

Newsletter

16th May 2021

Sunday's Reading

Romans 8: 18-39

"What in the world is God doing?"

Tom Golding will bring us the word this week.

Some Prayers of the people

- Pray for those who are unwell, having tests and awaiting results that God's healing hand will be upon them. Give thanks to God when we see or hear of prayers answered.
- Please continue to pray for the countries of the world who are struggling with massive numbers of covid19 cases daily, in particular the desperate situation in India. Give thanks for our safe country.
- Continue to pray for Dave and Lil Barnett and the team at Ernabella and for the continuing work of translation and the distribution of the Pitjantjatjara Bible in the APY lands.
- There are many who are coping with difficulties and really appreciate the support of the congregation with the "Tithe a tin Pray a packet" outreach, thank you.

➤ **Prayer Chain**

The church has a prayer chain for those who need prayer during an emergency or crisis, the Initial contact people are Julie Wylie (87623812) or Julie & Kevin Cooke (87620732, 0428620733). Please call the contact person and your prayer request will be forwarded on. We encourage you to share any answer to prayer that you feel you can to the prayer chain as encouragement to them.

Notices

Tom Golding will be speaking on Saturday May 15th at 94 Woolwash lane Stewarts Range (Trevor Barnett's place)

BYO Bible and chair

9.30am Session 1 "Mt Sinai is our past".

10am morning tea

11am Session 2 "The New Covenant is our Present".

12.30pm Lunch BBQ lunch meat supplied please bring a salad or dessert

2pm Session 3 "Mount Zion is our Future".

3pm afternoon tea

RSVP May 10th to Trevor (0407390565) or Sue (0473201347)

Marriage Course

We will be holding the Marriage Course in June.

The updated Marriage Course has new teaching content, creative short films, global stories, and expert insights –hosted by Nicky & Sila Lee.

7 episodes of the Marriage Course:

- Strengthening Connection
- The Art of Communication
- Resolving Conflict
- The Power of Forgiveness
- The Impact of Family
- Good Sex
- Love in Action

We are looking to hold this over 7 Thursday evenings in Wesley Hall. Meal and refreshments included.

Attached is a link to a short video giving an introduction to this course:

<https://youtu.be/qba2wYpXgUs>

Contact Andrew 0417 811 773, Simone 0425 809 760 or Robbie 0455 663 556



Name tags: As our congregation is growing, please wear your name tags as this will help people get to know each other and also help with remembering names. Please let Lois or Teresa know if anyone requires a name tag.

If you have any notices or news,
please share so we may celebrate with you or offer support in any way.

Mid-Week Bible reading

1 John 5:1-12

English Standard Version

Overcoming the World

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Testimony Concerning the Son of God

⁶ This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. ⁹ If we receive the

testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

A few verses back, John gives us the key to understanding the first part of this reading: “We love, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Love starts with God. It is God’s Spirit working in us that allows us to love God and love each other. Jesus famously provided what he called a new commandment:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another”. John 13:34

The world will push back on us when we are called to love like this. Loving God and loving each other is difficult, impossible even, without the power given to us by God. But we are given this power when we put our faith in Jesus Christ. This is the only way to overcome “the world”.

Jesus tells us in John 16:33 “... in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

We too will overcome the world because, just as Jesus is God’s Son, we too as children of God and have the power through the Holy Spirit to overcome the world and obey God’s commandments.

In fact, the test that we love God is that we keep his commandments! (1 John 5:2 above).

It is our faith, our trust, our belief in Jesus that allows God’s Spirit to work in us in this way. But on what basis can we believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

John suggests that God has provided for us ample reasons to believe. And he tells us that if we don’t believe what God says about Jesus, then we are effectively calling God a liar. And that can’t be good!

Hence, the second part of the reading above talks about three things that allow us to believe. “the Spirit and the water and the blood...”

What are these three witnesses? One way to think of these is to centre our thoughts on Jesus. As verse 6 puts it: “This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood.” This refers to the whole ministry of Jesus. Beginning with his baptism in the Jordan River (water) through to his death on the cross (blood). At his baptism he was commissioned by the Holy Spirit to begin his ministry. There he identified with us all. In his humanity he identified with all humanity and in John’s “baptism of repentance”, repented on our behalf. On the cross he absorbed the outworking of all the sin and evil in this world including death. If Jesus had not absorbed this outworking, then death would have been the result for us.

So, Jesus’ life with us, (the water and the blood), the simple facts of salvation history, are the witnesses that provide grounds for us to believe in him. When we read the Bible, we are receiving the truth about Jesus, the facts of this history.

The third witness is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God’s gift given to all believers. This God living within us.

“The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us”. (1 John 3:24).

This third witness is critical. But again, the Spirit is God's gift. We don't really know God until in his love and mercy he gives himself to us allowing us both to love him and to obey him. And when we do this, we know him as well.

Andrew