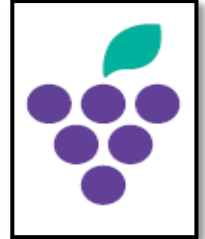


THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

27 The Grape: "Something to chew on."

Good morning!

Saturday 3rd October 2020



The GRAPE: It is a solitary thing and yet even in isolation it has come from a bunch and the bunch is connected to the Vine.

#3 Faith is LIKE a Soldier - 2 Tim 2:1 – 7



**FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US
A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF
POWER AND OF LOVE AND OF
A SOUND MIND.**

FAITH IS LIKE... a soldier... MORE TO CHEW ON

Once you have been a soldier, you are always a soldier. There is no way you can UNSOLDIER being a soldier. Is the same true for being a Christian? Look at this reading below, what is your eye drawn to?

¹¹ *The saying is sure:*

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² *if we endure, we will also reign with him;*

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³ *if we are faithless, he remains faithful—*

for he cannot deny himself. (2 Tim 2:11 – 13)

I would be surprised if you didn't gasp when you read 12b "*if we deny him, he will also deny us.*" How can we not be horrified by that!

ARE we DOOMED?

You would assume based on this that vs13 "If we are FAITHLESS..." would result in an equally dire result and that as a result we would be cast off, forgotten, rejected and unloved? There is something deeper going on here. Paul knew that being a Christian was a life threatening experience, with many being forced to recant their faith on fear of death. What hope did Christians have? Paul tells the gospel story:

¹¹ ***"If we have died with him, we will also live with him."***

¹³ ***if we are faithless, he remains faithful—***

for he cannot deny himself."

Faith is trust. Faith relies upon God's choice of us, and our response to muddle through despite our successes and failures. When we give our life to Jesus, the very Spirit of God marks us as His own, we in fact are His children forever, because you can't UNCHILD being a child of God.

Q. Do you have a sense of God's continuous choice of you?

**Q. What does it feel like to know you are eternally God's?
e.g. Once a child of God, always a child of God.**

Q. Does this change how we interact with (self/others) who feel that their faith is somehow inadequate?

4th OCTOBER 20 INTERIM WORSHIP:

TIME: 09.30am Service Sunday morning (45 mins ish)

Max attendance 55 people (includes Worship team)

Service - Recorded and LIVE STREAMED onto Vines Web page.

https://www.youtube.co/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church

For those of you who will be viewing from home this week, a reminder that it is COMMUNION SUNDAY, so don't forget to organise your own elements.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Please book your tickets through **Humanitix** from 3pm on Sunday 4th October until 11 am on Friday 9th Oct. Please phone Judy or Colleen if you need help with booking.

Should you need **TO CANCEL** your tickets, please let Colleen or Judy know by **4 pm on Thurs 8th October**, (unless there are unexpected circumstances), to enable them to rebook the tickets.

Please do not attend the Sunday Service if you are at all unwell.

Join us for online tea and coffee after church again this Sunday

At **11.00 am** tomorrow, **Sunday, 4th October**, we will again catch up for VIRTUAL coffee and tea after Church. Visitors welcome!

Please refer to this week's Grapevine for more information

CHECK <https://thevinesunitingchurch.com>

Remember OUR key MESSAGE:

"Phone a Friend and Choose Life"

'Cos you can't catch the virus over the phone...

But you can pass on God's love!



THE SAFETY NET OF JESUS

I can climb every mountain
and cross every sea —
but wherever I may go
I am anchored still by Thee.

I can cross many rivers
and drive through many towns —
but wherever I may go
You will never let me down.

Whether I am on the highest bridge
or in a boat tossed and tipped by the sea
Faith and Hope are anchored —
by the Grace of God through Thee.

Sue Cook 18/09/20

