

St James Church - Thought for the day – Tuesday 12th May

A thought about dachshunds

– by Revd John Marshall

Have you noticed how the dachshund has taken over tv screens – particularly in advertising and station idents.

Many years ago I used to take my neighbours' dachshund for regular walks, and we became good friends. He was named Niccums (short for Old Nick), so you may have clue as to his character. He was definitely a character and very much loved.

Now we come to the sad part; as you know a full sized adult dachshund is a heavy dog with a long body; he was dropped and broke his back. He was rushed to the vet, and he was looked after very well (and thoroughly spoilt). Eventually he came home to his loving owners.

It was sad to see him dragging his back legs, but his character came through and he built up the strength in his front legs.

Eventually he got some movement in his back legs, and Niccums taught himself to walk with all four feet.

However you remember how he had strengthened his front legs – now when he gripped you, you stayed gripped.

Niccums persevered.

James writes “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life” James 1. 2

The author of Hebrews writes “Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross.” Hebrews 12.1-2

Jesus suggested we should be persistent in prayer. He told the story of the persistent widow to show them they should always pray and not give up.” Luke 18.1-8

Niccums just kept going.

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. – Romans 5:

Song: Cornerstone – you can listen to it here –
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3HH-1Zbs>

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust is Jesus' name

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust is Jesus' name

*Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless, stand before the throne