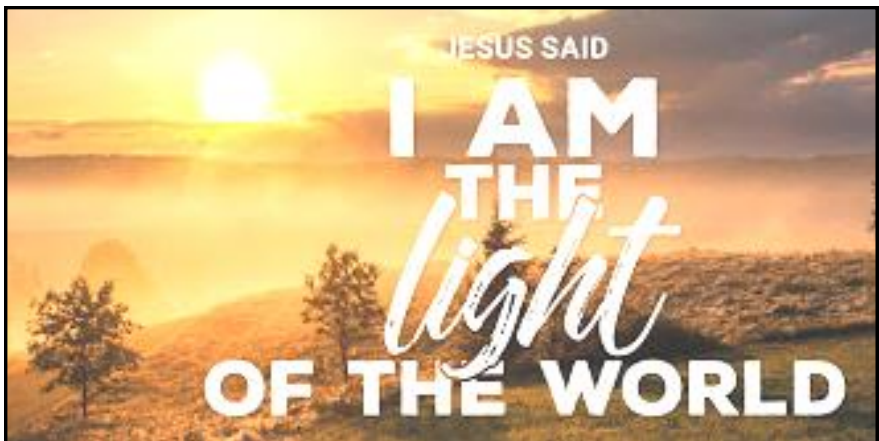




9TH AUGUST 2020



TODAY:

Series: The Great I Am

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

Speaker: Pastor Tony

Sunday 16th August

Series: The Great I Am

Study 4: I Am the Door of the Sheep – John 10:7-10

Speaker: Pastor Tony

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

*‘Then Jesus spoke to them again saying
“I am the light of the world.
He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness,
but have the light of life.”’* John 8:12

A Word From Tony

A Detour That’s Not A Detour

John Piper writing on the passages in John 8 about Jesus being the Light of the world points to verses 13-29 which he says could be seen as a detour. He writes: ‘The dominant focus in the apparent detour in verses 13–29, the detour away from “I am the light of the world”, is that the testimony and the judgments of Jesus are true because of His relationship with God the Father. At least seven times in this passage, Jesus points to the fact that He is from the Father, and speaks on the authority of the Father, and is going to the Father, and does nothing on His own. He claims, in other words, that His authority is not owing to any human origin. It’s owing to His relationship with God the Father.

Imagine the greatest human authority you can, and He is saying: I don’t pretend to have that. What I claim is that I speak from God and for God and as God. I don’t testify to any autonomous human greatness. What I claim in and under all I say and do, is that “I am.” I am one with God, the great “I am” (Exodus 3:14). Verse 24: “Unless you believe that *I am* you will die in your sins.” Verse 28: “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that *I am* .”

And the reason I say this emphasis on Jesus’s relationship with the Father is not really a detour from verse 12, “I am the light of the world”, is that the way Jesus is the light of the world is precisely by being one with the Father. Jesus is the light of the world because He comes from the Father and speaks for the Father and is going to the Father and is one with the Father.

So these words of interaction with the Jews look like a detour from “I am the light of the world,” but in fact, they are constantly pointing to the way He is the light of the world — by coming from the Father and going to the Father and being one with the Father.’

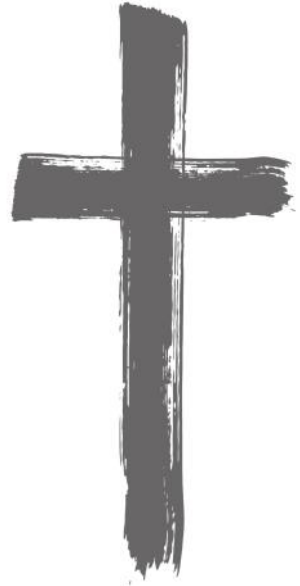


In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.



Songwriters: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

*Light of the world
You stepped down into
darkness
Opened my eyes, Let me see
Beauty that made this heart
adore you
Hope of a life spent with you*

*Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that
you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

*King of all days
So highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the
earth you created
All for love's sake became
poor*

*Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're
my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

*I'll never know how much it
cost
To see my sin upon that cross*

*Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're
my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

Writer: Tim Hughes



End of Financial Year

At this time of year, we would usually meet together at our Annual General Church Life Meeting to consider reports from the past year, look at membership, consider overall expenditure and formally pass a budget for the next 12 months. Due to the current restrictions, the Elders and I have met and decided to streamline our reporting this year.

Shortly, you will receive by email or mail the following documents:

Pastors Report

Secretaries Report

Financial Report for 2019/20

Proposed budget for 2020/21

*Membership numbers to remain as is and revised at end 2020/21 when information is clearer and possible movements clarified.

Time will be given for any one from the Church family to ask any questions on expenditure during the 2019/20 financial year and respond to the proposed budget. The budget will take into account (especially for the next 6 months) reduction in use of the Church property and ministry opportunities. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Andrew Ullrich, Rainer Luppá or myself. Tony



Birthdays:

13th August Eric Engele



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

Bible Study, Old Testament Characters – Caleb and Joshua **Overcoming the Impossible – Numbers 13:26-14:10**

Joshua and Caleb are two Israelite men whose stories offer an example of faithful commitment to the Lord and overcoming the impossible. Both men came out of Egypt with the Israelites through the Red Sea and into the wilderness. Joshua and Caleb were selected along with ten other men to explore the Promised Land and give a report to Moses and the people (Numbers 13:4-16 names of the 12 men).

God had promised Abraham that there would be a Promised Land for the nations to come out of his son, Isaac. The land of Canaan which the spies were to explore was the same Promised Land. Moses asked for an assessment of the geographical features of the land, the strength and numbers of the population, the agricultural potential and actual performance of the land, civic organization whether their cities were like camps or strongholds, and forestry conditions (Numbers 13:17-20). He also told them to be of good courage and to return with samples of local produce.

When ten of the twelve spies showed little faith, in the doom and gloom report they gave about the land, they were questioning and not believing what God had promised them. They did not believe that God could help them, and the people as a whole were persuaded that it was not possible to take the land. As a result, the entire nation was made to wander in the desert for 40 years, until almost the entire generation of men had died. Joshua and Caleb were the two spies who brought back a good report and believed that God would help them succeed. They were the only men from their generation permitted to go into the Promised Land after the time of wandering (Numbers 32:10-12).

The faithfulness of Joshua and Caleb teaches us that we are to stand for God even when others will not. When we do, God may choose to bless us in ways that will extend for generations to come.

Read Numbers 13:26-14:10. What report do the spies give to Moses, Aaron and the Israelite community after forty days of spying out the land (vv26-29)

How does Caleb's perspective differ from that of the majority (v30)?

What further negative information do the rest of the spies mention to oppose Caleb (vv31-33)?

How do the people react to the differing perspectives (14:1-4, 10)? Why is the temptation so great for them to return to Egypt?

Imagine that you are one of the Israelites at the border of the land God promised to give you. What thoughts and feelings would you have as you listened to both sides of this debate?

How do Joshua and Caleb respond in the midst of the tremendous unbelief of the people (vv6-9)

Due to their lack of faith in the promise and the power of God, this generation of Israelites, except for Joshua and Caleb, never entered the Promised Land (Numbers 32:10-12). How could our lack of faith prevent us from experiencing God's blessing and power in our lives?

How can the example of Caleb and Joshua encourage you to trust God more fully in one seemingly impossible situation in your life, even during these times of COVID-19?



Questions taken from
'A Life Guide Bible Study Book'
by Peter Scazzero

Thank you Scott for your 'Questions, Comments, Feelings' segment every Sunday morning. It is really helping us feel actively part of church.

I have decided to answer the questions here this week and would encourage anyone who would like to share their responses with the rest of the church to forward them to me and I will print them in the newsletter.

When did I first hear of Jesus?

It was at Sunday school when I was about four years of age. I remember being told I needed to ask Jesus into my heart and in my mind I did that repeatedly because even at that age I wanted a relationship with him. However, I also knew that nothing had really changed in my life until I was 14 years old and finally surrendered to Jesus in a meaningful way.

What are the differences between that first teaching and how I walk with Christ now?

At four years of age, I knew Jesus loved me but He was not my Saviour. At 14 years of age, He became my Saviour, although I did not fully understand His forgiveness of my sin. Over recent years, I have come to understand this more fully. Having a lot of thinking time in recent months, I have been reflecting on my life and become even more aware of my sinfulness and past sins and failures. In this reflection, my Lord Jesus Christ has constantly reassured me that 'there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus' (Romans 8:1) and 'He has removed (my) sins as far from (me) as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12).

I also have a deeper awareness of His presence constantly with me than I had all those years ago.

Margaret Penford

Jesus, The I AM quiz

1. Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will . . .'
 - A) never die
 - B) do many works in my name
 - C) never thirst
2. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but'
 - A) will have the light of life
 - B) have light shined on them
 - C) they will say, 'Blessed is he who comes in God's name
3. Jesus said, 'I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me . . .'
 - A) are careless shepherds
 - B) are thieves and robbers
 - C) are good shepherds
4. To whom did Jesus say, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'?
 - A) woman at the well
 - B) Mary
 - C) Martha
5. To whom did Jesus say, 'I am the way, the truth and the life.'?
 - A) James and John
 - B) Andrew and Peter
 - C) Thomas and Phillip
6. Jesus said, 'I am the living bread . . . If any man eat of this bread, he Shall'
 - A) be invited to the marriage supper of the lamb
 - B) live forever
 - C) filled with gratitude
7. How does Jesus describe himself in the book of revelation?
 - A) I am the Alpha and omega
 - B) I am the Living One
 - C) I am the root and offspring of David
 - D) All of the above

For answers go to:

1. John 6:35, 2. John 8:12, 3. John 10:7-8, 4. John 11:24-25, 5. John 14:5-8, 6. John 6:51, 7. Revelation 1:8, 18 and 22:16



BibleLeague[®]
INTERNATIONAL

Tony received a letter and thankyou certificate from Bible League International this week confirming and giving thanks

for the \$894.45 gift that our Church fellowship gave during our recent time reading and praying through there booklet together. They confirmed that our gifts would be used to provide Bible for persecuted Christians.

They also gave some overall information about what Bible League International was able to achieve over the past year.

- . 2,157,708 people reached with the Gospel
- . 141,057 people trained (Philips, Bible-based Literacy Facilitators and Church Planters)
- . 16,212,657 Bible and other Biblical resources provided
- . 1,779 Churches planted.

They wrote ‘Your generosity along with many others demonstrates the love of Christ to so many. Thank you again for partnering with us to help serve the under-resourced Church globally and transform lives worldwide through God’s Word.’

Prayer needs:



**BAPTIST
WORLD AID
AUSTRALIA**

Be love. End poverty.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has the potential to push more than 70 million people around the world into extreme poverty. Particularly support in prayer our Partner Agencies in Nepal, Cambodia, Bangladesh as they respond to the pandemic in very difficult circumstances.

Support in prayer the International Programs Team for wisdom, for opportunity to interact, for positive impact as they provide support to our Partner Agencies in their response to COVID-19 as well as continue to monitor and direct the current development programs.

Pray for the Board and Executive as they meet to review and plan, as they continue to lead BWA during this challenging, changing season.

Continue to pray for Ben, Colleen, Audrey and the rest of Ben's Family, church and friends as they come to terms with his diagnosis of Motor Neurone disease.



Pray for Wendy Bytheway in Germany as she seeks God's guidance regarding remaining in Germany for the next six months and the need for a tenant in her house back here in Melbourne.

Pray for some of our church family working in front line capacities: Carola, Johanna, Elizabeth and Bethany Schlag all providing home care, Cindy Hughes and Ashley Gillespie providing care for residents in Aged care facilities, Georgia Fredricks (Caleb Schlags fiancé) working as a nurse in public hospitals. Pray for wisdom for them in how they carry out their work but also protection from the COVID-19 virus.

Pray for those of our church family, extended families and friends who are isolated in aged care facilities; for their safety, well being and care.

Continue praying for our Governments both Federal and State as they have to make important but often significantly impacting decisions during the COVID-19 crisis.

Pray for the Belgrave Heights Executive and Council as they make Decisions re possible Conventions planned for later in 2020 but also for early 2021. Also, praise the Lord for how ongoing finances have been provided during this period of time.

Pray for the people in Lebanon impacted by the recent explosion in the dock area of Beirut. Pray for the Church in Lebanon to respond to the needs both physical but more important, spiritual.

***The same sovereignty that could stop the coronavirus,
yet doesn't, is the very sovereignty
that sustains the soul in it.***

John Piper

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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Chirnside Park 3116

Email: tburgum@optusnet.com.au

Phone: 0406 686 715

Elders:

Rainer Luppa - 9758 4195 (Secretary)

Andreas Ullrich - 9762 7115 (Treasurer)

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Deacons:

Frank Schlag - 8790 2550
(Property)

Jeanette Ullrich - 9762 7115
(Playgroup)

Bulletin Editor: Margaret Penford

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On my daily
walk:

Beautiful camellias
over a neighbor's
fence.

