

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE

9 August 2020

quotes from Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah and Joel to demonstrate how it has always been true that salvation is about faith and belief rather than law and works. From a human perspective we will always think there are things we can do, which is why we need to keep ourselves saturated in reading the Bible.

It Really Is That Simple. Another human trait is to try and make things more complicated than they really are. Yet Paul makes it very clear: 'if you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.' Here note that the Lordship of Jesus and the Resurrection of Jesus are at the essential heart of the gospel.

Declaring, Not Doing. Yet still we'd rather be doing something to earn our forgiveness, even though there is nothing we can do other than affirm what Jesus has already done for us. Rather than doing it ourselves, our calling is to declare who Christ is and our dependence by faith in him. Our first task is to speak what is on our hearts. These verses demonstrate how linked our hearts and our mouths truly are. A relationship where neither party say they love each other is frankly dead in the water; when it is said out loud, gladly, openly, before the world, it becomes a marriage.

Salvation for All. And lest we think this free gift of salvation that we cannot earn, buy or work for, is for others and not for us—which is partly why Paul was teaching against Jewish exclusiveness—this too is clarified. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile. This is for everyone, 'anyone who believes in him.' If the prophets have declared it then God's people should already know that 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' This is not a new message. What is new is the way the message is proclaimed, through the Son of God who lived, and died, and rose again; and now in these days of the Holy Spirit through those who follow him as his disciples. There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve our rightful place at the table; but there is a lot we must do in response to God's love through Jesus. Inactive faith is no faith at all (see James 2:14-26). How can people know of God's love unless our beautiful active feet let is be shown and known?!

SUGGESTED SONG

You Call Me Out Upon The Waters
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy9nwe9_xzw

BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.

<https://rydebaptist.xy>

Dear Friends,

I'm sure that many of us will have either read or at least heard of John Ortberg's book, 'If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat', published in 2001 and on many of the best-seller and highly-recommended lists of Christian books ever since. It's a tremendous read, so if you haven't seen it, and have the opportunity, get hold of a copy and give it a go. You will be richly rewarded. The title is obviously inspired by our Gospel reading today, the account of Jesus walking on the water and Peter's unsuccessful attempt to do the same. It provides a powerful metaphor to explain the need to put faith into practice, to have the courage to leave the safety of our comfort zones, if our faith is to prove genuine.

This same Gospel reading sprang to mind during last week when our Pray For Ryde 2020 prayers focussed on life-guards and lifeboats. The sea can be a very dangerous place, as those who work or have worked on the water can affirm. Yet the sea when treated with due respect can also be a great resource and is what connects the continents of the world. Peter and a number of the other disciples were fishermen, so knew

the water well. But even they were afraid at times, such as when a heavy storm or squall blew up or as in this story when something unusual happens. It isn't every day that someone is seen walking on the water, and they thought that is was a ghost. They were scared, yet their fear is immediately answered as Jesus says, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' I'm not sure that most of us would then respond as Peter did, testing providence as it were: 'Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water.' The uncertain 'if' becomes a certain 'come', and Peter is left with no choice but to get out of the boat.

The sea is a powerful image indeed, often used to describe the whole of life. A boat is likewise used to symbolise a place of safety or community. There are ancient drawings of the gathered church, the ekklesia, as a boat. It takes courage and faith to step out of the boat, and do something new or different, without sinking, not merely floating or treading water, but stepping out with purpose. We constantly imagine that we will drown, are often spooked, and are generally hesitant. What does that say about our faith? Yet the voice of Jesus still calls out to us: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'

Our Zoom Sunday Morning Fellowship Meeting is at 10.30am and our Monday Prayer Meeting at 7.00pm. If you are able to join us, you will be welcome. If you are reading this sheet on your computer or device you can also click on the readings and songs. There are other helpful links at <https://rydebaptist.xyz>

PRAY FOR RYDE 2020

Launched on 1 July 2020, the themes for prayer are being published daily. Go to prayforryde.org for more information, videos and the link to the daily 7pm Zoom prayer meeting. For those who cannot access the website, here are last week's themes: 2 August, Road Maintenance Crews; 3 August, Street Cleaners; 4 August, Harbour Staff & Users; 5 August, Lifeguards; 6 August, Lifeboats; 7 August, Visitor Attractions; 8 August, Seasonal Workers. We will update the list here each week until 23 September.

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will listen to what God the Lord says... Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps. (Psalm 85:8a,10-13)

BIBLE READINGS

[Psalm 85:8-13](#)

[Matthew 14:22-33](#)

[Romans 10:5-15](#)

SUGGESTED SONGS

Come, Now Is The Time To Worship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USQn4IUmS20>

Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqOnjmr9Ah0>

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you know us well and we are your disciples. You gather us together into the safety of your fold, your church, and for that we are thankful. Yet you don't call us to remain hidden away, inside four walls, behind closed doors, forever. You call us to go out into all the world, but we confess that we find the world to be a scary place. When we are together in the boat, tossed about in the stormy sea, we have the protection of each other and don't feel so frightened, yet alone and scattered on the water we are afraid that we will sink and be lost. We are sorry for those times when we haven't acknowledged your help, when we haven't taken hold of your outstretched arm, when we have ignored your calm reassuring voice as you speak to us: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' Amen.

COMMUNION

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

We give you thanks for the bread
and for the wine,
symbols of this world
and signs of your transforming love.

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.
Your resurrection we confess.
Your final coming we await.
Glory be to you, O Christ.

Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

SUGGESTED SONGS

Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-J8PPbldHc>

All To Jesus I Surrender
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

MINI-SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction. This is going to sound like I am repeating myself; you will have heard this message many, many times before. We are not saved by what we do, our works, but by our faith in Jesus who died for our sins and has freely given us a new beginning when we repent and put all our hope and our trust in him. It really is as simple as that. Which is why it is so frustrating that often we don't live fully by faith, why we think we have to do certain things (which we don't do) to gain God's favour, or believe that we will never be good enough (so we don't try) to ever be forgiven. But that is the point. There is nothing we can ever do, but submit to the love and forgiveness of Jesus. And we will never be good enough, which is why he constantly forgives us and calls us to be forgiving people who reflect his love to all the others in our lives.

The Word of God is Near. For the Apostle Paul the Word of God as in the Bible was certainly very close to him, in his heart and in his mouth. In just these eleven verses of Romans 10:5-15 he