

BECOMING LOVE

H O L I N E S S I N 2 0 2 0

Talk-It-Over: Week 5

God is For You

Spend time going over questions and comments from the this week's sermon.

When we were on holidays on the NSW north coast we wanted to do some hiking. Mount Warning is the tip of an ancient volcano and is a distinctive shape on the horizon for hundreds of kilometres. The local aboriginal people consider it to be a sacred place and so we didn't climb the mountain itself, but we thought we would hike up a nearby peak to see the view.

Following instructions listed on Alltrails.com we drove to the starting point and began the walk up an old logging road. Four kilometres into our walk I was pretty disappointed. We'd been walking for an hour and only had the barest of glimpses of Mount Warning.

We turned off the logging road and started up the final section. The path was terrible, not only was it very steep, it was overgrown and slippery. When we reached the top however, the view was spectacular. You could see for ages, right around the bowl of the huge ancient volcano with the huge mass of Mount Warning in the middle. It was a powerful moment and I can see how the aboriginal people could come to regard that mountain as sacred.

For the last few weeks we have been working through these first 8 chapters of Romans. It's sometimes hard work but now we find ourselves at the summit. This chapter is a breathtaking look over God's saving work with humanity. From its words we see God's work throughout history to see people grow and develop without the weeds of sin, condemnation and shame.

Read:

Romans 8

Questions:

1. Paul says there is 'no condemnation' for someone who is 'in' Christ Jesus.
 - Why would someone feel generally condemned? (see Romans 7)
 - What affects could this general sense of condemnation have on the way a person lives and interacts with others?
 - What does it mean to be 'in' Jesus?

2. Why do you think Jesus died on the cross for you? (v38-39)

- What impact does this understanding have on our general sense of condemnation?
- What changes might take place in a person who is losing the general sense of condemnation?

Prayer Time:

Pray for one another that you each would become more and more aware of God's absolute love. Pray that as your awareness of God's love grows, that your sense of condemnation decreases, and your freedom to live wholeheartedly, lovingly and kindly grows.

Further Reading:

Romans 9