

# Living Water Fellowship

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION      GOODNESS OF GOD (MARANATHA MUSIC)

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

GROW IN HIS GRACE

**SONG:**

*Shout to the Lord*

**BIBLE READING:**

1 Peter 2:11-25

## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 1 Peter 2:11-25. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. As in 1 Pet 1:1, now in vs 2:11, Peter again refers to us as foreigners & temporary residents. Why? What are the implications of us seeing this world as a temporary dwelling rather than a permanent home (both positive & negative)?
3. Peter begins this section with the word “Beloved/Dear Friends.” He uses this word twice in his first letter & six times in his shorter second letter. Why do you think he begins this strong statement with such a tender word?
4. Read Rom. 12:1-2. What similarities do you see with 1 Pet. 2:11? How can we remind ourselves that we don’t belong to this present culture?
5. Why is it so hard to abstain from sinful desires & live good lives that others will look to imitate or admire? What “worldly desire” is most challenging for you to avoid? Why?
6. There seems to be a conflict between vs 13 (submit to earthly authorities) & vs 16 (live in obedience to God). How do you decide when to do which? Does vs 17 help at all?
7. Whether it’s how a disciple responds to an unjust “ruler” or to an unjust “master,” what’s the point of living an honourable & “good” life before the eyes of the world?
8. How are submission, freedom, rebellion, & bondage related? How would you define true freedom? What conditions establish true freedom? What are some practical ways you can live out 2:13-20?
9. It is undeniable that the 21<sup>st</sup> century is seeing a wider negative push against faith in Christ. This passage might create a conflict between the idea of “doing nothing” in the face of adversity & actively standing against ungodly injustice in our society. How do you reconcile these two things in your mind? When, if ever, should Christians move from enduring to standing up? How should you live this out as an exile?
10. How does Christ’s willing sacrifice for you (the righteous & just for the unrighteous & unjust) offer strength, hope & encouragement as you strive to live more visibly & vocally as his presence in a world that you know will hate you for doing so?
11. What does this text call you to do?

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents & foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. <sup>12</sup> Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbours. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honourable behaviour, & they will give honour to God when he judges the world.

<sup>13</sup> For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, <sup>14</sup> or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honour those who do right. <sup>15</sup> It is God’s will that your honourable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. <sup>16</sup> For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil.

<sup>17</sup> Respect everyone, & love the family of believers. Fear God, & respect the king.

<sup>18</sup> You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind & reasonable, but even if they are cruel. <sup>19</sup> For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. <sup>20</sup> Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good & endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

<sup>21</sup> For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, & you must follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.

<sup>23</sup> He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

<sup>24</sup> He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin & live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

<sup>25</sup> Once you were like sheep who wandered away.

But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

## FAITH CHAT:

1. In your opinion, how is the church's witness most compromised today? How do you feel called to correct or address that?
2. Why are our "worldly" or "sinful" desires so difficult to control at times? What do you do to live obedient to Jesus while still engaging in a sinful world filled with sinful people? (To live "in" but not "of" the world)

**THE MESSAGE:**      *THE NEW NORMAL: LIVING WITH OPPOSITION*

**OFFERING SONG:**      *The Night Song*

**PRAYERS:**

**THE COMMUNION:**

*Preparation:*

*Since we have been raised with Christ Jesus, let us set our minds on heavenly things, not on the things that are on earth. Let's pray together...*

***Gracious God, in our wanderings & selfish desiring we often forsake fellowship with our families, our friends, & our neighbors; we neglect our communion with you, choosing worldly pleasures over truth, justice, & righteousness. In a world of plenty, we hoard our earthly blessings while others lack. Free us from such bondage, that we may truly reveal the presence of Christ in our lives. Amen.***

*Christ gave to the church the bread of heaven, his flesh & blood, for our forgiveness, life & salvation. Paul records that gracious gift with these words:*

*For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.*

***Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people?***

***You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unending love.***

***Once again you will have compassion on us.***

***You trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!***

*(Micah 7:18-19)*

*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:      ANCIENT OF DAYS (CITYALIGHT)*

*GO IN HIS POWER*

**THE BLESSING:**

***(Name), † child of God,***

***You are the face of Jesus wherever you are!***

***Amen.***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:**                  Cornerstone

*SHOW HIS LOVE*