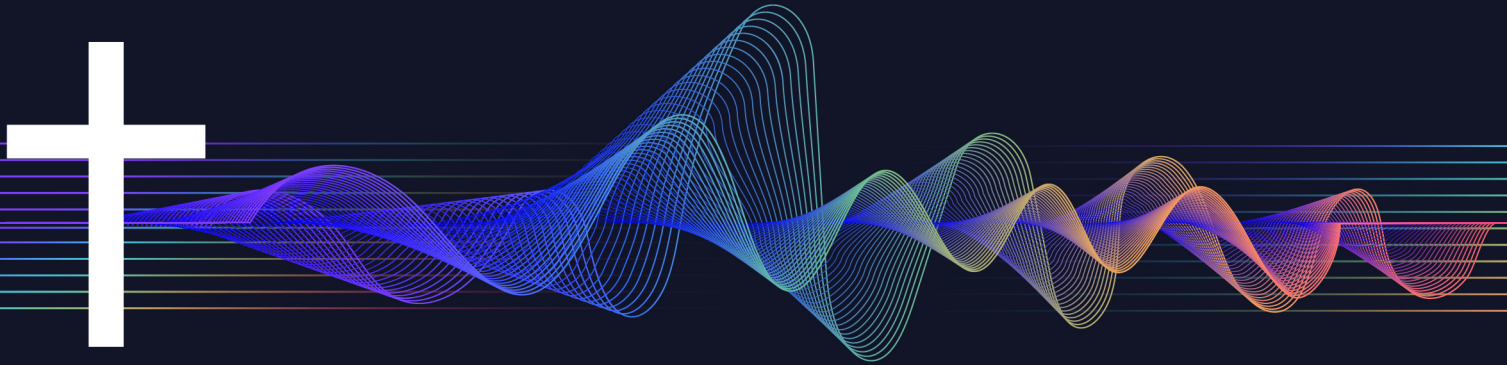


ALL TO JESUS

Commitment Series Studies 2023



Studies by Steve Young, edited by Robin Kinstead

A hymn written by Van de Venter and Weeden and sung by followers of Jesus across the centuries, declares:

*All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all.
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.*

In the words of Paul the apostle to followers of Jesus in Philippi, and read by Jesus' followers across the millennia, Paul exhorts,

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." (Philippians 1:27). Is this worthy manner possible?

In our October Commitment month we explore what it means to surrender "All to Jesus." I encourage us all to pray to God as we read ahead in a Letter to the Philippians, receiving it as a letter to our church today.

Some questions I have faced as I read this letter and I hope we shall join in asking of ourselves at Figtree Anglican Church are:

- What does **Excellence** look like in my life?
- What heart surgery do I need God to do in me so I long to share Jesus with **Everyone**?
- What must change in my perception to see **Everything** as belonging to Jesus?
- How can I lift my **Engagement** for Jesus?
- How may I loosen my grip on temporal things to have a lasting impact in **Eternity**?

Five weeks, five questions for our Sunday sermon series accompanied by studies in Philippians to explore and enjoy during our devotional time or LifeGroups in the week.

By God's grace, let's bear in mind how, *"in our relationships with one another, we are to have the mind of Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5).

STUDY ONE

All to Jesus in Gospel Unity

Philippians 1:1-11

Read Philippians 1:1-11

1. How do your relationships with followers of Jesus differ from other relationships?
2. What we know of Paul's relationship with the Philippians (verses 1-2)?
3. Paul has passion for the gospel. What attitudes does Paul have as he prays with thanksgiving for the Philippians (verse 3-8)? Why does Paul respond towards the Philippians in this way?
4. Why does the love of Jesus create such profound and transcendent relationships among His followers?
5. What specifically does Paul pray for in relation to the Philippians (verses 9-11)?
6. How do Paul's priorities in prayer differ to yours?
7. Why does love require knowledge and depth of insight (verse 9)?
8. What is Paul's desire for the Philippians?
9. How can we learn to give thanks and to pray for the one's we love based on Paul's prayer for the Philippians?

Sermon Bonus Question - What does **Excellence** look like in my life?

Finish with a prayer based on Paul's prayer.

STUDY TWO

All to Jesus in Gospel Humility

Philippians 2:12-30

Read Philippians 2:12-30

1. Why is it such good news (and an incentive to bow the knee before Jesus now) that authority and humility are found together in Jesus?
2. Why must authority and humility go together in the kingdom of God? (cf. Mark 10:35-45)
3. Should we 'let go and let God' to effect the changes in us so that we can live a life worthy of the gospel? (Verses 12-13)
4. List the characteristics of the person who "shines like a star" (verses 14-16).
5. Why is complaining and arguing inconsistent with the gospel?
6. How can one avoid the "what's in it for me?" attitude to church? Can I encourage others to do the same?
7. In what way is Paul an example of our ideal response as followers of Jesus (verses 17-18)?
8. What kind of people does the world tend to hold in high regard in 2023?
9. What kind of people should followers of Jesus respect and celebrate according to verses 19-20?

Sermon Bonus Question - What heart surgery do I need God to do in me so I long to share Jesus with **Everyone**?

Finish with a prayer based on Paul's description of Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11.

STUDY THREE

All to Jesus in Gospel Expectation

Philippians 3:8-4:1

Read Philippians 3:8-4:1

1. Where do you want to be in 10 years' time in your walk with Jesus?
2. What was Paul's aim for his own life? (verses 3:8-11)
3. What would Paul say to someone who thinks they can relax and stop striving as a follower of Jesus? (Verses 3:12-14, Ephesians 1:3 and 2:6, Colossians 3:1-4)
4. What security is there in Philippians 3:12-14 for the follower of Jesus?
5. According to the following Bible references, what might "the prize" be?
 - Luke 19:12-17
 - 2 Timothy 4:8
 - 1 Peter 5:4
 - Revelation 22:3-4
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:17
6. What "view of things" should mature followers of Jesus take? (verses 3:15-16)
7. Think of yourself 10 years ago, 5 years ago, 1 year ago in your understanding of Biblical truth, your personal godliness, and your ministry engagement? How have you grown? What commitments can you make to grow?
8. Why is it necessary for a follower of Jesus to be deliberate in choosing whose example to follow? (Verse 3:17)
9. Verses 18-19 describe bad role models. Why are they attractive as role models? What is their motivation?
10. Verses 20-21 describe good role models. How are they contrasted with bad role models? What is their motivation?

Sermon Bonus Question - What must change in my perception to see **Everything** as belonging to Jesus?

Finish with a prayer based on "Your kingdom come", "Come, Lord Jesus!"

STUDY FOUR

All to Jesus in Gospel Life

Philippians 4:2-9

Read Philippians 4:2-9

1. Think of someone whom you consider to be strong in faith as a follower of Jesus. What is their relationship with God like? What is their outlook on life like? Do they have enemies? What do they think about? How does this show in what they do?

2. Do we need to be told and shown how to stand firm in the Lord?

Paul now addresses life issues – disagreement, joy, gentleness, peace:

3. What clues are we given in verses 4:2-3 as to who the women were and what the situation was?

4. What can we learn from how Paul dealt with the situation? Why is bickering especially ugly when it is between Jesus' followers?

5. What are the grounds for Christian joy in verse 4? How is it that Paul can tell the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord always?

6. What impression would you most like others to have about you? What should we make known to others about ourselves according to verse 5?

7. Do you think we have more to worry about today than people did 2000 years ago? What are we to do with our worries? What peace is promised in verse 7?

8. Why do you think Paul tells us what to think about in verse 8?

9. What are three things you have learned from Paul, received from Paul, heard from Paul, or seen in Paul in his letter that you could put into practice?

Sermon Bonus Question - How can I lift my **Engagement** for Jesus?

Finish with a prayer based on Paul's assurance of peace in Christ in Philippians 4:7.

STUDY FIVE

All to Jesus in Gospel Contentment

Philippians 4:10-23

Read Philippians 4:10-23

1. Describe the situation in which you can see yourself being totally content.
2. Recall and describe the situation underlying verse 10. Why is Paul quick to add verses 4:11-13 after verse 10?
3. Why is it important that followers of Jesus learn “the secret of being content” as Paul did? What happens if we don’t learn this?
4. How do you think we might learn this “secret of being content in any and every situation”?
5. What should our attitude be towards money and all it enables us to do?
Think of what you are most lacking now. Health? Wealth? Relationships? Are you consumed by this lack? Is this issue hindering your living and ministry for God?
Think of what you value most right now. Are you consumed by it? Is this issue hindering your living and ministry for God?
6. How was Paul’s expression of gratitude in verses 14-19 designed to be received by the Philippians?
7. Whom did the generosity of the Philippians benefit?
8. How is verse 19 an encouragement for us to be generous as Christians today? What opportunities is God currently giving you to be generous?
9. In verses 21-23, why would Paul greet the Philippians on behalf of those they’ve never met?

Sermon Bonus Question - How may I loosen my grip on temporal things to have a lasting impact in **Eternity**?

Finish with a prayer based on Paul’s joy for Jesus (Philippians 4:4).



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4-10 Gibsons Rd, Figtree, NSW

connect@myfac.org.au | 02 4272 1322 | figtree.church

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