

around me. I'm not a slave to the world around me, jumping when it says jump, dancing to it's tune. Thank God, in Jesus, I'm not a slave, I'm abundantly free in Jesus. Free to be all he calls me to be. Free to live in his power and authority. In Jesus I'm free to be the person he has given his life for me to be.

Today I'd like you to answer the question; what has Jesus been doing the past 2000 years with your life; as you walk with him, in his power and authority, becoming all Jesus has dreamed possible. Allowing his presence to radiate in your life; destroying the work of the enemy, bringing light and life into the lives of the people you meet.

Jesus gave his life so that you might be his answer of life to this generation; as you live, walking and talking with him, as you proclaim his kingdom, as you invoke his power and authority in your life. You're Jesus' called disciple. You're Father's loved child. The Spirit lives in and through you. Jesus gave his life that you, that we, might be his answer of life to this generation.

Let's pray. Jesus, thank you that you have been incredibly active over the last 2000 years, bringing people into an intimate relationship of love and trust with Father, lived out daily in the person of the Spirit. Jesus, thank you for

being so active, and passionate, that you have reached us, reached me, here today, that this week I can live that wonderful intimate relationship of love you have created. Jesus, I invite you to send the Spirit to open my heart and mind to understand more and more the truth that the same power at work in your resurrection is at work in me, in us today. Jesus, this week, let us be aware of the Spirit with us so we live in your power and authority in every area of life and in every relationship. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

15 July 2018

WHAT'S GOD BEEN DOING?

Ephesians 1:3-14



This week I was asked an interesting question; what's God been doing for the last 2000 years? What came to your mind just then? What's God been doing for the last 2000 years?

The conversation went on; 'he forgave our sins on the cross; what's he done since?' What has God done since the cross? Is that what it's all about; Jesus winning forgiveness on the cross? Is that all there is?

I found this a really interesting question to be asked seeing this Sunday we begin a series of readings from Paul's letter to the people of faith in Ephesus. Here Paul seeks to reveal God's plan, his plan for his people. The people he has called to

follow him; to follow Jesus, directed by the Spirit.

If I think Jesus goal was simply to be crucified so that we might be forgiven, what is missing? Is Jesus' crucifixion where God's work finishes, or does it just open the door for his active, personal, intimate activity amongst us?

Today we heard Paul setting out God's plan; a plan he has been actively unfolding for the last 2000 years. We heard; "Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people (the activity doesn't stop at the cross). We're a free people – free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our

misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. *Abundantly free!*" (Eph. 1:7,8)

Over the last 2000 years God has been seeking to live this abundant life with us in the person of the Holy Spirit. A life which amazingly can be characterised by the very power that raised Jesus from the dead.

Here is one of the most amazing things God reveals about his plan. Paul is praying: "I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. (Here comes the mind blowing thought) This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honour at

God's right hand in the heavenly realms." (Eph. 1:19,20)	We discover Jesus' peace when we find ourselves living in his power and authority.	He's calling you to trust him, to follow him, to walk through life trusting him, relying on his power and authority, to bring about what he has promised.	share, what do you get?	looking forward to the fullness of that life when Jesus returns. But we most definitely have begun living in that new relationship, now.	You're not a slave to the forces around you. In Jesus, the devil doesn't have the power to condemn you. In Jesus you are not the result of what you might be able to achieve. That's just way, way, way too limited, to small, to impotent compared to what Jesus has created to be possible.
Did you hear what Paul just said? It blows my mind; the same, do you notice it is the same power that raised Jesus is at work in us. It is the same power, so what does that infer?	What has God been doing over the last 2000 years? Seeking to grow faith in people, that they might let go and live by his power and authority and discover the	Jesus is calling us to follow him; that is an incredibly active life. That is the meaning of the word 'church'.	The devil destroys; he breeds conflict, envy, greed, violence, a desire to take what I want when I want because I believe it's my right. The devil comes to steal and kill and destroy. He hates God with a passion and wants to destroy what is most precious to God; you and me, people.	Jesus has been at work the last 2000 years growing his kingdom, so that our lives, our very identity, is now a	
What has God been doing for the last 2000 years; maybe trying to get us to live true to who we are in him, instead of trying to make the world in our own image.	He's calling you to trust him.	The 'church' is a called people. Called by Jesus, responding to his voice, together following him, in his power and authority, destroying the work of the enemy and extending Jesus' kingdom.	Jesus has blessed us with the same power and authority.		Remember, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you. Death, lose, grief, don't define you, Jesus does, and he's breathed his new life into you. He's breathing his new life into you, today!
When you think of world peace, what comes to your mind?	If I won't let go and continue seeking to live life on my terms, I'm restricting God to what I can do, what I feel is possible, what I think reasonable. How limiting is that!	You see there is a war on; the devil is seeking to take over using his power and authority. He's a rebel, simply doing his own thing, so that he benefits according to what he wants. And the outcome of such a selfish life is horrific.	But Jesus has blessed us with the same power and authority which raised him from the grave, so that we might extend his kingdom. Jesus has blessed us with the same power and authority which raised him from the grave so that we might live a new life, now. Live it now,	living expression of him. He has come and called us; and through that call he empowers us, to be his disciples. That means to live and grow and become more and more like him. To be transformed into Jesus image, and not be mashed into the world's form.	It's Jesus' story that defines our life, that defines who we are, and what we can do. What Jesus has been through defines me.
Do we achieve a world at peace by removing all weapons, by treaties and bills of rights? Do we even know what peace is?	Jesus dying on the cross is how he has set about breaking these chains that rob us of life. Jesus dying on the cross is God inviting you to trust him and to live by his power and authority.	When you have two people one apple and no willingness to		In Jesus you are not mashed and bashed by forces beyond you, into the results of those consequences.	That's why the cross is so central; it is what Jesus has been through that defines me, not the world
Jesus has come into the world that we might have his peace; which is fullness of life in him.					