

Thought for the Day 28th July - John Reed

Read Acts 20:17-35

Are you drawn to a good deal? When you're shopping, do you look for the things that are on special?

According to this story on Yahoo!news¹, a woman was somewhat less than blown away by the bargain price she found at Bunnings. Thinking she was about to score 250ml of Steel Kleen (a product used to clean stainless steel) at a discounted price, she took a closer look. When she lifted the bright orange price tag that declared a bargain price of just \$6.75, she found the original price tag underneath – which bore the price of \$6.76! That's right, the discount was all of one cent!

Sadly, I was not terribly surprised. We are inundated by ads and brochures and signs declaring that we have been offered a great bargain, only to find the reality less than overwhelming.

Jesus, on the other hand, offers a bargain, a free gift, that overwhelms and blows away all of our hopes and expectations. God's grace is the greatest, most precious, gift of all. It's not just a discount, it's a complete wiping away of all of our debts and the free credit of righteousness and holiness we don't deserve.

Nobody knew that, or preached it more powerfully, than the apostle Paul. He didn't just make a passing post on Twitter or Facebook to tell his friends about this interesting deal he'd found. He dedicated his life to telling people about the gospel of the grace of God, regarding his own life as worthless in comparison (v. 24), working ceaselessly to proclaim the gospel to everyone (v. 31).

And here, in what is essentially a farewell speech to his friends, he urges them also to value above all things "the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (v. 32).

¹ <https://au.news.yahoo.com/bunnings-warehouse-label-shocks-customer-093712599.html>