

Minister : Mark Stevens:

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Blog: www.revdmarkstevens.blogspot.com.

Mark's day off is Monday : Please contact one of the Elders if you have a Pastoral need.

Church Office:

Tel: 8370 6006

Email: admin@happyvalleychurchofchrist.org.au

Website: www.happyvalleychurchofchrist.org.au

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ELDERS:

Andrew Bowden

James Bowden

Roz Park

Juanita McCallum

Jill Richardson

Janet Riessen

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FAMILY WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SERVICE: 9.30am Sunday

OFFERING: 5 week (holiday) average \$ 1247.40

GRAPEVINE EDITOR'S:

Janet and Des Riessen Tel: 83882002

Email: coobarie@bigpond.com

GRAPEVINE DEADLINE:

Thursday at noon

Who is leading Worship on

SERVICE PREP:

WORSHIP LEADER:

MUSIC:

PROJECTION:

CHURCH PRAYER:

READING:

COMMUNION PREP:

SERVERS:

TEA & COFFEE:

SOUND:

GREETER:

FLOWERS:

OFFERING:

CLEANING:

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

February 7th 2010

J Bowden

L Young

L Young

J McCallum

T Parker

Wilkinson

M Megson, A Lintern

J Richardson, J Long

W&K Riessen

Norman

N Baggs

S Fitton, L Wellstead

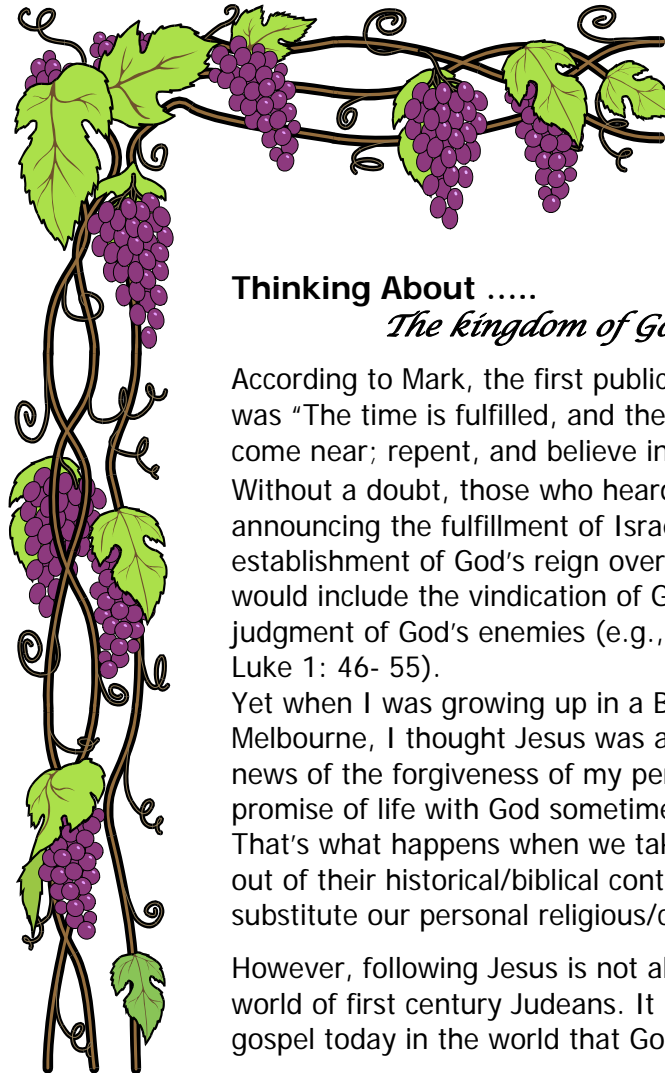
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Lyn and Karen

THE GRAPEVINE

31st Jan '10

HAPPY VALLEY



Thinking About

The kingdom of God

According to Mark, the first public proclamation of Jesus was "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (1:15). Without a doubt, those who heard Jesus knew he was announcing the fulfillment of Israel's long-held hope – the establishment of God's reign over all the earth, which would include the vindication of God's people and the judgment of God's enemies (e.g., Mary's song of praise in Luke 1: 46- 55).

Yet when I was growing up in a Baptist church in Melbourne, I thought Jesus was announcing the good news of the forgiveness of my personal sin and the promise of life with God sometime in the future. D'oh! That's what happens when we take Jesus and the gospel out of their historical/biblical context and unthinkingly substitute our personal religious/cultural context.

However, following Jesus is not about understanding the world of first century Judeans. It is about living out the gospel today in the world that God has placed us in.

So we need to do some thinking. How can we translate the results of faithfully reading Scripture into a message that is understandable and applicable to today's church? How does thinking about the kingdom of God lead me into more faithful discipleship and contribute to my church's participation in the mission of God

Rev Dr Stephen Spence

Head of Ministry, Theology and Culture - Tabor Adelaide