

We shall overcome!

I was not brought up attending Church being nearer thirty before that became a regular habit. However even as a child I knew that Jesus had 'died for us all' and that this was something to do with sin. The culture I was brought up in was still basically Christian. Things have of course changed somewhat. There are numerous reasons for this. One of which is peoples objections to a perceived emphasis on sin! And in some ways this is a fair point. Parts of God's Church had highlighted this over and above the love and mercy of our creator. Have we gone too far the other way in an attempt to be relevant? I really hope not, but don't feel confident that I know the answer. Justice and mercy are always a difficult balance to maintain let alone put into words.

And yet deep inside The New Testament lie the very relevant thoughts of one who walked alongside Jesus. Who later bore the shame of abandoning that friend through fear. And yet, having been a Resurrection eye witness, pulled out all the stops to let others hear the Good News. I am talking of course of Peter, previously called Simon. The sometimes wobbly 'rock' on which Jesus would build His Church. The words he wrote were simple and deeply profound:

When they hurled their insults at him (*Jesus*), he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2 v 23-24, (on this week's readings list))



The one who had resisted sin managed to maintain that stance even when treated unfairly and tortured to an early death. Wow! That is victory indeed. A public, cosmic even, achievement. He chose and God accepted him as representative of us all. In a world where sin is increasing exponentially around the globe; a world that feels insecure as if built on sand; one where unpredictability has become commonplace; we need salvation.

Smile! We have a saviour, who lives, and is with us in the Holy Spirit. Take heart.

Go well!