



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

28-30 August 2015

Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Song of Songs 2:8-13 (MEV)

⁸ The voice of my beloved!
 Look, he comes
 leaping over the mountains,
 bounding over the hills.

⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
 Look, he stands behind our wall, gazing
 through the windows,
 looking through the lattice.

¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me:
 "Rise up, my love,
 my fair one, and come away.

¹¹ For now the winter has past;
 the rain is over and gone.

¹² The flowers appear on the earth;
 the time of singing has come,
 and the voice of the turtledove
 is heard in our land.

¹³ The fig tree puts forth its green figs,
 and the vines their blossoms;
 and they give forth fragrance.
 Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come
 away.



Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9 (MEV)

¹ My heart is overflowing with a good thought;
 I am speaking my works for the king;
 my tongue is the pen of a skilled scribe.

² You are fairer than all the sons of men;
 favour is poured on your lips;
 therefore God has blessed you forever.

⁶ Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
 the sceptre of Your kingdom is an upright sceptre.

⁷ You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
 therefore God, your God, anointed you
 with the oil of gladness above your companions.

⁸ All your garments are fragrant with myrrh and aloes
 and cassia;
 from the ivory palaces stringed instruments make you
 glad.

⁹ Kings' daughters are among your honourable women;
 at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.



James 1:17-27 (MEV)

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above
 and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is
 no change or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He
 brought us forth with the word of truth, that we should be
 a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

Hearing and Doing the Word

¹⁹ Therefore, my beloved brothers, let every man be swift
 to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger, ²⁰ for the
 anger of man does not work the righteousness of God.

²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and remaining
 wickedness and receive with meekness the engrafted
 word, which is able to save your souls.

²² Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving
 yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and
 not a doer, he is like a man viewing his natural face in a
 mirror. ²⁴ He views himself, and goes his way, and
 immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But
 whoever looks into the perfect law of liberty, and
 continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of
 the work, this man will be blessed in his deeds.

²⁶ If anyone among you seems to be religious and does
 not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this
 man's religion is vain. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and
 undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit the
 fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep
 oneself unstained by the world.

"Hope" is the thing with feathers

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
 That perches in the soul -
 And sings the tune without the words -
 And never stops - at all -
 And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
 And sore must be the storm -
 That could abash the little Bird
 That kept so many warm -
 I've heard it in the chilliest land -
 And on the strangest Sea -
 Yet - never - in Extremity,
 It asked a crumb - of me.

~ Emily Dickinson 1830-1886

Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have
 not; remember that what you now have was once
 among the things you only hoped for. ~ Epicurus

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

28 August ~ Anna Debenham
 31 August ~ Alan Littlejohns
 31 August ~ Fiona Hansford
 5 September ~ Fay Monkton

The advantage of old age is that you get to spread
 your love to many others.

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying &
 sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Doss Wark
 Barbara Murray

Ross Davidson
 Gillian & Bruce Jarrett



What gives me the most hope every day is God's
 grace; knowing that his grace is going to give me the
 strength for whatever I face, knowing that nothing is
 a surprise to God. ~ Rick Warren

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We thank God that Glenda Whitten and Bruce Jarrett are recovering after heart surgery. Glenda is now back at her unit. Bruce was expected to return to Tamworth on Thursday, and will spend some time recovering at Tamar.
- We thank God for the rain which fell last week. The gardens are looking happier, and any runoff will be most welcome in our dams.
- We pray for each other. Many members of our congregation have had health problems recently.
- We are thankful for the way that hope lightens our load at times, and helps us to enjoy God's wonderful grace.
- We thank God for the help, and company, of friends.

Meg's Musings

As the theme for this Sunday is "Hope", I thought that I would look up the concordance. It lists about 150 verses about hope. That's a lot of verses, and a lot of hopes.

We use the word "hope" today in many different ways.

-When we go fishing, we hope to catch lots of fish.

-We hope that our children and grand-children will lead happy, fulfilling lives.

-We hope that our economy will pick up, and that there will be enough jobs, and enough money to go around.

But each of those hopes is quite pale compared to God's hope that we choose to be His friend. God hopes that we will choose for him to be our companion as we tread life's paths. God hopes that so fervently that he sent Jesus to point us in the right direction, and to make that friendship and companionship possible.

Ignoring that hope, which God has for each of us, just doesn't make sense!

Blessings from Meg



Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (MEV)

The Tradition of the Elders

7 The Pharisees and certain scribes who came from Jerusalem gathered around Him. ²When they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, ritually unwashed hands, they found fault. ³For the Pharisees and all the Jews, unless they wash their hands ritually, do not eat, keeping the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the market, unless they wash, they do not eat. And there are many other traditions which they have received and observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and bronze vessels and dining couches.

⁵So the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

⁶He answered, "Well has Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written:

'These people honour Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.

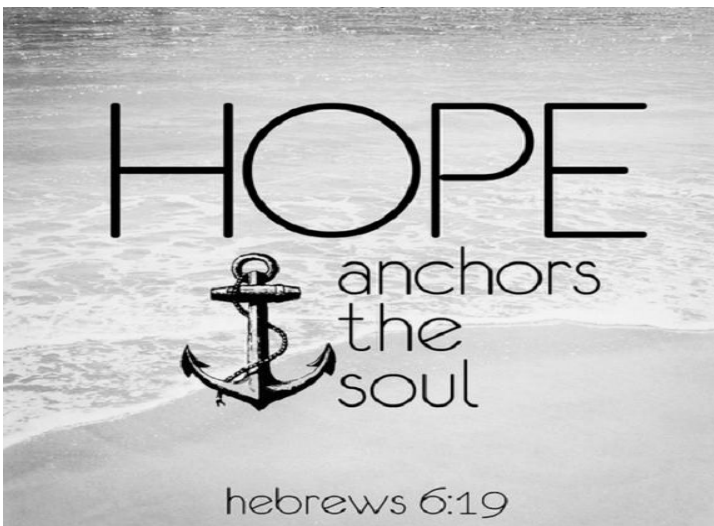
⁷In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'

⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

¹⁴When He had called all the people to Him, He said, "Listen to Me, every one of you, and understand:

¹⁵There is nothing from outside a man that by entering him can defile him. But the things which come out of the man are what defile him.

Hope is patience with the lamp lit.~ Tertullian
Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.



"All my hope on God is founded"

A Poem of Hope

When life is getting you down,
And you need a little hope.
Look deep down inside yourself,
And you'll find the way to cope.
When life is getting you down,
And you need a little love.
Go to the person whom you are the closest,
As the rest they are above.
When life is getting you down,
And all you need is a laugh.
Find the friend that makes you smile,
They may even be your staff.
When life is getting you down,
Don't allow it so.
Change the way you think of life,
And life will be better, you know.
When life is getting you down,
Take time to pray
Don't allow yourself to frown
God will help you see the blessings of the day
~ Catherine Pulsifer



CHURCH SERVICES

4 September 6pm **Hallsville** ~ Meg Mangan
6 September 8.30am **Gowrie** ~ Meg Mangan **HC**
6 September 11am **West** ~ Meg Mangan **HC**



Bible Readings ~ 6 September

Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23 Psalms 125
James 2:1-17 Mark 7:24-37



1st Sunday of the month

~ Luncheon @ West

3rd Sunday of the month

~ Trading Table @ West Tamworth

4th Sunday of the month

~ Markets @ Hallsville



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

Hope-Bringer

We are so familiar with shame, Jesus;
 we never quite manage to hide the blemishes,
 on our skins and on our hearts;
 we are lepers, unclean -
 each in our own way.
 But, there is not a disease or a sin
 that has ever stopped you, Jesus;
 There is no stain so dark,
 no infection so contagious,
 no disfigurement so repulsive,
 that it has turned you away.
 You walk carelessly into the dark and broken places,
 within us and around us,
 and you take us in your arms,
 surrounding us, embracing us,
 comforting and healing us;
 And this - this indiscriminate love - is why we have
 hope.
 Thank you.
 We praise you
 Jesus, our Hope-bringer.
Amen.

THE WAY FORWARD

If the world was random,
 it would make no sense to try and make sense of
 it,
 to plan and pray,
 to work and to hope;
 to seek a way forward through the struggles we
 face.
 If the world was random,
 there would be no reason,
 no purpose, no possibility;
 But, however random it may appear at times,
 Jesus,
 this world is not random.
 It is filled with the liberating purpose of God;
 this we believe;
 to this we commit.
 And so, wherever people have lost faith,
 lost hope, meaning or purpose -
 through their own misdirected choice,
 the world's unfortunate circumstance,
 or other people's malevolent actions,
 we ask you to reveal your grace and salvation,
 and guide us all into the way,
 that gives us a way forward,
 whatever we may face.

Jesus Heals a Leper

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Mark 1:40-41

Based on Mark 1:40-45



N F I G T X F X A R J H F X N
 J V C L E A N S S L U A D F Y
 U B T R T W E P S B E N T H N
 P Y B N Y E S H G E D D O G U
 S N S U N L D N U G E Q W O M
 L C P K E M I Y B G Q S N V J
 C C P N G L A Y I E G T H U O
 D U O E L E A N L D E O E K M
 A R C I O F H Q E W N S I B A
 O E W I W P P K P L S R U V K
 H D D B F V L P R T A L K N E
 M I M B V S I E O W J F Q S S
 V P R I E S T F S P Z P E W H
 P Z R B O R D D Y D R H E Q F
 C T O U C H E D F M W N P P C

PEOPLE	LEPROSY	NEWS	CURED	KNEES
CLEAN	TOUCHED	HAND	PRIEST	MAKE
TALK	MAN	BEGGED	TOWN	WILLING

Hope for the Hopeless

When you have nowhere to turn, turn to Jesus.

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.

"I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. ~ Mark 1:40-42

Dear Father, you sent your Son to bring hope to the hopeless. When we find ourselves in a hopeless situation, we will put our hope and trust in him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH

When you are sad and feeling blue
 And really don't know what to do,
 Open God's Word, and you can read
 Scriptures to give you the strength you need.
 "The joy of the Lord is your strength."
 God's joy can end depression's length,
 So don't mope around with a long, sad face
 If you have accepted God's merciful grace.
 There's not a problem that God cannot solve.
 In our hearts, we should resolve
 To take our problems to Him in prayer,
 Give Him the burden, and leave it there.
 If we can trust Him to save our souls,
 We can trust Him with problems that take their tolls
 And steal our joy that we need to display
 To others that we meet along life's way. ~ Margaret Cagil

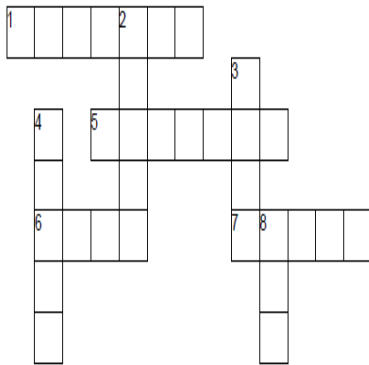
A God Of Hope

I just want to say thank you
 For this life you've given me,
 For all the wondrous blessings,
 For setting my spirit free
 You are such an awesome God
 Who only gives the best,
 Giving us a life of hope
 When we face all kinds of tests
 For often we face in life,
 Struggles of every kind,
 Little things can get us down
 And peace is far from our minds
 But you give hope to carry on
 No matter what we face,
 When we feel like giving up,
 Unable to finish the race
 You step in just in time
 With angels heaven sent,
 To encourage us to carry on
 And to give us extra strength
 So I praise you, Lord, for whom you are
 And for all that I can be,
 For I'd never have a better life
 Apart from your life in me. ~ M.S.Lowndes

Clean or Unclean?

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" Mark 7:5 (NIV)

Based on Mark 7:1-7, 14-15, 21-23 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 1. To express love and adoration toward God
- 5. Something that is dirty or soiled
- 6. The two edges of flesh around the mouth
- 7. The center of your emotion, I love you with all my _____.

DOWN

- 2. The body part at the end of the arms that includes the fingers
- 3. To make something clean using soap and water
- 4. The accepted way that things should be done
- 8. To take food into the mouth, chew it,

A blessing of peace

May today there be peace within.
 May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
 May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
 May you use those gifts which you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
 May you be content knowing that you are a child of God.
 and allow your soul the freedom to sing, to dance, to praise and to love.
 Let His presence settle into your bones,
 It is there for each and every one.

"Trust and obey,
 For there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus,
 But to trust and obey"

"Do you feel loved by God because you believe he makes much of you, or because you believe he frees you and empowers you to enjoy making much of him?"
 ~ John Piper

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ~ Romans 12:12