

Remember Jesus

Intro: Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

Celebrations:

- **50 people are getting baptized TODAY! 51 “YES”** That is an incredible testimony to the work that JESUS is doing in their lives!
 - **IF YOU ARE A VISITOR – we do the baptisms at the END of the SERVICE**
- **85 people at the Set Free** – most of which had never been before!
- I am so encouraged by the MANY who continue giving their “yes” to JESUS. Putting their faith and trust in him and bearing fruit for his Kingdom!
- **Prayer Summit this next Wednesday!**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

TESTIMONIES COMING FROM MIDDLE EAST!

Michael Licon – professor and author of **The Case for the Resurrection of Christ**, reports: God is working in the midst of war! This news coming out of Palestine from underground Christian ministries:

"Over the past two days, we have ministered to hundreds of fathers who have lost most, if not all, of their children in the war. As we moved these men to safety, we fed them, washed their clothes, and began to read the Bible to them — sharing the way of peace through Jesus. Then, a big miracle happened. Last night, Jesus appeared to more than 200 of them in their dreams! They have come back to us to learn more from God’s Word and are asking how to follow Jesus."

I side with Israel in this war; not necessarily for theological reasons but because Hamas and those backing it are pure evil. Yet, I know that not all Palestinians support Hamas. In fact, they will be punished severely if even suspected of not supporting Hamas. Let's pray that this war can be over soon and that Israel can eradicate Hamas so that Palestinians can be free . . . of Hamas!

About a month before the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack, Assemblies of God News reported that Muslims around the world were dreaming of Jesus and converting to Christianity at an unprecedented rate. “I would even say it’s the normal experience,” said Dick Brogden, a missionary for the Assemblies of God, a Pentecostal Christian organization. “It would be accurate to say that Muslims are responding to Jesus in levels we have never seen, not in 1,400 years!” <https://www.westernjournal.com/miracle-muslim-men-gaza-seek-christ-200-dream-jesus-night-report/>

Why share? REMEMBER JESUS – from the culture, to media, the world, to even those within the Church... it’s easy to lose HOPE... to give up... to think that God is no longer working and present... you might hold onto your faith... but it’s a “spiritual hope” meaning – it doesn’t change you or the world around you! REMEMBER JESUS!

Celebrations & Church-Wide Prayer: Peace and Salvation for all of Israel – crisis in Africa PRAY WITH FAITH → He HEARS & ANSWERS our prayers!

- Pray for Jesus to reveal himself to Israelis & Palestinians. Whether secular or religious. Through dreams, visions or Christian witness.
- Pray for the release of hostages and for their families. Protection, freedom, strength.
- Pray for God’s purposes to be completed in the Middle East.
- Pray for protection for civilians in Israel & Gaza. Pray they would receive humanitarian relief. Pray for their salvation.
- Pray against the growing antisemitism in the world & church
- Pray for Jesus to return and establish his kingdom on the earth! MARANATHA

Today... What is baptism all about? BURIED WITH CHRIST, in the likeness of his DEATH, raised to walk in NEWNESS of LIFE! We are going to start by looking at 4 reasons for baptism

A. Baptism – an outward sign of an inward change

Why baptism? What does it mean?

1. Baptism is a command – to love Jesus is to obey him

- i. **Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ii. **Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- iii. **The first thing we are commanded to do after turning to God is BE BAPTIZED** – then go to the **Great Commission** and see that same thing extended to us discipling others to Jesus – BAPTIZE THEM!
- iv. **1 John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
- v. **Baptism demonstrates our love for God through our obedience to his commands**

2. Baptism is a celebration – it is an adoption party!

- i. Does baptism save you? NO. Salvation – ADOPTION – is by GRACE ALONE.
- ii. **For example:** does an adoption party make you a part of the family you were adopted/grafted into? NO! it is the CELEBRATION of what has already happened! It’s that public declaration of being ONE FAMILY.
- iii. Same with BAPTISM! Today we are CELEBRATING the ADOPTION of 51 people into the family of GOD!! THAT IS WORTH HAVING A PARTY FOR!

3. Baptism signifies our voluntary DEATH and rebirth into NEW LIFE – our flesh, sinful desires, even our dreams, the life we were living – all of it! WE HAVE DIED and been RAISED to walk in a NEW LIFE.

- i. **Romans 6:3-4** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
 - ii. **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- 4. Baptism opens the door for fellowship with Jesus!**
- i. **Acts 2 - Peter had said**, “be baptized and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”
 - ii. The Holy Spirit is already given to ALL who believe – as a downpayment or guarantor of our salvation!
 - iii. We receive the fullness of the Spirit – fellowship with Him! Why? How does that work?
 - iv. **James 4:7-8** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
 - v. **John 14:21** Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

As we step into the waters of baptism, we love God through obedience, we publicly declare that we belong to Jesus and are apart of his family! We demonstrate how we have died with Christ – voluntarily crucifying our flesh – desires – dreams – life and are now living in and for Christ alone!

B. Don't stay DEAD! Walk in NEW LIFE

PROBLEM: too many Christians stay trapped in DEATH – and never come back to LIFE!

If the enemy can't keep you from believing in Jesus. He will change his tactics to trying to keep you from LIVING IN JESUS.

Scripture teaches us that the enemy, Satan, prowls around like a lion, seeking someone to devour...

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Two strategies to keep us from our NEW LIFE:

1. **Distract us** – cause us to lose focus or focus on the wrong things
 - **DISTRACTION is a major problem in our world today!** Social Media, phones, spending, online shopping, podcasts, spotify! NOT BAD → BUT many have their minds SO FULL OF STUFF – they can no longer hear the still small voice. They have no time for Christ.
 - **Jay Walk Smith** reported that we went from 500 ads a day 1970 → 5000 today!
 - **Luke 10:38-42** ...And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about

- many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”
- **When our focus gets out of control – anxiety often end up being our lord!**
 - **1 Peter 5:7** casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
 - **Colossians 3:2-3** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
2. **Deceive us** – distort truth & keep us trapped in deception – offense, addiction, worldliness
- **Tempt us to find LIFE:** sex, money, social media, approval, phones, food! Anything else!
 - **Jeremiah 2:13** for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.
 - **Trap us in LIES:** worthlessness, condemnation, unlovable, useless, victims, can't _____!

This world is full of distractions! Discouragement! And deception! The enemy will do anything and everything to keep you from REMEMBERING JESUS!

C. REMEMBER JESUS – Walk in new life with Jesus

ASK EVERYONE: What lies are weighing you down today? Do you feel worthless? Trapped in anxiety? Addiction? Stuck in a cycle of medicating with your phone? Feel like you have no purpose?

Will you focus on the culture? The voices in your head? Or will you – REMEMBER JESUS?

Celebrate the Goodness of God as he brings dead people back to LIFE!

1. **John Baergen**, him and Lorraine are Church Renewal Ambassadors. They have been instrumental in Canada and beyond in helping P. Ray launch CR: John reported...
<https://vimeo.com/884998428/961b339375?share=copy>
2. Many testimonies coming out of this last weekends Set Free! People hearing Jesus speak! Repenting from sins! Experiencing NEW LIFE!
3. **51 Baptisms and EACH ONE HAS A TESTIMONY!** You will see snippets on a video momentarily... but we will be posting them on social media as well! I encourage you to check those out! BE ENCOURAGED!! ENCOURAGE THOSE WHOSE TESTIMONIES YOU READ! And PRAY FOR THEM!

BELIEVER & UNBELIEVER: Don't stay DEAD → WALK IN NEW LIFE! The best defense is a good offense!

John 14:15-27 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make

our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Key to walking in new life with Jesus: Love him through obedience!

Remember Jesus: Keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus

1. **Engage your heart with Scripture:** meditate, memorize, read & obey
2. **Fellowship with the Holy Spirit:** learn to hear God's voice & receive inner healing!
 - a. Learn to Hear God's voice: The Way Abide! Hearing God seminar!
3. **Practice Gratitude!** Make a daily practice of giving thanks to God
4. **Godly Community:** hold each other accountable, worship, do life, pray, etc.

2 Timothy 2:8-13 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; "if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself."

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM

MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!

Care@mysouthland.com

SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023

Cruise ship → → → → Battleship

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom "to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel"
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal:** Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers