**Grace Forever**

**Day 36 - Monday 30th March**

***Psalm 23.6b, “And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”***

Jesus didn’t understand forever, or eternal life, to be something that could only be enjoyed after death. ‘Forever’ is present reality as well as a future certainty for the people of God. “...this is eternal life,” Jesus says in John 17.3, “that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

This isn’t about knowledge of God – even demons have that – it’s about knowing Him as a Father, dwelling with Him in His grace, enjoying His presence now and forever. Jesus said “I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10.10)

So God’s intention and desire for us is that we “dwell in the house of the Lord” through a trusting relationship with Him. This relationship begins now and continues after death into eternity. Jesus says “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14.1-3) So now, through faith, we dwell in the house of the Lord and we will do forever.

* *How does this reality inspire you today?*

* *Write down a list of ways that you expect to enjoy “dwelling in the house of the Lord” throughout this week (particularly as we can’t gather as a congregation)*

**Day 37 – Tuesday 31st March**

***Psalm 23.6b, “And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*”**

**Please read Romans 8.1-13**

Yesterday we reminded ourselves of Jesus’ promises to us about eternal life - it’s about knowing Him, dwelling with Him in His grace, enjoying His presence now **and** forever.

For **now,** we all experience hindrances in enjoying the fulness of this life now. We have all experienced the destructive consequences of our sin, the fear of God’s condemnation and the destabilising of the security of our relationship with Christ that our battle with sin brings.

* How have you experienced this recently?

**Please read 2 Corinthians 7.8-10 & 1 John 1.5-9**

As Christians, our sin affects the quality of our relationship with God. But…

* what is the difference between being convicted of the sin in our lives **now**, and feeling condemned by God **forever**?
* How does this help you deal appropriately with sin in your life **now**, and the fear of God’s condemnation **forever**?

**Day 38 – Wednesday 1st April**

***Psalm 23.6b, “And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*”**

Even in the midst of opposition, loss and personal failure, the psalmist David had a profound sense of security. It was rooted in the reality that he would dwell with God – and God would dwell with him – every day on earth and throughout eternity.

The apostle Paul echoed that same sense of deep security in Romans 8.

David uses the image of sheep being cared for by The Shepherd, but Paul presents a different picture in Romans 8.14-17.

* What is it?
* What does this say about the security of your relationship with God in Christ?

**Day 39 – Thursday 2nd April**

***Psalm 23.6b, “And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*”**

Please read Romans 8.18-25

Today, along with the whole of creation, we experience common frustrations and bondage to the brokenness in creation.  We feel this currently very powerfully in the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

In addition, Christians experience the frustrations and suffering of battling against the influence of the old nature, against sin and against the evil one in our lives.

* How do these verses help bring a sense of perspective and hope for our present frustrations and sufferings?

In vs 18-19, Paul says, “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.”

* What do you think that might mean?
* How do you feel that one day the glory of the Lord will be revealed in you?
* How do you feel today that one day you will witness the dawn of the new creation?