

# Living Water Fellowship

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023

*Happy Mother's Day!*

*COME TO JESUS*

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION      *A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD (MATT BOSWELL)*

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

*GROW IN HIS GRACE*

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

**BIBLE READING:**      1 Peter 3:8-22

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. <sup>9</sup> Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. <sup>10</sup> For the Scriptures say,

*"If you want to enjoy life & see many happy days,  
keep your tongue from speaking evil & your lips from telling lies.*

<sup>11</sup> *Turn away from evil & do good. Search for peace, & work to maintain it.*

<sup>12</sup> *The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right,  
& his ears are open to their prayers.*

*But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil."*

<sup>13</sup> Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.

<sup>15</sup> Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle & respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. <sup>17</sup> Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

<sup>18</sup> Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> So he went & preached to the spirits in prison — <sup>20</sup> those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.

<sup>21</sup> That water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

<sup>22</sup> Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honour next to God, & all the angels & authorities & powers accept his authority.

#### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### FAITH CHAT:

1. It's Mother's Day...What do you appreciate most about either your mother, &/or someone to you who has "mothered" you in a significant way?
2. How you ever met someone whose response to suffering surprised you? How did they respond? Why was that so striking to you?

**SONG:** *Jesus my Friend (AT 553)*

**THE MESSAGE:** *THE NEW NORMAL: LIVING WITH HOPE (& JOY)*

**OFFERING SONG:** *Be Unto Your Name*

#### 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: CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE (CITYALIGHT)*

*GO IN HIS POWER*

#### THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,  
In struggle & suffering Christ is still for you!  
Amen.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SONG:** *May the Lord Bless You Today (AT 408)*

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

#### Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. We all encounter suffering in our life. What suffering are you seeing or experiencing at this time that breaks your heart the most? Why is returning evil for evil & insult for insult such a bad idea? What does it normally achieve?
3. In verse 8 Peter lists 5 attitudes with which Christians should treat others, especially other believers. Can you give some practical examples of what each of those would look like? Of those five attitudes, is there any you find come more naturally/difficult to you than the others?
4. Peter quotes Psalm 34. Please read it now. What does this teach us about suffering well? What verse or verses speak most strongly to you at this time in your life? Who is someone you can share that with as an encouragement?
5. What are three responses that Peter anticipates outsiders might have to Christians doing good? How does our integrity of life & faith lead to each? How does God see that characteristic in us...what are we promised?
6. Is Peter advocating a passive 'door-mat' posture or something more profound? Explain your perspective. How is that something you strive to live among the not-yet-Christians you know?
7. Does the physical act of baptism save you? What does your baptism mean for you & how does it guide you through suffering into hope?
8. If someone asked you right now to give an answer for the hope that is within you, what would you say? What can you do this week to be better prepared to give a reason for the hope you have when asked?
9. Who is someone suffering at the moment and how could you encourage them practically at this time?
10. We are the recipients of new life, forgiveness & reconciliation with God because Jesus was prepared to suffer unfairly. How can we make sure we never take that gift for granted, and at the same time allow it to guide or lives continually?
11. What does this text call you to do?