

With out

September Seniors

Borders

Seniors



September Seniors Fellowship - Oh, What A Journey!

The theme of the morning was "Enduring from the Death of Sin to the Life of Christ".

The morning commenced with three songs, accompanied by David Pringle on the cello:

Let Us Go On,

Meet Him in the Mourning, and

Father's Love

The songs reflected the heart of our Heavenly Father toward us, as did the following thoughts shared by Sheryl from the book of Job and Helen Worth's booklet entitled "A Purpose For Everything".

'The exhortation for the day was from the Book of Job. Job deals with two issues that are crucial to our walk with Christ – suffering and the sovereignty of God.

Suffering is a part of our life in Christ and Job shows us how we should respond in the midst of it, knowing that there is a purpose for everything and that "everything works together for good to those who love God and who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). We were encouraged to know that we are no longer under time and chance, but under the hand of God and God sets the limits of our suffering, as He did with Job. And we were reminded of the words that Job spoke, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity". God has a plan and a purpose for each one of us and He is at work in our lives to bring this plan and purpose to fruition. We can either accept this work in our lives or else we walk away.'

We were exhorted by Lynnette that 'we must be careful what we say to people, especially those who are going through a trial and suffering. Through Job we learn that Job overcame (and we can, too) through joining Christ in His suffering, and not complaining against God and others, but trusting the Lord for the outcome which will change us to be the sons and daughters of God He had planned for us to be.

Job had friends that gave what they thought was wise counsel. But God said that the advice and counsel his friends had given Job was FOLLY. Job accepted his trials as from the hand of a Sovereign Lord to him, and his friends were not forgotten, Job could make offering for them and God accepted it.

Let us encourage one another to accept what the hand of the Lord brings to us, to have a soft heart to be able to hear from the Holy Spirit and to obey, and to trust that all the Father brings us, is necessary for us to become who He created us to be, not only for this life, but forever.'

Robyn then encouraged us that ‘Satan relies on our fear of death to hold us captive and so we remain in a self-centred mode. A Christian believes he has to lose his life to find it, which is completely the opposite of what our natural inclination is. By maintaining faith in God and remaining humble is the way to victory, as Job discovered.’

After some testimonies and before we began lunch, Bev delighted us with a beautiful song about the love of the Lord towards us.

During lunch, Wendy Mackay had been asked to share from her life’s experiences and called us all to endure. ‘Matthew 10:22 says “He that endures to the end will be saved”. Endure here means to abide in Christ so our lives are fruitful. This is not a resigned, stoic acceptance of the situation, but a response of faith knowing God’s purpose for our lives is worked out while we patiently endure.

The Lord is faithful to meet us in every season. By His love, He chastens and trains us so that we do not become unfruitful, but continue to bear the fruit of His life. No matter what the season is, we are encouraged to be diligent and endure and keep ourselves connected to the life of God, receiving His word and being joined in fellowship within His Body.’

All four talks were very different, giving us all something to think about on our journey of endurance.

Arnold hosted the morning through, and encouraged us that “Our Heavenly Father is not chastening us for our sin, but chastening us from our sin”. Amazingly, Jesus endured the cross and suffered for our sin. Because of Jesus dying in our place, our sins have been forgiven, we have been set free from the penalty of our sin, and now Father in His Mercy is chastening us from our sin so we can be set free from the results of our sin. It requires us to join Christ’s sufferings to be cleansed from our sins.

To be encouraged further in hope for your Senior Years, go to www.ccf.org.au/seniors-without-borders/ and read more of what the Lord was sharing with us at the September senior’s lunch.

