

# The Oyster

*"...Life in a Benthic Community"*



September 2015

## Patty Cake, Patty Cake

By David Trounce

If you read the Bible right through from the beginning, one of the themes that quickly emerges is the theme of slavery and freedom.

Adam is placed in a garden planted by God. He is told to go out into the wider world and replicate the beauty and goodness of what he sees in the Garden.

However, things take a detour and mankind rebels against His Maker, forfeits his life and is removed from the Garden.

Paul, a follower of Jesus and an Apostle, explains the fallout from this rebellion when he says that, "...we are slaves to the one we obey." (Romans 6:16).

Adam and Eve, along with their descendants, obeyed the voice of the serpent and became slaves of Satan.

This pattern of slavery is later played out in the tribes and kingdoms that multiply upon the earth, particularly in the lives of God's chosen people, the Hebrews.

The arrival of Jesus, His death, resurrection and sinless life drastically altered the course of human slavery. It provided a way of deliverance, and freedom to live the life God intended for us.



The results weren't just spiritual. Real physical slavery was a consequence of our enslavement to sin and its appetites.

Likewise, real deliverance through the physical death and resurrection of Jesus has meant a corresponding liberation from both spiritual and physical slavery in every culture that has truly embraced the Christian Gospel.

This is one of the reasons why the Christian church becomes concerned when a Government imposes a \$135,000 fine on a bakery for declining to make a wedding cake.

It's not the money that bothers us – Jesus has freed us from slavery to money. It's not the accusations of hate that bother us either – our freedom remains intact even then.

It's the fact that forced labour of any kind on *anyone* is a sign of the forced labour that is coming upon *you*. Once you establish a precedent for slavery in principle, you establish the means to enslave everyone. But first the root, then the fruit – the threat of forced labour is always preceded by our willingness to be enslaved by our greed.

## Chained to the Things we Love

*“Therefore, God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts...”*

*(Romans 1:24)*

When Jesus cried out in Luke 13:34,  
“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you would not!”,

...He made it clear that Hell is self chosen. In Hell the door is first locked from the inside. Only later is it then locked from the outside.



People have some odd ideas about Hell. They picture little devils throwing parties that involve torturing individuals. But there will be no party in the Lake of Fire.

A better description of Hell might be, “The place where you get everything you ever wanted.... without end.”

C.S Lewis wrote in *The Great Divorce*, “There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, in the end, ‘Thy will be done.’”

In saying this, Lewis did not mean that God gives up the reigns and puts us in charge. He meant that, if our deepest longings are our lusts, greed, envy, vengeance and self absorption, we will in the end get them, and that is all we will be left with.

Hell, on this count, is a room full of mirrors where all you ever see is yourself. You, you, you. Nobody but you and no way of turning away. What is it that you feed on now? Envy? Bitterness? Hate? Hell will be those things turning to consume you – every minute, every second, every day with no relief, no finality and no escape, no transition to a new thought; just a head full of you and all the things you spent your life chasing.

Chains, chains and more chains. Eternal Separation. Shut out from all light and life and consumed by all the things you thought you had to have.

God will not force us into His Heaven. It is a gift given to those who want to be delivered from the chains of sinful passion. It is sunlight. It is the voice of Jesus offering undeserved mercy and saying, “I forgive you – go and sin no more.”

It's an open window bringing fresh, clean air to the stench. Heaven is life and light to the eyes. It is knowing the one true God, and the Son whom He has sent.

# WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

Many people try to work out their life's purpose by looking within themselves with such questions as 'What do *I* want to be? What should *I* do with *my* life? What are *my* goals, *my* ambitions, *my* dreams for *my* future?'

But the author of this 60 page booklet, Rick Warren, contends you won't discover your life's meaning by looking within yourself. Each of us didn't create ourselves, so we need to look outside ourselves to find life's true purpose, and that means looking to God in order to understand why we are here.

Rick Warren makes good use of the Bible in leading us through these seven chapters:

1. It all starts with God
2. You are not an accident
3. What drives your life?
4. Made to last forever
5. Seeing life from God's view
6. Life is a temporary assignment
7. The reason for everything.

Each chapter is sprinkled with such wise sayings as:

*'The easiest way to discover the purpose of an invention is to ask the creator to explain it'.*

*'You are not an accident' ... 'you are alive because God wanted to create you!'*

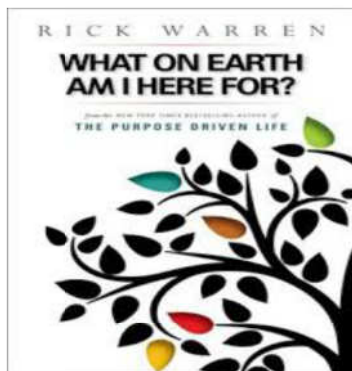
*'While there are illegitimate parents, there are no illegitimate children'.*

*'Knowing your purpose gives meaning to your life. ... simplifies your life ... energises your life ... prepares you for eternity'.*

*'Life on earth is a test. Life on earth is a trust'.*

*'I wish someone had told me that I could accept Christ into my life even with all my doubts and questions'.*

Do you know your life's purpose – from God's point of view? Your free copy is waiting on our book-shelf at Church. Rick shows how to make sense of your life in this well written book!



## What's on This Month

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### Women's Get Together

The local get together for women next meets on Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Tanilba CRC Church.

Call Ella on 0439824507

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### Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at Henderson Park, next on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30am.

For more information call Steven on 4984 5442

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### Pete's Kitchen

Pete's kitchen is on every Thursday in school term time at 6pm at the Baptist Church, Tanilba Bay. Come along and enjoy a meal among friends and neighbours.

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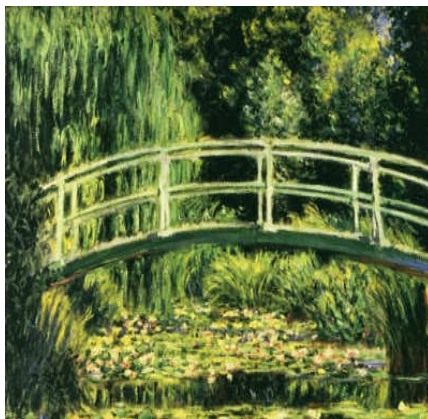
Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace Parade, Tanilba Bay.

# Is that really you, God?

'We got here by chance', didn't we? Let's think about that for a minute.

That delightful **painting** hanging on your wall didn't merely 'get there by chance'. A careful search will usually show the signature of the artist. The artwork as such *proves* there is an artist.

How about your **wrist-watch**: did that simply appear by chance? Of course not. A watch-designer and watch-maker made sure that you have your time-piece. The watch *proves* the existence of a watch-designer ... and watch-maker.



Consider the **Westpac Rescue helicopter** that scoots overhead from time to time. Did it get up there by chance? No! There is a design team led by the head designer. The designers' fingerprints are evident – from door-catches to passenger seats, winch mechanism to rotor blades. The existence of a helicopter again *proves* that it has a designer ... and a maker.

The complete mapping of the **human genome** is an amazing feat. This information can be thought of as the basic set of inheritable 'instructions' for the development & function of a human being. These instructions come with an incredibly detailed blueprint for building every human cell - the fact that there are instructions implies that there is an Intelligent Instructor who encoded and laid out these instructions.

We congratulate the joy-filled parents of a **new-born baby**, but the birth reveals more about the unseen and caring, intelligent Designer.

It doesn't take much thought to see that the myriad of different **animals and plants, suns, moons and planets** – in fact the whole of the universe – all give glory to this far-above-us Designer.

But what would it mean for you if this Designer communicated with mankind, with you?

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## About our Church Community...

Tanilba CRC is a Community Church that began on the Peninsula over 50 years ago. We believe in the Bible. We believe that Life is a Gift and we believe that God has created us to know Him and to live for Him in true family and community through His Son, Jesus.



If you would like to find out more about our Church's activities on the Tilligerry Peninsula, we invite you to contact us or attend one of our Regular Activities for more information. Our service on Sunday starts at 9am. All are welcome.