

EPISTLE of 18 August 2024

Dear Saints,

The Scriptures say in 2 Corinthians 7:1 from the Contemporary English Version, *“My friends, God has made us these promises. So we should stay away from everything that keeps our bodies and spirits from being clean. We should honour God and try to be completely like him.”*

Over the past few weeks we have looked at the political dimensions of the Gospel, and asserted that “We should obey God rather than people.” In addition, we have made the point that “there can be no Jesus without justice.” The core values of the Scriptures, from Covenant to Prophet to Gospel are grounded in the concept of justice.

What we also emphasised last week is that paradox (ie. holding two seemingly contradictory ideas together), is a necessary and vital part of theology. Today, we affirm that while the Gospel has political dimensions, it is also incredibly *personal*.

In 2 Corinthians 7:1, St Paul highlights this personal dimension. What we allow ourselves to think, what we say, how we act personally are all aspects of life we have control over. Indeed, the Gospel is profoundly personal in character. This personal God who self-reveals as Parent, Son and Holy Spirit, wants to be and *is* – God Immanuel; God-with-us.

Today, may the personal God show up in deep, sincere and thoughtful ways, in all the places of your life.

Grace and peace to you!

Rev Craig
18 August 2024