

God Keeps His Promises

Recently I heard about an Award given out by the magazine “Choice” it is a magazine that gives info on lots of different products and then rates them. Each year they give out an award, it is called the shonky Award. It is given to products that they see as making claims that are shonky, not true or very deceiving.

Here are 3 of this years awards

Glaceau Vitamin Water

This range of “nutrient enhanced water beverages” by Coca-Cola Amatil Australia is so shonky on so many levels that we could award each individually. With names like **essential – orange-orange (c+calcium)** or **revive – fruit punch (c+b3+b5+b6+b12)** and fruity colours, you’d be forgiven for thinking these drinks are healthy, or contain fruit juice. Which they’re not. And which they don’t.

One bottle contains about a third of the recommended daily sugar intake for an average adult woman – hardly healthy. And none contains more than 1% fruit juice. What they do contain is flavouring, but you find that only in the fine print.

Then there’s this message on one flavour: “Legally, we are prohibited from making exaggerated claims about the potency of the nutrients in this bottle.” Followed by a number of exaggerated claims about the potency of the nutrients in the bottle.

It is basically flavoured sugary water.

That’s shonky

Hurricane Planet Green

Enter [greenwash](#), the art of making vague, irrelevant or unsubstantiated environmental claims. One of the finest examples we found was this Colgate-Palmolive multipurpose cleaner. There’s not only the bold name. Under “Caring for our environment”, the label lists the product’s green credentials:

- Phosphate-free ✓
- Biodegradable ✓
- Recyclable packaging ✓
- Australian made ✓

We say: Irrelevant ✓ False impression ✓ Why?

- Phosphates aren’t a common ingredient in multipurpose cleaners.
- The biodegradability relates only to the cleaning agents, not the whole product – which is no different from a range of cleaners and not as good as some.
- While the Hurricane’s bottle is recyclable, its trigger isn’t. There are other cleaners whose bottle and trigger head are recyclable.
- **Being Australian-made is no indicator of a product’s green performance.**

Vodka Mudshake Original Chocolate

Here is a product that looks like, smells like and tastes like a chocolate milkshake but in reality it is an Alcopop with 4% alcohol content. In a world where teenage binge drinking is a major problem this deceiving product only adds to our woes.

These are some dodgy products, or shonky as *Choice* magazine puts it and I think that these shonky awards highlights a greater problem we have in our society today, and that is, can we trust anyone, especially someone in power. Here in NSW we have seen in our parliament and local councils a huge number of people sacked for lying, ripping off people, for using their position for financial gain or just behaving inappropriately. And we start to lose our trust in truth, or our trust that there is truth, that there is some one who is in power who we can trust to keep their word.

It is getting harder and harder to trust anyone, is there anyone out there who keeps their promises, who does what they say they will do?

Well I want to suggest to you this morning, that Christmas is all about someone who keeps their promise and that in keeping their promise it means we can trust Him and that the promise he kept is the best thing that could ever happen to us.

We are going to see that now, firstly in a skit and then followed by a bible reading.

Skit: God Keeps His Promises

Bible Reading: Matt 1:18-25

You know sometimes I hear people state, "I cant or won't believe in God because I haven't seen him, or haven't seen what he did."

Well from the skit and from the reading I hope you have seen that just because where we sit here in 2008 God is at work and has been at work for 1000's of years and if we lived 2000 years ago we could have met Jesus and talked to him and touched him and seen how Jesus is God's gaurentee that he keeps his promises.

Re -read v22

"All this took place fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet."

That was the prophet Isaiah some 740 years before Jesus was even born.

And the words to Eve were at the beginning of time and the words to

Abraham were 2000 years before Jesus.

God may not be working according to our time frame but he is working to his and from what we have read we can be sure he will keep his promises. He is not shonky or dodgy like some products or like some of our politicians.

You can trust him.

What he promises does come true.

In the birth of Jesus that we saw at the start of this morning we see God bringing all his promises to people in the past and to us, into fruition.

(Three wise men..... followed the writings of the ancients)

If he kept those promises to all those people thousands of years ago then we can be certain that he will keep his promise to you and me.

And the promise that he gives to us is found there in verse 21

" She (Mary) will give birth to a son and you will give him the name Jesus and he will save his people from their sins."

What that means is that Jesus will restore people's relationship with God that have been broken by sin, that was his promise to Eve and to Abraham, David, Isaiah, and to you and me.

You see our sin, which is living a life with out God as your King, God as your boss, which is seen in our actions that are not pleasing to God, breaks our relationship with God and unless you have lived your life 100% for God and as God would have you live it, then we are all in the same bag.

And if we want to live forever, if we want to live in relationship with God now and for eternity then some thing has to be done with our sin.

And God promises us that Jesus will deal with it.

And he does deal with it, at Jesus death he stands in for us, he takes on death, which is the punishment for our sin and defeats it by rising again.

This little baby who's birth we celebrate today, will grow up to be the fulfilment of God's promises not only to those before him but to us today.

Illust:

I read a story recently about a guy called Glen Duhigg, you may not have heard of him before but he was the "stand in" guy for Tom Cruise on Mission Impossible 2. He did all the things Tom wouldn't do.

Listen to what he said about his job.

"It sounds very glamorous saying you are a stand in for Tom Cruise, but I don't think many people realise the long hours and the constant demands that deflate the ego. The days are long, whatever scene Tom is in, I would be the one standing there, being him sometimes for ages as the crew set up the shot getting the lighting right and the props just so. I'd be standing there for hours out in the weather, getting drenched in the rain or sun stroke out in the heat. And then Tom would just walk out on the set from his air conditioned trailer or out his of his beautiful sports car once the scene was ready."

You see at the cross Jesus was our stand in, he was where we should be, taking the punishment for our own sin, but Jesus saves us from that.

How great is that.

Jesus is our gaurentee that God keeps his promises.

There would be no skonky award to God.

He keeps his promises, he delivers what claimed he would deliver and you and I are the beneficiaries of Gods trustworthyness.

Can I say though, like all presents, all gifts, all promises they don't have any benefit unless you open them, unless you avail yourself of them, unless you trust them.

God's promise to save you from your sin is only a benefit to you when you trust in it, when you take the promise and make it your own.

I'm sure that after today if you have had a present given to you it won't be left un-opened under the tree to stay there for ever.

No you would have opened and taken what was inside.

Friends can I please ask you this morning to take the present God has given you in Jesus, don't leave him in a corner for another day, because as we have so powerfully been shown in our community over the past week and the past year we can not gaurentee another day for any of us, take Jesus today, put your trust in him, you will not be disappointed because God keeps His promises. HE is not Shonky.