

# *Living Water Fellowship*

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023*

## *COME TO JESUS*

**OPENING SONGS:** Even So Come  
Come Praise & Glorify our God

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

## *GROW IN HIS GRACE*

**BIBLE READING:** 1 Peter 4:7-19

<sup>7</sup> The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest & disciplined in your prayers.

<sup>8</sup> Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.

<sup>10</sup> God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. <sup>11</sup> Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength & energy God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory & power to him forever & ever! Amen.

<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. <sup>16</sup> But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! <sup>17</sup> For the time has come for judgment, & it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? <sup>18</sup> Also, "If the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners?"

<sup>19</sup> So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, & trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**BIBLE READING:** 1 Peter 5:6-14

<sup>6</sup> So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, & at the right time he will lift you up in honour. <sup>7</sup> Give all your worries & cares to God, for he cares about you.

<sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Stand firm against him, & be strong in your faith.

Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. <sup>10</sup> In his grace God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, & strengthen you, & will place you on a firm foundation. <sup>11</sup> All power to him forever! Amen.

<sup>12</sup> I have written & sent this short letter to you with the help of Silas, whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. My purpose in writing is to encourage you & assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace.

<sup>13</sup> Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings, & so does my son Mark.

<sup>14</sup> Greet each other with a kiss of love. Peace be with all of you who are in Christ.

#### FAITH CHAT:

1. How are your circumstances (especially bad ones) an opportunity to show others that Jesus is more precious to you than anything else?
2. Where are you most likely to be "forced" to choose between doing what you know God directs you to do & a compromise with something less than that?

**THE MESSAGE:** *THE NEW NORMAL: LIVING INTO ETERNITY*

**OFFERING SONG:** Ancient of Days

#### PRAYERS:

#### THE COMMUNION:

*The 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 during Communion:*

VIDEO – ROCK OF AGES (CityAlight)- CCL Licence 384660

*GO IN HIS POWER*

#### THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God...**

**In Christ God restores, supports, & strengthens you  
on the foundation of his love! Amen.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SONG:** Glorious Day

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

#### Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 1 Peter 4:7-19 & 5:6-14. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. 1 Peter 4:1 says we are to "arm" ourselves "with the same attitude (Jesus) had," What do you think that means? (See Php 2:5ff) How would you go about that? How can we support one another to better "arm" ourselves in the midst of suffering & under the opposition of the culture around us?
3. What would you do today if you were convinced Christ was returning tomorrow? Why?
4. One of Peter's chief commands here is to continue to love one another (v. 8). Why is this often a challenge for believers? What does it mean for love to cover a "multitude of sins"? Does this remove the need for accountability in the form of confronting sin, confessing it, & repenting from it?
5. Why does Peter link showing hospitality to not grumbling? What is the connection between the two?
6. Why would "sharing in Christ's sufferings" give joy to the Christian? How do you, in your suffering, lean into walking through it with Jesus rather than only getting past it? How can you allow hardship, suffering, or persecution to refine your faith so that you grow more reliant on & resembling Jesus?
7. Why is humility before God an essential heart-attitude for followers of Jesus to maintain? How does that provide a path through difficult seasons? What are some anxieties or cares that you need to cast upon God in prayer this next week?
8. How often do you think about the devil? How should we think about Satan? What should our attitude to Satan be? Why? How is that possible? How can we maintain a perspective that accounts for the reality of spiritual evil in our world despite our status as "more than conquerors (Rom 8:37) in Christ?"
9. One of the beautiful truths Peter shares is that God is present with us & works through us in our suffering. What are some ways you have seen God work in your trials?
10. What are some temptations we face when we are suffering? How do we deal with these temptations?
11. What are some ways in which we can exhort one another & declare God's grace to one another as a redemptive community living as exiles in our culture? What should the substance & content of our exhortation be? Why do you think it was important for Peter to do that to these believers? As we live as exiles today, what dangers do you think exist that could distract us from living in the grace of God?
12. What does this text call you to do?