



Wayne's Words

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The Power of Testimony

In a court of law, a critical factor in the success of a case is to find a key witness whose testimony can clinch a verdict, whether of guilty or not guilty. The Bible required the testimony of two witnesses before any verdict could be swayed by testimony. In the case of Cardinal Pell, the most controversial aspect of his conviction (since squashed by unanimous verdict of the High Court!) is that it was based on the uncorroborated testimony of one witness, and that on an alleged childhood memory.

In New Testament times the testimony of women was treated as less than that of a man, which speaks volumes about Jesus' choice of Mary Magdalene as the first witness to his resurrection.

Probably the most famous testimony of conversion to belief in Christ that has added a common phrase to the English language is that of Paul's 'Damascus Road' experience. It is recorded three times in the NT: the actual event by Luke in Acts 9 and Paul's version of it in Acts 22 & 26. This account becomes crucial for understanding the dramatic turnaround in Saul, the zealous persecutor of Christians, who became Paul, the apostle and missionary to much of the Roman Empire. He planted infant churches throughout Asia Minor (Turkey), Macedonia and Greece, and was author and subject of nearly half of the New Testament.

Testimony accounts for the change in life and devotion of a person in their faith. This Sunday we will be privileged to hear the testimony of David Kranjec, a Canadian-born person of Slovenian ethnic heritage who experienced dramatic Christian conversion on a visit to Australia, which has since become his home.

His story is quite extraordinary. For many of us, our story may seem to us to be uneventful.

Yet this also has much to say to people who struggle to find faith in God, particularly because they expect something miraculous to happen. For many, such as myself, coming to an owned faith was a gradual process nurtured in weekly Sunday worship and Sunday School, youth camps and concerts.

What is your testimony? How did you come to an owned faith, one that no longer just depended on your parents or on being surrounded in habitual church attendance? When did your faith come alive? How does it nurture you today and what difference has it made to you in significant times of your life? These are the stories to reflect on and encapsulate in words, so that you might be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you, when opportunity occurs to do so.

God bless you,

Wayne