

Living Water Fellowship

17TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

27TH SEPTEMBER 2020

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of our salvation; pour out your Spirit upon us as we gather. By your grace, strengthen us. With your peace, calm our troubled souls. Through your hope mend our broken hearts. You have given us the gift of your salvation through your Son. In humbling himself we are raised to eternal life. Take hold of our hands and lead us deeper into trusting you. Take control of our lips that we might praise you fully & witness boldly to all about your great love. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord...Amen.

SONG: *Living Hope*

(On-Line worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING:

Jude 1:5-16

FAITH CHAT:

1. Describe a time when you felt compelled to say something to someone about your faith in Jesus?
2. Are there times when it's easier to just "let it go" when someone says something untrue about Christianity?

THE MESSAGE: *FAITH MATTERS: WHAT YOU ARE UP AGAINST*

PRAYERS:

(Individuals are encouraged to pray for one another in their households & to include prayers for the wider Living Water family, the Wagga Wagga community, our nation and the world's leaders in this time of isolation due to virus containment)

(Individual households may also choose to celebrate Holy Communion after the online service concludes. Please feel free to do so. If you know the Words of Institution you simply say them as you would hear them in worship. If you aren't sure, then read aloud together Paul's recount of the celebration in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Then share the forgiveness, life and salvation Christ offers in his body and blood. The words "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you" and appropriate elements are to be used as you celebrate together.)

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† (Name) child of God,
Christ in you stands strong against every evil threat.
Amen.**

SONG: *To God Be the Glory (LHS 793)*

(On-Line worship – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KW8O0Nz2ZtQ>)

SHOW HIS LOVE

JUDE 1:5-16

⁵ So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful. ⁶ And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment. ⁷ And don't forget Sodom & Gomorrah & their neighbouring towns, which were filled with immorality & every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire & serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.

⁸ In the same way, these people—who claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority, & scoff at supernatural beings. ⁹ But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, “The Lord rebuke you!” (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses’ body.) ¹⁰ But these people scoff at things they do not understand. Like unthinking animals, they do whatever their instincts tell them, & so they bring about their own destruction. ¹¹ What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps of Cain, who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for money. Like Korah, they perish in their rebellion.

¹² When these people eat with you in your fellowship meals commemorating the Lord’s love, they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you. They are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit & have been pulled up by the roots. ¹³ They are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the foam of their shameful deeds. They are like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness.

¹⁴ Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, “Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done & for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” ¹⁶ These people are grumblers & complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, & they flatter others to get what they want.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Jude. (reading all 26 verses at least once per week will give you a broader understanding for this series) What questions immediately come to mind?
2. Notice the contrast between what Jude says he wants believers to experience (v 2) & what he says those who are twisting faith in Christ to suit their own ends will experience. (vss 4-16) What is certain about all who are not faithful to Jesus Christ? Toward what does that encourage you?
3. One of the false teachings that arose in the early church was that since sin had fully corrupted the world, believers in Jesus had no responsibility to be concerned about it at all & could act in this world however they chose while we waited for the world to come. What problems arise with that falsehood? What does it deny? What is the danger if we live that way?
4. Quickly review Numbers 14:26–33. Why is Jude reminding his readers that the Lord destroyed those that did not believe? Why would you think Jude is comparing those that perished in the wilderness with these false teachers in the early church? What errors are both groups of people making?
5. Jude 1:6 speaks of the angels that were condemned to hell for leaving their “proper domain” until the final judgment. Review: Ps 103:20; Deut 33:2; Gal 3:19. How do these verses shed light of Jude’s point here?
6. Read Rom 1:29–32 & Jude 1:7. These two different passages address two different groups of people but have the same common theme, why do you think that is so? What is the message Jude is trying to convey to his readers, given the context of the letter? Read 2 Cor 6:2-8. Where do you find encouragement in this passage?
7. From where does our authority come as followers of Jesus? How do we exercise that authority in our daily lives? Do you feel competent in using that authority? If not, why not? And what can you do gain & feel more skilled? One of the other charges Jude lays is that the false teachers have no regard for heavenly authority. What is the ultimate outcome for people like that?
8. How are the false teachers like animals? Can you give an example of an animal that following its instinct will lead it to death? Think of a human example? Note the comparisons in vss 12-15. Briefly describe how a false teaching or teacher fit that description? What is always at stake in the presence of a false teacher?
9. What other characteristics of the false teachers does Jude list? (vs 16) Why is the last one extremely wrong and extremely dangerous? Why would false teachers or anyone practice living like that?
10. Given the extensive nature of Jude’s warnings, how could it be that these men were not only fully accepted in the church, but regarded as teachers? What lesson is there for us?