

Sept 28th 2008: Baptism: Eager To Do What Is Good: Romans 6:1-14

It is truly amazing what you can find on utube these days.

I looked up baptism.....Fastest baptism ever...about someone who jumped into

I was quite shocked by the reaction.....of the Pastor and the people...

Because for me baptism is a very sacred thing

Being the outward expression....inner rescue

It's not a show.....It's not an act.....It's not a duty

It's a response to a love so great.....that it's way beyond our comprehension

Eph 3:18-19

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Last Sunday.....I was able to pop into the Emerge time.....

I thoroughly enjoyed the discussion on Grace

Grace which is all the wonderful gifts God gives.....Undeserved and absolutely free

And especially the wonderful gift of Salvation.....that cost God.....

We shared the amazing truth....that our Salvation.....is a gift that we simply accept

For...nothing we can ever do to gain.....

And nothing we now need to do to keep ourselves saved

(Just recently someone backed into me in the local shopping centre.....Getting the car fixed accompanied by all the normal drama.....but I was absolutely delighted when I picked it up to be told that I had nothing to pay. Not even an excess that would then be refunded. Every expense had been covered)

Now that's not a picture of grace....both I and the other....been paying our premiums

But it is an illustration of the joy of knowing....that God has put **Paid in full**....because

In the book of Romans...Paul writes extensively about Salvation as a free gift....

Arising out of God's Grace towards us

We think of Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

He also knew... be some...who would soon come up with a perversion of this truth
He could imagine some saying:

Yippee!!

If God's Grace doesn't need us to stop sinning in order....us to stay **saved**
→**If we don't** have to keep the commandments.....in order to earn God's favour
Then we won't bother

In fact we will make God's Grace look even better.....By sinning more !!

Obviously God loves forgiving us.....So the more we sin
The more chance He gets to enjoy His work!!

So in Romans chapter 6 Paul addresses such a perversion:

You have forgotten.....What happens to a person.....when they accept Jesus
When they receive the gift of Salvation.....**Accept God's Grace**

For the gift includes in it...The Safety of being dead to sin....It's punishment & power
For Jesus in His deathdefeated...power of sin
to eternally destroy or punish anymore

And when we join ourselves with Jesus.....we link our lives with His death
And gain the benefits of His death.....for ourselves

That's what your baptism signified says Paul

It was an outward testimony to the whole world.....of the choice you made when you

Going under.....shows how you chose to die with Christ.....to an existence
Coming up above.....represents your being born again.....with a whole new nature
A nature energized by God the Holy Spirit

A nature which desires to please....by living in a way....follows His example....keeps
Jesus said in John 14:15

"If you love me, you will obey what I command".

We are so used to this statement...being used...manipulative way in our Society
that we can miss....**what Jesus is saying**

(The young man who says to.....If you really love me...)

What Jesus is saying.....IF you fall in love with me....you will auto desire to keep my **not because**....want to gain my love and acceptance..→you already have....

BUT BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME

BEING A CHRISTIAN IS NOT A GUILT TRIP BUT A LOVE STORY

- **Look with me at Titus 2:11-14**

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

The undeserved love....Esp the love that God showed us in Christ
Has appeared to all.....**But only some accept**

It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

So this Grace.....As well as being the means of our Salvation

It teaches us.....or better → it motivates us.....to live in a way now...as we wait that equates with the new life.....that we now have in Jesus

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

And especially...as we focus on the cost to God the Son of this Grace

How He gave Himself upon the cross.....**Almighty God**.....dying for us

So we become eager to do what is good

To share with others the change....that knowing Jesus has brought into

A couple of weeks ago...I had just completed....session with Steve and Christine

And I looked at Steve.....have you thought about.....being baptized.....**CAN I?**

That's the eagerness that the Lord seeks to see in His people

For Steve.....eagerness to do what Christ had commanded...**to be baptised**

An eagerness to show his commitment to follow.....the Lord He loves

How will we show Jesus our eagerness....to do for Him....what is good ???

