



22ND NOVEMBER 2020

For from him and through him
and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever!
Amen.

Romans 11:36

TODAY:

Series: Men's Convention Specials

Topic 3: Clarity in a Confused World

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

Speaker: Dr Malcolm Gill

Sunday 29th November

Series: Men's Convention Specials

Topic 4: Life on the Road – Living for the End of the Road (1

Peter 4:1-11) Main Points: Arm for Suffering; Pray; Love; Serve.

Speaker: Pastor Greg Lee

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

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. Romans 3:21-22

Message From Tony

What is the Purpose of My Existence?

As we come to the message today, Malcolm Gill asks the question; What is the Purpose of My Existence?

Well to find our purpose, real meaning in life, we need to know who created us and why. All life begins with God, who designed each of us in His likeness. The Bible says it this way: "So God created man in his own image, ... male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). We were created by God to be like Him, to love Him, and to have a relationship with Him.

The problem is, instead of loving Him, we chose to love ourselves more. Instead of freely serving Him, we chose to serve ourselves. This is called sin, and it broke our relationship with God. Until we restore that relationship, we will never know our true purpose and existence.

Think of it this way: There's a God-shaped hole in all of us, and no matter what we have or accomplish, there will still be an emptiness without God. However, as our Creator, He has a plan in mind for us, and only He can make us complete.

He has even provided a way for us to connect with Him directly and restore our broken relationship, that's through His Son Jesus Christ, who bridged the gap between us and God. Through faith in Jesus, there's no more separation from God. No more holes in your heart.

Pastoral Availability:

For any pastoral concerns Tony can be contacted on 0406 686 715

BLESSED BE YOUR NAME

*Blessed Be Your Name In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow Blessed be Your name
Blessed Be Your name When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed Be Your name
Every blessing You pour out, I'll Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord Still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name
Blessed be Your name When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name
Every blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord Still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name, oh
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name
You give and take away You give and take away
My heart will choose to say Lord, blessed be Your name
God you give and take away Oh you give and take away
My heart will choose to say Lord, blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name, oh
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name
You give and take away God give and take away
My heart will choose to say Lord, blessed be Your name
God you give and take away Oh you give and take away
But my heart will choose to say Lord, blessed be Your name
Oh you give and take away God give and take away
My heart will choose to say Lord, blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name, oh
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name
Blessed be Your name*

Songwriters: Beth Redman / Matt Redman

Transitioning Back to Times of Worship

With the current COVID lockdown restriction in the Melbourne Metropolitan and Regional areas being slowly eased, opportunities are now being provided for groups to meet together on Church properties.

Currently, 20 people plus a leader can meet in a Church building and this will possibly be changed this Sunday to 100 indoors and 500 outdoors. However, social distancing and density quotients will still apply.

As a result, the following things are being implemented:

The Pastor and Elders are preparing a COVID Safe Plan which includes procedures for when we return to the property.

A Working Bee is planned for NEXT Saturday 28th November to do a big clean and tidy up after the Church property has not been used much during the past 8 months. The Working Bee commence at 8.30am. Please call Frank Schlag on 0412 489053 if you intend on coming along. Mask wearing may still be required. (Please be advised that we will only be supplying hot water, you need to bring along other food and drink supplies)

Playgroup is planned to commence on the property on Monday 30th November.

Church service are planned to commence on Sunday 6th December. The amount of people able to meet in the auditorium at one time is still being considered and may need to be on a rostered basis.

Wedding November 28th

Georgia and Caleb

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



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



Treasurers Report

Income: October - \$9,361.85 YTD \$32,924.82 YTD Wkly Avg - \$1,936.75

Expend: October - \$13,007.10 YTD \$41,594.39 YTD Wkly Avg - \$2,446.73

Budget required: \$36,185.00 Budgeted Ave Wkly Offering: \$2,125.00

As such for 2020/21 we are currently minus \$3,260.18 or minus \$191.78 per week against budget.

Term Deposit: \$31,423.58

Cheque Account: \$24,974.58

October expenditure included Property and Building Insurance payment, Extra Tithe payments from 2019/20

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.



As a Church we were able to give 24 boxes this year to OCC. Our contacts, Arthur and Lorraine have advised that only half the usual number of boxes were received from Victoria because of COVID. They also reported that many of the boxes from Vic. would be going to Cambodia. Thanks to those who took part, especially Arthur and Lorraine.

Bible Study, New Testament Characters – Simon **Bargaining With God – Acts 8:9-25**

There are no atheists in foxholes, wrote William T Cummings in 1942 in his *Sermons on Bataan*. While crouched in a trench with bullets zinging overhead, even the most reluctant heart begins to bargain with God - just in case he might exist. “God, if you’ll only get me out of this alive, I’ll ...” But foxholes are not the only bargaining fields with God. Too many of us relate to God mostly for what we think we can gain.

GROUP DISCUSSION – What are some ways that you see people bargain with God?

From ancient Samaria, a man named Simon stands as an example of all that is wrong with attempts to use God for our own designs. Read Acts 8:9-25

Who are the different people in this story, and how do they relate to each other?

What danger was Simon to the people who followed him (vv. 9-11)?

What indications do you see that Simon’s practice of sorcery would not fit with his new faith in Jesus?

Why did Peter and John go from Jerusalem to Samaria (vv. 14-17)?

Notice the events that accompanied the coming of God's Spirit to Christians in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-6). Why is this event important to the Samaritans of Acts 8, who became Christians a few years later?

Of what importance is the Holy Spirit in your own life?

What precisely did Simon want, and how did he propose to get it (vv. 18-19)?

What did Simon's offer suggest that he believed about God? And about the abilities God gives to his people?

What according to Peter, was wrong with Simon's attitude and his offer (vv. 20-23)?

What, other than money, do people use to try to get what they want from God?

Take a moment to name a dozen or so of God's attributes, for example, "God is holy, God is kind, God is all powerful." How might you adjust your praying so that it reflects what you know to be true of God rather than what you hope to get from Him?

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. **They need to be received by November 29th.**

Johanna and Joshua wish to thank everyone for their prayers and best wishes as they celebrated their marriage on 12th November.



On my daily walk:

A beautiful dragon fly.



AMAZING FACTS

Written by Doug Batchelor

Solar Power Tower - Archimedes Death Ray

Back in 1982, in the blazing desert near Barstow, California, the US Department of energy built a 'Solar power tower'. Surrounded by a flock of mirrors, the tower looked something like an ocean lighthouse in the middle of a desert. 'Solar One', as it was called, was a pilot project constructed to generate electricity using the sun's power. The tower was surrounded by 1,818 dedicated mirrors, called heliostats, that tracked the sun all day long. Their purpose was to reflect the sunlight to one common focal point, redirecting the equivalent of 600 suns to a target at the top of the tower. This hot spot became super heated, creating steam from water that turned an electric generator and produced 10 megawatts of power every day. . The US Department of Energy is now building a unit in Nevada that will produce 64 megawatts.

Interestingly, some scholars claim that during the siege of Syracuse in 212 BC, Archimedes deployed a highly sophisticated weapon using the careful arrangement of mirrors, which focused magnified sunlight to burn up an entire Roman fleet. Because highly flammable pitch was used to seal boats in those days, the vessels were quickly consumed. While the existence of this weapon has never been proven, the tower in Barstow is named the Archimedes Death Ray.

The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness and every Christian is to reflect His light and power in this dark world.

'That you may be blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as light in the world.' Philippians 2:15

Source:
Amazing Facts
Volume 2

www.afbookstore.com
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Tithe to CHIPS

We informed you recently that with an extra tithe amount of \$2,000 because of a surplus in 2019/20, we would be splitting the amount evenly to 4 mission organisations. One of those was

to CHIPS. I received an email this week from Ange Bakhtiari.

She writes:

‘Just writing to thank you once again for the generous donation from your congregation to support the community at FTGN Primary. I’ve been able to buy a fidget toy kit for my room which has been extremely helpful in the past couple of weeks. As you can imagine I’ve been quite busy and students have been quite anxious, aggressive, fatigued as it comes to the end of the year and having these fidget toys has given them a great way to release energy and a great way to connect with me.

I’ve also purchased two programs. One for anger management and one for cyber safety that I’m really excited to be able to implement in the coming year. I also thought I’d let you know that we still plan to use the Kimochis program with the incoming preps next year so that is an investment that will keep on giving in the years to come.

I still have money left over but don’t just want to spend it for the sake of spending it, so I look forward to putting it to good use in the coming year.

Thanks, Ange Bakhtiari, Chaplain FTGN Primary.’

Tony



Praise the Lord that the surgery on Peter Krueger's hip has gone well. Please pray for his recovery.

Please keep Horst Krueger in prayer as he is still recovering from kidney stone removal.

Please pray for Pastor Tony and the Elders as they prepare and then implement an appropriate COVID safe plan for the Church.

Please pray for Jeanette Ullrich as she coordinates a return of playgroup families for a couple of weeks before the end of 2021.

Keep Jonathan and Michelle Ullrich in prayer as they take on Intern/Apprenticeships during 2021/22 and continue seeking the Lord's guidance and leading into future ministry.

Please pray for Wendy Bytheway as she continues to look for opportunities to return to Melbourne from Germany this year.

Please pray for the ongoing ministry of Reach Beyond, especially opportunities had during the COVID to reach out to those in need. Please pray for Kazuo Ozaki as he continues to prepare programs for use in Japan and pray for the ongoing impact of those messages.

Please keep the families in Bedeganne, Sri Lanka who have contracted COVID-19 and for Wings of Hope as they seek to support them.

Don't forget to pray for Gabriella (Bingh) as she continues her cancer journey.



MAN'S CHIEF END

IS TO GLORIFY GOD
and to enjoy him forever.

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 Lupp - 9758 4195 (Secretary)

Andreas Ullrich - 9762 7115 (Treasurer)

Church Details:

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