



EPISODE FOUR

NEW WALK

Host:

Despite the background that Josh had as a little boy he is still able to speak about a faith that works, a love that labours and a hope that is patient. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:3

Question:

What impacted you the most from Josh's talk?

Josh apologised to his Dad – do you think that he needed to do that? What are the reasons for your answer?

Host:

In the passage of scripture from 1 Thessalonians Paul highlights, as he remembers before God, the attributes of this community which included their faith, love and hope in Christ which is played out in every area of their life.

Question:

What are the attributes that you would like your church or group of people to be known for? How can that work itself out in practice?

Host:

The Thessalonian's faith and hope in Jesus meant that they had faith for those who had no faith and love for the unlovable.

Question:

How do you explain to a non-Christian the faith that you have in Jesus? Think about and discuss what people can put their faith in who do not know The Lord. How relevant are these (generally) material things such as job, money, intelligence, family, friends etc? What difference does it make having a faith in the person Jesus?

Host:

Josh quoted from 2 Corinthians 5:21 “for God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us that in Him we might become the righteousness of God”. Such is the love of God – a love that labours for us. Unlike many religions who through various means and ceremonies try to reach God – “climbing the ladder” - He came down to meet us. The symbol that defines a Christian is the cross, not a ladder, Jesus loves us so much – even when we sense that we are at our worst.

Question:

How difficult is it to appreciate how much God loves each one of us? How does the love of Christ in us help us to be a conduit to love the unlovable? What might that look like? How did this manifest itself in Josh's life and his relationship with his father?

Host:

Paul remembers the work that the Thessalonians produced by faith; read the biblical definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1. Josh quotes Major Ian Thomas (author of “The saving life of Christ”) who said “Faith is allowing the Holy Spirit to occupy your whole personality with the attitude of Christ.”

Question:

Where is it in your life where faith can fail? What do you need more faith for? Can we increase our faith? If so how? Where and for whom could you have the faith for the faithless?

Host:

As Christians we have a hope that is patient. Patience is of course a fruit of the Spirit. See also Hebrews 10:23. Our hope is not a vain hope but one that is placed in the assurance of what Jesus has accomplished for those who believe on the cross. “My hope is built on nothing else that Jesus blood and righteousness”

There is no hope in what we may have done or accomplished personally or in our ability but it is all in Jesus and can be summed up in “the best is yet to come”.

Question:

How can we be conduits of hope and bring hope to the hopeless? How do you explain the hope that you have?

Host:

When we know how loved we are by God through Jesus it should enable us to share that love with others – even though it might create fear in us because of rejection when we speak about Him to others. The world is looking for people who recognise that they are vulnerable and lost but that Jesus has reached into their lives, often through others and has made them new.

When we have that right relationship with God through Jesus we create a right relationship with ourselves and with others. The Holy Spirit working through us then empowers us to have a faith for the faithless, a love for the unlovable and a hope for the hopeless.

It is only through Jesus that all things can be made new.