

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

19 August 2018
Bulletin for the 13th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 461 357 300 181

INTROIT: Who is the man who **delights in life and loves a long life, that he may see good?**

Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceitfully!

Turn away from evil and do what is good! Seek peace and pursue it!

The eyes of the LORD are on righteous people, and His ears are attentive to their cry.

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

People have been crying out, and the LORD has been hearing them, and has been rescuing them out of all their troubles.

The LORD is near to those who have broken hearts, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The righteous person has many troubles, but the LORD rescues him from them all.

He protects all his **bones. Not one** of them is **broken.**

Evil will kill the wicked person and those who hate the righteous person will suffer punishment.

The LORD redeems the lives of His servants, and none who take refuge in Him will suffer punishment.

Psalm 34:12-22

COLLECT: Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Proverbs 9:1-10 The invitation of wisdom.

Ephesians 5:6-21 Live as wise, Spirit-filled people.

John 6:51-69 Jesus' flesh and blood give life.

SERMON: Ephesians 5:15-20 What the Lord wants is written clearly and plainly for us in the Scriptures

¹⁵ Therefore, be very careful how you live! Do not live as unwise people but as wise people! ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity! For the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, do not be foolish but understand what the Lord wants! ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to wild living! Instead, be filled with the Spirit! ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs and sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord! ²⁰ Always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! ²¹ Be subordinate to one another out of respect for Christ!

The Bible is the only source and standard for a Christian's faith and life.

When Adam and Eve fell into sin, God promised them a Saviour (Gen. 3:15). From Adam to Moses, God's precious promise of the Saviour was passed on from generation to generation by word of mouth. This may be one reason why the patriarchs from Adam to Noah lived so long. After the time of the flood, people spread out over the face of the whole earth. God repeated His promise of the Saviour directly to His people, as is evidenced in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen. 15, 26, 28). During the time of the sojourn of God's people in Egypt, the promises of God were kept before Israel, giving them comfort during their slavery. Finally, God directed Moses to write down the record of His revelation (Ex. 17:14). Once Moses had written the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch: Genesis through Deuteronomy), God, through Moses, directed His people to the written record of His revelation (Deut. 4:2; Jos. 1:7; 23:6). As the other writings of the Old Testament were added, God, through His prophets, directed His people to them also as the source of their teaching and for direction in their living (Is. 8:20).

In the New Testament, Jesus cited the Old Testament Scriptures as authoritative to establish doctrine. He said, "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms," (Luke 24:44). For Jesus, the Old Testament was authoritative to establish doctrine.

Jesus' own words are authoritative for us in the New Testament. He declared, "The Words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life," (John 6:63). Peter said to Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life." ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that You are the Holy One of God," (John 6:68-69). Jesus also declared, "There is a judge for the one who rejects Me and does not accept My words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

For I did not speak of My own accord, but the Father who sent Me commanded Me what to say and how to say it. I know that His command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told Me to say,” (John 12:48-50).

But how have the words of Christ been passed on to us? These words, which are authoritative for establishing doctrine and for guiding Christian living, have come to us by inspiration through the apostles and other writers of the New Testament. Jesus promised his apostles, “The Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you,” (John 14:26). “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you,” (John 16:13-14). Jesus also said, “If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples,” (John 8:31). Paul declared that “all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work,” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The words of Christ, as they have come down to us in the four gospels, the epistles and Revelation, together with the Old Testament, are the sole source of salvation, the sole authority to establish doctrine and to direct Christian living. The warning with which the book of Revelation closes is applicable to the entire Bible: “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book,” (Rev 22:18-19).

Our Lutheran Confessions echo this truth of Scripture. Luther wrote, “This means that the Word of God - and no one else, not even an angel - should establish articles of faith” (SA II II:15). The Formula of Concord states, “We confess our adherence to the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments, as to the pure, clear fountain of Israel, which alone is the one true guiding principle, according to which all teachers and teaching are to be judged and evaluated” (FC SD Rule and Norm:3).

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!

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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

26 August 14 Pentecost	2 September 15 Pentecost	9 September 16 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
Sunday, 26 August		
READINGS: Isaiah 29:11-19; Ephesians 5:22-33; Mark 7:1-13		
HYMNS: 147 324 327 346		
Sunday, 2 September		
READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Ephesians 6:10-20; Mark 7:14-23		
HYMNS: 499 329 200 (319 [tune 247] 842) 197		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, 7 September, 7.00pm. Family Evening bushdance at Greenwood. Bring a plate for a shared supper and remember to invite your friends!

Saturday, 8 September, 10.00am. CoC/Seminary Committee meeting at Minden.

Pastor will be away next weekend.