



Mid-week Bible Study - week commencing 8/02/21

“In Him we Live...” - Homegroup Notes

Prepared by Mervyn

Let's look again at Acts 17: 24-31. It covers vast themes from the Bible: creation, the foreknowledge of God, repentance, judgement and the resurrection.

24“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. **25**And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. **26**From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. **27**God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. **28**‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ **29**“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. **30**In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **31**For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

In the service on Sunday I used this picture of a zorb ball to illustrate verse 28. However, on hindsight I have found it left me feeling a little claustrophobic!

How do you envisage us living, moving and having our being in God?

Is a fish in water a better illustration?



What do you feel when you think about the concept of Jesus judging the world with justice?

Are there things we can do to help bring his justice to the world in our sphere of influence?

We spent some time considering why God made us as verse 25 implies that God doesn't need anything from us! The conclusion we came to was that we were made for his Glory, to reflect him. **Does this concept affect the way you see yourself and other people?**

Here are two other reasons why God made us. Revelation 4:11 - **You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created.**

Ephesians 2:10 - **For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do.**

Do you live under a sense of God taking pleasure in you, and that he has something for you to do?

One of the words I put on the zorb ball was **'wanted'**. I really love the part in John 17:24 where Jesus, just before he is about to be betrayed, is praying for all the people who would believe in him throughout the years, **which includes us!** He prays...

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world".

As I read these words, I pick up a sense that Jesus is excited about us seeing his glory. So much so that he was willing to give his life so it could happen.

We also touched on the subject of repentance. Here are some refreshing words on the theme of repentance by Don Francisco. There is a link to the song in the email.

It's your own fault - you went ahead and did it
It's your own fault - can't blame no one but y'self
It's your own fault - you went ahead and did it
No matter how you wanna you can't blame nobody else

Everyone's an expert at passin' the buck
Blamin' society, parents and luck
We're pointin' our fingers, blamin' our tools
Somebody else is gonna look like a fool

"The devil made me do it," I heard somebody said
"Or maybe it was God himself, instead."
Even John Calvin's turnin' over in his grave
Hearin' all our excuses for the way we behave

Now I hear you been wond'rin'
Why the heaven's turned to brass -
Well, there ain't no point in lookin'
For the snake in the grass
Don't yell at your wife, and don't kick the cat
Just tell God the truth -
You know He'll listen to that

Say, "It's my own fault. I went ahead and did it
It's my own fault - can't blame no one but myself
It's my own fault, I went ahead and did it
No matter how I wanna I can't blame nobody else."

