



17th November 2019

Passionately Pursue Joy

Have you ever had someone try and describe something to you and you thought you understood what they were saying, until you saw it yourself? A few years ago we agreed to look after friend's dog for a couple of weeks. I'd never met this pooch but Felicity told me she was overweight. I formed a mental picture of this large Golden Retriever and thought I knew what to expect. Then the day arrived when her owners dropped her off. I had no idea! Seeing this dog in the flesh completely blew my mind – she wasn't overweight – she was massive! She waddled through our front door and plopped on the floor, I'd never seen a dog so big. I was astonished and my perspective was changed in an instant when I saw her for myself!

Paul's statement in Philippians 3:8 is also quite astonishing. ***"I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."*** Paul had been the brightest star in the world of the Pharisees. He was the next big thing in the Jewish religious circles. Perfect pedigree, from the right family, right background, passionate, educated, straight A's student. He had the reputation, gifts, abilities and respect of his peers and elders. Paul was going to go far! But an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus completely changed his life. He went from respected to hated, wealthy to persecuted, admired to laughed at. He literally lost everything that he had worked so hard to gain in one instant, when he came to know Jesus. And in that one instant Paul's perspective changed!

I wonder what my response would be if knowing Jesus literally cost me everything? Could I really consider all things to be "loss", would I be prepared to lose everything in order to know Jesus? But what if knowing Jesus brought more JOY than any other thing that I could hang on to? I wonder if this is the perspective Paul had?

He seems to have come to the conclusion that everything he had gained beforehand suddenly looked so small compared to the massive JOY of knowing Jesus. And here in this verse is one of the only times in the New Testament where the writer uses the very personal phrase "my Lord." For Paul, knowing Jesus was very personal. When Jesus means everything to you, He's not just 'the Lord' but becomes 'my Lord' and in that one statement is great joy!

CREATE

After School Kid's Club
Tuesday's 3.30-5.30pm
@ Playford Uniting Church
Call Nick: 0402 808 744

LITTLE BUZZ PLAYGROUP

Thursday's 9.30-11am
@ Playford Uniting Church

CHURCH AGM - Nov. 17th

After the Morning Service regarding
- Church Budget
- Church Council Elections
- Pastoral & Department Reports
Please plan to stay for this important time in the life of Playford UC.

2019 UC SYNOD of SA Meeting

13th Nov. 7pm @ Brougham Place UC
Installation of Moderator Bronte Wilson

14th-16th Nov. @ Adelaide West UC
Annual Meeting of Synod of SA
Please be in prayer for these meetings.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday Nov 17th : Craig McGlone
Passionately Pursue Joy - Philippians

Sunday Nov 24th : Craig Bailey
Passionately Pursue Joy - Philippians

Sunday Dec 1st : Pete Riggs
8th Birthday & Kids Christmas Celebration

Message from November 10th

By Henry Rouse

"Passionately Pursue Joy" - Phil. 3

or go to <http://playford.ucas.org.au/podcasts/>

We acknowledge that the land we meet on is the traditional lands for the Kurna people.

Playford Uniting Church

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A people **Awakened** by the Spirit, **Moving** in our Communities, **Cultivating** Hope and **Transforming** Futures.