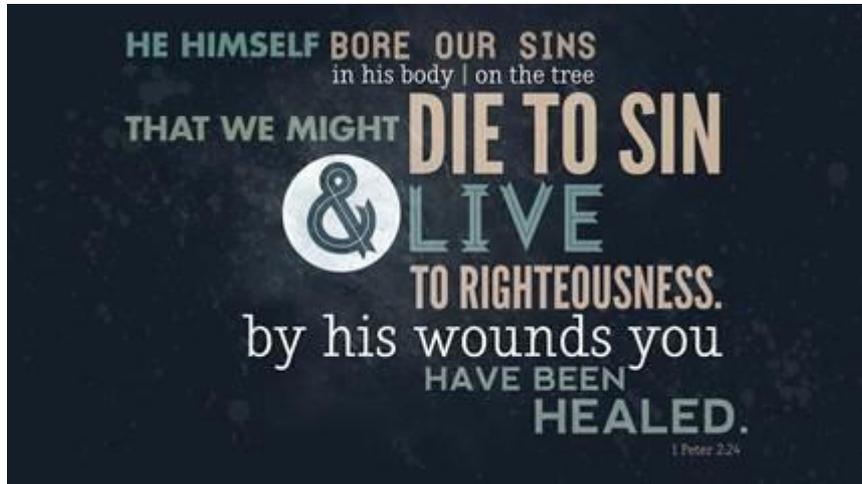


Dear Ipswich City Church family,

Just the reflection for today. Trusting and praying everyone's day is going well.

Andrew



*He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness... " (1 Peter 2:24 NRSV)*

Many of you will know the story from "Les Miserables" where Jean Valjean is taken by the authorities to the house of a bishop having been caught red handed with the silver wear. He had been a guest and betrayed that trust by stealing one of the few valuable things the Bishop owned. The Bishop insists that he gave the silver to the criminal. To prove it he hands the silver candlesticks to him as well. Confused but defeated the authorities leave Valjean with the Bishop. The Bishop insists that Valjean keep the silver. He also says that Valjean's life now belongs to God. Valjean's life is changed by this and although imperfect, he goes on to live a much more selfless life.

This is the kind of thing God has done for you in Jesus. You have been invited as guests to the table of the Lord, yet like the disciples before you, some of you have betrayed him, some denied, and others abandoned him. Yet you have been given much more than some silver. You have been given the life of Jesus. When the new creation comes and you are brought to the Lord, or in the meantime when your conscience or those around you catch you in some sin, Jesus says "she or he is with me." "I have given them not only my death but my life too." Your life now belongs to God. You are "free from sins" that you "might live for righteousness".

Jesus we cannot thank you enough that you have borne our sin and given us new life. Our life is yours. In thanksgiving we pledge ourselves to live a life of goodness. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

*“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness...”* (1 Peter 2:24 NRSV)

Rev. Andrew Gillies