



REAL GOD, REAL CHURCH, REAL LIVES

REAL GOD - Week 5.

God the Son; what He does (His doing)

These notes support the current sermon series; both of which are designed to help us focus anew upon God and to seek His will for our future as a Church. They can be used by individuals, two to three people or within a house group. They can be read through reasonably quickly or form the basis of deeper consideration and meditation.

Readings

Isaiah 61: 1- 3 & 10-11, Ps 22: 1-18, Phil 2: 5-11; & John 10: 7-18

Prayer, Praise and Meditation. Begin with Psalm 22 and wonder at the prophetic nature of the Psalm and what Jesus did for us

Jesus Saves (Read Isaiah 61: 1- 3 & 10-11)

On Sunday we considered how Christ brings light, life, joy and judgement in the actions described in this passage. Meditate upon/discuss what these actions actually mean, how He fulfils them and how we receive these blessings; what is our attitude to be in order to receive (link with Matthew 5: 1-12)? Verses 3b, 10 & 11 describe how we can be clothed with righteousness and salvation. In salvation we know joy and can be like oaks rooted in God growing in rich soil. Consider these metaphors and link with the fact that Christ is our Light and Life. How can we grow in Him? (Options for further study: Read verses 4-9 and consider His promises of future blessedness for the Church. Read Isaiah 53 and ponder on how Jesus saves; what He actually did to win salvation for us...marvel again at the prophetic nature of this passage).

Jesus Shepherds (Read John 10: 7-18)

Jesus is the 'gate' for the sheep. Consider what this means, who the sheep are in this passage, the meaning of pasture and what the pen is (see also John 14: 6)? How does Jesus actually

‘shepherd’ us in this way and how can we hear His voice? Jesus warns us of the thief (vs.10), the wolf and hired hand (vs. 12-13); who might these characters be in reality; how does Christ protect us and what should our reaction be?

Jesus tells us of the source of our salvation; the laying down of His life. Verses 17 & 18 speak of Christ’s willingness and authority in relation to His self-sacrifice; how do His words counter some differing and perhaps critical interpretations of His death?

Jesus Rules (Read Philippians 2: 5-11)

In our studies we have considered the throne room of God Almighty (Rev 4), how God the Father raises Jesus to the heavenly realms (Eph 2, Ps 110, Phil 2) and how as High Priest Jesus is the ‘gateway’ for us to come before God (Hebs 4). Consider this and decide how in practice, in prayer and in Church this might actually occur; how do we come before God through Christ and for what purposes?

In humility and obedience (Ph 2: 8) Jesus suffered, was perfected and became the source of eternal salvation (Hebs 5: 8-9). What does His example tell us of God’s perfecting love towards us and how might this effect our view with regards suffering (a small question!!!); does Romans 8: 28 assist?

In light of this passage (Phil) how might we view the Kingdom of God, Christ’s rule and second coming? Consider the ‘now and not yet’ aspect of His Kingdom and His plan for reconciliation.

Pause and Reflect, this is our fifth week. We have considered our Vision for St Aidan’s and have begun our focus on God to enable Him to perfect us. We have now considered God the Father and Son; who they are and what they do. What key lessons have stood out, how has our knowledge of God grown? Can we identify any areas of Church life or our own lives that have changed as a result of this focus?

May our **Real Lives**, and **Real Church** be filled with joy in our **Real God** (Isaiah 61 10).

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