

Living Water Fellowship

3rd Sunday in Easter – 23rd April 2023

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION *WHAT LOVE, MY GOD (CITYALIGHT) CCLI 384660*

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG: *Only a Holy God*

BIBLE READING: 1 Peter 1:13-25

¹³ So prepare your minds for action & exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

¹⁷ Remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favourites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as "temporary residents." ¹⁸ For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. It was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. ¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ²⁰ God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

²¹ Through Christ you have come to trust in God. You have placed your faith & hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead & gave him great glory. ²² You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers & sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.

²³ For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. ²⁴ As the Scriptures say,

“People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field.

The grass withers and the flower fades. ²⁵ But the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

OFFERING SONG: *Hosanna*

FAITH CHAT:

1. When you hear the word “holy,” what comes to mind? Why do you think that is?
2. If 21st century Australia wrote a new 10 Commandments, what would the 1st Commandment be?

THE MESSAGE: *THE NEW NORMAL: LIVING IN HOLINESS*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

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 and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: ROCK OF AGES (CITYALIGHT/EQUIP)-CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
In Christ, you are becoming who you will be!
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: 10,000 Reasons

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 1 Peter 1:13-25. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. If 21st century Australia wrote a new “10 Commandments”, what do you think they would include? How do you think the definitions of “right & wrong” have changed in Australia since you were born?
3. It seems Peter wrote to churches paying some social or physical “cost” for their faith in Jesus. Are there any ways that description also applies to us? How?
4. Peter also writes to encourage his readers to prepare themselves mentally to set their hope on the grace & salvation associated with a coming revelation of Jesus Christ. Is “hope” a mental effort? How? When would you have to work up to hope?
5. How does being obedient to God keep you from slipping into patterns of life that are more closely aligned with the world rather than aligned with Jesus?
6. How does your “thought life,” the things you think about, read, see, hear, engage mentally, or dream about play a role in helping or hindering your witness to Jesus?
7. Dictionaries & common definitions often link holiness to morality, but Biblically it means “set apart” or “distinctly for” God’s purposes. What is the difference? Does having a “different” way of life always result in comparisons & judgments? Is that good/bad?
8. Read Titus 2:11-14. How does God’s grace teach us to live in a way which reflects God’s Lordship over our lives? Discuss how grace is not just pardon but power & not just “no” but also a guide into a lifestyle of “yes.”
9. According to verse 18, what was **NOT** used to redeem us? Why is that significant? That same verse mentions “empty or vain” things we “inherited from our ancestors.” To what does that refer?
10. How is being obedient to the Father also an on-going “cleansing” from our sins?
11. How are verses 23-25 both an encouragement & a challenge to you?
12. What does this text call you to do?