

# Sunday Service ~ February 2, 2025

## Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

### Welcome & Prayer

*"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."* That's how the writer of Psalm 90 begins his song. Looking back. He says, when I look back, God has been with me from the beginning. And because of that God is worth of our praise. As we end 2021, we can say the same thing. God has been good to us. And that is a good enough reason to come and worship him this morning.

But the writer ends his Psalm by looking forward. *"May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands."* He asks that God and his favour would rest on him & that God would continue to do his work within us. And that is something we can ask as well as we start 2022. May your favour rest on us. Complete the good work that you have started in our lives. And that would also would be another good reason to come to worship God this morning. To ask that he would be with us in the days to come. So, worship and prayer. Thanks, and supplication. Singing and reflection. All things God is calling us to do as we meet together in person or in spirit, this day. Let's us pray.

Lord you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Thank you for that. We praise you that you are completely rock solid. Not changing in love, justice, compassion, judgement or holiness. Help us to learn more about you as we meet together today. We ask that your favour would rest upon us today. That you would work in us through your Holy Spirit, as we listen to your word, as we open ourselves up to you in prayer, as we admit that we are again sinners in your midst, as we have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Forgive us. Change us. Mould us. Make us. So that we can be the people of God in this place going forward. And we ask this in Jesus' name.

### Song – Grace Alone [The Modern Post | Grace Alone | \(Official Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. I was an orphan lost at the fall<br/>Running away when I'd hear your call<br/>But Father, you worked your will<br/>I had no righteousness of my own<br/>I had no right to draw near your throne<br/>But Father, you loved me still<br/>And in love before you laid the world's foundation<br/>You predestined to adopt me as your own<br/>You have raised me so high u above my station<br/>I'm a child of God by grace and grace alone</p> | <p>3. I was in darkness all of my life<br/>I never knew the day from the night<br/>But Spirit, you made me see<br/>I swore I knew the way on my own<br/>Head full of rocks, a heart made of stone<br/>But Spirit, you moved in me<br/>At your touch my sleeping spirit was awakened<br/>On my darkened heart the light of Christ has shone<br/>Called into a kingdom that cannot be shaken<br/>Heaven's citizen by grace and grace alone</p> |
| <p>2. You left your home to seek out the lost<br/>You knew the great and terrible cost<br/>But Jesus, your face was set<br/>I worked my fingers down to the bone<br/>Nothing I did could ever atone<br/>But Jesus, you paid my debt<br/>By your blood I have redemption and salvation<br/>Lord, you died that I might reap what you have sown<br/>And you rose that I might be a new creation<br/>I am born again by grace and grace alone</p>    | <p>So I'll stand in faith by grace and grace alone<br/>I will run the race by grace and grace alone<br/>I will slay my sin by grace and grace alone<br/>I will reach the end by grace and grace alone</p>  |

## Bible Reading – Titus 2:1-10 (NIV)

**2** “You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. **2** Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. **3** Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. **4** Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, **5** to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. **6** Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. **7** In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness **8** and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. **9** Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, **10** and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.”

## Announcements

**Focus for Month: Our Relationship with God.** How is your relationship God going, really going? Are you moving closer to Him or further away from Him or is it just the same as always? As we get into the year well and truly we need to prioritise our time with the Lord, in prayer, in worship, in the word and in walking with Him. What could you do this week to help grow your relationship with God?

**Audric Sardjono** starts this week as our new assistant minister. Please pray for him as he serves us in this way.

**Vision Sunday. (If room)** Today is our Vision Sunday when we think about our hopes and dreams for the year and how we will need God’s help and strength to do the things that He wants us to do in 2025. Please consider these plans and if in agreement get on board with them. We need a to be unified going forward to achieve the plans that God has for us here this year.

**New City Catechism – Question 5.** What else did God create? God created all things by His powerful word, and his creation was very good; everything flourished under his love rule.

Scripture Reference: “And God say everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good (Genesis 1:31)

**Church Camp 2025.** 7-9 March at Tahlee (Port Stephens) with Michael Boyd. Rego ends TODAY, 2 Feb.

There’s two easy ways to register

1. Credit card - <https://charlestownpresbyterian.square.site/>
2. Cash – Pick up a form in the church foyer (instructions on form) Info - Tom & Sarah Baldwin, Cheryl Gillard or Liz Hyslop

**Regular activities** of the Church will start back TODAY. Why not help out with the Kids church or join a Home Group? Why not put your hand up to help with the cleaning, the morning tea or play an instrument? There is a spot for everyone within the church and a job for everyone. And if we get involved then it will make us feel a part of the Church family.

**JOY** will be meeting this Friday from 10am at the 16 footers.

### Offerings Update

Budget for Nov & Dec 2024	\$70,834
Actual for Nov & Dec 2024	<u>\$74,148</u>
SURPLUS for Nov & Dec 2024	\$ 3,354
SURPLUS for Jan to Dec 2024	\$ 8,418

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the work of the church in 2024. We were able to both meet budget and put aside some money so that we don’t need to borrow as much for our proposed Charlestown redevelopment.

**Small Groups.** One of the best ways of growing in your faith is to join a small group. Our Church has small groups for men, women, youth and mixed. They meet morning, afternoon and night on every day except

Saturdays. So why not consider joining one? Many will start this week. For more details see our facebook page.

Day	Time	Type	How often	Where	Leader
Monday	Night	Women	Fortnightly	Valentine	Sally Wright
Monday	Night	Mixed	Weekly	??	See Audric
Tuesday	Morning	Mixed	Weekly	Cardiff	Doug Smiley
Tuesday	Night	Men	Weekly	Cottage	Dave Wigney
Tuesday	Night	Young Adults	Weekly	Hall	Luke/Ben/Caleb
Tuesday	Night	Mixed	Weekly	Charlestown	Steve McAlister
Wednesday	Morning	Mixed	Weekly	Swansea	Stephen Taylor
Wednesday	Afternoon	Women	Weekly	Hall	Kaylene Taylor
Wednesday	Night	Mixed	Fortnightly	??	Simon Mulready
Thursday	Night	Sunday @ 6	Fortnightly	Eleebana	Alan Wright
Friday	Morning	Women	Weekly	Cottage	Kerry Pittman
Friday	Evening	Youth	Weekly	Hall	Luke Wigney
Friday	Afternoon	Junior Youth	Fortnightly	Hall	Cheryl Gillard
Sunday	Afternoon	Youth (yr9-12)	Fortnightly	Hall	Alan Wright

**Swansea Ladies Coffee Morning** on Monday 3rd February 10 am Channel Cafe Swansea. All Welcome, if needing a lift see Terry.

**Help Needed. (if room)** There are lots of jobs that need to be done to make the Church function well but two of the bigger jobs that we need help with are

1. **Meal Roster** – someone to coordinate (not make all of them though!) meals for people in the Church that they need this sort of Christian care.
2. **Breaking the Silence.** Someone to administer the Church's data base to ensure that all those working with children have done their training and have the appropriate government clearances.

Please see Stephen or one of the elders if you can help out.

## Pastoral Prayer

**Pray for Sudan. (Population 49 million, Christians, 2 million).** Recent unrest has seen a spike in the abduction and killing of Christians. After a year-and-a-half of war, Sudan is now home to the world's **largest displaced** population and hunger crisis, with nearly 9 million forced to flee their homes. For Christians caught in the civil war to have peace and to not be targeted. That God will protect the brave witness of Christians serving the vulnerable during the war.

For God to deliver believers displaced by violence.

**Pray for our nation.** That we wouldn't be divided over race, income or politics. That we would find ways of speaking the truth in love and loving our enemies. That we would not be selfish and self-centred but other people centred. And that we would be open to the gospel gong right across our nation and changing who we are and what we want to do as Australians.

**Pray for our Church.** That we might have a sense of unity as we place the emphasis on God, the Gospel and godliness in the year to come. Pray that the gospel of the Lord Jesus will equip us and enable us to become more godly so that God may be glorified in all we do.

**Pray for the TEARFUND.** Please pray for countries with complex problems that are routinely overlooked due to factors including lack of media coverage and profile, donor fatigue, the impact of cultural, political or economic isolation and the protracted nature of the crises. Countries needing urgent prayer include Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Columbia, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Myanmar, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen. Please prayer for the more than 150 million people in great need in these countries

## Bible Reading – Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.”

## Song – Be Thou My Vision

[Be thou my vision - \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart<br/>Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art<br/>Thou my best thought, by day or by night<br/>Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light</p> | <p>3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise<br/>Thou mine inheritance, now and always<br/>Thou and Thou only first in my heart<br/>High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art</p> |
| <p>2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word<br/>I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord<br/>Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son<br/>Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one</p>     | <p>4. High King of heaven, my victory won<br/>May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun<br/>Heart of my own heart, whatever befall<br/>Still be my vision, O ruler of all</p> |

## Sermon – Accessorising the Gospel (Stephen T)

As a male I find it hard to accessorise. It is hard enough to get my shirt and pants to match, let alone when I add some shoes. A while back I thought I had nailed it only for Jemma to tell me that the two types of blue that I was wearing didn't match. What blue doesn't match with blue? But if it is hard enough to match shirt and shorts what about your watch or your cap or your bag or your sunglasses?

Slide 2

Accessorising. What you are wearing needs to be consistent. It needs to add to everything else not clash or subtract from everything else. In clothing yes but in Titus 2 we will find it is even more important with our faith. For in this chapter Paul is saying that our lives need to accessorise the gospel. Be consistent with the good news that tells the world about what our great God is like. Not clash with the truths that we believe in. Which means we need to be aiming at godliness. Practising what we preach. Living what we learn. Walking the walk not just talk the talk.

Slide 3

So, Paul when he is talking to his apprentice Titus, says “*You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine*”. Godliness comes firstly from knowing what you believe. Knowing God Himself. For anyone that has accepted the gospel will have been changed by the gospel. For lying, deceiving, dishonesty, laziness is not a good accessory to the gospel. Those two things clash worse than my wardrobe! So, if Titus is going to make an impression on both the Church and the community in Crete he will need to teach the gospel of God. And if we are going to make an impression on our home and work and society we too must learn and then grasp the gospel of God. So, what is the content of this

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### 1. Godliness (verses 1-10)

Well, the first thing we will notice is that this teaching is immensely practical. It's not just head knowledge it's about how to live your life. It's about anger, family, immaturity, doctrine, laziness, substance abuse, slander and theft! It's real-life stuff! Don't ever think that the gospel is something you start with and then move onto something else. No, the gospel, is going to affect every second of every day. For what you believe will determine how you live. You must have healthy doctrine to live a healthy life.

And yet this teaching is not a one size fits all package. For as Paul outlines what the implications of the gospel actually looks like, you see that he will say different things to different people. For there are different challenges when you are older than when you are younger, when you are a guy or a girl, when you are slave or a pastor. We will see a little later that this teaching all comes from the one place, the gospel of grace but its applications will be different to you as to me, depending upon where we are in our life of faith.

But it is so, so important that we practise what we preach as a community. We are to walk the talk together. For in Paul's mind, it all starts with the older men and women in the Church, they are to set the standard for the rest of us to follow. <sup>2</sup>*"Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance."*

One aspect that older men and most of us when we think about it, have to work on is that our lives must be worthy of **respect**. Do people respect you? Do they see a maturity in your actions, a dignity in the way that you hold yourself in both the good times and the bad, a self-control that shows others that the many years of being a Christian is making its mark? These older men need to be sound in faith, in love and in **endurance**. Written into their wrinkles is a stick ability, a hanging onto God no matter what has happened. A willingness to be faithful right until the very end.

Slide 5

I wonder if you have heard of Bob Wieland? On 6/11/86 Bob Wieland, was the New York City Marathon's 19,413th and final finisher, but he was also the first to run a marathon with his arms instead of his legs! Wieland is a 40 year old Christian whose legs were blown off in the Vietnam War. He recorded the slowest time in marathon history: four days, two hours, 48 minutes, 17 seconds. But he endured to the very end.

Wieland said after finishing *"Success is not based on where you start, it's where you finish, and I finished."* Now that endurance, isn't it? And that's what Paul wants to see in his older men. A stickability. People who may not be the flashiest Christians, but who want to **finish strongly** as faithful followers of Jesus. If you are an older man, you want the younger guys to look to you and say "I want to be like him. I want to fully follow Jesus, like he is right now."

Slide 6

Titus then turns to the older women and says <sup>3</sup>*"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good"*. Likewise, what was true of the older men is also true of the older women, they need to have those same qualities of faith, love and endurance in their faith, and as well as that, they need to be reverent in way they live and especially in the way they speak.

Just as older men can turn out cranky and cynical, older women can slander others or gossip about others or have one too many chardonnay's at night. But those who want to accessorise the gospel will instead of complaining about what is bad will teach what is good. They will mentor the young women. They will pass on what they have been taught and what they have learned about the life of faith.

Slide 7

If you read Titus 1 it seems that the only people who would do any teaching in the Church were the elders but obviously that is not true. The older women have a vital role of teaching other women. About how to live out their faith at home. How to love those God has placed around them. How to live a godly life. <sup>4</sup>*"Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."*

Slide 8

The ripples of sound doctrine start with those who are older and they move across the Church, across the family to the younger men and women. They teach them and they model to them how to love. They

disciple them on their work/home balance. They show them by word and deed what a godly life actually looks like. What submission to authority really looks like. They accessorise the gospel words with gospel actions. They show the next generation that like the Proverbs 31 women, you can work out of the home but the priority still needs to be what is going on in the home. You can do much in the modern world but if you can't control yourself then you will not be able to control anyone else. Study, friendships, sport, money is important but not as important as godliness.

So young women need to learn healthy priorities while they are young, otherwise there could be a train wreck waiting to happen. And the best way to learn those priorities are from those in the church. The younger women should want to model themselves on the godly ladies they see all around them.

Slide 9

And those things are also true of the younger men. <sup>6</sup>*“Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.” In the same way, young people have the same sorts of temptations whether they are men or women. Actually, every group addressed in Titus 2 needs to be warned about self-control. Lust, ambition, impatience, greed are problems every one of us have. But self-indulgence is not a good look for those who seek to accessorise the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we are slaves to work or study or the play station or to our phones or to porn, how is that a good look? A lack of self-control leads to selfishness and a lack of love. Those qualities will never promote the gospel to anyone.*

Slide 10

And Titus as a young man needs to set an example not just to the other young men but to all who come to the Church <sup>7</sup>*“In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness <sup>8</sup> & soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us*

There are people watching us. There are people looking at what we are saying and doing. They want to see if this Christian gospel works? They want to know if this Christian life is for real or not. So, Titus as a minister, must teach, but Titus as a young man must also live a life consistent with his Christ centred message. And it must be a compelling witness to Christ.

Slide 11

And even the slaves, those who are at the bottom of the social ladder, they are being watched by their masters and so the healthy doctrine that they need to apply to their lives is *“to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, <sup>10</sup> and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive.”* And if Paul was here today, I am sure he would say the same things to us who are following orders from our bosses at work. Don't be lazy. Don't steal stuff from the job. Be fully trustworthy. So that your words and actions show what a wonderful Saviour Jesus really is.

Now let's just step back for a moment, what has Paul been saying about the Christian life? We need to walk the walk, talk the talk. We need to practise what we preach. We need to make sure that our lives accessorise the gospel truth that we believe in. Hypocrisy is going to muddy the waters. Ungodliness is going to push people away, not necessarily from you, but from the truth of God's gospel. But people's eternities are at stake. God's salvation is not just about you, it is about those who are watching you. So, make sure your life counts!

Slide 12

But it's not just about me and my lifestyle. It is also about discipleship. Paul is saying clearly that we are disciple making disciples. That the gospel message doesn't stop with us but it moves through us to others. And so, Paul is discipling Titus, so that Titus can disciple the people in his Church.

For every age group and every section of the Church needs to be a part of this discipleship process. Older women are to disciple younger women so that they can disciple their families in the future. Older men are

to be mentors to young men. Leaders are to examples and role models. So that every one of us might in turn disciple others in our work places, in our schools and universities, in our wider families.

Slide 13

A remember that a couple of years ago Greg Wilkinson went to a Katoomba Men's convention and he reported back to us as a Church that the main message was that all of us need to be a Barnabas, pursue a Paul, train a Timothy. We all need to be a Barnabas and encourage someone in their faith. We all should pursue a Paul, learn from an older and mature saint not just healthy doctrine, but a healthy Christian lifestyle. And we all need to teach a Timothy, find someone less mature in the faith and disciple them.

Well, that is what Paul is saying to us here. Find someone more mature in the faith and learn from them. Meet up with them regularly, Pray with them. Watch how their life accessories their faith. One of the great things about Church is we have this cross generational thing happening. There are very few other organisations that have that. Make the most of it.

Also find someone less mature in the faith and disciple them. Maybe someone in the youth group, or maybe someone in Kids Church. You might not know much but you know something. What is God teaching you in your quiet times? What life lessons are you learning through the ups and downs of this world? And lastly find someone similar to you in the faith or a number of people and encourage them, pray and support them.

And I would probably add in all of these things, men choose men and women choose women. This is not just a job for the elders, this is a job for all of us. And so, each of us when we meet for Church or in a small group or just one on one, we need to come along not just to get something but to get something that you can give to another. Come each week to be disciple making disciples. For the gospel is to point people to

Slide 14

## 2. God (verses 5, 8, 10)

But why are we to live like this? What's our goal, our *aim* in being self controlled, respected, trustworthy and enduring to the end? Well hidden away in our passage are three purpose clauses - three times where we read the words "**so that**". The first one is in verse 5, "*so that no-one will malign the word of God.*" How often have non-Christians used the 'Christian are hypocrites' line to say if that is what God's followers are like & I want to have nothing to do with either God or his word.

**And sometimes they have a good point.** When we don't walk the walk why would they want to listen to us when we talk the talk? When the Bible says that we are changed by the power of the gospel what sort of power is there in the gospel if we still gossip and lie and cheat? It is like two tones of blue, they just don't go! Our aim is for others to see the beauty and the power of the word of God not to malign it.

Slide 15

And in verse 8 there is a second reason, "*so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.*" When our friends and family see the gospel at work & hear the gospel spoken it is not just that they can't speak against us but there is a sense of shame. Deep down inside they know that we have something that they haven't got.

Now no matter what sort of Christian life you lead, people will oppose you. Jesus said they hated him and they will hate his followers also. So, ensure that when you meet these people, they hate the message and not the messenger. Ensure they are offended by God's offer of grace not by our own ungracious conduct. Ensure that you are not a part of the problem of people turning away from God instead they can't speak against you.

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Thirdly verse 10, "*so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive.*" Our aim is to make the God's **gospel attractive**. Our lives can either make beautiful or discredit God's cause.

We can be like a shining jewel, showing the many facets of the gospel in a bright and attractive way or it can be like a plain stone, lifeless and ugly.

Slide 17

<sup>11</sup> *“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.”* All people. So why should the older men be worthy of respect? So that other people might see the gospel at work and will not have anything bad to say about them. Why should the older women teach the young women about home life, so that others might see the way we do family as Christians and see how attractive the teaching of Jesus really is. Why should workers not steal from their bosses, so their fellow workmates will not malign the word of God. You see submission leads to mission. If we submit ourselves to God's word, if we submit ourselves to God Himself, then God's mission to a lost world will flow through us to others.

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### 3. Through the Gospel (verses 11-15)

This is the sound doctrine that Titus is to teach the whole Church but what is the basis of this gospel? What is all about? For it's not about us and our good lives is it? No it's all about God's grace. <sup>11</sup> *“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.”* <sup>12</sup> *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions & to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,”*

It is grace that is at the heart of God's gospel. It is grace that saves the Christian. It is grace that transforms the Christian. It is grace that gives us the power to say no to the wrong things and yes to the right things. You see we can't do the things God wants us to do without God making us the people he wants us to be. So, Grace brings us into the family and grace makes us good representatives of God's family. Grace firstly changes our status, we are now sons and daughters of the living God and then grace changes our attitude, our appetites, our ambitions and our actions.

Paul says grace teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions. It was Francis Schaeffer who many years ago said *“We are surrounded by a world that says ‘no’ to nothing. When we are surrounded by this sort of mentality... then suddenly to be told that in the Christian life there is to be this strong negative aspect of saying no to things and no to self, it must seem hard.”* And it's hard without grace. But grace empowers us to say no to evil.

And yes, to self-controlled, upright and godly lives. We open ourselves up to the work of the Holy Spirit. And it is the Spirit of God within us that gives us love, joy, peace, patience, goodness & self-control. In our own strength we can't say yes to these things but being open to the power of God enables us to say yes to the ways of God. So, grace saves us and grace leads us to godliness. For it is God's grace that accessorises the gospel of God. And people can see that it isn't by our own strength that we do these things it is by God's strength so the gospel of grace is accessorised by God's work of grace within us

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The basis of this changed life is by God's grace and it is for God's glory. <sup>13</sup> *“While we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.”* Grace and truth were found in abundance when Jesus Christ appeared as a man. But when Jesus appears a second time, we will see God in all His glory. We will see God in all His justice & power. Jesus Christ opens up the books of life. He judges us for every word we said and every action we did & the knowledge that this is going to happen in the future, will affect what you and I do today.

Grace, Glory and lastly the Gospel. *“Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> 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.”* Jesus redeemed us. He bought our life from us. So, we are not our own but His. We were bought with the precious blood of Jesus. So of course we will want to hand our lives over to God. And when we do that, he forgives us our sin and purifies our hearts.



With the Holy Spirit deep within our lives, the motivation is to no longer to live for ourselves but for the one who has saved us. And that changes what we want to do. We are now one of God's people. We are now eager to do what God is calling us to do. For we are enrolled in the school of the gospel, and as we look out one of the school windows we see the cross of Christ where the grace of God first touched our lives in a saving way and out another window we see a glimpse of the sun rising, the Son of God coming again. In the meantime, we put our head down and continue to learn about God and his gospel and that leads us to the godliness God wants to see in all his children.

Slide 20

It has been estimated by one scholar that by the time a person dies they have influenced 10,000 other people during their lives. 10,000 people. 10,000 will look at your life and either gain a positive impression of what sort of life you are leading or a negative one. 10,000 people will either see your faith in action or see it missing in action. And I'm not just talking about what you do here on a Sunday at Church, I'm talking about your workplace, your home life, how you play sport, your priorities in shopping and what you do in your leisure time. These are all things that could influence people toward your Lord and Saviour Jesus.

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That's our vision for the year. Learn more about the gospel. Prioritise your relationship with God. Be open to God's grace making you more and more godly. It's not rocket science. But if we do that there will be a different tone in your household, a different energy in our Church and you and I will see a difference in our friends, colleagues and family as the gospel of grace is communicated in word and action to the all the people around us.

## Song – For the Cause

1. For the cause of Christ the King  
We give our lives, an offering  
'Til all the earth resounds  
With ceaseless praise  
To the Son

2. For the cause of Christ we go  
With joy to reap, with faith to sow  
As many see  
And many put their trust in the Son

Chorus Christ we proclaim  
The Name above every name  
For all creation  
Every nation  
God's salvation  
Through the Son!

3. For the King once lifted high  
To cries of rage, of crucify!

Endured the cross  
As every sin was laid  
On the Son

4. To the King who conquered death  
To free the poor and the oppressed  
For lasting peace  
For life and liberty  
In the Son

Chorus

5. Let it be my life's refrain  
To live is Christ, to die is gain  
Deny myself, take up my cross  
And follow the Son  
Let it be my life's refrain  
To live is Christ, to die is gain  
Deny myself, take up my cross  
And follow the Son

Chorus x2

**Closing.** <sup>11</sup> "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ," (Titus 2:11-13)