

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
23-10-2022  
St Cuthbert's Anglican Church – Tweed Heads

Joel 2: 23-32      The Lord's blessings will return  
                            People will prosper and prophesy

Psalm 65            Praise God, His providence from Nature overflows

2 Timothy 4:6-8,    The Lord will rescue me, to Him be Glory  
                            4:16-18

Luke 18: 15-30     Jesus blesses little children  
                            The rich ruler seeking heaven

### Introduction

Today as we reflect on our readings from scripture, I would like to explore the theme, "Trusting God".

### Trust

What does it mean to trust?

When we compare little children and adults, who is more trusting?

As Adults we become less trusting. At least most of us do, some remain very naive, and in some ways, I envy them. And what we trust can change and develop over time.

What do we Trust now? Do you trust Politicians? Do you trust Clergy?

Do you trust that the World is Round, and not Flat?

Do you trust that the Earth revolves around the Sun?

Sometimes we don't give a lot of consideration to the things that we trust and the things that we don't trust, it just comes about by what happens as we go about our daily lives.

We all put our trust in something, it may just be by default, or we may have considered it.

It's worth thinking more than superficially about it and really working out where we put our trust.

## What did I grow up to Trust?

What did you grow up to trust?

For me, in one sense, God was always a part of my life. I grew up in a Christian Community, I had accepted Jesus as a teenager.

But as I reflect and think about how I lived my life, I probably grew up to trust these things more :-

My own ability to provide and look after myself and my family.

The need to earn money to do this.

The need to be employable and find job security.

These things are not bad in themselves, but if they take over from trusting God first then it can be unhealthy for us.

A lot of things have happened to me in my adult life, some good and some bad, and my life has been continually transformed, sometimes in steps bigger than others, so that during the process I have grown to trust God more.

Of course, I'm still a work in progress, we all are, but we should all be growing, and learning to trust God, more and more, in our lives.

## Being a Christian – Trusting God

So, what does it mean to be a Christian, what does it mean to trust the God revealed to us in Jesus, and recorded for us in the Bible?

Well, it's not just about following the rules. The poor old rich man in our Gospel reading today heard that very sad news. Some people very wrongly equate Christianity with just morality. Of course, Christians should be drawn to holiness, but this should be because of our relationship with God. Morality doesn't create a relationship with God.

Our relationship with God comes from trusting God.

It is about accepting our own sinfulness, and accepting what Jesus has done for us on the cross to provide forgiveness, so that we can live in relationship with the God who created us.

It's about putting all our trust in Jesus!

And what does trusting in Jesus do to our lives?

It makes us vulnerable to God. It allows the Holy Spirit into our lives.

It allows us to develop beyond our belief.

The rich ruler in today's gospel reading couldn't put all his trust in Jesus.

“<sup>23</sup>But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich.”

What do we put our trust in?

St Paul, had put his trust in Jesus, this is what he said in his letter to Timothy:-

“<sup>6</sup> As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

Trusting for Paul didn't mean sitting back, and saying,  
“Oh well, I trust God, everything will be ok, I'll just relax now”

Trusting God meant being in tune with God, and striving to live his life in accordance with God's plans and not his own.

### Conclusion

So, what does all this talk about trust mean to us?

We need to be constantly reviewing our lives to see where we are putting our trust.

Being a Christian is about putting ALL of our trust, all of our hope and all of our faith in God

It is a big, life changing commitment.

But it is the way of life, the way to fulfilment, and the way to real peace.

Amen.