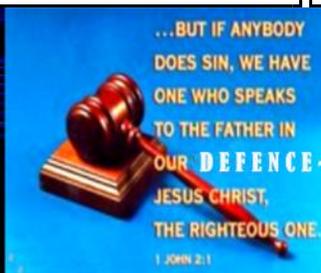


CHURCH OF TE HEPARA PAI

Sunday 19 April 2015

Te Rātapu Tuatoru o te Aranga / 3rd Sunday of Easter
OUR ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER



Our Advocate with the Father

SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

So turn away from your sins. Turn to God. Then your sins will be wiped away. The time will come when the Lord will make everything new. He will send the Messiah. Jesus has been appointed as the Messiah for you.
(Acts 3:19-20)

COLLECT OF THE DAY – Let us pray:

Lord of life, by submitting to death, you conquered the grave; by being lifted upon the cross, you draw all peoples to you; by being raised from the dead, you restore to humanity all that was lost through sin: be with us in your risen power, that in word and deed we may proclaim the marvellous mystery of death and resurrection. For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity. **Amen.**

What Do You See In The Crucifixion of Jesus?

The Provision of

THE ONLY HOPE *For Sinful Man*

God's Love Provided The **ONLY** Possibility of Acquittal For All – 1 John 2:1,2; 4:9,10

A Universal Need – Isaiah 59:1,2:
Romans 3:23; 6:23

The **ONLY** Way To Satisfy The Demands of God's Holiness And Justice
Romans 3:24-26



Christ:
Our Advocate

Our Advocate with the Father

Sin is man's refusal to submit to God's law, that is, God's Word. It is disobedience. The Old Testament contains the Law of God. It is a perfect standard because it is God's standard. When we fail to keep the law and break it, we sin (1 Jn.

3:4). If God says "*Do not lie*" and you lie, then you have broken his law and sinned. When we sin, we offend God because it is his law that we have broken. This offense against God results in a judgement. Laws are laws because they have penalties. There is no law without a penalty. Therefore, breaking God's law brings judgement which is separation from God and eternal death. And all people have broken God's law and sinned. Therefore, all people are under God's judgement—except for those who have trusted in God's provision to escape that judgement.

Because all people have broken God's law and sinned against God the Father, all need an advocate in the sense of a lawyer to represent them before God the Father. Jesus Christ is the advocate, or lawyer, for sinners who pleads their case before God the Father in their defence. He became our advocate, or lawyer, with God the Father when he rose from the dead after taking our sins upon himself (1 Jn. 3:5) and dying in our place (Lk. 24:46), in order to reunite our relationship with God the Father which had gotten broken by Adam. This means that Jesus took our sins in his body on the cross and paid for them so that they are no longer counted against us. That took away forever our sinful state before God, so God can accept us as blameless before him. Jesus took the judgement upon himself.

This further means that anyone who trusts in what Jesus did on the cross by confessing and turning away from their sins and putting trust in him will have his sins removed (Acts 3:19); he will be saved from God's future judgement. In Jesus they have a heavenly advocate or lawyer who, when they confess and turn away from their sins and put trust in him, brings their case before the merciful Father and asks his forgiveness. Just as Jesus' death and coming back to life was the basis on which God accepted them as his people in the first place, so it is the basis on which God continues to forgive their failures. Their sins will be wiped away (Acts 3:19) and they will be declared as innocent and completely righteous because God is just.

So as our advocate or lawyer with God the Father, Jesus says something like this: *"Father, yes this person is guilty of breaking the particular ones of your laws that he has broken and has sinned against you in those particular ways but I have died the death he should have died and have lived the life he should have lived in his place. I am his advocate. He is lost in me. When you look at him you have to see me. You have to see all that I have done. You have to see all that I am. And therefore Father it would be unjust for you to take two payments for these sins. I have already paid for them. Therefore Father I do not ask for mercy. I demand justice."* And since God the Father is just, he will forgive and wipe away those sins.

All people have broken God's law and sinned. Therefore, all people are under God's judgement--except for those who have trusted in God's provision to escape that judgement such that their sins have been forgiven and wiped away. Where are you? Are you in the place of God's judgment or of salvation in Christ?

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - amen.

The Reading from Acts: Acts 3:12-19



A reading from Acts chapter 3 beginning at verse 12.

¹² When Peter saw this, he said, "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us? It's not as if we've made this man walk by our own power or godliness. ¹³ The God of our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has done this. God has brought glory to Jesus, who serves him. But you handed Jesus over to be killed. Pilate had decided to let him go. But you spoke against Jesus when he was in Pilate's court. ¹⁴ You spoke against the Holy and Blameless One. You asked for a murderer to be set free instead. ¹⁵ You killed the one who gives life. But God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ This man whom you see and know was made strong because of faith in Jesus' name. Faith in Jesus has healed him completely. You can see it with your own eyes.

¹⁷ "My fellow Israelites, I know you didn't realize what you were doing. Neither did your leaders. ¹⁸ But God had given a promise through all the prophets. And this is how he has made his promise come true. He said that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ ***So turn away from your sins. Turn to God. Then your sins will be wiped away. The time will come when the Lord will make everything new.***

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading: 1 John 3:1-7



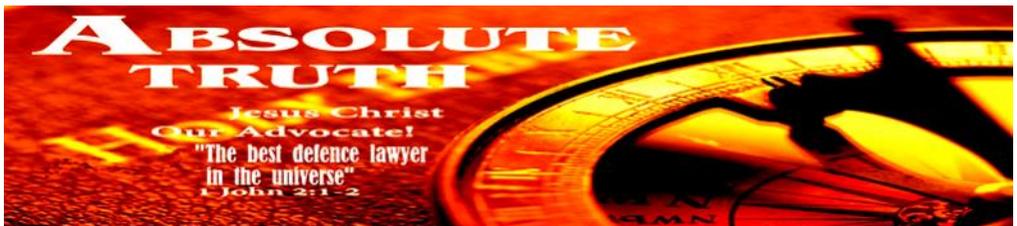
A reading from 1 John chapter 3 beginning at verse 1.

¹ See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God. And that's what we really are! The world doesn't know us because it didn't know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God. He still hasn't let us know what we will be. But we know that when Christ appears, we will be like him. That's because we will see him as he really is. ³ Christ is pure. All who hope to be like him make themselves pure.

⁴ ***Everyone who sins breaks the law. In fact, breaking the law is sin.*** ⁵ But you know that Christ came to take our sins away. And there is no sin in him. ⁶ No one who remains joined to him keeps on sinning. No one who keeps on sinning has seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children, don't let anyone lead you astray. The person who does what is right is holy, just as Christ is holy.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.



The Holy Gospel according to Luke chapter 24 beginning at verse 36b. Praise and Glory to God.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

³⁶ The disciples were still talking about this when Jesus himself suddenly stood among them. He said, "May you have peace!"

³⁷ They were surprised and terrified. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸ Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do you have doubts in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It's really me! Touch me and see. A ghost does not have a body or bones. But you can see that I do."

⁴⁰ After he said that, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ But they still did not believe it. They were amazed and filled with joy. So Jesus asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of cooked fish. ⁴³ He took it and ate it in front of them.

⁴⁴ Jesus said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must come true."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ *He told them, "This is what is written. The Messiah will suffer. He will rise from the dead on the third day.* ⁴⁷ His followers will preach in his name. They will tell others to turn away from their sins and be forgiven. People from every nation will hear it, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You have seen these things with your own eyes.

This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ, the Word.



VESTRY MEETING: AFTER KARAKIA TODAY.

HUI AMORANGI AGM 2015: FRIDAY, 08 MAY TO SUNDAY, 10 MAY, 2015.

