a new height and that love will be powerfully displayed in the way Jesus' brothers and sisters share their life together with him.

Jesus is returning hoping to find faith. That's people who have been living with him, sharing life with him and each other based on his love. Jesus sent the Spirit so that we might begin living in his presence, now. Now we can enjoy the warmth of his love. We don't have a grey, dreary existence but we can live now in the warmth of the Son's loving embrace, sharing life

today based on the trust he has created through his crucifixion.

This is no scam. We don't have 'Honest Pete' only out for what he can get, using everything and everybody as a commodity to satisfy his appetite. Thank God for that. We have Jesus,

who can be trusted. We don't have a scam but Jesus risking being open and honest with us, so we can live open and honest with him. This is Jesus' Promised Land. Where we can live in the warmth of the Father's love together, being invigorated for life.

Did you notice that 'Honest Pete's' goal shaped the way he lived?

His goal was to get rich and live life in the sun using any means possible. This wasn't some add on he did when he had some spare time, but it shaped his life. That's religion. The question isn't do people have religion or not, but what is your religion?

Jesus' religion, his goal is to live in the warmth of his Father's love. Jesus doesn't obey his Father to get something but because that is his delight, to live in the warmth of his Father's love. To live out a relationship of unbridled trust. That's what he has invested himself in 100%.

Jesus hasn't compartmentalised his life; doing a bit of ministry here, some evangelism over there, squeezing in some worship when he's got the time. Actually Jesus' life is his ministry. It's in the way

My life is my Ministry

My life is my Evangelism
