

# Living Water Fellowship

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

COME TO JESUS

## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Philippians 3. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. Why do you think
3. Who are the “dogs”, “people who do evil,” & “mutilators” about whom Paul cautions the Philippians? How are they contrasted with the Philippians? How might the influence of these people keep the Philippians from rejoicing in the Lord?
4. What does it mean to “put no confidence in human effort”? Why do you think Paul gives himself as an example? In what does Paul put his confidence now?
5. Look over Paul’s credentials. What “gain” was he deriving from them? Why does he now see them as loss? What does it mean to be “one with” Christ? How is this related to being righteous?
6. Paul values Christ over everything, knowing Christ in relationship overshadows every other element of life. Read Isaiah 46:5-7. How do these verses relate?
7. How does this righteousness that comes through faith differ from the righteousness that we might try to earn? How does receiving righteousness by faith change how someone approaches God? How can righteousness by faith change how we view other people? Read Romans 6:3-11. What similarities do you see between these verses?
8. Why does focusing on the past (achievements or failures) hinder us from running the race God desires for us? Why it is so difficult to keep from focusing on your past?
9. How does surrounding ourselves with Christians who exemplify Christ-like behavior help us in our own journey of faith & our relationship with Jesus? Who is someone who has been a positive influence on your faith journey?
10. Discuss how being “citizens of heaven” makes us different from citizens of earth. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. What responsibilities do we have as “citizens of heaven” living temporarily on the earth?
11. When are you most susceptible to begin setting your mind on earthly things?
12. Paul’s letter always include a challenge for the believers. In what you have read so far, what is Paul’s challenge to you? How will you begin to respond to that challenge? How can Living Water assist you?

**OPENING SONG:** Even So Come

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

GROW IN HIS GRACE

**BIBLE READING:** Philippians 3:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Whatever happens, my dear brothers & sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, & I do it to safeguard your faith.

<sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. <sup>3</sup> For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, <sup>4</sup> though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

<sup>5</sup> I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel & a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. <sup>6</sup> I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. As for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

<sup>7</sup> I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. <sup>8</sup> Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ <sup>9</sup> & become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ & experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, <sup>11</sup> so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

**CHILDREN’S TIME:**

**BIBLE READING:** Philippians 3:12-21

<sup>12</sup> I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. <sup>13</sup> No, dear brothers & sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past & looking forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race & receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

<sup>15</sup> Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. <sup>16</sup> But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

<sup>17</sup> Dear brothers & sisters, pattern your lives after mine, & learn from those who follow our example. <sup>18</sup> For I have told you often before, & I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.

<sup>19</sup> They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, & they think only about this life here on earth. <sup>20</sup> But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. We are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Saviour.

<sup>21</sup> He will take our weak mortal bodies & change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

**SONG:** This Life I Live

**FAITH CHAT:**

1. What is something you have done that you are proud of & which brings you joy to remember?
2. If you were to have to “downsize” your home...What “old treasure” would be hardest for you to throw away?

**THE MESSAGE:** *THE PANDEMIC OF JOY: ETERNAL JOY*

**OFFERING SONG:** Make Your Home in Me (AT 487)

**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 – GOOD AND GRACIOUS KING (CityAlight) - CCL Licence 384660*

## *GO IN HIS POWER*

**THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God...  
May God’s gift of assured eternal joy  
be the joy you share today.  
Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:** Grace

## *SHOW HIS LOVE*