

DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC
TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA

10 June 2018

Bulletin for the 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 785 204 494 159

INTROIT: Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD. LORD, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleas for mercy!

If You, LORD, should observe iniquities, O LORD, who would stand? Nevertheless, with You there is forgiveness, so that You may be feared. I have been waiting for the LORD. My soul has been waiting, and I have been putting my hope in His Word.

My soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him there is very great redemption, and **He** Himself **will redeem** Israel **from all** its **iniquities**.

Psalm 130

COLLECT: Almighty and eternal God, Your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do Your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Genesis 3:8-15 The consequences of the Fall into sin.

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 The glory to come far exceeds our troubles.

Mark 3:20-35 Questions about Jesus' power.

SERMON: 2 Corinthians 4:13:5-1 Hearts refreshed by hope.

¹³ Furthermore, since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what Scripture has said, “I have believed and therefore I have spoken,” we also believe and therefore we speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the One who has raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and will make us stand before Him with you. ¹⁵ For all things are for your benefit, that God’s grace may spread to more and more people and may cause thanksgiving to increase greatly, to the glory of God. ¹⁶ That is why we are not discouraged. Rather, even though our outward person is wasting away, our inward person is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary trouble is producing for us an utterly extraordinary and eternal weight of glory. ¹⁸ We do not look at the things that are seen but at the things that are not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal.

^{5:1} For we know that, if the earthly tent in which we live is demolished, we have a house from God, not made by human hands, eternal in heaven.

The Sin against the Holy Spirit makes Repentance Impossible

Is any sin so bad that it is not included in God’s forgiveness? The answer is no! God earnestly desires the salvation of all (1 Tim. 2:4; Ezek. 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9). Jesus paid for the sins of all (John 1:29; 3:16; 1 John 2:2; 2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus certainly died to pay for the sins of Judas. Judas simply lost the benefit of the forgiveness Jesus won for him by his rejection of Jesus in unbelief.

How then, do we explain the following words of Jesus from today’s Gospel where He says, ²⁸ *Truly, I tell you, all the sins that the sons of men commit will be forgiven and all the blasphemies that they utter.* ²⁹ *However, anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven but is guilty of an eternal sin,*” (Mark 3:28-29)?

In the first place, the Bible teaches that forgiveness of sins is an objective reality. When Jesus died on the cross, God declared the whole world “not guilty” for Jesus’ sake (2 Cor. 5:21). The sin against the Holy Spirit is not a sin against the person of the Holy Spirit but against His office, which is to bring us to faith. It is a persistent, wilful, malicious, and blasphemous rejection of the Gospel by hardened sinners who have been fully convinced of its divine truth.

This sin is not to be confused with final impenitence (Mark 16:16), because all people by nature resist the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:7). It is not blasphemy that comes from spiritual ignorance. Paul called himself a blasphemer, and he was saved (1 Tim. 1:13). It is not the denial of Jesus caused by fear, as was the case with Peter in the house of Caiaphas (Luke 22:61-62). It takes place in those who have been given clear proof of the claims of Jesus and have rejected them.

The writer to the Hebrews stated, *“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the*

Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the Word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace,” (6:4-6). He also wrote: *“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God,”* (10:26-27). John indicated that it is possible to recognise when someone has committed such spiritually deadly sin (1 John 5:16).

The reason the sin against the Holy Spirit is called the unpardonable sin is that, by its nature, it makes repentance and faith impossible. It is a wilful, persistent rejection of the office of the Holy Spirit to give us Christ's forgiveness through faith. Some have maintained the sin against the Holy Spirit takes place only in believers who have fallen away from the truth and have hardened their hearts. Others have indicated they believe unbelievers can also commit this sin when they see the compelling evidence for Christ's claims but still reject Him.

How do we deal with this sin? If we see someone who is persistently hardening his heart against the Holy Spirit's work through the gospel, we need to warn this person of the danger of hardening his heart. We may not have the discernment John had when he spoke of being able to recognise that this sin had been committed (1 John 5:16). We will certainly warn people, however, of the dangers involved in a persistent, wilful hardening of the heart against God's truth.

On the other hand, what do we do if someone comes to us and fears he has committed this sin? The logical thing to do is to tell the person that he has not committed the sin, because he is concerned about it. If he had committed the sin, he wouldn't be worried about it. This is a logical approach, but it will not do the person any good. All we are doing is directing the person back to his own life, over which he has already despaired. Point the person, instead, to Jesus, who has paid for the sins of the whole world. Only the good news that God has forgiven all our sins will enable the Holy Spirit to kindle in our hearts the conviction that this forgiveness is ours through faith in Jesus.

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!
 Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.
 Email him at paziebell@gmail.com
 Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au.
Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

17 June 4 Pentecost	24 June 5 Pentecost	1 July 6 Pentecost
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.30am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR
Sunday, 17 June		
READINGS: Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:1-17; Mark 4:26-34		
HYMNS: 267 116 377 (847 171) 515		
Sunday, 24 June		
READINGS: Job 38:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41		
HYMNS: 392 524 341 (320 408) 199		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 13 June, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Fay. Key Word: Hypocrites. Item of Interest: Something beginning with "D."

Tuesday, 19 June, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Gavin.
 PLEASE NOTE THE DATE.

Friday, 22 June, 7.30pm. Bible Study.