

CHURCH OF CHRIST NAPIER NEWS

Vol:19

13 September 2020

No. 35

IF GOD
IS FOR ME,
WHO CAN BE
AGAINST ME?

ROMANS 8:31

ROSTERS:

TODAY:

Prayer/

Announcements:

Barry

Lord's Supper:

Raymond

Song Leader:

Les

Lesson &

Discussion Group:

Titus

Greeter:

Judith

Morning Tea:

Richard & Kathy

Counting

Contribution:

Barry

NEXT WEEK

20 September 2020

Prayer/

Announcements:

Richard

Lord's Supper:

Simon

Song Leader:

Raymond

Lesson &

Discussion Group:

Warwick

Greeter:

Sinai

Morning Tea:

Barry & Judith

Counting

Contribution:

Richard

KEEPING THE FAITH.

From the 2nd century AD, Christianity has always had its share of critics in an attempt to destroy faith in God: Celsus, a pagan philosopher said: "Christianity is untrue, it served only the superstitious and simple minded, if there is any substance why such a small following?" He needed to be told of **Matthew 7:14**, "*But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it*". But ancient people were offended, especially when asked to believe in realities that no one could see or experience. F.W.Mattox said, "Christianity is based on historical fact, the pagans had their myths but Christians had their facts the miracles and the resurrection of Christ with the greatest effect being at the location where they took place. The truth of Christianity does not rest on its philosophical aspects; but rather on the death and resurrection of Christ and these facts were open to public investigation." But later, educated Greeks with their reputation to examine all things with a Reason, taught that "Faith could easily become a crutch for the simple minded who dared not face reality". A pot calling the kettle black. For many today, God is far removed from the real world of experiences, most people build their lives on things visible, TV commercials capitalize on the good things of life we don't need. Scientific advances increasingly make God remote. Materialism is most people's real world today, homes, land and things have become their only sense of security which are only temporary and don't satisfy for long, they are forced to ask, usually when it's too late, is this all there is to life? With some, faith is impossible if you can't touch it. Thomas one of the twelve said to the rest of the disciples, "unless I see the nail holes in His hand and touch them and touch His side I will not believe". When Thomas eventually touched Jesus, he cried "My Lord and my God". Thomas became a sure witness to the world rather than the doubting Thomas we like to expose. Jesus said, "*Because you have seen and believed blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*". Then Jesus said to Thomas (and all of us) "*Stop doubting and believe*" (**John 20:24-29**). Real faith is vital. "*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see*" (**Hebrews 11:1**). Even Struggling Christians need heroes, the rest of **Hebrews 11** is testimony of those who persevered through all kinds of hardship for their faith, some receiving what was promised others not, but they remained faithful, providing motivation for others to live for a cause. Faith is based on "things not seen" so not subject to probing science. Only God's invisible world gives us a place to stand. But real faith makes demands. It separates us from the values of our culture and makes us appear ridiculous to believe in the unseen. Faith means holding on no matter what. Christians will be rewarded if they persevere to the end. Perhaps Jesus prepares Christians for frustration with the parable of the sower in **Mark 4:3-9** when so many reject the gospel of Christ through their lack of faith but few there are who find it, not helped because some Christians lack strong faith to tell it.

John Shepherd

Let Us Pray For:



- Those with health issues: Izaak, Moira, Michael, Sally, Marie, Rosalie, Les, , Judith Bing and Judy Bannister .
- Personal growth and outreach opportunities.
- The men as they lead the body.
- Our Missionary workers in Fiji and Vanuatu.
- The Coronavirus (COVID 19) as it spreads around the world. NZ has community spread cases once more. May we be as successful as last time at getting it under control.
- Those who are alone and are struggling, May we all reach out to them through prayer as well as the phone and internet and visiting.
- The elections are coming up in October, may the people of New Zealand make the right choice when they are casting their vote.
- 2020 will bring the truth to all those searching and even those who are not aware.

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my
fortress,

my God, in whom I trust.

Surely he will save you
from the fowlers snare

and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you say, The Lord is my refuge,
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a
stone.

You will tread on the lion and the cobra
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
Because he loves me, says the Lord, I will rescue
him

I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him

I will be with him in trouble,

I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.

FAMILY NEWS

Welcome to our worship this morning.

Warwick will be bringing us the lesson and discussion group next Sunday

Daylight saving begins on 27th September, Remember to put your clocks forward 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday night (26th)



Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace.
Where there is Hatred,
let me sow Love.
Where there is Injury, Pardon.
Where there is Doubt, Faith.
Where there is Despair, Hope.
Where there is Darkness,
Light, and
Where there is Sadness, Joy.
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood,
as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that
we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that
we are born to Eternal Life.

Meeting times.

Prayers: All the time,

Morning Tea: Sunday, 10am

Worship: Sunday – 10.30am

-- 4pm

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OUR MISSION
To guide people
into growing,
healthy
relationships
with God