The Power of the Gospel

www.victory.net.nz Sunday 18.10.2026
www.youtube.com/c/VictoryChristianCentre

- Today we are baptising a group of young people in accordance with God's command in the Holy Scriptures
- Water Baptisms are a wonderful occasion to **celebrate**
- It gives new Christians an **opportunity to publicly declare** their faith in **Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour**

1. Eternity is in the Heart of every Person

Ecclesiastes 3:9–11 (LB) *What does one really get from hard work?* ***10*** *I have thought about this in connection with all the various kinds of work God has given to mankind.* ***11*** *Everything is appropriate in its own time. But though* ***God has planted eternity in the hearts of men****, even so,* ***many cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.***

- God has planted eternity in the hearts of every human being:
  - This means that every person alive instinctively knows about eternity
  - It also means that every person's soul will exist forever
- Many people can't see the scope of God's work from beginning to end
- What is eternity?

2. Eternity means "forever"

- Analogy about Ayers Rock in Northern Territory, Australia
- Ayers Rock (Uluru) rises 348 metres above the surrounding desert plain
- Imagine a small bird coming to Ayers Rock once every 1,000 years, to rub its beak at the top of this rock
- When Uluru is finally worn away by this bird, eternity has barely begun
- Our lives on earth, against the backdrop of eternity, are very, very short

Psalm 103:15–17 (NET) ***A person's life is like grass****. Like a flower in the field it flourishes,* ***16*** *but when the hot wind blows by, it disappears, and one can no longer even spot the place where it once grew.* ***17*** *But* ***the Lord continually shows loyal love to his faithful followers****, and is faithful to their descendants.*

- Our natural life on earth is indeed very temporary and very short
- However, the Bible tells us about the soul of man, which has been created to exist forever

- Our soul (our spirit) is the eternal part of us

1 Peter 1:22–25 (LB)...***your souls*** *have been cleansed from selfishness and hatred when* ***you trusted Christ to save you****; so see to it that you really do love each other warmly, with all your hearts.* ***23*** *For* ***<u>you have a new life.</u>*** *It was not passed on to you from your parents, for* ***the life they gave you will fade away****.* ***<u>This new life will last forever, for it comes from Christ</u>****, God's ever-living Message to men.* ***24*** *Yes,* ***our natural lives will fade as grass does*** *when it becomes all brown and dry. All our greatness is like a flower that droops and falls;* ***25*** *but the Word of the Lord will last forever. And his message is the Good News that was preached to you.*

- Today we are baptising a few people who have put their trust in Jesus Christ to save them from eternal judgment
- They have become born again & they have received this new life
- This new life comes from Jesus Christ and <u>it lasts forever</u>

3. <u>We must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God</u>

John 3:3 (NKJV) *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you,* ***unless one is born again, he cannot <u>see</u> the kingdom of God."***

John 3:5,7 (NKJV) *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you,* ***unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot <u>enter</u> the kingdom of God*** *… **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, '****You must be born again.'***

- When we surrender our life to Jesus Christ we become born again
- This is the only way to receive this new life that the Bible speaks about

4. <u>Repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ</u>

- One day, apostle Peter was **preaching to the people about Jesus Christ** who died a sacrificial death on the cross
- He explained to them that **although many of them were religious people**, they still could not make it to heaven on their own merits

Acts 2:36–38 (NLT) So let everyone … know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!" **37** Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" **38** Peter replied, **"<u>Each of you must repent of your sins</u> and** turn to God**, and** be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins …

- These words were not just applicable to the people to whom Peter spoke
- These words are still very true and applicable for us today!

a. Repent of your sins (turn away from your wrongdoings)
b. Turn to God (surrender your life to Jesus Christ)
c. Be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ

- Those who will be baptised today have done exactly that:
  - They have repented of their sins
  - They have turned to God & given their life to Jesus Christ
  - They will be baptised in the Name of Jesus Christ
- The people that Peter spoke to weren't necessarily bad people
- They tried their best to live a good life & keep the Ten Commandment
- Yet, they still needed to be saved from the consequences of their sins

5. <u>Nobody makes it to Heaven on their own Merits</u>

Romans 3:20 (NLT) *For* ***<u>no one</u> can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands.*** *The law simply shows us how sinful we are.*

- Trying to keep the Ten Commandments doesn't get anyone to heaven
- We must turn to God & receive Christ as our personal Lord & Saviour
- We accept eternal salvation as a gift, purely on account of what Jesus had done on the cross

Ephesians 2:8 (NLT) ***God <u>saved</u> you*** *by his special favor* ***when you <u>believed</u>.*** *And you can't take credit for this;* ***it is a gift from God.***

- <u>Saved</u> from what?
  - Saved from the consequences of our own sins
  - Saved from having to spend eternity in a place called hell

- <u>Believed</u> in what or who?
  - Believed in Jesus Christ and His completed work on the cross
  - Believed that God sent Jesus Christ to die a sacrificial death for us
  - In doing so, He took the punishment of our sins on Himself so we could be saved

Romans 3:23 (NLT) *For* ***everyone has sinned****; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*

Romans 6:23 (NCV) *The **payment for sin is death**. But **God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

- A gift that is offered must be received & accepted

John 1:11–13 (NLT) *He (Jesus) came to his own people, and even they rejected him. **12 But to all who <u>believed him</u> and <u>accepted him</u>, he gave the right to become children of God. 13** They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but **a birth that comes from God.***

- When Jesus came to earth, Jewish people by-and-large rejected Him
- But to all who received Him as their personal Lord and Saviour, He gave them the right to become children of God
- They became born again, which is a spiritual birth
- Ultimately, only "born again" believers can <u>see</u> and <u>enter</u> God's Kingdom and get to heaven
- Jesus emphatically said: You must be born again

6. <u>How do we become born again?</u>

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ***If you <u>confess with your mouth</u> the <u>Lord Jesus</u>** and **<u>believe in your heart</u> that <u>God has raised Him from the dead</u>, you will be saved.***

- Believe in our heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead
- Confess (declare) with our mouth Jesus Christ as our Lord
- Then, we will be saved

<u>Salvation Prayer:</u>

"Heavenly Father, I thank You that You sent Your Son Jesus Christ into the world to save me. I recognise that I have disobeyed Your commandments, and that I cannot save myself by my own good deeds. Lord Jesus, I thank You that You have taken the punishment for my sins upon yourself by dying on the cross. I make a decision now to surrender my whole life to You. I receive You now as my personal Lord and Saviour. I thank You that I am now forgiven, and that I am now born again. Please lead me and guide me and show me Your plan and purpose for my life. Help me to be strong so that I can live according to Your plan and purpose for my life. I pray this in Jesus' Name, amen. "