



15TH NOVEMBER 2020



TODAY:

Series: Men's Convention Specials

Topic 2: Jesus and the Prize –

Worthless or Priceless (Matthew 13:44-46)

Speaker: Rev Ian Powell

Sunday 22nd November

Series: Men's Convention Specials

Topic 3: Clarity in a Confused World –

What is the Purpose of My Existence (Romans 3:21-26)

Speaker: Rev Dr Malcolm Gill

For viewing these services, log on to the church website -
www.ftgbc.org.au

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid, and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he had and buys that field.”
Matthew 13:4

Message From Tony

The Treasure the Pearl and the Kingdom

Jesus had just finished explaining to the disciples the meaning of the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, and these two short parables about the Treasure and Pearl found in Matthew 13:44-46 are a continuance of His discussion of the “kingdom of heaven.” He expressed truths about the kingdom in three pairs of parables in Matthew 13: the seed and the sower (vv. 3-23) and the weeds in the field (vv. 24-30); the mustard seed (vv. 31-32) and the leaven (v. 33); and the hidden treasure (v. 44) and the pearl of great price (vv. 45-46).

The similarities of these two short parables make it clear they teach the same lesson—the kingdom of heaven is of inestimable value. Both parables involve a man who sold all he had to possess the kingdom. The treasure and the pearl represent Jesus Christ and the salvation He offers. And while we cannot pay for salvation by selling all our worldly goods, once we have found the prize, we are willing to give up everything to possess it. But what is attained in exchange is so much more valuable that it is comparable to trading an ounce of trash for a ton of diamonds (Philippians 3:7-9).

In both parables, the treasures are hidden, indicating that spiritual truth is missed by many and cannot be found by intelligence or power or worldly wisdom. Matthew 13:11-17 and 1 Corinthians 2:7-8, 14 make it clear that the mysteries of the kingdom are hidden from some who are unable to hear, see, and comprehend these truths. The disobedient reap the natural consequences of their unbelief—spiritual blindness. Those whose eyes are opened by the Spirit do discern spiritual truth, and they, like the men in the parable, understand its great value.

Notice that the merchant stopped seeking pearls when he found the pearl of great price. Eternal life, the incorruptible inheritance, and the love of God through Christ constitute the pearl which, once found, makes further searching unnecessary. Christ fulfils our greatest needs, satisfies our longings, makes us whole and clean before God, calms and quiets our hearts, and gives us hope for the future. The “great price,” of course, is that which was paid by Christ for our redemption. He emptied Himself of His glory, came to earth in the form of a lowly man and shed His precious blood on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.



‘SEEK YE FIRST’

SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD
AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS;
AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED
UNTO YOU.
HALLELU, HALLELUJAH!

ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU;
SEEK, AND YOU SHALL FIND.
KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU.
HALLELU, HALLELUJAH!

MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE,
BUT BY EVERY WORD
THAT PROCEEDS OUT FROM THE MOUTH OF
GOD.
HALLELU, HALLELUJAH!

Oh Lord, You're Beautiful

Oh Lord, you're beautiful, Your face is all I see,
For when your eyes are on this child, Your grace abounds to me

I want to take your word and shine it all around
But first help me to just, live it Lord
And when I'm doing well, help me to never seek a crown
For my reward is giving glory to you

Oh Lord, please light the fire, That once burned bright and clean
Replace the lamp of my first love That burns with holy fear

I want to take your word and shine it all around
But first help me to just, live it Lord
And when I'm doing well, help me to never seek a crown
For my reward is giving glory to you

Oh Lord, you're beautiful, Your face is all I see
For when your eyes are on this child Your grace abounds to me

Songwriter: Keith Gordon Green

When I received
Jesus Christ as my
Lord and Savior,
I found the
secret of life.

Billy Graham

To worship 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



Zoom Home Groups

Wednesday - 8pm

Thursday - 2pm

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

Please contact
Tony if you
would
like to be
involved
in either of
these groups.



Birthdays:

19th November - Regina R

Don't forget to let the editor know of any special celebrations in your family.

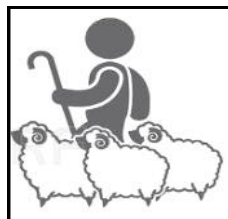
Pastoral Availability:

Pastor Tony returns from leave Monday 16th November.

For any pastoral concerns before then, please call either

Andrew Ullrich 0437 950061

Or Rainer Luppia 0412 784326.



Bible Study, New Testament Characters – Thomas

Disciple of Doubt – John 14:1-7; 20:19-31

It descended one day like a dark cloud. The niggling questions that had pricked at the back of my mind for months suddenly clumped into one large doubt. Maybe Jesus didn't really rise from the dead. Maybe it was all a skilful hoax. Maybe I, along with other deluded Christians, was one whom the apostle Paul had described as "to be pitied more than all men" (1 Corinthians 15:19). I prayed. I read the Scriptures. I read commentaries about the resurrection. I talked with believing friends. One respected friend laughed her own form of disbelief at me. "No Christian of three decades' standing could seriously ask such questions." Still, for a time, I doubted.

GROUP DISCUSSION – What would you say or do if a close friend were encountering serious doubts about the Christian faith?

Christ's followers had been with him for 3 years. Though they didn't know it, his death was a mere day away. John 14 begins Christ's last major recorded conversation with his disciples. Read 14:1-7.

What all could the disciples know, from these words, about Christ's future and their own (vv. 1-4)?

What value did Thomas' questions have for himself and the others who heard Christ's words (vv. 5-7)?

What difference does it make that Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (v6) instead of "I Know" or "I taught you the way and the truth and the life"?

Which words here comfort you? Explain.

Jesus died (as he said he would) and was buried on Friday. John 20 records what happened on Sunday and beyond. Read John 20:19-31. What did Thomas miss by not being present with the rest of the disciples on Sunday night (vv. 19-23)?

In view of the differences between what the other ten disciples had experienced and what Thomas had experienced, how do you think Thomas and the ten differed in the way they spent their next week?

How did Jesus deal with Thomas' doubts (vv. 26-29)?

What internal changes had to take place for Thomas to say the words of verse 28?

How might a period of doubt, such as Thomas experienced, have a long-term positive effect?

What promises about seeing and believing do you find in verses 29-31?

Which ones of these do you most need to make a part of your faith experience and why?

John 20:31 says that "believing you may have life in his name." How has belief in Christ's death and resurrection given you life?

Questions taken from 'A Life Guide Bible Study Book' by Carolyn Nystrom



Angel Tree has been operated by Prison Fellowship for over 30 years in Victoria.

Normally people purchase gifts to be given to children (0-15 years of age) of parents who are in prison.

However, with the current COVID restrictions, if you would like to be involved in Angel Tree this year, you can give a monetary gift which will be forwarded to Prison Fellowship. This will allow them to purchase gifts and

cover postage costs, as gifts will not be able to be hand delivered or be given out at Christmas events as usual.

Monetary gifts can be placed into the Church Bank Account clearly marked 'Angel Tree'. Please contact Andrew Ullrich or Pastor Tony if you would like to give a cheque or cash.

On my daily walk:

Now that I'm allowed to walk in Belgrave again - many more orchids including: Bearded, Pink Fingers, Bird and Black Tongued Orchids



AMAZING FACTS

Written by Doug Batchelor

Sacramento's Buried Treasure - Stumbling onto Riches

In February 2013, a couple walking their dog on their country property east of Sacramento discovered a modern day pot of gold. Actually, they found several pots of gold buried in the shadow of an old tree.

The couple found eight tin cans containing 1,427 gold coins dating from 1847 to 1894 - virtually all in mint condition. Although the face value of the coins adds up to only about \$27,000, some of them are so rare and well preserved that experts say they could fetch nearly a million dollars a piece.

It is believed that whoever owned the property 150 years ago buried the coins as a primitive safety deposit box, taking the secret with him when he died. The middle aged couple discovered the coins along a trail the had walked for years. They chose to remain anonymous, in part to avoid a renewed gold rush of modern-day prospectors armed with metal detectors, who would undoubtedly leave craters all over their land.

This once in a lifetime hoard is believed to be the most valuable buried treasure ever found in the United States. Did you know that the Bible also tells about a man who found buried treasure?

'The kingdom of God is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid: and for the joy over it he goes and sells all that he has to buy that field.'

Matthew 13:44

Source:
Amazing Facts
Volume 2

www.afbookstore.com

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Joyce's Story - It's never too late

"I went to church when I was younger but I didn't remain in the church. I married my husband David and had three children. Then our three children became teenagers and two of them went off to 'Young Life' camps. They both became Christians. Then the eldest became a Christian when he was about 25. All three of them went into the ministry. Because of that, they were always asking me to come to church. They were always telling me that they were praying for me. But I resisted.

"When I was 79, David became unwell. He was diagnosed with a brain tumour. He passed away and I was lonely. I said to a friend, 'How do you become a Christian?' and she said, 'You just pray to God.'

"At the time, a local church was having an adult baptism at the beach. So I said, 'I can do that myself.' I went down to the local pool by myself and I prayed to God with the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed. There was nobody else there. And I was 'zapped' by the Holy Spirit! I felt great joy and euphoria. I felt completely set free! You would never believe what the Holy Spirit has done in my life since I turned 80!

"Then I thought, I suppose I can't be a Christian and not go to church. So I started going to church. These days, I'm working on my knowledge of the Bible with daily reading and study. I have experienced Christ near me. I'm 82 and a half, so it's been two and a half years since I came to Christ. I hope that my life is an example to other people. I hope I can prove it's never too late to come to Christ!"

Source: eternitynew.com



Please pray for one of our playgroup mum who has a potentially serious medical issue.

Pray too for Peter K having hip surgery on Tuesday 17th. Pray for a complication free recovery and that Peter will soon be enjoying restored mobility.



Pray that people will exercise wisdom and consideration of others as we enjoy greater freedom of movement following our time of 'lockdown'.

Pray for Andrea Rothweiler, that God will encourage her and guide her each day.

Please pray for those in our church who are doing end of year assessments and exams, especially Andrew Ivanoff doing VCE exams as follows:

Monday 16th Nov - Maths (am) Business Studies (pm)

Friday 27th Nov - Studio Arts (am) Music (pm)



Thank God for the reliability of equipment, consistent provisions of programs and the continued availability of shortwave frequencies on which to broadcast.

A recently received WhatsApp response from a man called Pradeep in India – *"I have been so sad since I lost my job, as there is no income to take care of my family. On my mobile phone, I received the word of God from you through WhatsApp. I wasn't going to play it, as I was so vexed and was murmuring against God."*

My son took my phone to play games, and he unintentionally pressed the button in the notification centre. It played your message, and that message was just for me. It said, 'Don't give up. God is on your side.' It was like an angel of the Lord coming home and speaking to me. I am now regularly listening to the word of God. 15 days later, I got a new job and my salary is higher than the previous job!"

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



Pastor: Rev. Tony Burgum

Address: 27 Chirnside Dve
Chirnside Park 3116

Email: tburgum@optusnet.com.au

Phone: 0406 686 715

Elders:

Rainer Lupp - 9758 4195 (Secretary)

Andreas Ullrich - 9762 7115 (Treasurer)

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