

WEALTH & POSSESSIONS



Wk 1

Sunday 30 April 2023

Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. If you don't wish to feature on our stream, please occupy the pews towards the back.

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
Gen 2:4-17 (p. 2)
& 1 Tim 4:1-5
(p. 1194)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Song
- Conclusion

If you are a visitor
please don't feel
obliged to contribute
financially.

Most St Stephen's
collection is received
electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number:
00490436

Welcome to St Stephen's. It's great to have you with us this Sunday. We think there is no better place to be!

If you are joining us for the 1st time or returning after a few weeks – we hope you settle in well. We would love to hear from you. Take a moment to scan the QR Code or use the hardcopy connect card to respond or ask for prayer.



After this morning's service we will be holding a Newish Morning Tea. It is a great opportunity to meet the staff, other new people and some of our regulars. You'll get a crash course in the life of St Stephen's and extra delicious morning tea! If you are new or newish then join us in the reception area (past the Sunday kids classes and toilet area) after today's service.

This morning we begin a 5-week series considering how the Bible views wealth and possessions. It's a topic we are not always keen to talk publicly about. The Bible has a lot of interesting, unexpected and good things to say. Come with us on our journey through the Bible's message on wealth and possessions.



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your way:
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1b-2

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen

Sermon Notes

The Generous Giver | Genesis 2:4-17 & 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The First Gift

A. Beautiful & expensive things

B. From God

*“The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.”
(Lev 25:23)*

C. As a gift

2. The One who receives

A. Everything God created is ...

B. 2 errors:

i. Ultimate ...

ii. Corrupted ...

Personal Application:

Lord, am I honoring you as owner of the assets, or am I treating you as a mere financial consultant?

3. The Best Gift

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. How comfortable do you feel about talking about your finance with:
 - a. Spouse/family member
 - b. Gap Group Members
 - c. Financial Adviser
 - d. Acquaintance

Read 1 Tim 4:1-10

Getting your head around the passage:

Use as many questions as you need to ensure you understand the passage's contents.

- A. How are false teachers described?
- B. What is the core of their false teaching?
- C. How is God characterised?
- D. What are the 'truths' we should hold on to?
- E. What is Timothy (and us by implication) commanded to do?

2. How can we sometimes reject/despise/undervalue the material blessings God has given us?

3. How can we overvalue/overemphasise the possessions we are given?

4. Why do we make these mistakes? What does Paul suggest is the key to utilising them in vv. 4-5?
5. How can you bring the Bible and Prayer to bear on your use of wealth and possessions?
6. How does God's character (summarised in v.10 and unpacked in Gen 2:4-17) encourage us to respond in a better way?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your GaP Group leader and consider the following questions:

- i. Who in your life is in need of the Christian message of hope?
- ii. What help do you need so you can bring them to Conversations of Hope event? Pray for these things and your contacts.

Prayer

- 1. Pray God will give you a clear sense of his ownership of all your possessions.
- 2. Ask God to show you how he wants you to use and enjoy his gifts.

Read the Bible with us!

- 1. How does the passage encourage you to think about your material possessions?
- 2. Shape a prayer about your attitudes and uses of your possessions based on the passage.

Monday - [Gen 2:4-17](#)

Tuesday - [1 Tim 4:1-10](#)

Wednesday - [Col 2:16-23](#)

Thursday - [1 Chr 29:10-19](#)

Friday - [1 Cor 10:23-33](#)

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT **HOPE**

AT WILLOUGHBY HOTEL

We rarely have time to talk and think about the things that really matter in life. Come to the pub for a drink and feed, and hear a panel of people from different professions and walks of life talk about hope.



REGISTER

Wednesday 17 May

7-9pm

Penshurst Room (upstairs)

Willoughby Hotel

315 Penshurst Street



This event will be the opening night of the Hope Explored course, which is open to anyone wanting to explore the topic of hope in Christianity. Hope Explored will run on **Wednesday 24 May, 31 May & 7 June, 7-9pm at the Willoughby Hotel.**

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Notices

Newish Morning Tea

If you consider yourself new to St Stephen's then we want to welcome you. We run Newish Morning Teas every month to help people get their bearings, meet staff and other new people and take a step further into the church life. Our next Newish is today after service in the reception area. Come along if you haven't been to one before!

Our ministry trainee: Nikita Psaltis

Hey, I'm Nikita and I am a ministry trainee (MTS). I have just finished my first term. I am focussing on youth ministry, running HPS youth group on a Friday night and leading junior high bible study on Sunday mornings. One of my favourite new things I've been doing this term is attending the 7:45am service. I am also attending Youthworks College 2 days a week and am learning new things every week about God's word and serving his people.



Note: A part of MTS is raising your own funds. Nikita's goal is to raise \$52,000 over the 2 years of her training. Her support is at ~70%, thank you to all who are supporting. Can you consider supporting Nikita? Please reach out to Nikita if you are interested and want to know more. You can financially support Nikita at: www.mts.com.au/give/nikita-psaltis/

Redevelopment of the Property

Wardens, Parish Council and our Senior Minister have been working hard on refining the development proposal and considering the options. In the last 2 weeks we have worked towards signing a Specified Property Enabling Consent (SPEC) which allows the Anglican Church Growth Corporation to begin more in-depth work for the redevelopment.

The signing of the SPEC allows us to pursue the best options for development. The decision to sign the SPEC was taken after months of consultation and broad and positive consensus on the development as currently envisaged. This is a major step toward developing the property and commits us to develop it in a feasible way that aligns with the core goals of the development we presented at the Town Hall.

What's Coming Up

1 May	Monday Morning Prayer Meeting 8:45am on Zoom
2 May	Crafternoon in Hainsworth Hall
6 May	Saturday Morning Prayer Meeting 8:30am
9-11 May	Reach Australia Conference 2023 (attended by Staff and ministry leaders)
17 May	Conversations of Hope at Willoughby Hotel
18 May	Encounter for Seniors - 10am-1pm

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister
M: 0432 314 466
E: prash@st-stephens.com.au



Gordon Luk
Outreach & Sunday Services
E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs
Kids & Youth Minister
E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton
Membership Minister
E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Melody Hoey
Off-site Administrator
E: office@st-stephens.com.au