2019 07 11 THE PLUMB LINE

Amos 7:7-17. Psalm 82. Col 1:1-14. Luke 10:25-37 (Just some notes)

There is a certainty laid up for us

Yet it is not something to be created or brought or on lay buy or time payment

It is already brought – paid for – has our name on it.

“In my Fathers house are many dwelling places and I AM going to get one ready for you” (John 14-16)

There are two ways that we can reach for and take this certainty this “hope laid up for us individually in heaven” (Colossians 1:5)

In Amos it tells of a vision that he had –

“the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plum line” –

(display a plumb line and lean tilted sideways and see it does not move to accommodate my leaning or twisting or trying to manoeuvre it) – it always stays true.

I used it when I was a massage therapist to measure the alignment of a person’s body.

There is a ‘plumb line’ held against our lives, our attitudes and motivations:

Note the ‘rich young ruler’ kept all the rules but the Lord Jesus saw a lack of generosity and a love of possessions in him. (Matthew 19:16–30, the Gospel of Mark 10:17–31 and the Gospel of **Luke** 18:18–30.

And Peter, when Jesus asked him three times ‘do you love me’?

Peter could not honestly answer yes I love you at the highest level (he said friend rather than agape – as God loves - and as is Commandment One ‘with all my heart and soul and mind’)

The loveliest thing is that Jesus accepted Peters love at this level and ‘grew him’ to be straight.

But keep in mind as a personal ‘think’ but not an excuse that God knows that we are flesh and blood yet has given us a heart that is soft and alive and pumping blood and oxygen into our lives – a soul that is no longer stone but flesh connected to Himself. “I will take away your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh – I will put a new spirit within you”

[Ezekiel 36:26-28)](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2036:26-28&version=NLV)**[26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2036:26-28&version=NLV)**[I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will take away your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2036:26-28&version=NLV)**[27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2036:26-28&version=NLV)**[And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My Laws and be careful to do what I tell you.](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2036:26-28&version=NLV)**[28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2036:26-28&version=NLV)**[And you will live in the land that I gave to your fathers. You will be My people, and I will be your God.](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2036:26-28&version=NLV)

Look at the promise in Ephesians 1:13 “You, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel – the message – the truth of your salvation – which you believed – you were sealed – stamped ready to be collected or mailed with Gods address on us – we were sealed with Gods Spirit of promise -Who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, … to the praise of Gods glory”.

What or who is the ‘plumb line’ that we stand next to?

1. Gods rightness and purity – yes.

2)The life of Jesus the Saviour – yes

3) The 10 Commandments and the summary of Jesus – “love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and your neighbour as yourself” – yes.

And are we straight in our own strength and character and lives against any of them - ? judge for yourself?

And remember what Jesus said – “the Father did not send me into the world to judge the world but to save it!” John 3:17.

“I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me will not remain in darkness. … I did not come to judge the world but to save it”. John 12:46-47

Listen to the most wonderful words of Jesus our Lord on the night before his death – him and at least his 12 closest friends/ followers were celebrating / sharing in the Jewish ceremony of “the Passover Meal’” a meal that remembers both death and life – rescue from eternal death– Jesus was washing the disciples feet and when he got to Peter, Peter said – Lord I will never allow you to wash my feet – a servants task – and Jesus, you can see him looking at Peter with love – said, “Peter if I do not wash your feet you have nothing to do with me – and Peter – wonderful excitable open mouthed Peter cried out ‘Lord not only wash my feet but all of me – Jesus answered Peter- “when you are washed you are clean all over and only need to wash your feet”. The sins of the need to be brought to God – as soon as the happen. (John 13:10)

The ‘plumb line’ it does not move – but we lean – we slip up into our own self will every day, and we come to God in sorrow and our feet are washed in His forgiveness in Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

We do not stand alone – we have Gods Spirit in us and Gods presence is our friend and guide and memory and comforter and councillor – God Holy Spirit in us will keep us from leaning and will straighten us up if we choose to listen and act.

Thank you Lord God for your unspeakable gift.

Pray.