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*“Christ caring for People
through People”*

November 22, 2009

Greetings,

“By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us – set us right with him, make us fit for him, - we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that’s not all! We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand – out in the wide open spaces of God’s grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.”

(Romans 5:1-5, The Message)

This Sunday, traditionally called the Sunday of “Christ the King,” is also taken to be the last Sunday of the church year. (Next week is the 1st of Advent – preparation for the birth of Christ Jesus.) Today we mark the absolute victory of the work of Jesus and declare him King of the universe. This work was to ‘set us right’ with God; Jesus’ death sacrifice has destroyed the restrictive, destructive power of sin and indeed “has already thrown open God’s door to us.” We are now in faith seen in God’s eyes through Jesus’ perfect work and nothing remains but love and grace. You’ve heard of people who see things through ‘rose coloured glasses’? God now sees us through ‘Christ coloured glasses’. When someone asks, “Have you been saved?” our answer now is, “Yes, on the day Christ died we were saved by his loving grace-filled action.”

Later this was also confirmed when he was received into heaven, lifted up to sit at the Father’s right hand ‘til he comes again. He reigns as King over his eternal kingdom in both infinite and eternal glory and here on earth in which he calls us to live here and now.

Since his kingdom is both infinite and eternal, part of this great spiritual mystery is that the ‘here and now’ is included as part of the kingdom. When we declare our allegiance to Him we immediately become residents of this kingdom. The ‘doors are open wide’! The moment of earthly death is no longer a radical change but a short step through an already open doorway. As we move through that door we “remain” in his kingdom, two different rooms in the same palace. There is no delay and no doubt, despair, darkness or fear that remains. “We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand – out in the wide open spaces of God’s grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.”

Christ is King! Hallelujah!

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin