

# Living Water Fellowship

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

*COME TO JESUS*

**OPENING SONG:** Come, Now is the Time to Worship

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

*GROW IN HIS GRACE*

**BIBLE READING:** Philippians 2:1-18

<sup>1</sup> Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender & compassionate? <sup>2</sup> Then fulfil my joy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, & working together with one mind & purpose. <sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

<sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

<sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honour and gave him the name above all other names,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. Now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence & fear. <sup>13</sup> For God is working in you, giving you the desire & the power to do what pleases him.

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining & arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked & perverse people. <sup>16</sup> Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain & that my work was not useless. <sup>17</sup> But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. I want all of you to share that joy. <sup>18</sup> Yes, you should rejoice, & I will share your joy.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Philippians 2. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. Why do you think Paul is focusing on unity so much? How do humility & unity work together? Can you have unity without humility? Please explain your thoughts.
3. How do the assumed "yes" answers of verse 1 lead to the commands of vs 3-4?
4. What did Paul say would complete (fill up to the brim) his joy? Why do you think this would make him joyful? As the church at Philippi acted out these commands, what happens in their lives? What could then occur among the people they encounter throughout their lives? Does it make you joyful when you live your life in this manner?
5. How are vs 3-4 quite different from what you see in the world around you? How would a life reflecting Paul's commands draw attention to someone & perhaps create opportunities to share the good news of Jesus?
6. As Paul writes, the words "mind" & "attitude" both refer to what we might call, "mindset, worldview, or self-understanding." What did the mind-set of Jesus lead Him to do? Compare that with 1 John 3:16 & 1 John 4:9-12. What is the on-going expectation of all who are embraced by Christ's life & love? How's that going in your life?
7. What encouragement can you take from vs 6-8 and 9-11 if you begin asking the Holy Spirit to create in you the same attitude that Christ had? Is it ok to ask God to work in you & then take joy in the results?
8. How is it encouraging to know that God works & wills his pleasure in our lives, even while we are commanded to work out in our daily lives obedience & conformity to Christ?
9. What does Paul say will happen if Christians live distinctly different kinds of lifestyles than their not-yet-Christian neighbours? What difference would it make culturally?
10. In vs 16, "Hold firmly" means to keep God's Word desperately before you so that you will continue to obey & put into practice what you are learning. How do you do that?
11. What did Paul say about Timothy's character? Do you know anyone like that? What's it like to be around them?
12. How did Paul describe Epaphroditus? Why did Paul think it was important to send Epaphroditus to them? Note...often in the epistles, we read of gospel ministers suffering illness, persecution, fatigue, imprisonment, or death as they tell the story of Jesus' life, death & resurrection. Why does that make them worthy of honour? How does your life reflect that struggle for the gospel? If it doesn't, what would you ask of the Father to accomplish in you in the days ahead given the assurance of Php 2:13?

**BIBLE READING:**           Philippians 2:19-30

<sup>19</sup> If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. <sup>20</sup> I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. <sup>21</sup> All the others care only for themselves & not for what matters to Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. <sup>23</sup> I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. <sup>24</sup> And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, & fellow soldier. He was your messenger to help me in my need. <sup>26</sup> I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, & he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup> And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.

<sup>28</sup> So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, & then I will not be so worried about you. <sup>29</sup> Welcome him in the Lord's love & with great joy, & give him the honour people like him deserve. <sup>30</sup> For he risked his life for the work of Christ, & he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.

**FAITH CHAT:**

1. How is humility different from being a doormat?
  - How is Christian humility an active lifestyle rather than a passive one?
2. How would the lifestyle Paul commends radically reshape 2023 Wagga Wagga?

**THE MESSAGE:**        *THE PANDEMIC OF JOY: PURPOSEFUL JOY*

**OFFERING SONG:**       Potter's Hand (PW 857)

**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 – THE NIGHT SONG (CityAlight – Colin Buchanan) - CCL Licence 384660

*GO IN HIS POWER*

**THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God...  
God is working in you for his joy.  
Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:**                   Sent out by God's Blessing (LHS 844)

*SHOW HIS LOVE*