

Christ the King / The Reign of Christ
21-11-2021
St Cuthbert's Anglican Church – Tweed Heads

- 2 Samuel 23: 1-7 David's last Words - Those who rule with the fear of God will receive Salvation
- Psalms 132: 1-12 God's promise to David
Be faithful and God will honour you.
- Revelation 1: 4b-8 Grace and peace from God who is the Alpha and the Omega – Doxology
- John 18: 33-37 Pilate questions Jesus about his Kingship
Jesus' kingdom is not of this world

Introduction

The Christian festival day of Christ the King is a relatively new one. Last year we looked at how the celebration came into existence and the year it was initiated. Can anyone remember the year?

Today I would like to look at how we respond to the word King, and then I would like us to look at what it might mean for Jesus to be our King.

The word King

Firstly, what do you think of when you hear the Word King?

King's really don't have an impact on our lives as they would have in Jesus's day.

Our society has a different structure to it. In some senses our society is very different to 2000 years ago, but in some senses it is still similar.

There are still people who hold power over the lives of others.

There is still injustice and inequality.

We still often place other things in our lives as more important to God, but we may do this subconsciously, without even really noticing it.

Another title for today's celebration has come into common usage and it is:-

“The Reign of Christ”

It obviously means the same thing, but uses different language.

For Christ to reign means that Christ is in charge of or in control of our lives.

In the Gospel reading from John today, we hear Jesus confirming that he is a King, but that his Kingdom is more than just a part of our worldly affairs. Jesus Reign or Kingship extends beyond the purely physical, and extends to eternity.

Jesus as King

Today I would like to explore what it means for Jesus to be our King, and I would like to use a booklet, produced by Matthias media entitled “Who will be King?” It really is at the heart of the Good News of God’s love for us in Jesus.

Please find following an overview of the booklet:-

1. God is the loving King of everything, because God made everything.

The trouble is, we don’t like doing what God tells us to do....

2. We say “No” to God.

We try to be our own king instead.

But we make a big mess of God’s good world.

What do you think God will do about this?

3. God is the only true king.

God won’t let people keep on saying “No” to God.

God’s punishment is that we are shut out of God’s kingdom forever.

We all deserve God’s punishment.

But there’s good news....

4. Because of God’s love, God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world.

Jesus died to take our punishment so that we could be forgiven.

But there’s even more Good News.

5. God brought Jesus back to life again, and made Jesus King of everything. One day, Jesus will come back.

What does all this mean?

6. There are two ways to live.

You can say “No” to God, and keep pretending to be your own king, but God will punish you by shutting you out of his good kingdom forever.

Or you can say “Sorry” to God, start living with Jesus as your king, and enjoy being in God’s kingdom forever.

So who will be your king?

Conclusion

You might be thinking I made Jesus my King a long time ago. You might be glad you made Jesus your king recently. There may be someone here today, who hasn't really thought of Jesus in this way before.

Living with Jesus as our King begins as simply as turning to God and saying sorry, thank you, and please.

Saying sorry to God for not treating God as your king.

Saying thank you to God for sending Jesus to die so that you could be forgiven.

Asking God to please forgive you, and help you live with Jesus as your king.

You can trust Jesus.

You may have accepted Jesus as your king, but living with Jesus as our King is something we are to continually live into, if we are to know God's peace and God's presence in our lives. Amen.