

Living Water Fellowship

20th Sunday after Pentecost – 15th October 2023

COME TO JESUS

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Philippians 4. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. Australia seems irreconcilably divided these days. How can we practically apply Paul's call for unity in our present-day communities? How do we work for unity between ourselves & those who do not share our faith in Christ?
3. Why would he counsel a gentle & gracious approach to the world? How is humility that he commanded earlier in the letter a fitting counterpart to "gentle graciousness"? How are prayer & thanksgiving the appropriate response to challenges or anxiety-provoking circumstances in life?
4. Paul instructs not to be anxious but to present our requests to God in prayer & thanksgiving. How can we put this into practice when faced with anxiety-provoking situations? What is the promised result? Is that because God always "grants our every wish" or that God grants something else entirely? (See Lk 11:11-13)
5. Why & from what do our hearts & minds need to be guarded or protected? How are we guarded "in Christ Jesus"?
6. What might happen if the Philippians live out Paul's command in verse 8? How might it affect the gospel ministry in Philippi? How might it affect you & Living Water?
7. What would be the opposite of those commands? What happens if your thoughts are stuck there instead?
8. What sorts of things occupy your mind? How does your preoccupation with these things affect your relationships? How does it affect your joy in the Lord? How does it affect your peace or your relationship with the God of peace?
9. How does Paul model gratitude in this chapter, and how can we imitate this in our own lives? Why is it significant for the Philippians to know that God will supply their needs?
10. How does God get glory when we are generous?
11. What keeps us from feeling the contentment that Paul felt? When do you live as though God were not meeting "all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus"? Since God does not always change our circumstances, what do you need to ask God to change in those moments?
12. Read verse 23 aloud. How does that blessing in addition to the assurance that God "will supply all your needs" serve as an encouragement to both contentment AND generosity in the week ahead? What will you do now?

OPENING SONG: Come Praise & Glorify
Be Unto Your Name

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Philippians 4:1-9

¹ Therefore, my dear brothers & sisters, stand firm in the Lord. I love you & long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy & the crown I receive for my work.

² Now I appeal to Euodia & Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. ³ I ask you, my true partner, to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement & the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

⁴ Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! ⁵ Let everyone see your gentle graciousness in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. ⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, & thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts & minds as you live in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Now, dear brothers & sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, & honourable, & right, & pure, & lovely, & admirable. Think about things that are excellent & worthy of praise. ⁹ Keep putting into practice all you learned & received from me—everything you heard from me & saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

BIBLE READING: Philippians 4:10-23

¹⁰ How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. ¹¹ Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. ¹³ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. ¹⁴ Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty. ¹⁵ As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then travelled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. ¹⁶ Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. ¹⁷ I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.

¹⁸ At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable & pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now all glory to God our Father forever & ever! Amen.

²¹ Give my greetings to each of God's holy people—all who belong to Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings. ²² All the rest of God's people send you greetings, too, especially those in Caesar's household. ²³ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

FAITH CHAT:

1. What does the word “contentment” mean to you? Scale of 1 (low) & 10 (high)
How contented are you? Why?
2. When you have a “quieter” moment & you are able to think about life, what do you think?

THE MESSAGE: *THE PANDEMIC OF JOY: CONTENTED JOY*

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 – ALL BECAUSE OF THE CROSS (Paul Baloche) - CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God...
The peace of God guards your heart & mind
in Christ Jesus.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Let Your Kingdom Come

SHOW HIS LOVE