



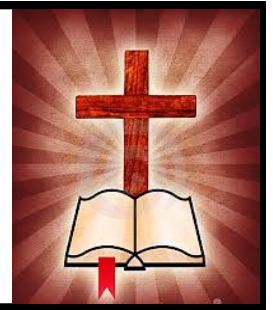
THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Emerald/Fernlees Uniting Church

Cnr. Borilla & Yamala Sts., Emerald

www.emeraldunitingchurch.org.au

10TH JANUARY & 17TH JANUARY



Jim's New Year Jottings II, Sunday 10th January 2021.

An excerpt from Peace with God, Chapter 12: The Old and the New, by Billy Graham

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. --John 3:3

"There is an old story about a pig and a lamb. A farmer brought the pig into the house. He gave him a bath, polished his hoofs, put some Chanel No. 5 on him, tied a ribbon around his neck, and placed him in the living room. The pig looked fine. He almost seemed to be acceptable to society and to friends who might come in, he was so fresh and clean. He made a very nice and companionable pet for a few minutes. But as soon as the door was opened, the pig left the living room and jumped into the first mud puddle he could find. Why? Because he was still a pig at heart. His nature had not been changed. He had been changed outwardly but not inwardly.



"Take a lamb, on the other hand. Put a lamb in a living room and then turn

him out into the yard, and he will try his best to avoid all mud puddles. Why? Because his nature is that of a lamb.

"You can take a man -- dress him up, put him in the front row in church, and he almost looks like a saint. He may fool even his best friends for a while, but then put him in his office the next day or put him at home or put him in the club on Saturday night, and you will see his true nature come out again. Why does he act that way? Because his nature has not been changed. He has not been born again...

"Certain changes will take place once you have been born again. Firstly, there will be a different attitude toward sin. You will learn to hate sin as God hates it. You will detest it and abhor it. I heard about a man some time ago who had been born again in an evangelistic service. He was known as the city drunk. He was called 'Old John.' Somebody spoke to him the next morning on the street and said, 'Good morning, Old John.' He said, 'Who are you talking to? My name is not Old John. I'm new John.' A complete revolution had taken place in his life.

"Secondly, you will be separated from the world. The Bible says, 'Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him' (1 John 2:15). An unknown poet explains it this way:

All the water in the world,
However hard it tried,
Could never sink a ship
Unless it got inside.
All the evil in the world,
The wickedness and sin,
Could never sink the soul's craft
Unless it got inside.

"Thirdly, we will not (continue to) practice sin. The Bible says, 'We know that no one who is born of God sins' (1 John 5:18). In Texas they tell a story about a man who used to hitch his horse every morning in front of the saloon. One morning the saloon-keeper came out and found that the horse was hitched in front of the Methodist Church. He saw the man walking down the street and called out, 'Say, why is your horse hitched in front of the Methodist Church this morning?' The man turned around and said, 'Well, last night I was converted in the revival meeting, and I've changed hitching posts.' That's what it means to be born again. It means that you change hitching posts."

Jim Pearson, Minister, Emerald Uniting Church.

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Mission Statement
As Followers of Christ we seek to know Him: worship Him and share His love with all people

Regular Meetings

1st Sunday: Bring & share lunch after church

3rd Tuesday: Church Council/ Worship & Pastoral Care Meeting at the Church office

BIBLE REFLECTION

Mark 1: 10-11

Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

"And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."



Welcome to our Church Family

If this is your first time with us, please sign our Visitors book at the end of the service, stay and enjoy a cuppa.

