

26th May 2024

Series: STAND FIRM

Message: Work Out

God will work it out!

Scripture: Ephesians 2: 1-10 MSG.

***“With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don’t hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort.”
1 Corinthians 15: 58 MSG.***

- Once we are bought by Christ, we are no longer living life for ordinary purposes.
- Once you submit to Christ - and I mean truly, fully *submit* - you will find it natural to consecrate everything to Him.
- When you wake up and get ready, you’re doing it to His glory.
- When you work, you’re doing it for Him.
- When you come home and spend time with your family, you’re ultimately doing it for Him.

The work of the Lord isn’t just what we might call ‘church, ministry or missionary work.’

God’s work begins in creation -

“He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.” (Ephesians 2.10. MSG)

God created you to join Him in the work of filling and stewarding the world.

We are able to give ourselves fully to God’s work only because God is working in us.

God’s Spirit motivates and empowers us for the work we are called to.

In a sense, 1 Corinthians 15:58 says, ***‘Give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because the Lord is already fully at work in you!’***

The Lord is always at work in us, and our work for the Lord matters, and it lasts for all eternity!

Much Grace,
Orrell



The **VIBE**

So, What Would Happen If Jesus Were To Return And Find Me Resting?



Jesus
is
coming,
look
busy!

Would that be a problem?
Would I be in trouble?
Wouldn't Jesus be happier if He came back to find me at church?
In prayer?
Busy doing the work of the kingdom?

The Bible, thank God, is abundantly clear about this. Rest is a non-negotiable as far as God is concerned. It is not just okay. It is required.

'No Ifs, Ands, or Buts!'

The operating manual for humans clearly describes the maintenance requirements.

Regular rest is required, or things will start to break. God worked for six days and then rested, and we are to do the same.

Do we need less rest than God?

- The thought is absurd.

If Jesus were to come back and find us resting, that would be just fine.

Rest is a form of obedience.

Rest is good.

The Sabbath is holy.



Operation Christmas Child - June Collections

Next month we'll collect **'Toys'**. Nothing too big as they'll need to fit into shoebox-size gift packs. Here are some suggestions ... balls, yoyos, puzzles, skipping ropes, dolls, plastic animals, soft toys, cars, trucks, marbles.

Continued Call to Prayer

Please stop and join us in dedicated prayer, wherever you may be, at **7.30pm** on **Friday evenings** (or at a time that better suits you). We're giving thanks for Orrell's and Christine's time with us, for their future ministry and for Uniting 4570's next ministerial appointment - someone who will share our vision and plans.

Tuesday Morning Prayer and Communion

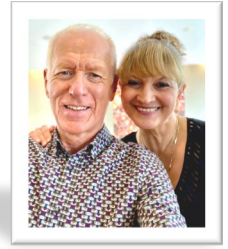
We meet at **8am of a Tuesday** to PRAY and share in COMMUNION. We usually meet in the CE Room, although this Tuesday, we'll meet in the Boardroom. If you can't make it but have a prayer need, please let Joan or the church office know.

SHINE Women's Gympie Conference

Saturday, 3rd August. More information to come ...

Service of Closure - 2nd June

Next Sunday will, sadly, be Orrell's and Christine's last day with us. We hope you can join our church family and friends in farewelling them and giving thanks for their valued ministry. Orrell's official 'Service of Closure' will follow on from the 9am Worship Service at our Gympie Church. Then we'll enjoy some special time together over morning tea.



Smarter Not Harder?

Colossians 3:23-24 says "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

If you think about "your work" through the lens of this verse, then our hard work will eternally pay off! I think it might be wiser to say, "work smarter and harder!"

Erin Bormes

My Living Shall Not Be in Vain

If I can help somebody, as I pass along,

If I can cheer somebody, with a word or song,

If I can show somebody, that he's travelling wrong,

Then my living shall not be in vain.

If I can do my duty, as a good man ought,

If I can bring back beauty, to a world up wrought,

If I can spread love's message, as the Master taught,

Then my living shall not be in vain.

- Alma Bazel Androzzo

The life of man is a struggle on earth. But without a cross, without a struggle, we get nowhere.

The victory will be ours if we continue our efforts courageously, even when at times they appear futile. - Boniface Wimmer -

It's sobering to contemplate how much time, effort, sacrifice, compromise, and attention we give to acquiring and increasing our supply of something that is totally insignificant in eternity.

- Anne Graham Lotz -

There is no more futile punishment than futile and hopeless labour.

- Albert Camus -

WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP

There is a word of hope here for all who battle with spiritual lethargy.

Paul professed again and again that the key to his seemingly tireless labours was God at work in him (Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:29).

It was not in his own strength that he was able to do what he did. Christ was strengthening him.

In the same breath, he says, he (Paul) "worked harder than the other apostles," he also says,

"though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me." (1 Corinthians 15.10)

And still today, Christ strengthens His church by grace. (Romans 16: 25; 2 Timothy 2:1)

Paul would be quick to challenge today's hardest workers with the truth, which is, apart from God, our best labours will prove futile in the end, and for those of us who know we need help, who have more regrets about spiritual apathy and sluggishness than over-work, he would remind us, that we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should 'walk' in them (good works).

God doesn't leave us to struggle along, alone and limited.

Instead, He says, *"Here's something I prepared earlier, how about we work on this together."*

God doesn't demand a sprint towards a deadline, but invites us to work and walk with Him.



Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

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Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Rev Orrell Battersby.. 0423 985 200 orrell@gruc.org

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or



UNITING 4570
Better together

Offering & Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 77 ♦ Children 2 ♦ Facebook 62 ♦ YouTube 2

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,019.10 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)