



6TH SEPTEMBER 2020

TODAY:

Series: The Great I Am

Study 7: I Am the Truth and the Life
– John 13:31 – 14:7

Speaker: Pastor Tony

Lord's Supper

(Please prepare your elements of juice
and bread prior to the service)

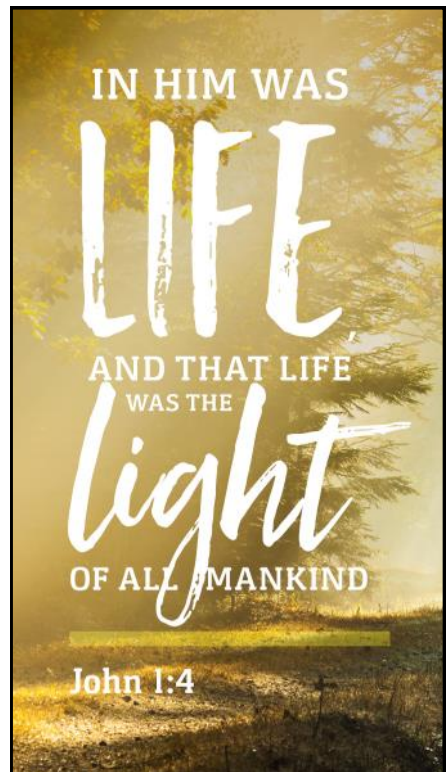
For viewing log on to
the Church Website -
ftgbc.org.au

Sunday 13th September

Series: The Great I Am

Study 8: I Am the True Vine –
John 15:1-17

Speaker: Pastor Tony



*'Jesus said to them
"I am the way and the truth and the life,
no one comes to the Father accept through Me"'.
John 14:6*



Message From Tony

The Narrow Way

Jesus is the Way, The Way to the Father, The Way of life, The Way to salvation. Jesus lived on earth to point us to the Way but also to show us by His example how we should walk as those of the Way.

But we need to be mindful that Jesus calls this “the narrow Way.”

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14.

How do we find this gate, the entrance to this narrow Way? It’s not by being exceptional people, or by doing something that makes us deserving of finding it. It is simply because God in His love and mercy has provided the WAY back into a relationship with Him. Paul describes it this way in Ephesians 2:8-9
‘For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

But with the reference to ‘WAY’ there is an indication of ongoing progression. As such, once we have entered that narrow gate, there is something we must continue to do to help us walk on the narrow Way that leads to life. Paul describes this perfectly in Philippians 3:7-8: *“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”*

It means we have to leave behind everything that God points out to us that will hinder us from walking on this Way: our own reasoning’s and ideas, belief in our own abilities, relationships that hold us back, status, honour, pride. Those have to be counted as loss, there is no room for them on the narrow Way. If we can get our eyes opened to see, as Paul saw, the value of what it is to “*gain Christ*,” then we can see how it is possible to count everything else as loss.

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

*How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory*

*Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished*

*I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom*

Songwriter: Stuart Townend

The Way

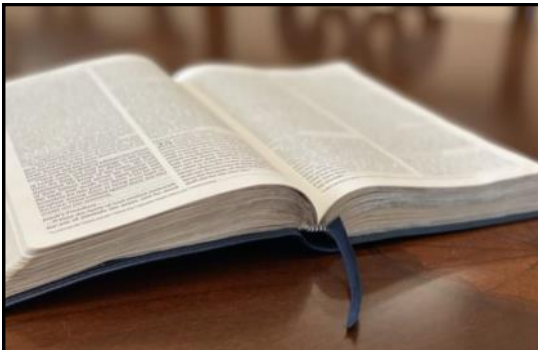
*There's a way back to God
From the dark paths of sin;
There's a door that is open
And you may go in:
At Calvary's cross
Is where you begin,
When you come as a
sinner to Jesus.*

Songwriter: E. H. Swinstead

The Way, Truth and Life

*I am the way the truth and
the life
That's what Jesus said
I am the way the truth and
the life
That's what Jesus said
Without the way there is
no going
Without the truth there is
no knowing
Without the life there is
no living
I am the way the truth and
the life
That's what Jesus said*

*Words: Public Domain.
Music: Philip Percival*





Some 'DAD' jokes to help celebrate the day.

What rock group has four men that don't sing? Mount Rushmore.

When I was a kid, my mother told me I could be anyone I wanted to be. Turns out, identity theft is a crime.

A guy goes to his doctor because he can see into the future. The doctor asks him, "How long have you suffered from that condition?" The guy tells him, "Since next Monday."

Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? It was two tired!

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food, no atmosphere!

Why do melons have weddings? Because they cantaloupe!

What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a tricycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle? Attire!

How many apples grow on a tree? All of them!

Did you hear the rumor about butter? Well, I'm not going to spread it!

Why did the old man fall in the well? Because he couldn't see that well!

Why did the invisible man turn down the job offer? He couldn't see himself doing it!

Want to hear a joke about construction? I'm still working on it!

City of the Dead (Life in a Cemetery)

One of the strangest cemeteries is found in northern Cairo. It's called the 'City of the Dead'. The word 'cemetery' is actually a misnomer, because this graveyard is teeming with life and activity. For hundreds of years great Egyptian rulers of ages past built acres and acres of huge and elaborate mausoleums and tombs.

Around the 14th century, due to lack of space, thousands of poor and homeless people seeking shelter began squatting in these tombs. Strangely this cemetery is now classified as a suburb of Cairo. It has it's own post office, police station, shops electricity, running water and clinics. Today it is estimated that nearly one million people call this 'cemetery' home.

The residents have made creative use of smaller gravestones by turning them into washing lines or tables. People actually live and conduct their lives in these tombs - sleeping, cooking and eating - surrounded by their silent macabre neighbours. Children even play soccer among the mausoleums.

The Bible teaches that there are only two classes of people, the living and the dead. That might be obvious, but according to the Word of God, not all of the living are truly alive and not all of the dead are truly dead.

**'He who has the Son has life;
he who does not have the Son
of God does not have life.'
1 John 5:12**

Source:

Amazing Facts Volume 1

www.afbookstore.com

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Bible Study, Old Testament Characters – King Saul

Doing Almost All of God's Will – 1 Samuel 15:1-35

Perhaps one of the cleverest schemes of the Satan is to convince us that doing most of God's will is enough, and that by doing it we will receive God's blessing.

King Saul fell into such a temptation. Instructed by God to fight and to destroy the Amalekites, he succumbed to the wishes of his fighting men and did only part of God's command.

To help with some context, centuries before this account in 1 Samuel, the Amalekites were the first peoples to attack Israel after their escape from Egypt. See Exodus 17. Especially note Exodus 17:14-16

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." ¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner; ¹⁶ for he said, "Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Why do you think we often find people settle for doing only part of God's will?

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35. What message from the Lord does Samuel deliver to Saul, and why (vv1-3)?

How does Saul begin to obey God but later change his mind (vv. 4-9)?

What factors probably contributed to Saul's unwillingness to carry out God's explicit command (vv. 12, 24, 30)?

Why is it so difficult for Saul to realize the seriousness of his sin against God (vv. 20-21)?

How does Samuel describe Saul's disobedience (vv. 22-23)? Why do you think God equates disobedience with idolatry?

What "burnt offerings" and "sacrifices" do Christians sometimes offer to compensate for their lack of obedience?

Although Saul finally confesses his sin in verse 24, what do his actions suggest about the sincerity of his repentance?

What do we observe in this account about the nature and character of God (vv. 10-11, 22-23, 28, 35)?

What can we learn from this account about our obedience to God's?

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

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:

3rd Sept: Heidi

6th Sept: Hildegard

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

Zoom Home Groups

Two new Zoom home groups have commenced. One of these is on a Wednesday evening starting at 8pm and the other is on Thursday afternoon at 2pm.

Both groups are using the Bible Study material which is currently being made available in the weekly news sheet. Please contact

Pastor Tony if you would like to be involved

In either of these groups.



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.



The STORIES *of* HYMNS

New Teaching Series

We are nearing the end of our current teaching series on Sundays - 'The Great I Am'.

I am currently planning a new series, this time looking at Hymns and Christian Songs. To help with this, I'm inviting you to let me know of a favourite or significant Hymn/Christian Song and why it is significant to you,

I'm looking forward to hearing from you over the next couple of weeks by phone or email. Tony

The Leprosy Mission in India has produced an innovative solution for hearing

impaired people who rely on lip reading to communicate. Leprosy mission staff caring for hearing impaired patients can now wear face masks with a transparent cover to help stop the spread of Covid-19 virus.

I'm not sure how easy it would be to breathe in them as they are made of plastic. Editor.

On my daily walk:

A good reminder to us on a local shop wall.



From **The Staunton Family in Cambodia:**

‘Please pray with us as we hope one day our neighbourhood will find their identity and worth in their Creator God and a relationship with Jesus who offers love, peace, hope and life in all its fullness. Pray that the Spirit will be leading us to find where God is at work in our village and where He might invite us to participate in His work.’



Please also uphold the Staunton family in prayer as they are experiencing the wet season which brings on a mosquito born virus ‘Chikagunya’ virus. This has been rampant across Siem Reap, affecting most households in their street. Please pray for those affected, especially Ruby as she recovers from the virus.

Praise the Lord that Cathie was able to find a volunteer position at a school run by an Australian based NGO which had opened just before COVID shut down schools. This has provided her with a 12 month Visa. Pray that Andy will be able to find volunteer work soon so that he will also be granted a 12 month Visa and that volunteer work will encourage further connection with Khmer people.

Praise the Lord that Andy has been able to meet with Kunthea and Leak who own a local coffee shop. (The FTG team went there earlier this year). Pray for Andy as he helps Kunthea develop a business plan and through this continues to build relationships with him and other locals.

Pray also for Charlie, Ruby, Hugo as they continue to do home based schooling at the Siem Reap head office which is expected to continue until November.



Continue to uphold Ben De Jong in prayer. He was admitted to Traralgon hospital for a few days last week because he started vomiting and his speech started to slur. After several tests and being put on a drip he was stabilized. Pray for Ben (and his wife Colleen) as he continues to cope with motor neurone disease but also for Audrey and her other 2 sons who would love to visit Ben in Churchill.



Pray for Evelyn that after recent results has been told that she will need to have a further colonoscopy in about 3 months. Pray for patience during the waiting time.

Please keep Peter Kruger in prayer as he sees his specialist this coming Friday to see about surgery on his hip.

Praise the Lord that He is working in the lives of many people during this pandemic. I was told recently of a husband who returned to the Lord, sought forgiveness and now there is peace in the household. - Tony

COVID HASN'T DESTROYED THIS YOUTH GROUP – IT'S GROWN IT!

This time last year, less than 40 kids were turning up for Friday night youth group at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Roseville, northern Sydney. But now, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the group is catering for more than twice that number. Across Australia and the world, the disruptive force of COVID-19 has rocked church meetings and groups, as pandemic restrictions radically transform so many areas of society. While plenty of regular churchgoers are lamenting the loss of meeting together or the limited numbers who may return to buildings, St Andrew's is one example of something positive emerging when we can be only predicting the opposite. Youth ministers Grant and Lauren van der Merwe identify two contributing factors.

1. Doing the hard yards online. Their team used Instagram, posting different content every day of the week, including Bible reading plans, live devotions, videos on worship, prayer etc. They did weekly podcasts, zoom prayer meetings and live streamed youth groups and discussion groups.

2. A hunger for hope. Non-Christian parents who had heard about the youth ministry and the positive influence it was having in the lives of young people became sending their children when face to face meetings began again. "God has just opened up a door in a way, and we ought to seize this opportunity. We've got the answers and the hope that people are looking for," says Lauren

Source: Summarised from Eternity News

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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Elders:

Rainer Luppa - 9758 4195 (Secretary)

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**Jesus does not give recipes
that show the way to God as
other teachers of religion
do. He is himself the way.**

Karl Barth