

# Sunday AM Service ~ June 11, 2023

## Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

### Welcome & Prayer

In Ezekiel 34, we are reminded of God, as the shepherd for His people.

<sup>11</sup>“...this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

<sup>12</sup>I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

<sup>14</sup>I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land.

<sup>16</sup>I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak...”

Let's pray

Heavenly Father, We come to you lost, injured, tired and weak. We are lost in sin. We are injured by our own failing. We are tired in this fallen world. We are weak in our faith and weak in our trust in you. Forgive us, LORD. Restore us. Bind us up in your love. May we know you, as the good shepherd, who searches for His people, gathers them to himself, and tends for them with kindness and blessing. May we rest in your forgiveness. May we rest in your goodness. May we rest in your sovereign hand.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen

### Song – Almighty Maker <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ytCHkA-V3Y>

1. Who but the Lord  
set the bound'ries of light  
Hung the stars in the night?

Who but the Lord  
drew the face on the moon  
Made the planets to move?

Who but the Lord  
tells the clouds when to pour  
Thunder to roar?  
Amazing are Your works

Chorus:  
Almighty Maker  
You command heaven and earth  
By the power of Your Word  
Be praised forever  
Almighty Maker  
All creation sings of You  
Glory fills all that You do  
Be praised forever, ever, evermore

2. Who but the Lord  
could have dreamed of the plan  
That would save fallen man?  
Who but the Lord  
washes rebels with blood  
Making mercy a flood?  
Who but the Lord  
could give life through a cross  
Rescuing us?  
Amazing are Your ways

Chorus

Bridge: All things are from You  
All things are through You  
O God, the great I AM  
All things are for You  
All things are to You  
O God, the great I AM

Chorus

### Bible Reading – Joshua 18:1-10 & 19:49-51 (NIV)

*The whole assembly of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The country was brought under their control,<sup>2</sup> but there were still seven Israelite tribes who had not yet received their inheritance.<sup>3</sup> So Joshua said to the Israelites: “How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has given you?”<sup>4</sup> Appoint three men from each tribe. I will send them out to make a survey of the land and to write a description of it, according to the inheritance*

of each. Then they will return to me. <sup>5</sup> You are to divide the land into seven parts. Judah is to remain in its territory on the south and the tribes of Joseph in their territory on the north. <sup>6</sup> After you have written descriptions of the seven parts of the land, bring them here to me and I will cast lots for you in the presence of the LORD our God. <sup>7</sup> The Levites, however, do not get a portion among you, because the priestly service of the LORD is their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben and the half-tribe of Manasseh have already received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan. Moses the servant of the LORD gave it to them.” <sup>8</sup> As the men started on their way to map out the land, Joshua instructed them, “Go and make a survey of the land and write a description of it. Then return to me, and I will cast lots for you here at Shiloh in the presence of the Lord.” <sup>9</sup> So the men left and went through the land. They wrote its description on a scroll, town by town, in seven parts, and returned to Joshua in the camp at Shiloh. <sup>10</sup> Joshua then cast lots for them in Shiloh in the presence of the LORD, and there he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their tribal divisions.

<sup>49</sup> When they had finished dividing the land into its allotted portions, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them, <sup>50</sup> as the LORD had commanded. They gave him the town he asked for—Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he built up the town and settled there. <sup>51</sup> These are the territories that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the tribal clans of Israel assigned by lot at Shiloh in the presence of the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting. And so, they finished dividing the land.

## Announcements 11/6/23

**Focus for the month – Mission.** Quick Quiz. How many link missionaries does our Church have? Can you name them? Do you get any of their prayer letters? Do you know what their current prayer needs are? When did you last pray for them independently of the Church? Have you ever written an email/letter to a missionary? How did you go with the quiz? Is there any way you could help us support our missionaries more into the future?

**Hamilton Proposal.** Keep praying. Keep talking about it. Keep asking questions. And the Session will try and keep you abreast of what is happening. Many thanks to those who engaged with the elders last week over the Hamilton proposal.

**Prayer meetings.** With so many important things happening in our church we feel it is necessary to have two Church wide prayer meetings to gather everyone together to pray. They will be held at Charlestown Church on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June (6:45pm BYO dinner, 7:30pm prayer time) and Wednesday (12:30pm BYO lunch, 1:15pm prayer). Please try and find a way to come if you possibly can.

**Hunter Presbytery** will be meeting this Wednesday. Please pray for the ministers and elders who are present as they seek to give pastoral encouragement and oversight to the 10 Presbyterian congregations within the Hunter region. One issue they will be talking together about is the future of Hamilton.

**Church membership.** Are you interested in becoming a member of our Church. If so please see Stephen, Jon or one of the elders and we will talk you through what the process looks like.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Any interested regulars are invited to a meeting NEXT Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 11:30pm in the Church where we will start making some plans for how we will celebrate this significant milestone. All welcome.

**Compassion Sunday.** We have invited a speaker from Compassion to talk to all three services about child Sponsorship NEXT Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

**QUIZ BLITZ. Trivia** ... But not as you know it. Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June from 7:30pm. More details see our Facebook page.

**Rhema.** Do you know that our church runs a weekly radio station on Rhema 99.7? It is called God’s Word for God’s World and it airs on Sundays at 7:30am. This is a great way for us to get the message of the gospel to a wider audience.

**Family Fellowship.** Next family fellowship is scheduled for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 2-4pm. Meet at Green Point Car Park then a walk/scooter for 45 minutes, have an afternoon tea (each bring a plate) and then a walk back home. All families with kids in the Year 3-9 age are invited.

**Elvanto.** Are you currently receiving our weekly emails? If not now is the time to give us your contact details and we will add you onto our Church Management System (which is called Elvanto).

**Missionary Night.** Please put Sunday @ 6 on 2<sup>nd</sup> July in your diary/phones as we will be holding a missionary night and dinner. If you are able to make a soup for that night, could you please see Karen Logan.

**Morning Tea Routine.** Each Sunday morning tea is provided for the adults and kids of our Church. We ask that parents help us to ensure that their kids do not eat from the adults table until all the adults have come out of Church and have been served. Hot drinks are not to be served to the kids as we care for our smaller ones moving around at morning tea.

## Pastoral Prayer Points

**Tearfund.** The literacy rates in South Sudan are 29% for women and 40% for men. Please pray for Tearfund's partner ACROSS which is helping by promoting education for girls and boys and supports poorly resourced schools and teachers. Parents often face economic pressure to arrange marriages for their daughters at a young age. Education of both genders' aids in lifting families & communities out of poverty.

**Pray for kingdom growth:** Send out labourers, because how will people believe unless they hear? And how will they preach unless they are sent? Add to Your church daily those who will believe. From the rising of the sun to its setting, let your Name be great among the nations. Let the earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (An excerpt of a prayer by Matthew Henry).

**Pray for Afghanistan:** Pray for those disillusioned with Islam to find salvation in Christ. Pray for protection and courage for Afghan believers. Pray for Taliban fighters to encounter the risen Lord Jesus. Pray for food and medical care for millions in urgent physical need.

**Pray for our nation:** Pray Australia would be a place of refuge, of hospitality, and a nation able to bless other nations.

## Song – Guide me O Thou great Jehovah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ietK7-57iFY>

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer<br/>Pilgrim through this barren land<br/>I am weak but Thou art mighty<br/>Hold me with thy powerful hand<br/>Bread of heaven<br/>Feed me now and evermore</p> | <p>Strong Deliverer<br/>Be Thou still my strength and shield</p>  |
| <p>2. Open now the crystal fountain<br/>Whence the healing streams do flow<br/>Let the fiery cloudy pillar<br/>Lead me all my journey though</p>  | <p>3. When I tread the verge of Jordan<br/>Bid my fears subside<br/>Death of death<br/>And hell's destruction<br/>Land me safe on Canaan's side<br/>Songs of praises<br/>I will ever give to thee</p> |

## Bible Reading – Joshua 20:1-9

**20** Then the LORD said to Joshua: <sup>2</sup> "Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, <sup>3</sup> so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood. <sup>4</sup> When they flee to one of these cities, they are to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state their case before the elders of that city. Then the elders are to admit the fugitive into their city and provide a place to live among them. <sup>5</sup> If the avenger of blood comes in pursuit, the elders must not surrender the fugitive, because the fugitive killed their neighbour unintentionally and without malice aforethought. <sup>6</sup> They are to stay in that city until they have stood trial before the

*assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then they may go back to their own home in the town from which they fled.”<sup>7</sup> So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.<sup>8</sup> East of the Jordan (on the other side from Jericho) they designated Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau in the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead in the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan in the tribe of Manasseh.<sup>9</sup> Any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly.*

## Sermon – A place to call home (Stephen Taylor)

In the last couple of weeks one of our families has been looking to move. They have lived in the one place for the last decade or two, raised their kids, experienced the extreme highs and lows of life but it is now time to move on. And so, they have spruced up their tired looking home, placed it on the market and it will go to auction very soon. Which means they are looking at buying somewhere else to live.

But there is a problem. They have been living in a home and they are looking to buy a house. They have been in a place with lots and lots memories, where they have shared history, a place that has an emotional attachment about it & now they are want to find a new home. But at the moment all they are looking at is houses. You see you can't buy a home; you can only buy a house. But as you live there, bit by bit, you can turn your house into a home.

Slide 2

I think something similar is happening to the Israelites in the promised land. They spent generations in Egypt waiting for God to fulfil his promise to give them a place they could call home. They have spent 40 years in the desert, wandering around in circles dreaming of a place to call home. And now they are finally there but **it is not yet home**. It is just a house. It just a land. It just a country. So, in chapters 18-21 we see how God will turn a place into a home. A home where they will live with Him.

Slide 3

### 1. Firstly, it's about a **Relationship** (Joshua 18:1)

*“The whole assembly of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh & set up the tent of meeting there”*. You see right in the middle of this long, long section about where each tribe is going to live is this verse that says right at the centre of God's promised land is God Himself. You see Shiloh was centrally located and so was convenient for each and every tribe to visit. So that was where the symbol of God's ongoing presence was going to be placed. The tent of meeting, the place where Moses met with God face to face, & the ark of the covenant, the place where God ruled, is now set up at Shiloh.

Slide 4

No longer will the tent of meeting move around from place to place as it did during the days of their father's wilderness pilgrimage. Now, it will be housed permanently in one central location at the heart of the life of the people of God. Putting the focus here on Shiloh, making Shiloh the centre of worship and ministry was a way to make a kind of claim. It was a flag planted in a new world. Like an explorer, claiming the land for his king. Israel, now claimed that the Lord was their king and he ruled all of this land **from the tent of meeting**.

You see if this was going to be a place where the Israelites called home, God must be at the centre of it. The worship of God must be integral to it. This home is not about luxury or money or comfort or fun, it is about putting God first. And many **a house**, no many **a home** that I have visited has a plaque near its front door that quotes the end of Joshua *“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”* You see you turn a house into a home when first and foremost it is a place where God dwells. Where he rules. Where the relationship with Him is absolutely central to all that takes place.

Slide 5

### 2. And secondly this passage is about a **Rebuke** (Joshua 18:2-10)

*"The country was brought under their control,<sup>2</sup> but there were still seven Israelite tribes who had not yet received their inheritance.<sup>3</sup> So Joshua said to the Israelites: "**How long** will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has given you?"*

You see it seems that some of God's people were reluctant to take possession of the land. The major battles had been won; the back had been broken to the Canaanite resistance but there were still pockets of defiance out there. I sense they were tired of the fight & wanted to settle down. Get into their houses & spend the time necessary to turn it into a home

Slide 6

And throughout this section we hear again and again that God had given them the whole land. And that's why Joshua sends out 3 people from every tribe in order to map it. To write a description of what was in each region and what was still to do to claim it completely as their own. You see there was still work to be done. And so, Joshua rebukes them. "How long?" "How long will you wait?" God might have given you this as your inheritance but you still have to do something yourself to make it your own.

You see God's promises are not intended to be sedatives but stimulants. You don't let go and let God, you grab hold of God's promises and claim them as your very own. That's true in the OT as well as the NT. You trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus than to trust and obey. Now let me give you just one example.

Slide 7

John 14:21 – *"Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, is the one who loves Me."* Loves shows itself in obedience. So far so good. But listen to what He adds next. *"The one who loves me will be loved by My Father and I too will love him and **show Myself to him.**"* Do you hear what He's saying? He's saying there are spiritual flowers you can't pick, smell and enjoy unless you firstly climb to the mountaintop of obedience where they grow. If you want God's promises to come true, you don't sit back and wait for them to be delivered to you at your front door by an Uber, you go out and claim them as your very own.

And the people of God weren't doing that and so Joshua rebukes them. He gives them a kick up the backside. Don't get soft, don't become slack, don't take God's gifts for granted. Stop your excuses. You see sometimes kids just ride on their parent's faith, sometimes husbands rely on their wives' faith, sometimes wives trust in their husband's faith. But we must have our relationship with God right at the very centre & if we do that every so often the word of God will rebuke us and get us off the wrong path and put us back on the path of obedience.

Slide 8

3. For on that pathway we find the source of our **Reward** (Joshua 18:11-19:48) And that's why the rest of chapters 18 and 19 then list the seven tribes that had yet to receive their part of the land, Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan along with a list of all their boundaries and all the towns that are now been given to them from God. And that's is why these territories are all allocated to each tribe by lot. Or we find in these chapters there are lots of lots. Because Joshua was not going to tell them which region in the promised land they would now call home, for that was God's prerogative.

Now to you and I its pretty dreary reading and you will have noticed that we only read through the bare minimum of these two chapters. It's like the legal description of your own property, its very uninteresting to everyone else but its still important to you. But if we pay attention to these chapters, you will find nuggets of gold amongst the mud that we are sifting through.

And the first nugget is that each tribe is dealt with fairly and fully. Each tribe gets something that's just right for them. Now it would be easy for the bigger tribes to outmuscle the smaller ones. But the wisdom of God orders the proportions of each allotment as seems best to Him for the good of His people. None are

ignored. None are neglected. You see that is how the Lord always deals with His children – distinctly, differently, specifically and yet graciously and generously and kindly.

Slide 9

And the second nugget is found at the end of this section in the allotment given to Joshua. <sup>49</sup> *“When they had finished dividing the land into its allotted portions, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them, <sup>50</sup> as the LORD had commanded. They gave him the town he asked for—Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he built up the town and settled there.”*

Do you notice who gets the last allotment? The leader of God’s people, Joshua. Joshua, you see, has no apparent concern for himself. He doesn’t use his power as head of state to make a grab for the best portion of the land. Instead, he waits until everyone else has been allocated a slice of the pie before claiming a small slice for himself.

Slide 10

I believe in some cultures the mother of the house cooks the food, sets the table, serves the food to her husband and children and waits until they are all finished before she eats. If Kaylene did that in our household there would be probably nothing left for her to eat. But Joshua is like that sort of a mother. He doesn’t have an entitlement attitude, instead he waits patiently for God to give him his reward. Which God does at just the right time.

In God’s households there are rebukes but also rewards. Times of fasting and also feasting. Days of disciple and also periods where you get your reward. That’s what happens when you put your relationship with God at the very centre. These are the implications for the one who grabs hold of the promises of God. But fourthly in this place where the Israelites are to call home, they are also given cities of refuge

Slide 11

#### 4. Refuge (Joshua 20:1-9)

*“Then the LORD said to Joshua: <sup>2</sup> “Tell, the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, <sup>3</sup> so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood. <sup>4</sup> When they flee to one of these cities, they are to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state their case before the elders of that city. Then the elders are to admit the fugitive into their city and provide a place to live among them.”*

I love this. When it comes to the OT law, we often throw out the baby with the bath water and say we are not under law but under grace and so it no longer applies to us Christian believers. But the principles in the law tell us something about our God and how he relates to his people and it also tells us something about ourselves and how we should relate to each other. Now one of my favourites is the year of Jubilee. Where once in a lifetime, every person has the chance to be forgiven for their mistakes and to be given their inheritance back to them. And another of my favourites is here with the cities of refuge.

You see in those days, if you committed a crime there was no police force to track you down. No jails to throw you in. Instead, it would fall on the closest relative of the victim to bring about justice. And how was justice given out? *“An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”* And even that is a sign of God’s kindness because it limits the revenge one family could give on another, to the hurt they themselves have borne. But it did mean that if you did the wrong thing, the kinsmen redeemer would soon be found knocking on your door.

Slide 12

And if you had killed someone, he was knocking on your door to spill your blood. Now if you had murdered someone that punishment was just and fair. Life for life. That is how valuable any human life is that if you shed blood, your blood would be shed. But what if it was accidental? What if your bull had broken down the fence you had put up and gored someone to death. Or an axe head came away while you were chopping a tree and hit someone in the head killing them axe -idently?

A man without a murderous heart should not receive a murderer's punishment. And so, God set up these six cities of refuge. And because they were dotted throughout the whole land no one was too far from a city of refuge. And they could flee to it and there the elders of the city would do something like a pre-trial, to see if you were worthy of protection. And if you were then they would then wait for the avenger of death, the kinsmen redeemer to come to this town before this court would hear both sides of the story and make a final judgement.

Slide 13

But the accused <sup>6</sup> *"are to stay in that city until they have stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then they may go back to their own home in the town from which they fled..."* <sup>9</sup> *Any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly."*

You get it? That person's safety is now guaranteed. Whether they were an Israelite or a foreigner. From the next town or from on the edge of the promised land. As long as they stayed in the city they were protected. But when the high priest passed away, they could leave this city of refuge. Their prison sentence of living in that city is now over. For the death of their high priest grants them their freedom. Only then can they go back home.

Slide 14

Now as we have been going through the book of Joshua there have been some tough parts for us to swallow. No more than the wiping out of whole towns, buildings, animals and people. And I have had more than one conversation with people saying this is barbaric. And if God is behind this then that says something horrible about God. And so, we should effectively rip this part of the Bible out of the parts that are still relevant for us today.

And I get that. And throughout the chapters I have been trying to remind people that these passages teach us that God's judgement is real. It was in the time of Joshua and it is in our time. Times do come and will come in the future where God will give us what we deserve & that will mean there will be a trail of death & destruction that leads us right back to God's role as the judge of the universe. But here in the very same book we find God's kindness & mercy. God will judge justly and when he does so we will all be in big, big trouble. But our God is also a God of kindness. Who protects us even when we unintentionally sin. In fact, in the midst of all his people, he provides a place where we can run to and find a safe haven from those who want to avenge the things that we have done wrong in this life.

So, Joshua 20 points us to the wonderful truth, the gold nugget that is so valuable to us. And that truth is that God provides a refuge for all people, who have done wrong and are looking for a place of safety and security. And that place is God Himself.

Slide 15

2 Samuel 22:2, now that's a Richie Benaud verse if ever there was one, *"The Lord is my rock & my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my saviour; you save me from violence. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies."*

Slide 16

And that place of refuge becomes even more clearer to us in the NT, for it is Jesus Himself. You see because our High priest Jesus dies on the cross, he becomes the person we can run to when we do something unintentionally and even if we sin intentionally. The avenger of death can come our way and make all the accusations he wants and many, many of them are true. But he cannot touch us because Jesus has already taken the punishment that should have been ours. And in his arms, we are truly safe. Jesus then is our true city of refuge. Jesus alone provides sanctuary from the fury of any just judgment.

And that's what a real home should look like, a place of safety and security. A place of forgiveness and trust. A place of love and mercy. And if God is at the centre of that home and if that is a place where he rebukes and rewards, then we should find our refuge in Him. And especially in his son Jesus. Which leads us from

Slide 17

5. Relationships to rebuke and then reward and refuge and then fifthly **Reach**.

For next in chapter 21 we turn to a list of 48 towns where the Levites will live. Remember they are not given any land as their inheritance because the Lord Himself is their inheritance. But they do need to live somewhere. And they also need to put food on their table to feed their families, so God sets aside 48 towns in each tribe for the Levites to live.

Now why is this important? Because the Levites were the teachers of the Word of God, the leaders were appointed by God to shepherd the flock. So as the sheep are scattered all over the promised land, the shepherds are scattered as well. God provides his sheep with the spiritual nourishment they will need no matter where they ended up in the land. Just like you can't go too far nowadays before you come across a Macca's restaurant so no Israelite would have to travel too far to hear what God has done for them and how good a God we really have from the mouths of God's servants the Levites.

You see God places amongst his people Levites who don't have any land for themselves to remind everyone not to hold onto this land too tightly. For we are pilgrims on the way to the true promised land. These Levites would say by their very presence, the spiritual is far more important than the physical. So never forget to put Him first.

Now in the past our ministers performed a similar role. They moved Churches every few years. They lived in Church houses and often even in retirement they couldn't afford their own place to buy. And Churches often abused that by giving them their second-hand goods. At a previous place where I ministered, they even put in the manse a second-hand kitchen that one of its members was getting rid of because it was time for an upgrade. It wasn't good enough for them but it was more than good enough for their minister.

Our ministers were like the Levites before them, the teachers of God's word and they reminded us that we were just pilgrims passing through and that we shouldn't hold onto our possessions too tightly. But now our ministers buy their own home & we often rent out our Church houses. Which is good for me but a shame for us all. Because who is going to model self-sacrifice? Who will encourage us to stop building our castles in the sand? Probably our missionaries but unfortunately, they are not around very much to hammer the message home. All of us needs people around us to faithfully teach and model God's word to us.

Slide 18

6. And lastly in our chapters we see **Rest** (Joshua 21:43-45)

<sup>43</sup> So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. <sup>44</sup> The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hands. Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled

Here we see that God truly does keep his promises. All of His promises. What the ten unbelieving spies at Kadesh Barnea said would never happen did happen. Because God's promises don't have an expiry date. If he says it, he means it and he will do it. And what God really wanted to give his people was not land and buildings but rest. A life filled with Himself. A place to enjoy the presence of God and the blessings of God. He wanted to give his people not just a house but a home.

Slide 19



But don't forget that Paul says in 2 Corinthians 1:20 that all of God's promises find their 'Yes' in Jesus. For he is the one where we find true peace. He is the one that we need to run to find our place of refuge and security. It is his word that will rebuke us when we go off the rails and reward us when we get back on track. For the goal of life is Him. Jesus. Living with Jesus is a place that we can truly call home.

Slide 20

So friends don't look for that in a house. Or in a physical building, not even in a Church building. It is found in Christ and Him alone. But how do we get to enjoy that? Well look at the principles in this passage. Put Him at the centre of your life. Look to claim the promises that He is giving us today in his world. Trust and obey what he has to say. Reach out to Him. Run to Him. Find our rest in Him.

Why is our world currently so restless? Because we are running towards the good things of this world rather than the one who gives us the good things of this world. So our hearts are restless until we find our rest in Him. So don't be restless. Looking for the biggest and brightest houses. Come to Him and find your home in Him. For he is the only place we where we will truly be at home. So why do we keep going anywhere else?

## Song – In Christ Alone [In Christ Alone \(Official Lyric Video\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty, Alison Krauss - YouTube](#)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. In Christ alone my hope is found<br/>He is my light, my strength, my song<br/>This cornerstone, this solid ground<br/>Firm through the fiercest drought and storm<br/>What heights of love, what depths of peace<br/>When fears are stilled, when strivings cease<br/>My comforter, my all in all<br/>Here in the love of Christ I stand</p> | <p>3. There in the ground His body lay<br/>Light of the world by darkness slain<br/>Then bursting forth in glorious day<br/>Up from the grave He rose again<br/>And as He stands in victory<br/>Sin's curse has lost its grip on me<br/>For I am His and He is mine<br/>Bought with the precious blood of Christ</p>  |
| <p>2. In Christ alone who took on flesh<br/>Fullness of God in helpless babe<br/>This gift of love and righteousness<br/>Scorned by the ones He came to save<br/>Till on that cross as Jesus died<br/>The wrath of God was satisfied<br/>For every sin on Him was laid<br/>Here in the death of Christ I live</p>                                  | <p>4. No guilt in life, no fear in death<br/>This is the power of Christ in me<br/>From life's first cry to final breath<br/>Jesus commands my destiny<br/>No power of hell, no scheme of man<br/>Can ever pluck me from His hand<br/>Till He returns or calls me home<br/>Here in the power of Christ I'll stand</p> |

## Benediction

<sup>43</sup> So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. <sup>44</sup> The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hands. <sup>45</sup> Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled."