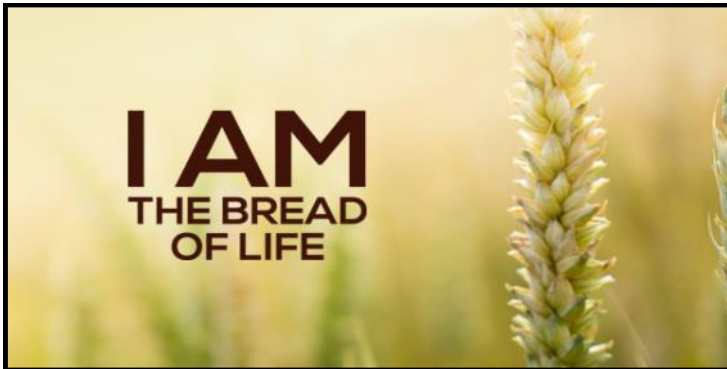




2ND AUGUST 2020



TODAY:

Series: The Great I Am

Study 2: I Am the Bread of Life – John 6:22-40

Speaker: Pastor Tony

Lord's Supper – Please take the opportunity of preparing your own elements of bread and juice.

Sunday 9th August

Series: The Great I Am

Study 3: I Am the Light of the World – John 8:12-20

Speaker: Pastor Tony

For viewing log on to the Church Website - ftgbc.org.au

*‘And Jesus said to them “I am the bread of life,
he who comes to Me shall not hunger,
he who believes in Me shall not thirst.”’*

John 6:35

A Word From Tony

Mass or Lord’s Supper?



Today we turn to the first of Jesus;
‘I Am Statements’ in John 6;

“I Am the bread of life he who comes to Me shall not hunger, he who believes in me shall not thirst.” We find later in John 6 some people confused and finding it hard to understand what Jesus was speaking about. Well, this confusion has continued for some up until today and, has led to some wrong interpretation. In the Romans Catholic Church, focusing especially on John 6:53-57, they have adopted a concept called ‘transubstantiation’. Trans - meaning to change, Substantiation - meaning a substance - Hence, transubstantiation being to change a substance.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that once an ordained priest blesses the bread of the Lord’s Supper, it is transformed into the actual flesh of Christ, though it retains the appearance, odour, and taste of bread; and, when he blesses the wine, it is transformed into the actual blood of Christ, though it retains the appearance, odour, and taste of wine.

As mentioned, the passage pointed to most frequently is John 6:32-58 and especially verses 53-57, *“Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life ... For My flesh is real food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him ... so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.’”*

Roman Catholics interpret this passage literally and apply its message to the Lord's Supper, which they title the "Eucharist" or "Mass." However, those of us who reject the idea of transubstantiation interpret Jesus' words in John 6:53-57 figuratively or symbolically. Jesus often taught in parables or used metaphors and symbols to teach spiritual truths. And, Jesus made it very clear earlier in John 6 that bread and wine were metaphors of having life in Him.

Also, in John 6:63, Jesus declares, *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life."* Jesus specifically stated that His words are "spirit." Jesus was using physical concepts, eating and drinking, to teach spiritual truth. Just as consuming physical food and drink sustains our physical bodies, so are our spiritual lives saved and built up by spiritually receiving Him, by grace through faith. Eating Jesus' flesh and drinking His blood are symbols of fully and completely receiving Him in our lives.

Furthermore, the Scriptures declare that the Lord's Supper is a memorial to the body and blood of Christ (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25), not the actual consumption of His physical body and blood. When Jesus was speaking in John chapter 6, Jesus had not yet had the Last Supper with His disciples, in which He instituted the Lord's Supper. To read the Lord's Supper back into John chapter 6 is unwarranted.

The most serious reason transubstantiation should be rejected is that it is viewed by the Roman Catholic Church as a "re-sacrifice" of Jesus Christ for our sins, or as a "re-offering / re-presentation" of His sacrifice. This is directly in contradiction to what Scripture says, that Jesus died "once for all" and does not need to be sacrificed again (Hebrews 10:10; 1 Peter 3:18).

Hebrews 7:27 declares, *"who does not need daily, as the other high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people, for this He did ONCE for all when He offered up Himself."*

The Lord's Supper teaches that rituals are good, and they are instituted and used by God to 'connect' his people with him. We learn through ritual that the church is not just made up of individuals, but is a corporate body. It is not just about personal salvation, but a group of people, the people of God, who are bound to one another and to the faithful through the generations.

— Peter Enns

THERE IS A REDEEMER

*There is a redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Holy One*

*Jesus my redeemer
Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Oh, for sinners slain*

*Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done*

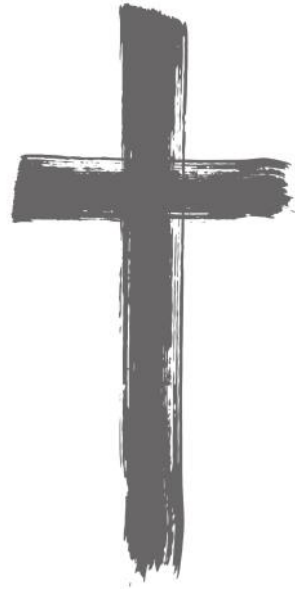
*When I stand in Glory
I will see His face
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that Holy Place*

*Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done*

*There is a redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Holy One*

*Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done*

Songwriter: Melody Green



Pastoral Availability:

Tony will be working from his home office but can be contacted on 0406686715.

Please note: Under current restrictions Tony can only meet personally with people under special circumstances. If you have a need to meet, please contact him.



Church Ceilings

Work by CHAD plasters was completed on the ceilings in the auditorium, morning tea room and kitchen this week. Many of you would have seen the picture sent out in Friday's text. However, even though the work has been completed, lighting still needs installed. Frank Schlag is currently looking into this. It will be much simpler as the now suspended ceilings provide easier access. We will keep you informed when the lighting has been completed.



To continue worshipping the Lord with tithes and offerings you can:

Do a bank transfer into the Church bank account. Details are:
ANZ -Ferntree Gully Baptist Church
BSB: 013287
Account: 296710027

Cheques written to Ferntree Gully Baptist Church may be sent to:
Andrew Ullrich 15 Chedworth Crt
Kilsyth Sth 3137

Birthdays:

2nd August Lorraine Gray

7th August Mirjam Engele

Remember to notify editor of any other celebrations in your family.



Bible Study, Old Testament Characters – Moses

Moses Seeking Justice – Exodus 2:11-25 & Hebrews 11:23-29

Moses was born a Hebrew and raised an Egyptian and experienced a struggle of divided loyalties. He was put in a dangerous situation in which he had to choose between the two. Moses must have struggled off and on through the years until one day he can no longer ignore his true identity.

At the age of forty, Moses sees an Egyptian slave master beating a Hebrew slave and he decided to step in and take action. It would appear that Moses had a strong sense of justice, but apparently acted rashly. Moses kills the Egyptian and buries him in the sand after first looking both ways to make sure no one saw him.

The next day Moses is doing his rounds again, this time he comes across two Hebrews fighting, so again Moses' sense of justice kicks in and he steps in between them to try and stop the fight. What happens next shocks Moses. One of the Hebrews confronts Moses over his authority and also confronts him with the murder of the Egyptian. Like most crimes, the crime Moses committed is "found out" and Pharaoh determines to kill him. At this point Moses flees into the desert.

When he arrives there he finds a watering hole, a well. When he is there some women trying to draw water, are driven off by some shepherds. For the third time in the story Moses' sense of justice rises up, he drives these Shepherds off, and then does the humbling task of watering the flock of these women. Moses stays with the father of these women, and in the end marries one of them and has a child, Gershom.

Questions

Read Exodus 2:11-25. What does Moses do to try and help his fellow Israelites?

What might have been some of Moses feelings and motivations before during and after the incidents? (See Acts 7:23-29)

Moses was raised in an environment of opulence, power and knowledge (see Acts 7:22). What did it cost him to get involved? What will be or is the cost for you?

Despite Moses sensitivity to the injustice he witnessed, why are some of the particular actions he takes wrong?

What mistakes have you made in the past in a genuine effort to and right a wrong?

How does Moses again demonstrate an active concern for justice when he arrives in Midian (vv. 15-17)?

Moses spends the next forty years with the Midianites. Meanwhile the Israelites “groaned in their slavery” and cried for help. Describe God’s response in verses 24-25. What can we learn from this?

Some content taken from ‘A Life Guide Bible Study Book’ by Peter Scazzero

I AM

God who still listens.

God who still answers.

God who still heals.

God who still forgives.

God who still leads.

God who still directs.

God who still cares.

God who still loves.

BIBLE SOCIETIES AT RISK

The financial fallout from the coronavirus pandemic has left dozens of Bible Societies around the world at risk of closure. Lockdowns in many countries has halted the sale of Bibles, while also impeding vital fundraising work in local churches.

In some countries, like Jordan, Burkina Faso and Egypt, the Societies are one of the few places where people can buy a Bible. They are also one of the principal drivers of Bible translation and engagement work, and run many additional programs to support vulnerable minority groups like street children, the blind and the illiterate.

The Bible Society was founded in 1804 by Christian campaigners, including William Wilberforce, and there are 150 Bible Societies in operation around the world today. But some 88 of them - serving 245 million people - are threatened with closure.

A £5m scheme has now been launched by the Bible Society in England to save the most at-risk Societies, with the first set of funds already earmarked for Gambia, Sri Lanka and Costa Rica. Oldi Morava, Director of International Mission for the Bible Society, in England, said, "Bible Societies have been operating for more than 200 years. We've gone through two world wars and the 1918 flu pandemic. We've always been able to continue. It would be dreadful if some Bible Societies around the world had to close now because of the coronavirus pandemic."

*A World
Fellowship
of Bible Societies*

UNITED
BIBLE
SOCIETIES

BIBLE READING TRENDS

Recent research in USA shows that Bible reading has declined during the pandemic. Between 2011-2019 13.7% of population said they read the Bible daily. In the past 12 months this has dropped to 8.5%. The study suggests that church connections influence people's engagement with scripture probably through meetings and small groups.

When the pandemic first hit, online evangelical ministries including the Billy Graham Evangelical Association reported increases in inquiries but this hasn't translated into Bible reading. Interestingly this research shows that millennials (25-40 year olds) read and know the Bible better than their parents and grandparents with 26% reading multiple times a week. Adults aged 75 + are least likely to read multiple times a week—only 10%. Source: Christianity Today



Camps at Anglesea, Wilkin and Burnside, Grampians and Mill Valley

Thank God for:

Blessings that we had a craft camp online which went really well, and some people donated their fees to support BCV.

The blessing that we have raised \$20K in other donations.

Pray for:

Jenine our Business Manager, who is moving on to another job. The Business Manager position is working in a unique environment with Covid19 and BCV prays that God will lead the right person into this position.

All the staff have done a fantastic job working around all the Centre pray for their work and safety.

We pray that we can trust in God for our financial security in the future, and BCV can get back to be a more robust ministry for God.



God's Wake-up Call

"Good morning! This is God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If the Devil happens to deliver a situation you cannot handle, DO NOT attempt to resolve it, kindly put it in the 'SFJTD' (Something for Jesus to Do) box. It will be addressed in MY time, not yours.

Once a matter is placed in the box, do not hold on to it or attempt to remove it.

Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem. If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper resolution.

As I do not sleep, nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep.

Rest, my child.

If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.

Remember, rest in me.

God."

Author unknown

Please pray for Audrey's son Ben and his family. Ben was diagnosed with motor neurone disease this week. He and his wife Colleen live in Churchill, Gippsland where they are involved in a local church. Please also keep Audrey in prayer as she comes to grips with this recent news and supports Ben and the rest of the family.



Gisela is praising the Lord for the success of her recent operation. She also give praise and asks for prayer as she commences a certificate IV in mental health this week.

Please keep Hubert Z in prayer as adjusting to living in his new residence at Tabulum is difficult with the current lock down and not being able to come and go and he was hoping to.

Keeping praying for Evelyn awaiting results of her colonography.

Continue praying for the many Muslims coming to faith especially in Iran at this time; some impacted by the regimes handing of the COVID-19 pandemic. Keep our new brothers and sisters in prayer as they are experiencing persecution. Pray also for Christian leaders looking into how they can disciples new believers. Many meet in their homes and through the internet for Church.

Please keep staff and residents of our aged care facilities in prayer throughout the Melbourne Metropolitan area during the current COVID-19 virus infection. Especially uphold Tabulum, Martin Luther Homes and Baxter Village Aged Care Facilities where we have members of our Church family currently living.



Pray for cross cultural workers who are experiencing times of restriction, uncertainty, waiting and limited opportunities.

Rob and Deb were suddenly presented with a window of opportunity to return to their team in Cambodia. We praise God for this provision and for their safe return.

Many are uncertain about future travel either to the field or home again. Please pray also for the GIA leadership as they seek to encourage, support and guide workers.

Pray for the MISSIONS & WORKERS
we take an interest in including...

Andrea Rothweiler (Wycliffe PNG)
Ange Bakhtiari FTG Nth Primary
School chaplaincy
Andy and Cathie Staunton
(GIA Cambodia)
Mukti Wings of Hope
Reach Beyond Helga



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Frank Schlag - 8790 2550
(Property)
Jeanette Ullrich - 9762 7115
(Playgroup)

On my daily
walk:

Where is
everyone going?

