

Living Water Fellowship

15TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Happy Father's Day!

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION BEHOLD OUR GOD - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx9-0v9m2Sq> CCL Licence 384660

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach, the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds? **[Chorus]**

Who has felt the nails upon his hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him
You will reign forever
(let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever
(let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever
(let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever
(let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill-)

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

Songwriters: Jonathan Baird/Meghan Baird/Ryan Baird/Stephen Altrogge
Behold Our God lyrics © Sovereign Grace Praise, Pdi Worship

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Heavenly Father, God of compassion, in this unrelenting season of isolation, be close to those who are ill, afraid or quarantined. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light. We ask those same gifts from your hand to each of us: consolation, hope, light, release from this panic that has beset your good world. We pray through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, and for us has overcome the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: 2 Corinthians 3:16 - 4:18

FAITH CHAT:

1. When you are the receiver of a generous act or gift, how do you respond? Why?
2. When are you most tempted to be anxious about your earthly needs? Why then? What do you do?
3. What hinders a person's generosity?

SONG: RECKLESS LOVE (CORY ASBURY)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GGJ8cyYNzQ> - CCL Licence 384660

Before I spoke a word
You were singing over me
You have been so, so good to me
Before I took a breath
You breathed Your life in me
You have been so, so kind to me
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending
Reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down
Fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it and I don't deserve it
Still, You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending
Reckless love of God, yeah
When I was Your foe

Still, Your love fought for me
You have been so, so good to me
When I felt no worth
You paid it all for me
You have been so, so kind to me
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending
Reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down
Fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it and I don't deserve it
Still, You give yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending
Reckless love of God, yeah
There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up

Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me **[Repeat 3x]**
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending
Reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down
Fights 'til I'm found

Leaves the ninety-nine
And I couldn't earn it and I don't deserve it
Still, You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending
Reckless love of God, yeah

Source: Musixmatch
Songwriters: Ran Jackson / Cory Asbury / Caleb Culver
Reckless Love lyrics © Bethel Music Publishing, Watershed Worship
Publishing, Cory Asbury Publishing

THE MESSAGE: *AUTHENTIC GENEROSITY: FOUNDATION OF GENEROSITY*

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.)

Words of Institution & 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:

† -----, ***The Father is shaping the image of Christ in you!***
Amen.

SONG: *DWELL IN YOUR HOUSE* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHHUxslY9Iq> - CCL Licence 384660

*You set me apart
Gave me a new heart
Filled with compassion
To share Your great love
Show me Your ways
I want to know You
Guide me in truth
My hope is in You*

*That I may dwell in Your house forever
Lifting up Your name
Dwell in Your house forever more
That I may dwell in Your house forever
Lifting up Your name
Dwell in Your house forever more*

*I'll hold on to You,
My strength and my refuge.
Whom shall I fear?
I know You are near
All of my days
I live for You, Lord
Establish my path
There's one thing I ask*

*That I may dwell in Your house forever
Lifting up Your name
Dwell in Your house forever more
That I may dwell in Your house forever
Lifting up Your name
Dwell in Your house forever more
Holy Spirit, have Your way
Sweet anointing teach our hearts
Our lives, we pray*

*That I may dwell in Your house forever
Lifting up Your name
Dwell in Your house forever more
That I may dwell in Your house forever
Lifting up Your name
Dwell in Your house forever more*

*That I may dwell in Your house forever
Lifting up Your name
Dwell in Your house forever more*

Songwriters: Ewing Paul Robert
Dwell in Your House lyrics © Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

SHOW HIS LOVE

2 CORINTHIANS 3:16 - 4:18

3:16 But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 For the Lord is the Spirit, & wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see & reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more & more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

4 Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. 2 We reject all shameful deeds & underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, & all who are honest know this. 3 If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. 4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

5 You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, & we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10 Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 11 Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. 12 So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

13 But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." 14 We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus & present us to himself together with you. 15 All of this is for your benefit. As God's grace reaches more & more people, there will be great thanksgiving, & God will receive more and more glory. 16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17 For our present troubles are small & won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them & will last forever! 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. 2 Corinthians 3:16 - 4:18. What questions immediately come to mind for you?
2. How do questionable ethics & ministry practices hurt the work of Christ? What is Paul's alternative in verse 4:2b? What is the critical element for Paul? When we live according to the light of God's Word, what happens? Describe that process from your experience.
3. Since the gods of this world deliberately "blind" those around us who are not yet followers of Jesus, what is required of us in sharing the gospel with them? (Read 2 Cor 10:3-5 & Eph 6:11-17 to help with your answer)
4. Discuss a time in your life when you felt God's power carrying you through a difficult situation. How are you currently being tempted to "give up/lose heart"? Who is praying for you in this?
5. What hope do all who believe in Jesus Christ have? What should this hope motivate us to do in response? According to verse 15, why did Paul share the gospel with the Corinthians? What did he expect the Corinthians to do as well? Read Romans 1:16. Why should we preach the gospel no matter the cost? What makes it a unique message?
6. Talk about your willingness (or unwillingness) to sacrifice for (be exceedingly generous to) others. How can you grow to be more like Paul in this way? What will give you the strength to do so?
7. Paul says that his ultimate purpose for ministering to the Corinthians is to bring more glory to God as God's grace reaches more & more people (vs 15). How does the glory of God impact the way you live? How does that grace reach more people through you?
8. Do you ever find 4:16-17 difficult to trust as true some days? Why? Read Isaiah 65:17-25 & Revelation 21:3-4. How does this picture of God's final victory shape your view not only of the future, but of the issues you face today?
9. Read 4:17 again. How is it possible to grow spiritually in the midst of momentary troubles? How would you explain to a non-believer that the troubles of this world are "small & won't last very long" when compared to eternity? What examples from your own life would you use to explain the importance of keeping an eternal perspective?
10. What are the things that are "seen" & the things that are "not seen" (vs 18)? What difference does Paul describe between the two? How can we "look at" things that are "not seen"?
11. Paul's guidance helps us "hold loosely" to the things in our lives that are not going to be with us in eternity & "hold tightly" to only those things that are eternal. How can you practice that discipline with respect to generosity & use that as an opportunity to share Christ's generous sacrifice with someone this week?