

## **“Food for thought!” on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

*In this weekly format, you will find the text preached in church. At the footnotes of each page are the Bible verses referenced. If you open your Bible and pray for God to speak to you, these verses will be a good place to start reading and listen for God’s voice.*

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### *Reading from the Bible from the book of 1 Thessalonians 5 v 5 - 11*

“You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

### *Reading from the Bible from the book of Matthew 9 v 35 - 38*

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

## **Travelling in a team?**

We recently flew abroad with a budget airline for a week’s holiday! Have you ever shared a flight with a large group of young gentlemen who are travelling as a sports team on tour?! On this occasion we did – there was no need for in-flight entertainment systems! Perhaps the knowledge of how entertaining their passengers are, is why budget airlines don’t invest in boring things like video screens with film content to pass the time?

These guys were in a tremendous mood – they were cheerful and glad to be together. They were celebrating while the day was still young and the sun high in the sky! They were laughing and wanted to talk to one another – so much so that they would call out to friends ten rows away to hold a conversation! They wanted to talk and share the journey with laughter!

Would an observer conclude that you are on a journey alongside people with whom you are glad to be travelling?

Would people observing your life, think you are travelling with a team that is like a family?!

Jesus built relationships with people in groups, or teams. He had twelve disciples who went out on ministry in teams and then later had a group of seventy-two whom he appointed on ministry in teams. The believers waiting for the Spirit of God after Jesus' ascension were a community of one hundred and twenty! In our Bible readings Jesus talked about 'workers'. Our reading talked about how those who are the people of Jesus are a group of people who "encourage one another" and "build each other up"! Jesus said his family would be of many people who all were known by their love for one another!<sup>1</sup>

Our Bible readings above also set out two important features of the team Jesus builds. One is that they have **purpose** in common, being sent out as workers together who serve Jesus. We are each intended by God for a noble purpose – to become holy and do good work.<sup>2</sup> This is not some general vague good work but the work that God considers good!<sup>3</sup> That purpose is in common – the Bible talks of striving together as one for the faith of the gospel!<sup>4</sup> Our common purpose is that of the good work of building on the foundation that is Jesus.<sup>5</sup>

Another is that they have their **identity** in common, that identity is with their Lord Jesus. Jesus victory is described as enabling a new people group of humans – one new humanity who share in receiving the one Spirit of God.<sup>6</sup> God's people are intended to be dependent upon each other and to be encouraged by each other – we are to bear with one another in the love of God!<sup>7</sup> Those who bear with one another in the love of God are doing so in order to allow Jesus to bring change to them, shaping them together – like stones in a building!<sup>8</sup> We are invited to be changed so that we become as if members of one body – identity in common!<sup>9</sup>

We are called to a new purpose and identity in which we become different to society around us as we are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit.<sup>10</sup> If you ever do share a train or plane with a sports team of young gentleman who are in a merry mood you will notice every one of them will be different in behaviour to their fellow passengers!!! Are you part of a team who speak and act differently - in the way of Jesus?

Will you choose to travel in the team that God is building by the love of His Holy Spirit?

*Written by Rev. Martyn Tyrrell.*

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<sup>1</sup> Read more at John 13 v 35

<sup>2</sup> Read more at 2 Timothy 2 v 21

<sup>3</sup> Read more at Ephesian 2 v 10

<sup>4</sup> Read more at Philippians 1 v 27

<sup>5</sup> Read more at 1 Corinthians 3 v 11

<sup>6</sup> Read more at Ephesians 2 v 15 - 18

<sup>7</sup> Read more at Ephesians 4 v 2

<sup>8</sup> Read more at Ephesians 2 v 22

<sup>9</sup> Read more at Colossians 3 v 15

<sup>10</sup> Read more at 2 Corinthians 3 v 18