**Morning sermon series – Anchored: Find Grace, Stand Firm**

**"Wilderness Experience"** (Hebrews 3)

Wildernesses are hard places that feel like they push us to our limits and make it difficult to survive. The people who received this letter were in just that kind of place. *Are we, and if so, how should we react in order to find spiritual refreshment and rest?*

**1) Consider Israel** (v7-11, v15-19)

God is speaking to us Today by his Spirit (v7) – the awesome encounter of gathered worship. *Are we receptive or resistant to Christ, Today?*

In the wilderness (v7-11; Numbers 13 and 14), the Israelites rejected God’s goodness, refused to trust him and his promise of the land, and treated his loyal love with contempt. The problem was with their hearts, which rejected the Lord personally. The consequence was God’s right anger and they weren’t able to enter God’s rest (v16-19).

**2) Consider Your Hearts** (v12-13)

*How will we react in the wilderness places of our lives?* Notice the urgency of what the writer says in v12, and the importance of encour-aging one another (v13) to trust the present power and goodness of Christ (unlike the Israelites in their wilderness).

*Have we started to close our ears and to doubt that God has the power to do the good he has promised in the here and now?*

**3) Consider Jesus** (v14, v1-6)

Jesus, the eternal Son and Creator and ruling King, is faithful to us as a brother (chapter 2), and as the architect and builder of God’s people (3v3-6). That’s good news! The way to drink and to survive in the wilderness, and to find rest, is to hold firmly and faithfully to this Jesus (v1, v6). He understands, sympathises (2v18) and has all the necessary power and goodness to bring us through.

**Anchored in the Power and Goodness of the Son!**

**Evening sermon series – Knowing Christ (1 John)**

**"Fellowship With Christ: More!”** (1 John 2v1-11)

“The darkness is passing and the true light is already shining” (v8).

*What does it look like when someone is out of the complete darkness, when someone is alive and in the light?*

**1) Being in Christ (v3-8)**

Knowing Christ means sharing his ways and heart, knowing what’s important to him and so keeping those commandments (v4) … it means living and walking like Jesus (v6).

Knowing Christ in sharing fellowship is “**Me in You and You in Me**” relationship. 1 John 3v24 is a good commentary on these verses. Relationship with the Son is heart-transforming.

**2) Being in the light (v7-11)**

The light and life of the new creation was seen in Jesus and his love, and is seen in our love as his brothers and sisters (v8)! The Father and Son have made our hearts alive with their love (Me in You and you in Me love), and so we love one another with Jesus’ love.

A different reality, a different love to the world’s love.

**3) If you sin… (v1-2)**

The writer wants to give us confidence and to urge us to live as the family of God. Verse 1 tells us where to go and what to look at if we sin. Our primary confidence is what Jesus Christ has provided for us as we walk with him. God’s anger and reaction to sin has been turned away forever (v2) and we are clean (1v9).

**The Joy of Fellowship in the Light!**