Sunday 15th November, 2026

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

Good morning and welcome to our interactive service. As we gather together today, it is good to be reminded of how great and awesome our God is. For as it says in Psalm 145: "*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty."* Let us pray.

Our Heavenly Father, You are our God, the almighty King. We marvel at your splendour and extol your wonderous name for ever and ever. You are most worthy of all praise, and your greatness is beyond comprehension. You are the creator, and the Lord of all. By your Word you created the heavens and the earth, the land and the sea, and everything in between. And you created us, and you continue to sustain us, and everything occurs according to your will. For you are majestic and infinite, your power is limitless, and you judge the world in righteousness and demand perfection. Yet you are caring and compassionate, loving, merciful and forgiving. And as we come before you today, we do so with trepidation and humility.

For we know that we have fallen short of your expectations. We forget about you, we rely on our own strengths, and don't acknowledge your blessings and all that you do for us. We have so much to be forgiven for. So, we ask for your forgiveness. We ask that you help us to focus on you: that we will be thankful for everything that you have given us, and continue to provide to us. And we ask that as we worship you today, that you will help us to set aside any distractions, and that we will focus on you, so that we can give you the honour and glory that you deserve. Amen.

Song – Crown Him with many crowns.

https://youtu.be/_oyNbCiryFc

Verse 1 Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His Throne;Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for me,And hail Him as my matchless King

through all eternity.

Verse 2 Crown Him the Lord of Life, Who triumphed over the grave,And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high,Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Verse 3 Crown Him the Lord of Peace, Whose power a scepter swaysFrom pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praiseHis reign shall know no end, and round His piercèd feetFair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Verse 4 Crown Him the Lord of Love, behold His hands and side,Those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou has died for me;Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Bible Reading – Romans 13:1-14 (NIV)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. 6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour. 8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. 11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Announcements

God's Word for God's world (GWGW). Next Sunday, GWGW has its 500th show on Rhema, a great effort by the small team from within the Church that puts it together each week for 10 years. So, we going to have a small celebration at Charlestown Church Sunday 22nd November between 3-4pm. We are hoping that some of our Church family will come along and mix with some of our listeners who have also been invited. Please RSVP to Stephen by this Thursday if you are planning to come. And Stephen will need help with catering and serving. If you can help here, please also speak to Stephen.

National Church Life Survey (NCLS) – Sunday 8th November. If you took a survey home last week please return it to day or complete it on line. If you weren't here last week, you can pick up a paper survey today and bring it back next Sunday. Or you can complete it online.

Charlestown Link .https://attendersurvey.ncls.au?ccode=PA100301

Swansea Link.https://attendersurvey.ncls.au?ccode=PA100304

Focus for the month: Service. The Bible says that Church is a body, with many parts. Which means we all need each other and the gifts and abilities that God has given us. How are you currently using your gifts? And is there a way you could use them to serve the body of Christ in this place?

Serve2027. Have you filled in the Serve2027 handout, please hand it to someone on the door today. And if you didn't get one, there are more to picked up. It would be great if we could all think and pray about how we might serve one another in 2027.

Vanuatu Mission. For one reason or another there hasn't been a big take up for this year's mission. So, as well as first timers we are also throwing it open to those who have gone before & those in the morning service. Interested please speak to either Stephen or Cheryl.

Upcoming Events

- Swansea Christmas Morning Tea – Sunday 29th November, 9am Swansea Hall.
- Lords Supper – all three services – Sunday 29th November
- Kids Church Presentation – Sunday 6th December, Charlestown 9:45am

Christmas & Clay – Saturday 21 November, 2–4pm. Ladies, join us for afternoon tea, an evangelistic talk on the hope of Jesus' birth from guest speaker Jenny Martin, and clay ornament making. RSVP By this Tuesday. Who could you invite?

Gospel Intensive. A one year, one day a week, gospel training partnership for those interested in growing in their faith, knowledge and ministry skills. Interested? Come to the information night 6-7pm THIS Thursday Nov 19 @ Newcastle Central Presbyterian Church or contact Gavin Hays 0432 543 354

Big Topics. A series of roundtable discussions where we can talk together about how current issues affects our lives and the live of our Church. Our next big topic will be Singleness. Sunday 29th November from 4:30-5:30. To prepare, you could read Dani Treweek, "Single Ever After" Or Watch one of the numerous video podcasts she has been interviewed on.

Next preaching programme – Swansea/Charlestown AM.

Romans 9-16 “In view of God’s mercy.”

22/11Romans 14:1-15:6The weak and the strong

29/11Romans 15:7-33The gospel at work

20/12Romans 16:1-27Paul’s Missionary Heart

Song – From the depths of woe [From The Depths Of Woe - Indelible Grace - YouTube]

1. From the depths of woe I raise to Thee4. What though I wait the live-long night,The voice of lamentation;And til the dawn appeareth,Lord, turn a gracious ear to meMy heart still trusteth in His might;And hear my supplication;It doubteth not nor feareth;If Thou iniquities dost mark,Do thus, O ye of Israels seed,Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,Ye of the Spirit born indeed;

O who shall stand before Thee?And wait til God appeareth

1. To wash away the crimson stain,5. Though great our sins and sore our woesGrace, grace alone availeth;His grace much more aboundeth;Our works, alas! Are all in vain;His helping love no limit knows,In much the best life faileth;Our upmost need it soundeth.No man can glory in Thy sight,Our Shepherd good and true is He,All must alike confess Thy might,Who will at last His Israel free

And live alone by mercyFrom all their sin and sorrow

1. Therefore my trust is in the Lord,And not in mine own merit;On Him my soul shall rest, His wordUpholds my fainting spirit;His promised mercy is my fort,My comfort and my sweet support;

I wait for it with patience

Pastoral Prayer Points

Pray for Oman. (Population 4.7million. Christians 191,000). Persecution in Oman depends significantly on where a follower of Jesus is from. For example, foreigners are largely able to worship freely providing they don’t share their faith. But any convert from Islam risks **significant pressure** to recant their faith from their family, the government, and the community. Pray that That Christians, especially new believers, will remain trusting and hopeful even as authorities try to squash their faith. Ask God to protect native Omani’s and safely insert them in a Christian community. Pray that God sustains all believers in Oman and helps them wisely and courageously live out the gospel.

Pray for Applebys (Pioneers, Indochina) Give thanks for all that God has done in IndoChina in recent decades - the growth of the evangelical church here is nothing short of extraordinary. But there's much more to be done. The Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia the main 'umbrella' organisation representing Cambodian congregations to the government. Please pray for the EFC leadership as they prepare to celebrate *30 Years of Serving by Grace* next month. It's a great opportunity to declare what He has done in a way that spurs this generation into further faithful service.

Pray that we will remember them. This last week marked the 108th anniversary of the Armistice for WW1. Pray that we will be thankful for all those who have fought for our nations over the last 125 years. Pray for the families that have made great sacrifices for us. Pray for all those who are currently in the armed forces, especially those on deployment overseas, that you will keep them safe. Pray that don't just trust in our armed forces but we see that our real safety and security is in the Lord.

Pray for the Women's evangelistic event next Saturday – that some unchurched women will be invited to come along, that they enjoy the company that's there, have a great time and hear about Jesus all in the one afternoon.

Sermon: Overcoming evil with good (Stephen T)

Matilda Britvan was just ten years old when she was killed in the Bondi terror attack in December 2025. If that wasn't bad enough, a couple of weeks ago, her parents, Michael and Valentyna, were reported to have been targeted by vile antisemitic abuse online. One message told them to leave Australia. Imagine that. You've lost your daughter in a horrific act of violence, and then people attack you again with words of hatred.

But did you remember how they responded to that evil and hatred? Michael Britvan spoke about the hundreds of messages of love and support his family had received from ordinary Australians. His response was not to focus on the hatred that his family has experienced but instead on the goodness of the people from his community.

You see there are broadly two different responses to evil. Some people answer it with more evil; while others respond to it with goodness and compassion. And that raises an important question for Christians: When we encounter evil, how will you and I respond?

Friends, it's easy to be loving when people love us. It's easy to be respectful when authorities do what we want. It's easy to live godly lives when the world around us shares our values. But what happens when they don't? What happens when governments oppress us, people hurt us, and the world around us seems increasingly comfortable with what God calls darkness? That's the challenge of Romans 13.

Slide 2

Paul shows us how to live for Jesus in a world that doesn't always honour Jesus. And the remarkable thing is that he doesn't tell us to fight evil with evil, instead he tells us to submit, to love and to clothe ourselves in

Christ. Impossible? No doubt. But in view of God's mercy to us, the response that He wants in all of us is to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy & pleasing to him. And so, this sort of submission, these acts of love, this clothing ourselves with Christ are the very things that will please the one who has both made us & saved us.

Slide 3

1. Let's begin firstly with **Governments? And the call is to Submit! (vv. 1–7)**

*"Let everyone **be subject** to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."*

Paul lived in a world of bad government. The Roman government of his day was busy persecuting the Church and a few years before had expelled Jews from Rome itself because they followed a guy called Christus, mostly likely Christ. It is into this difficult situation that Paul tells the Roman believers to submit to their government. Why? Because the authority for any government, even a bad one, actually comes from God Himself!

Slide 4

So, he calls on the believers to recognise that behind every emperor, king, prime minister and government is God Himself. Here Paul is just recounting what Jesus said to Pontius Pilate when he was about to sanction one of the most unjust decisions in the history of the world. Jesus said "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above"

As well as that in the book of Daniel, it was clearly stated that the Lord is sovereign over all human kingdoms and that he gives them to anyone he wishes. Now that does not mean God approves of everything a government does. It does not mean every ruler is righteous or every law is just. It means that human authority exists under God's authority.

Slide 5

Think about a referee in a rugby game. You might disagree with a particular decision. They might even had made a mistake but if every player decides that the referee has no authority whenever they disagree with a call, the game quickly descends into chaos. For the referee's authority does not depend on every decision being perfect. In the same way, the existence of government authority does not depend on every government decision being right either.

Slide 6

Which means, in the words of Christopher Ash, "*Behind the apparent mess of human power is a God of order*." That's why we should respect our political leaders because God has put that government there in the first place.

Slide 7

3 “For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right & you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.”

For what is the role of the government but to promote good and to punish evil. Yes, there are lots of things that a government can and will want to do but that is its essence. To maintain law and order, to stop people from doing wrong and to encourage what is right.

That’s why Paul has encouraged us in Romans 12 to not take revenge. Because that is God’s prerogative. And he delegates that also to the government rulers. Who are in Paul’s words, God’s servants. Actually, the word is the same word as ministers. They have a calling from God to do what is right and to punish what is wrong. Do you see how law and order is important to the Lord? So rather than anarchy or lynch mobs, rather than everyone having the power of the sword, he gives it instead just to those in charge of an area’s government.

Slide 8

5 “Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.” Notice though Paul doesn’t advocate blind obedience for at this point in time he introduces the concept of our conscience. Which opens the door for the possibility that one might resist the authorities, not submit to the authorities, if their view of good and evil disagrees with God’s view of good and evil.

Slide 9

Isn’t that what happened in Acts 4? The Sanhedrin haul Peter and John before this religious court and command them not to speak any longer in the name of Jesus. And what is their reply? “*Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard*.” (Acts 4:19-20).

Slide 10

Sometimes authorities overstep their powers. At other times, they simply abuse their powers and, in those cases, in the words of Jesus, we need to “*Render to Caesar what belongs to Ceaser and render to God what belongs to God*.” Like the Hebrew midwives refusing to kill baby boys in the book of Exodus or Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refusing to bow down to the statue of gold, local officials have authority but not supreme authority. Which means for the believer, God must always come first.

Which means we should never completely ignore the authorities because our citizenship is not here but in heaven. Nor should we always cooperate totally with the authorities, letting them rule every aspect of our lives. Instead, we should see there is a partnership between the government and Church where each has a role to fulfil and it is only when one oversteps their role do we need to seek the wisdom of the word and our conscience.

So, when a pandemic like COVID comes our way or the government announces conscription, or tells medical practitioners that they can kill life rather than save life, we have a choice to make as Christians. How do we render to God what belongs to God and also render to Caesar what belongs to Caeser. And let's be honest here, the line where we will do one thing and not the other, isn't easy to find. And you might draw the line in a different place than I might. And that's ok. But there is a line there and each of us have to follow the word and follow our conscience so that we are always putting the Lord first.

Let's be thankful that we are living in a democratic country where we can peacefully have a say, via the ballot box and/or via the way of peaceful protests, when we believe that our local, state and federal governments are not using their God given authority wisely. But no matter how good or bad our governments are, we are called to recognise their authority, respect their role and render to them what we owe them.

Slide 11

6 "This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour."

Slide 12

Governments can't do their work of law and order without taxes and revenue, so give them what they say you owe them. But don't do it grudgingly but respectfully. Don't follow the tone of the papers and social media, always bagging out our leaders, honour them, even if you didn't vote for them. Even if you not going to vote for them next time; & pray for them. In the words of 1 Timothy 2:1-2 *"Prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for … kings & all those in authority, that we may live peaceful & quiet lives in all godliness & holiness*"

Slide 13

1. Governments? Submit! **Commandments? Love! (verses 8-10)**

The idea of owing something to the government, helps Paul's mind to jump to other things that you and I owe to the people around us. *8 "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law."*

Make sure you pay off your taxes, ensure you don't get caught not paying off your credit card, be careful you don't find yourself in a debt trap by buying a home beyond your means but hopefully one day all of those debts will be paid off. But there is one debt you will never,

ever pay off. The debt you owe to the people around you.

Slide 14

Last year when we looked at Romans 1 and Paul's words *"**I am obligated** both to Greeks & non-Greeks, both to the wise & the foolish."* We saw that Paul didn't think he was obligated to God but instead to the Greeks and

non-Greeks. He says that he is indebted to them. But how can he be indebted to someone that he has never even met before?

Last year I stole Tim Keller's illustration, hopefully with his permission, when he says we can be indebted to a person in two ways. That person could lend us $100 and we need to pay them back that $100. Or someone else gives us $100 and tells us to give that $100 to another person. Which means we are not indebted to our neighbour because of all the good things they have done for us but because of all the love that God has shown to us and the fact that he says to you and me, pay that love forward. Share that love, not just with me, that's what the first four of the ten commandments are all about, but also with your neighbour, that's what commands 5 to 10 are all about.

Slide 15

9 "The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

We often think that law & love are opposites, but God's laws are not just guidelines on how to live but love lines on how Christ has loved us. They, in fact, show us what love looks like.

Our world says that love is love, "it's obvious what love looks like" and then gives us all these wild and crazy ways that they say represents love. But most of that represents self-love. Self-gratification, which is what sin is all about, not love. But God in his word tells us what real love looks like and it is other person centred. It's not going to kill or commit adultery or steal or get jealous over what my neighbour has.

Slide 16

For love does no harm to a neighbour. You get that? Paul lived in a world where the government got lots of things wrong but he still calls us on his readers to submit to them. Paul also lives in a world where the people around him often wanted to do him harm and he says don't respond to evil with evil, instead over come evil with good. By showing your neighbour love. God's love. Christ love.

Remember Jesus left the comforts of heaven; he took on flesh and dwelt among us. He served us, taught us, modelled for us and lived a life of love. He gave his life for us. He went to hell to take the punishment that we deserved but on the third day he came back to life and now, right now he is at the right hand of the father pleading with us, interceding for us, committing what is going on all around us, to the father. His life is the fulfilment of the law.

Now that doesn't mean that his death makes God's commandments irrelevant. For these commandments are practical expressions of what love looks like. And yes, we will never keep them well enough to be good enough

for God. But in view of God's mercies, a life of love is a life that is holy and pleasing to God, our spiritual act of worship.

Slide 17

Friends, so the call here is to live a life of love. Which means that when someone criticises us, love refuses to rush into retaliation. When someone succeeds, love resists jealousy and genuinely rejoices with them. When someone is struggling, love takes practical steps to help. When we have hurt someone, love is willing to apologise. When gossip would make us look good at another person's expense, love refuses to join in.

Now that's easier when the people around us are sharing this sort of love with us. But what about a difficult neighbour, that unreasonable colleague or that family member that is always downright annoying? Well Romans 12 has already answered that question, hasn't it? Last week we heard Paul tell us to bless those who persecute us and not to repay evil for evil. We do not love others because they have earned our love. We love because God has shown his love to us in Christ and told us that we now under debt to pass that love on.

Slide 18

We have been forgiven, so we learn to forgive. We have received mercy, so we show mercy. We have been loved when we were undeserving, so we seek the good of people who may not deserve our kindness. That does not mean we ignore abuse, excuse wrongdoing or abandon wise boundaries. Love may require confronting someone honestly, protecting a vulnerable person or seeking justice. But even then, our goal is not revenge. It is doing what is right and good. Especially because we live in the midst of a world that's full of darkness.

Slide 19

1. **Darkness? Clothe (verses 11-14)**

11 "And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light."

Friends, Paul is reminding us to remember what time it is. Now over the last couple of years, I have had the absolute joy seeing the children and youth of Hog Harbour playing "What's the time Mr Wolf?" If you don't know the game, there are a couple of wolves who have their back turned to the kids and the kids ask them the one question over and over again, "What's the time Mr Wolf?" And the answer comes back 3 o'clock and they can take 3 steps toward the wolves. 6 o'clock and they take a further 6 steps toward them. But if they say dinner time, they have to run for their lives or they will be metaphorically eaten up by the wolves.

Slide 20

Here Paul is making sure we know what time it is. It's time to wake up, time to take off our sleeping clothes and time to put on the clothes that will prepare us to cope with the deeds of darkness that are all around us. And it starts with waking up from our slumber.

We probably all have our morning routine. I get up, have a cup of coffee, read the sports section of the SMH, have my quiet time and then get dressed. Paul is saying that our morning routine should be to firstly to wake up from our slumber. Friends the night is nearly over. The day of Jesus appearing is almost here. History is heading in a certain direction and you and I need to be ready for it when that day comes.

Friends sometimes we just get so consumed by what is in front of us we forget what time it is. It's just a few minutes before the son will return to our earth. Which means we should not be consumed by the values of the people around us, instead we should be committed to living in the light of God's mercy, being living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to the Lord. That means submitting to our governments even when we don't like doing it, it means loving our neighbour, even if they want to harm us and it means taking off the deeds of darkness and putting on the armour of light.

Slide 21

13 "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing & drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."

There are some behaviours that we need to put off in the same way we take off our pyjamas when we finish our time asleep. And those behaviours have to do with drink and sex and conflict. What are we fuelling our lives with? Drink Drugs? Excess? No getting rid of carousing and drunkenness, makes sure you are not losing control by living indulgently.

Slide 22

Nor should we be pursuing porn or sexual immorality. It's everywhere at the moment, isn't it? Available for free at your fingertips. And it promises instant gratification not long-term commitment and security. Get rid of sexual immorality and debauchery, it's just not good for you or the people who are encouraging you to do these things. It belongs to the night and you are now living in the light of day. And then make sure you are dealing in a godly way with conflict, not showing jealousy, envy, rivalry, or resentment.

Slide 23

These are not the only forms of darkness but they include things that we know are wrong as well as things that our society now say are respectable. And instead of that, we need to put on the armour of light, which is pointing toward our need to put on some form of protective clothing. And the best protective clothing is clothing ourselves with Christ. Which means that Christ is not an accessory but a necessity. Because you and I won't be able make it without him.

Slide 24

We will need him to live in a world that is full of darkness and show them the way of love not evil. We will need him when others want to harm and you will want to show them Christ's love not our revenge. And we will need him when governments turn rogue and demand that you follow them uncritically and you will need

the courage of Christ to stand up for what is right. And then also you will need him to submit to those governments when what they are telling you to do is against your own wishes but not against God's own word.

And Christ will help you to do just that. Now I admit doing many of these things does seem counter intuitive. Shouldn't we just treat people how they deserve to be treated? Shouldn't we get rid of bad governments? Shouldn't we just leave the darkness of the world behind and just spend our time amongst believers that think and behave just like us?

No just like when you are reversing a caravan your brain says you need to turn the wheel one way when you actually need to turn it the other way, so we need to ignore what our desires are telling us and do instead what Paul is telling us to do in Romans 13.

Slide 25

And it works. In his Confessions, Augustine describes how, after years of wrestling with his desires and struggling to change on his own, he was sitting in a garden when he heard a child's voice repeating, "Take up and read." He picked up a copy of Paul's letters and read our passage in Romans 13:13–14: "*Let us behave decently, as in the daytime … not in sexual*

immorality and debauchery … Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ."

He wrote that the effect of those words was immediate. The light of life flooded his soul. He wanted to give his life to the Lord. And he immediately put on Christ. And from then on everything changed. And Christ can change us in the exact same way. His grace, his mercy can help us overcome evil with good. Because it not I that is doing it, but Christ in me.

Song – Yet not I but Christ in me

CityAlight ~ Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me (Lyrics) - YouTube

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgivenThere is no more for heaven now to giveThe future sure, the price it has been paidHe is my joy, my righteousness, and freedomFor Jesus bled and suffered for my pardonMy steadfast love, my deep and boundless peaceAnd He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my hope is only JesusTo this I hold, my sin has been defeatedFor my life is wholly bound to HisJesus now and ever is my pleaOh how strange and divine, Oh the chains are released,

I can sing, "All is mine"I can sing, "I am free"Yet not I, but through Christ in meYet not I, but through Christ in me

1. The night is dark but I am not forsaken4. With every breath I long to follow JesusFor by my side, the Saviour He will stayFor He has said that He will bring me homeI labour on in weakness and rejoicingAnd day by day I know He will renew meFor in my need, His power is displayedUntil I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend meTo this I hold, my hope is only JesusThrough the deepest valley He will leadAll the glory evermore to HimOh the night has been won, When the race is complete,

and I shall overcomestill my lips shall repeat

Yet not I, but through Christ in meYet not I, but through Christ in me

Closing. *"8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8)*