

August 2nd 2009: Baptism of Sheridan Miller: Philippians 1:1-11

Just a little later on in this service.....our privilege to witness a young lady.....following the example of.....and being baptized

An act that proclaims....she is trusting completely in Jesus Christ—His death and..4

- **That young lady is Sheridan**.....and over the last couple of weeks.....come to appreciate.....her quite and gentle spirit and the strength of her faith in Jesus.

A faith that means....that her name is written in heaven...in the book of...

No doubt in the course of her lifemany good and great things....said....perhaps even written about....**But** nothing could ever equal the fact....that her name appears

in the one place.....that guarantees ...a relationship with God the Father for

Back in the Jewish history before Jesus.....the **Jews** believed that there were 2 books:

The book of life and the book of death

Only God knew for sure which book one's name was in.

Then along came Jesus.....who invited people to put their trust in Him as The only Way to the Father.....And in Luke 10:20 He turned to those who had trusted in Him..

Who had chosen to follow Him....to serve Him....to obey Him....and said:

"do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Then after His ascension.....speaking through a vision to John....Revelation The Almighty and glorified Son of God promises: 3:5

" He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels."_

- **Today Sheridan bears witness**.....that such a promise belongs to her.. And even as her name is written.....So God also has a plan for her life

A plan for her....which has today as....an import part of it

Today is far from the beginning of that plan.....It is also far from the end

As Ephesians 2: 10 proclaims:-

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do._

I occasionally look at this verse....and wonder what it will mean for me in the future
I can see...meant in my past...& can hardly wait...see what it will mean 2mrw...eternity

And for Sheridan too I recognize....

that altho she will have to persevere in....after her baptism...**we** can be confident in this
That God will continue to work in her life...according to His plan for her

As Paul said in Philippians 1:6 about some other believers:-

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

• **Paul then follows that up with a prayer in v9-11**

A prayer that we can say today for Sheridan.....but also for each other:-

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

It's a prayer we can say with confidence....for the result depends on the HS at work within.....and our partnership with Him

No one can ever earn themselves a place in God's Kingdom
Not by being good.....Being brought up in a church going.....
or by being baptised

God makes that clear in verses like Ephesians 2:8

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

The message paraphrases part of this verse in the following way:-

Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it.

By being baptizedSheridan is letting us know
That she has chosen to trust in Jesus enough→ to allow Him to save her
 and to transform her
And today she simply obeys His commandment.....**Because** He is
 her Lord and her Saviour

- **The challenge for you who will witness....IS very simple**
Do you also belong to Jesus....because you have trusted Him enough...to
 open your heart to Him....and to receive His gift.....?

Are you confident....that your name is written down in....
 Or deep down are you aware....that you have never truly trusted
Never accepted.....Never by faith received Jesus as

That whatever others may think....You know in your heart
 That you are a Pretender rather than a believer

(footy Membership)

I am so glad.....that I have no fears with my membership of the Kingdom
for when Christ entered my heart.....He wrote my name

- **As Sheridan is baptized**.....think about where you stand with Jesus
For afterwards...give the opport....for you to open your heart
 And to declare your intention to trust

And for those of you who have trusted....whose names are written
 But have never obeyed your Master...in this matter of baptism....
Then the question.....Is Why not???