

Dear Church family,

This week we are finishing our series on Colossians. I'm struck at the end of the letter how many people there were in Paul's circle that sent greetings to the Colossian church. There were many spending time with Paul, even though he was in prison, and hoping to encourage those in a church far away. The gospel has a great effect on personal relationships, perhaps especially in trying times. May we be like the early church in the way we care for each other!

On morning tea

We are intending to return to having actual morning tea after church this Sunday. I know at least one person came expecting tea and coffee last week. Apologies, yes we intended to start last Sunday! We delayed its reintroduction for a week, to allow us to adjust to the new singing arrangements.

While the kitchen is out of action, we are intending to use disposable cups and spoons. You are welcome to bring your own mug if you prefer not to use a disposable cup. However, do note that while we expect to be able to fill them safely, there are no washing up facilities provided. So you may need a plastic bag or something such to take your mug home with you!

COVID Marshal request

We are in need of more people to be COVID marshals. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. We have especially had volunteers from the 8:30 service, so if anyone is willing to volunteer for this role from the 10:30 service, that would be particularly helpful. Contact Richard at the office if you would like to volunteer.

Mike's Book Launch Tuesday 13th October 7:30pm at the Church

Some of you will have seen that I have recently published a book entitled 'Seeing Good, Doing Evil: The Limits of Moral Ignorance'. Here's how I put the question I try to answer: "if neither general revelation nor natural law are accessible to people reliably, how can God justly judge them for their ignorance and hold them morally culpable for failing to live according to revelation they cannot reliably access?" Put another way, Christians say we all need Jesus to save us from God's just judgment. We need saving because we've all failed to live up to God's standards. But if God's standards aren't successfully communicated to people, how is it fair for God to judge us in the first place? That's what the book tries to answer.

It's reasonably academic - it's the published version of the thesis I wrote for my Master of Theology. We'll sell the book on the night for \$15, which is cheaper than you can get it on Amazon. Tim Patrick, Principal of the Bible College of South Australia, will be the main speaker. Geoff Lin, regional director of AFES, will MC. Profits from the sales as well as royalties will go to the church. I'm happy to sign copies.

10:30 Church will still be accessible by Zoom

We will still be streaming our 10:30 church meeting via Zoom. Zoom church will still go out using the same Zoom code, as before <https://zoom.us/j/400678771>.

Prayer Meetings

As ever, you can join our regular prayer meetings via Zoom Saturdays 11am-11:40am. The zoom code for these meetings is <https://zoom.us/j/544859603>. If you have specific things you'd like to inform us about for prayer at these meetings, please contact Stafford Cowling or myself.

We also have a prayer meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 12pm-12:40pm.

One of our greater pray-ers Helen Harris has re-started her weekly prayer meeting. It's Tuesday 10.30-11.30 during school term. For location details, contact Helen on hennyh43@gmail.com or 83367369.

Phoning into Zoom Meetings

All our Zoom meetings can be attended by phone: That includes some of our Bible study groups, some of our prayer meetings, and our 10:30 church gathering. The phone number is 7150 1149. Then enter the relevant 9 digit meeting code.

From the Bible

As we finish the book of Colossians, here is the section I think functions well in summarising its whole message:

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.. Colossians 2:6-7

Mike Russell