

WHY INVITE OTHERS TO HEAR OF JESUS?

COMPASSION//REVERENCE//LOVE

Sermon 2 – 2 Corinthians 5:11 “Reverence” or “fear”

Introduction

- i. In our Vision statement (from way back in 2014), we said that “making disciples surely has to be what we are on about as a church. We ought to be longing and praying and planning to see more and more people come into a relationship with Jesus, depending on him as their Saviour and serving him as their Lord.” Do you think we have put this into practice? Have we maintained our vision??
 - ii. Our Vision statement goes on to say: “The Bible is clear that God gives the growth, and yet he marvellously uses us in that work. We need to be strategic as his fellow workers, making the most of the resources and opportunities he has given us.” Are we?
 - iii. Mark shared about the compassion people had when he lost his car key down a storm-water drain. Why do we feel for people in those circumstance more readily than we feel for those ‘harassed and helpless’ people who do not know Jesus?
1. **How clearly are you seeing?** - read 2 Corinthians 5:11
 - a. Given that Christians are assured of their salvation, why will they still have to stand before the judgement seat of Christ and give account for what how we’ve lived out lives?
 - b. Read again Luke 19:12-27. What does this have to teach us about giving an account of our lives?
 - c. Mark said “we’re not saved BY good works, but we are saved FOR good works. Why do we sometimes think that it doesn’t really matter how we live our lives?
 - d. What did Mark say about why he may all too readily substitute ‘reverence’ for ‘fear’?
 2. **What’s your response to what you are seeing?**
 - a. What are some of the things group members have tried to persuade someone else about over the last two weeks?
 - b. Why do we get passionate about persuading people about things that don’t really matter, but remain silent about the Lord Jesus?
 - a. Is it because we don’t really fear the Lord?
 - b. Is it because we don’t really believe that we will have to give an account?
 - c. Is it because we don’t really believe that those who don’t love and serve Jesus will be separated from him in eternity?
 - d. Something else?
 3. **How’s your reverence?**
 - a. Does the thought of standing before the judgement seat of Christ and giving account for what we have done with the resources and opportunities he has given us, make us tremble.
 - b. Mark said “when you fear God – when you revere him, then you will persuade others... it won’t be something you do because I told you... it will be something I won’t be able to **stop** you doing!! Discuss.

Lord, give us such reverence for you that we long to use well all the resources and opportunities with which you’ve entrusted us. Help us also to see clearly, that those who do not love and know you now, will be separated from you in eternity, unless they turn to you.

Help us to use our persuasive powers to talk someone into joining us in church for the upcoming series.

Date: 29 September 2018
Services: 730, 930 P (via video) and 930 T
Series: Why invite others to hear of Jesus?
Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:11-14
Title: Reverence

Outline

1. How clearly are you seeing?
2. How passionately are you praying?
3. Wk 1 How's your compassion
Wk 2 How's your reverence?
Wk 3 How's your love?

INTRODUCTION

We have this great series coming up: *"If you could ask God anything"*

Three **Sunday sermons:**

1. **Where's all the evidence?**
2. **Why aren't you more obvious?**
3. **Hasn't science disproven you?**

Two Wednesday night seminars:

1. **Why didn't you stop the abuse?**
2. **Why don't you end all the suffering?**

Last week we asked the question: 'why bother inviting any one?'

That's a good question isn't it?

inviting people to church stuff is **hard**...!

They're usually not **interested**...

Some will be **annoyed**, others **threatened**...

You could wreck a perfectly good **friendship**... /

We get all nervous just **thinking** about inviting someone...

So why **bother**? //

As a church: "We exist to glorify God by making disciples as we love and serve Noosa"

In our Vision statement way back in 2014 – we said that making disciples "surely has to be what we are on about as a church. We ought to be **longing** and **praying** and **planning** to see more and more people come into a **relationship** with **Jesus**, **depending** on him as their **Saviour** and **serving** him as their **Lord**." //

That couldn't be **clearer** in our Vision...

But sometimes I'm not sure that I really *am* 'longing and praying and planning' on seeing more people come into relationship with Jesus... !

Some days – I don't really **think** about this at **all**...

So easy to be caught up **running** a church – that you forget what we're meant to be **on** about as **church**!!

How **crazy**! //

Our Vision statement goes on to say:

"The Bible is clear that God gives the growth, and yet he marvellously uses us in that work. **We need to be strategic as his fellow workers, making the most of the resources and opportunities he has given us.**"

"We need to be **strategic** as his fellow workers, making the most of the **resources** and **opportunities** he has given us..."

As we started this series last week, we realised that if we saw people as **Jesus** saw them – **harassed** and **helpless** – like **sheep** without a **shepherd**... then we would feel at least *something* of Jesus' **compassion** for them... ///

Funny thing happened this week...

I lost my car key down a drain just outside the shops in St Andrew's Drive at Tewantin. I was putting some shopping into the passenger seat at the front, had two milk bottles in my hand – no bag of course – and my key came out of my hand, bounced out of the car and down the drain...

Now I posted this on Facebook with these photos – as you do - to get sympathy... and as yesterday, 47 people expressed dismay or sadness and 24 commented... /

People felt **compassion** for me in my predicament...

That was **lovely** – I felt people **cared**... I got some **attention**!! –

...and then I was doing something else – and thought – “wow; people had **compassion** because I dropped my **key** down a **drain**...” /

...Lord give me **grace**, I prayed... to feel such **compassion** for people without a **shepherd**...! //

(In case you're wondering – Noosa council were fantastic and within 2 hours I met some council workers there and the key was retrieved! As Susan so helpfully pointed out on Facebook – ‘no one died here’!). //

Compassion... for the **lost**... for those who don't know Jesus as **we** know him... //

Today's reason for inviting others to hear of Jesus?

Reverence... **reverence** for **God**... - 2 Corinthians 5:11

So – here's where we are heading...

1. **How clearly are you seeing?**
2. **What's your response to what you're seeing?**
3. **How's your reverence?**

• So **first**:

1. **HOW CLEARLY ARE YOU SEEING?**

- We are in 2 Corinthians 5 – and v11 – have a look with me at v11 - *Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.*
- Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.
- Obviously Paul is referring to something he's just said... because he starts with ‘since, then’... so we'd better go back and **see** what he's just said....
- so have a look with me at v10.... He's been talking about when we die and go to meet the Lord...
- ¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*
- Now – this is **so** important to get right – so please **tune back in** if you're already thinking about lunch... /
- When we **Christians** stand before the judgement seat of God... the question will **NOT** be – have we **DONE** enough to earn eternal life!
- Praise the Lord – that for the **Christian** – **that's** a **settled** question... Jesus has **dealt** with your sin; you **are forgiven**; you've been declared '**not guilty**'... remember Nathan to David – “*the Lord has taken away your sin...*”
- We know this fully and completely and wonderfully – because we look to the **cross** (as it were) where **Jesus** took our sin... and we look to the **empty tomb** and we know Jesus was **victorious** over **sin** and **death**!! /

- So – what’s **happening** here then? – **why** does Paul say here (speaking to Christians), that we’ll **all** stand before the **judgement** seat of **Christ**? //
- Because brothers and sisters, we will be held to **account** for the way we have lived... - for what we have **done** with the **resources** and **opportunities** he’s **entrusted** to us...
- ... being **sure** you have eternal life, doesn’t mean we just live how we **like**!
- the reading from Luke 19 demonstrates that doesn’t it? – the servants had been entrusted with **treasures**... and when the king returned he called them to **account** for what they have done with them, those who had used them **well** – he entrusted with **additional** responsibilities in his **kingdom**!
- Those who did **nothing** with what they’ve been entrusted... ended **up** with **nothing**... //
- Yes, we will all have to give an **account** one day
- We’re not saved **BY** good works... but we are saved **FOR** good works...
- We’ve been entrusted with **resources** and **opportunities** – with the treasure of the **Good News** **itself**... and the question will be “what have we **done** with all that’s been **entrusted** to us...?” //
- our God is the **King of Kings** and **Lord of Lords**! He’s not some easy **pushover**... to be taken **lightly**! /
- I don’t think we’re going to rock up on the day we die and simply say “*g’day*”!
- This **fear** (as I’ve explained before) is not cowering in the corner type scared stiff... but rather, I describe it as **reverence**!!
- But sometimes I wonder if I substitute ‘**fear**’ with ‘**reverence**’ more for my own comfort...!
- ...**should I not have a kind of fear before** a holy God who is not to be taken lightly and who will hold me to account for what I’ve done with all he’s entrusted us to me?
- Paul says – have a look with me again at v11 – because *we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others*...
- That makes **sense** doesn’t it?
- If you truly believe you’re going to be held to account for how you’ve lived and what you’ve done with the Good News – then you **will** try to persuade others...
- If you believe the **Good News IS REALLY good**...
- If you believe Jesus **IS REALLY GOD**
- If you believe that in Jesus **all** your needs can be met...
- If you believe there **eternal life** is a **free** offer from the Father through Jesus’ **work** on the **cross**... you **would try** to persuade others... /// **wouldn’t you??** //
- PLUS – there’s something **further** - If you believe that there is a God before whom *everyone* is accountable... a God who has the power to separate those who **love and trust him** from those who **DON’T**... then we **ought** to be driven to persuade **others**... so that **they** may find **life** and **forgiveness** through Jesus as **we** have done...! /
- ...because we know – (and you do believe **don’t you?**) – that those who do **not know God** and do **not obey the Gospel** – will be **separated** from **God** and they will **NOT** receive the **free gift** eternal **life**!!!? /
- This is **hard** to hear isn’t it? Those we know and love who live *without* God... will **not** know God in **eternity**!
- That **too** should drive us to persuade others...!! //
- Are you seeing **clearly**?

- You will be held to account for the **resources** and **opportunities**... for what you've **done** with the **Good News** you've **known** and **loved**...
- And **all across** the **Sunshine Coast**... and around the **globe**... those who have said to God in one way or another – “thanks but no thanks...” the Lord will say to them at the last day – “thanks, but no thanks”... “I never knew you...”; “there is no place for you in the new creation!”
- **Sobering!** We recall such truths with tears, don't we?
- so **second:**

2. WHAT'S YOUR RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU'RE SEEING?

- If now we're seeing clearly our accountability and the accountability of those we know and love, what's our **response**?
- Paul's response was **clear**... along with his **team**... (notice he says 'we' not 'I') -
- *Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others*
- Is that **our** response as a church?
- Is that your **personal** response?
- Interesting word '*persuade*' isn't it?
- I said in the reading notes this week:
persuade is defined as “induce (someone) to do something through reasoning or argument”;
“cause (someone) to believe something, especially after a sustained effort; convince”,
“(of a situation or event) provide a sound reason for (someone) to do something.”
- So it means more than just *sharing* with someone about Jesus.
- It even means more than merely inviting someone along to hear a talk at church!
- It means trying to **convince** someone God is for real... Jesus is **God**... that **forgiveness** is on **offer**... that **eternal life** is a **free gift**.. that God **loves** you...!
- Interesting the sorts of things we have no problem persuading other people about... without giving it a lot of thought...
- a **movie** they should see...
- a **car** they should try...
- a **cruise** they should experience...
- **MAC** over **PC**...
- A **footy** team they should follow...
- A **recipe** they should try
- A **restaurant**
- A **shortcut**
- A **coffee shop** – oh – man come and try – just the best coffee...
- A **diet**
- A **fitness regime**... //
- Some of those things or similar, we become quite **passionate** about don't we... **come on** – you **have** to try – you'll **love** it – it will make the **world** of **difference**!!
- Come **on**... come **with** me... it will be **good** for you... you'll **never** look **back**!! //

- But **Jesus**?
- Jesus – well – **Jesus** – you can just **take** or **leave**...! No **big deal**!
- Jesus – just **optional** – “**whatever**...”
- Jesus – upon whom **eternal life depends**... Jesus before whom one day you’ll give an **account**.... **Jesus** the life-giving **shepherd** whom if you follow, **all** your needs will be **met**... //
- ...well – I **won’t** persuade you about that... that’s just **up** to you... I don’t want to **interfere**... don’t want to **impose**... don’t want to be **pushy**...
- ‘**pushy**’ about so **many** other **things**...!
- ...but absolutely **quiet** about Jesus!!
- And please don’t think I’m pointing the finger... because **I’m** the **same**...!
- Why can I get to passionate with people about my new **VW Golf** and **all** its features... which in the big scheme of things means absolutely **nothing** at all...
- ...and say **nothing** about **Jesus** who in the big scheme of things will mean the difference between **life** and **death**!?!? //
- *Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.*
- Perhaps that’s the issue right there
- Perhaps we **don’t** fear the Lord.
- Perhaps we don’t really **believe** we will one day stand before him and give an account of our lives
- Perhaps we don’t really **believe** those who don’t love and serve Jesus will be **separated** from him in **eternity**! //
- So that brings me to our **last** question this morning:

3. HOW’S YOUR REVERENCE?

- Does the thought of standing before the judgement seat of Christ cause you to tremble?
- Remember your **salvation** is not the question
- But what you’ve done with what you have been entrusted with, **is**!
- If you were with us during our 2 Samuel series – do you recall when Uzzah was struck down because he touched the ark of the covenant – and we said “Take God lightly... take what he **requires** lightly – treat his holiness as if it were **nothing** – and you will end up in trouble!”
- Take him **lightly** as if there was no **accountability** and no **judgement seat** and at some point you’ll come face to face with the fact that that **wasn’t a good idea**! //
- Christ **died** for **you**
- You now **live** for **him**
- You are **accountable** for how you live your life
- You have been appointed an **ambassador**...
- You **represent** Jesus now
- You’re the **ambassador** for **Noosa**! (more of that next week)
- That **neighbour**, that **friend**, that **family member**; that **colleague**, **village member**, that fellow **Rotarian** or **Lion’s club member**... **Probus**, **View club**... you have the **best news** possible for **them**....!!
- ...That Jesus loves them so much he died for them...!

- Isn't this worth getting **excited** about and **persuading** someone about? //
- How's your **reverence**?
- When you **fear** God – when you **revere** him... then you *will* persuade others... it won't be something you do because I told you...
- ...it will be something I won't be able to **stop** you doing!! //

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- Why on **earth** would you **bother** to invite someone to our '**If you could ask anything**' series? //
 - Because you **you've begun** to see clearly, what it is to **fear** the Lord – to **revere** him – to hold him in **high esteem**, to understand that he's no **pushover**... he's not a **light-n-easy God**...
 - And knowing what it is to **fear** the Lord, you **try** to persuade **others**...
 - Just this past week you may have tried to persuade others about something that has **no real lasting significance whatsoever**...
 - How about **this** week, you put those same **persuasive powers** at work... to persuade someone to join you at one of the upcoming **Sunday talks** or **Wednesday seminars**... //
 - In **love** of course – **gently** of course – with a **smile** on your face and a **twinkle** in your eye... with some **courage** in your heart... with some **conviction** of the **truth**... with some **compassion** for the **shepherd-less**... with the understanding that this is **God's** work – that he will go before you – he will speak **through** you – he will **soften** hearts to the **invitation**!! //
 - Because with the Apostle Paul, we say – *knowing what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others*...