

St James Church



WEEKLY BULLETIN

5th February 2012

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
(10AM-11.20AM)

**TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE
BEFORE AND AFTER CHURCH**

CRÈCHE AVAILABLE IN LOUNGE

DYNAMITE BAY 5YRS+

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Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask
for **IN PRAYER**, believe that you have re-
ceived it, and it will be yours. **MARK 12.24**

Readings : Acts 9:1-12 and 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Context

Stephen has been stoned and the persecution of the Church has begun and is led by Saul of Tarsus.

The church is scattered and followers of Christ live in fear.

Their use of the temple in Jerusalem has been curtailed and they are at odds with the Jewish cult.

Paul's Conversion

In an instance Paul realizes that all his knowledge of the scriptures, his understanding of Jewish history and his theology of God has not enabled him to recognise Jesus, the God of the Jews.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Paul uses the image of a running race to encourage the Corinthians. He uses the end of the race as to the goal they are to reach.

But what about the beginning, Paul had a disastrous start. He did his theology study under a renowned Rabbi Gamaliel.

Yet despite all his knowledge and education he failed to recognise his Messiah, and in fact worked against God in his persecution of the early church. He stood and approved as the first martyr Stephen was stoned.

Not hardly the start you would expect from the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Psalm 30:1-4

I praise you, LORD, because you have saved me and kept my enemies from gloating over me.

I cried to you for help, O LORD my God, and you healed me; you kept me from the grave. I was on my way to the depths below, but you restored my life.

Sing praise to the LORD, all his faithful people! Remember what the Holy One has done, and give him thanks!

- ◆ Is this the foundation of our faith, if God does not pick us up then who will? Who can?*
- ◆ If we have not experienced the relief of sins forgiven, then what shall we preach?
- ◆ Our own righteousness is as filthy rags.
- ◆ My identity - Our identity is to be found in Christ.

Today



9:15am Tea, coffee and fellowship in lounge

10:00am Morning Worship with Gary Mattock

12:30pm Samoan Service

This Week

Wednesday: 1:30 APW

PLEASE PRAY:

for the Parish of Inglewood

- ◆ for Pastor Amos, Nyembezi and the girls
- ◆ for the relocation of the manse
- ◆ for their youth, their leaders and the work they are doing
- ◆ and please continue to pray for Zimbabwe and his relatives especially his mother



CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE

We have a new book of interest called 'Hand on the Helm'. Amongst its many personal true stories is the amazing "Scientists Accidentally Measure Electromagnetic Power of Prayer" which is discussed in the service today.

We have quite a few new DVD's so have a look. Also, modern, up-to-date books on Personal Growth and Family Issues have just come in.

