

## What perspective are you holding on to?

This past Sunday, Pastor Mike encouraged us to hold on to God's perspective in the midst of trials. While the message conveyed through John's writing to a part of the early Christian community, spoke of pending persecution, many truths are here for us to hold onto today!

I grew up hearing of the Lord's return and had fear drilled into me. Whether it was the fear of being left behind, burning in hell or being persecuted, fear was a prevailing theme in my life. This passage of scripture in particular doesn't sugar coat the possible reality of pain and death for those who stand for Christ. In the face of suffering verse 10 tells us not to be afraid! For many years I had no idea how to not be afraid, thankfully I am starting to understand.

Instead of trying to predict what is ahead, imagining the horror-filled possibilities or guessing when Jesus will return, we have the opportunity to enjoy the wait. How do we enjoy the wait? Instead of focusing on the possible negative events we get to engage in the wonder of walking in fellowship with our God, through Holy Spirit every single day. This is how we stay faithful! Paul puts it this way:

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Cor. 15:58 (ESV). This is my scripture for the week. This verse rounds up the discussion from the beginning of the chapter, all about the resurrection of Christ and our resurrection when the time comes. This is what Pastor Mike referred to as our true North.

The resurrection demonstrates God's power over death and His gift of eternal life to us. Yes, our BIG IDEA is, God is with us during hard times. So, the questions that we get to consider are as follows:

1. What difference does the resurrection make for you today?
2. How are you keeping this truth in focus each day?
3. What is the work of the Lord and how are you participating in it?
4. I look forward to seeing you in our life group tomorrow.

Should you be unable to join us, be sure to find a way to stay connected and abounding in the work of our Lord, knowing your labour is not in vain.

Warmly, Pastor Andrew