

Thursday 16th July 2020



Dear people,

On this Sunday we will open the fifth seal on the Lamb's scroll in Revelation 6. Not literally, of course, but we will study what will happen when the fifth seal is finally broken. Who are the martyrs found under the altar? What is their role in prophecy?

In a time of change, it's good to reflect on the promise from 2 Timothy 3:13 that "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." In the past 150 years, persecution for the western church has been limited to the rejection of friends and family, some name-calling, and perhaps the loss of a job, or the ridicule of society for the sake of our testimony. In spite of the historical martyrs of the Faith, and even the countless thousands of martyrs in other countries in the 20th and 21st centuries, it is difficult for Christians in western society to imagine what it means to be "slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held" (Rev. 6:9). But the tide is turning. The spread of Christianity from missions during colonialism is shrinking. Colonialism itself – the engine by which God spread the gospel – is now despised and shunned. Perhaps not in our generation, but in our children's generation, and our grandchildren's generation, it is becoming more and more likely that those who hold to the exclusive claims of Jesus Christ will indeed suffer persecution like the saints of old, and be called on to endure great suffering or forsake Christ.

Now is the time to prepare for the inevitable. Now is the time for the church to awaken and strengthen her foundations. Now is the time to train the next generation. Now is the time to don the gospel armour every day, and bathe ourselves in the promises of God.

Pastor Mike

Newsletter

Devotional By Paul Tripp

Do you want to experience better relationships? Who doesn't!

The best place to start, as with all things, is with Scripture. But be ready—what you find might be different than what you were initially seeking.

Read Colossians 3:12-14:

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (ESV)

Read that a second time.

First, this passage defines our need. We were not designed to live the Christian life on our own. We must all come to understand and accept that our walks with God are community projects.

Second, this passage confronts our ownership. Our relationships don't belong to us; they belong to God. We cannot allow ourselves to have an owner's view of our relationships as if they exist for the sole purpose of our happiness.

Third, this passage defines our identity. Where does the Apostle Paul get his character list from? The answer is that these are the traits of Christ. Paul is figuratively telling us to "put on" Christ.

Finally, this passage defines our calling. God has a purpose for you in all of your relationships. It is that you would live as one of his representatives; that is, that you would live representatively.

Who are you representing? You are called to represent your Savior King.

What does that practically look like? Representing the King means you represent his message, his methods, and his character.

Representing the King's message means that you look at every situation through the lens of the truth of Scripture and determine to help others look at life that way too. How does the Truth help me make sense of this moment, and how can I share that truth with the other person?

Representing the King's methods means that you seek to be a tool of gospel change in the life of another person. How would the King work to mature this person, and how can I be part of that methodology and process?

Lastly, representing the character of the King means asking yourself, "What aspect of the Lord Jesus Christ does this person need to see in the situation that he or she is now in, and how can I incarnate that love?"

Other people are never about our wants, feelings, and desires. God has not designed your relationships to be vehicles for human happiness but as instruments of ministry and redemption.

The Bible presents a "bigger-purpose-than-my-happiness" way of living when interacting with others.

And when you give up your self-centered agenda, you'll find more joy, peace, and fulfillment in your relationships than you could have ever imagined!

Children's Church Roster:

April and Brenda (Combined Class)

This week please pray for . .

A church family: Colin and Lulu Reed

A church ministry: GKGW classes starting soon.

A church leader: Kat and Josh Fernandez (EPIC)

Announcements:

- 19th July: 'Growing Kids Gods Way' Parenting Course: 4:30pm at Church

Parents still able to sign up: \$35 for materials (email Pastor Mike: mfkwok@me.com)

- 24th July: EPIC Youth at the Church, 7PM: See Josh and Kat Fernandez

- 24th July: IGNITE Guys/Girls Study: 7pm at Church (See David Vittor or Jesse Zarate)

- 25th July: Men's Coffee Club: 8:30am at Espresso Warriors, Blacktown Westpoint

- 26th July: Deacon Meeting

Ministry Opportunities at FBC

Scripture Reading - Glen Truman (glen8truman@gmail.com)

Music Item for Sunday Service - Pastor Brian (bkeggert@outlook.com)

Holiday Bible Club Volunteers (5th-9th October) - Ann Millis (themillisfamily2001@gmail.com)

Missions

Missions: Garry and Faith McCay in PNG

McCay Update 17 June, 2020

Our mission in PNG has advised us that the e-mailing system it uses has a problem at the moment. They are not sure how long it will take to sort it out. Because of this, would you please use the following address if you e-mail us while we are in Australia:
mccay848@gmail.com

Also, if you have e-mailed us within the past week using the garry_mmccay@tpng.org address, would you mind resending as it wouldn't have reached us. Thanks.

The cataract surgery on the right eye went well on Monday. Vision is not clear yet but apparently it can take a while for things to settle down after the surgery. Surgery on the left eye is scheduled for July 7 but if there is a cancellation at the hospital then it may occur earlier.

Garry and Faith