

## **FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD** **CHORUS IN THE CHAOS**

by Rev. G. Grant Verdoold  
Sunday, 8th March, 2020

### **Introduction:**

I have subtitled today's message "Chorus in the Chaos" because as I go through life I have learned that despite the chaos and strife around me, there is always a joyful chorus singing out of my soul because I belong to Christ! HIS love sings a constant chorus in my heart, and HIS love and care cause me to have this faithful chorus of love and gratitude in return.

Today, I have brought you 2 scriptures which show the hope and care that sing out a great chorus of love from The LORD's heart to us.

There is nothing that can give more joy than being in constant fellowship with our LORD. We can have an intimate, ongoing, daily fellowship with The LORD Jesus Christ! Just as Jesus and GOD the Father, and The Holy Spirit all fellowship with each other, we can fellowship with them also! This is the constant, uplifting, exhilarating chorus of joy and hope in the midst of the chaos of the world. This is our chorus in the chaos!!!!

### **The TEXTs:**

\_\_\_\_\_ "3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full." 1 John 1: 3-4

"1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, and your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. 3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David." Isaiah 55: 1-3

### **The HOOK:**

The prophet Isaiah looked out on a people who longed for happiness but were looking for it in all the wrong places. They were running to the marketplaces, and to places of amusement, spending their money madly for things that brought them no satisfaction!

So, one day, Isaiah stood before them and cried, "'Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat.'" Isaiah 55: 1 You see, lack of physical resources should not hold you back from Christ! Isaiah went on to say, "Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, and your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good,

and let your soul delight itself in abundance.” Isaiah 55: 2. You see, Christ is the provider of everything we need! Friend, you can come to the place that is better than any fine restaurant! You see, Jesus is the One who gives to us in abundance, more than we deserve, more than we can imagine!! You can come to Christ the giver of life itself! “Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.” Isaiah 55: 3.

If Isaiah were alive today, he would call out to the consumers in Canada, the United States, and Europe. He would cry out to the consumers of Australia, Britain, Latin America, and to all the rest of the world who have the best homes, the most comfortable furniture, the finest food, the most modern computers, the most up-to-date and fastest technology, the most fancy and wonderful, newest cars take them wherever they desired to go! He would cry out to them, “Are you getting what you want? Truly, are you satisfied? Are you really fulfilled, or do you crave more?”

You see, Isaiah was saying that pleasures will not satisfy!!

So many pleasures abound today, entertainments too numerous to mention! They are available to all! Children of this century are wooed and wowed with the latest of toys and trinkets that do the most amazing things!! But does it bring happiness? Does any of it give satisfaction?

Isaiah did not leave the people with an unanswered question. He exhorted them to abandon their vain searching (see Post Notes) for mythical pots of gold at the end of some far away rainbow! He urged them to start searching for happiness where it really is to be truly found. Sound advice! Incredible wisdom! “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—” 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning is available to you, today, right now!!

The truth in Isaiah’s message is this! Write it down in your Bible! GOD SATISFIES!!!

“Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, and your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. **3** Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.”” Isaiah 55: 2 & 3.

There are so many wandering around with dead souls today when the gift of life is right at their fingertips! Jesus said to the rejected, dejected, hungry, thirsty, unsatisfied Samaritan woman at the well, “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”” John 4: 14.

Just as the physical body of a person cannot live without water, the spirit of any man or woman cannot be satisfied apart from GOD because we were created to be in fellowship with GOD!!

Fellowship with GOD is the secret of soul satisfaction! Remove the obstructions, tear down the banners, and let your soul find the fulfillment of its deepest longings in fellowship with GOD!!

So many are exploring every other vain way! There are so many ways that lead to dissatisfaction. Let me name a few: Gnostic ways, mystic ways, psychic ways, and all these ways are failing ways!!!

Come to Christ! That is the answer! "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14: 6. Jesus is the answer! There is no other way for any country, or any individual!! And it is free!

Salvation is free!!! "Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price." Isaiah 55: 1. Come and receive this life-giving, soul-satisfying commodity, fresh from the hand of GOD!!! Salvation is yours through Jesus Christ, our LORD!!!

This offer is for everyone, friends! GOD's grace leaps over racial barriers, skips across class distinctions, soars over social barriers, and finds its way to every hungry, languishing soul to every class, caste, culture, position, race, colour, and nation!!

Have you found peace and satisfaction?

GOD gave HIS One and Only SON so that you, my friend, could have fellowship with HIM and with HIS SON, Jesus Christ!! "that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." 1 John 1: 3.

To have a privatized, individualistic faith isn't Biblical, my friend! The Lord calls us to fellowship with Himself! And that is where I'm going to bounce off to now!

### **The BOOK 1: Fellowship, Koinonia**

The word "fellowship" in the Greek is translated as "koinonia". It is a wonderful word used throughout the New Testament.

It is a common word that is translated "fellowship", "communion", and can be understood as "partnership", or "togetherness". All of these words are basically having to do with "commonness" of having Jesus as our Saviour. They convey the common partnership that we all share, as the children of GOD, even now.

Friends, fellowship is a vital thing to the family of GOD. It is absolutely vital to the body of Christ!! Way back in Genesis 2: 8 "And the Lord God said, "It *is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." And so, GOD created man to be a fellowshiping creature. HE created man for a relationship with other men and other women, and in fact, in relationship with GOD Himself!! That was how it was all to start!

Now, in our text this morning, "that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." 1 John 1: 3, makes it plain to us. Anybody in fellowship with Jesus Christ is also in fellowship with anybody else who is in fellowship with Jesus Christ!!! That means this side should be in fellowship with that side, and that side should be in fellowship with this side! Each church of Jesus Christ should be in fellowship with every other church of Jesus!! Every believer should be in fellowship with every other believer!!

Our common ground is not social, not economic, not intellectual, not cosmetic, nor any other of these superficial things! Our common ground is that which pulses through the life of every Christian! It is the heartbeat of GOD!!

Friends, our common ground is that we possess the wonderful, awesome thing that Jesus talks about, Eternal Life, because we have been saved! Salvation is another common thing that we share!! Our common ground is that we are children in the same family, born of GOD! "that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3: 5. "4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should

be holy and without blame before Him in love, **5** having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will," Ephesians 1:4 & 5  
That is our common ground!!!

Koinonia, fellowship has the literal meaning of the word "commonness"! It is something we each hold in common!!

Also, as we've already learned, the believer doesn't/shouldn't forfeit fellowship! It is wonderful, and we are encouraged not to forsake the assembling of ourselves: "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10: 25.

Aristides, a writer in the second century A.D., wrote these words as he was an observer of Christians of that day. "They abstain from all impurity in the hope of recompense that is come in another world. As for their servants or handmaids, or children, they persuade them to become Christians by the love they have for them. And when they become so, they call them without distinction brothers. They do not worship strange (false) gods, and they walk in all humility and kindness, and falsehood is not found among them, and they love one another. And when they see a stranger, they bring them to their homes, and they rejoice over him as over a true brother for they do not call brothers those who are after the flesh but those who are in the spirit and in GOD..... And if there is among them that is poor and needy, and if they have not an abundance of necessities, they will fast two or three days that they may supply the needy with his food." (excerpt from the Apology of Aristides).

That was the character of the early church! They cared for each other! They hungered for fellowship! They longed to love one another! "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2: 42.

Without question, the most marvelous thing about heaven, heaven's most supreme will be unbroken fellowship with GOD Himself!! "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*." John 1: 18. "No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us." 1 John 4: 12

So, in the light of all this, I ask each of you today, do you have fellowship with GOD? It is something you CAN have, and as John says, "And these things we write to you that your joy may be full." 1 John 1: 4.

Fellowship with The Father and The SON is an awesome privilege!!!

### **The BOOK 2:** Fellowship with The Father and HIS SON, Jesus Christ

Fellowship with GOD was one of the richest privileges of unfallen man. The LORD GOD walked in the garden and talked with Adam as a man talks with his friend. "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden" Genesis 3:8.

As long as he was willing and obedient, Adam ate the fat of the land, and wonderful it was, wonderful in every conceivable way! Unbroken communion with GOD, his Father, and his Friend!

Then, sin banished man from Eden, banished man from GOD, and from that time our face has been turned from the Most High! Why?

Because sin always messes up fellowship! Write this down!! Sin always messes up fellowship.

Then, Christ came into the world to restore to us our lost estate and bring us back to the wonderful heritage that we had in the beginning!! Christ, our Saviour, and HIS incredible sacrifice of love, the sacrifice of HIS life on Calvary's Cross, brought us back to where we could again have fellowship with GOD!! Have you ever thought about that!!

Those who have, by HIS grace, believed and have by HIS precious blood been washed, have peace with GOD through Jesus Christ, our LORD. "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God," Ephesians 2: 19.

John had the nearest, the dearest, and the closest fellowship with Christ in the flesh!! As he laid his head upon the bosom of Christ, so he laid all his thoughts and all the emotions of his mind upon the heart, love, and divine affection of his LORD and MASTER! Even when Jesus ascended into heaven, John had not lost his fellowship with his LORD and SAVIOR! His fellowship was still amazing, wonderful, real and sweet!

John says in our text, "that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." 1 John 1: 3.

Notice the words, "our fellowship IS". It does not say, "our fellowship WAS"! He says it IS with the FATHER, and HIS SON, Jesus Christ!!! It is a present and active fellowship!! It is, a verb meaning to abide, endure, persist, prevail and remain!!! Hallelujah!!!

John declares that "Truly", a statement of fact and holy substance, that our fellowship is with the FATHER, and with HIS SON, Jesus Christ!!!

It is a fellowship of hearts! This fellowship is a concord of the heart!

In order to have fellowship with any man, there must be a concord of the heart, meaning there must be an accord, friendship, rapport, or being at peace with one another. "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" Amos 3: 3.

Are we walking together? Are we walking together with each other? Are we walking together with GOD? And with Jesus Christ?

At the very bottom of fellowship there must be a likeness. We must have like wishes, like desires, and our spirits must be welded together in the intention to effect like purposes.

So, brethren, I think, and pray, we can affirm this morning we have a sweet accord with GOD and HIS eternal purposes! A concord, desiring what HE desires!!!

Friends, I read the pages of scripture and discover that The FATHER ordained Jesus Christ to be the head of HIS church!!! "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence." Colossians 1: 18.

I read on and find revealed in HIS precious Word that HE is a GOD of distinguishing grace and mercy. "For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."" Romans 9: 15. "Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."" Exodus 33: 19.

I thank HIM every day for HIS mercy and grace!! Are you thanking HIM?

Further on I find HE will bring many sons to glory “to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.” Ephesians 1:6.

How good to know that when I am messed up, burned out, put down, put out, I am thankful for the fellowship of GOD’s mercy and grace. Are you thankful?

We find full accord with GOD in HIS incredible and holy purposes! And we have a fellowship with HIM in all these wonderful things!! That is something for the church to think about!!

We have a fellowship in HIS glory!! “To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 5:11. “For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11: 36. “Let them give glory to the Lord,

And declare His praise in the coastlands.” Isaiah 42:12. “to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3: 21

I find here I have a fellowship with HIM! Give glory to HIS name! Give glory to HIM!! I so long to do this more!! The highest aspiration of our soul and spirit is, and should be, that HE be glorified!! “9 “For My name’s sake I will defer My anger, And *for* My praise I will restrain it from you, so that I do not cut you off. 10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. 11 For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do *it*; For how should *My name* be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.” Isaiah 48: 9-11. Brethren, HE still reigns!! Do we not desire HIS glory as HE desires it?

Friends, HE has purposed to stain the pride of all human boasting and make the world know that The LORD is GOD!! “Know that the Lord, He *is* God; *It is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 100: 3. HE makes us to know that beside HIM there is no-one else!!! “*I am* the Lord, and *there is* no other; *There is* no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me,” Isaiah 45: 5.

I’d be a liar if I said anything else!! Friends, my heart beats for this, and even here, I have a sweet fellowship with the LORD!! Let the rafters of the roof be blown off with the glory we give to HIM!!! Hallelujah!!! Praise HIM!!!

The very thing which is HIS happiness should be our happiness! And what is that? Well, The LORD delights in holiness, goodness, mercy and loving-kindness! “He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6: 8

When is the last time you were happy about that? That should be our delight too!! I am sure the greatest miseries here on earth have been our greatest sins against HIM!!

So, in fellowship with The FATHER and HIS beloved SON we should stand on the same scaffold with the eternal GOD!! We should seek to live for Christ!! “For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.” Philippians 1: 21. “1 Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. 3 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.” Psalm 96: 1-9. “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.” Habakkuk 2: 14. “Let them give glory to the Lord and declare His praise in the coastlands.” Isaiah 42: 12. “23 Sing to the Lord, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. 24 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. 25 For the Lord *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* also to be feared

above all gods. 26 For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, But the Lord made the heavens.

27 Honor and majesty *are* before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place. 28 Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength. 29 Give to the Lord the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!" 1 Chronicles 16: 23 - 29.

We may not be able to join with The FATHER in upholding all worlds. We cannot feed the cattle on a thousand hills, nor can we give life and breath to all GOD's creatures, but there is something which we can do, which HE does!

Now get your pens out again. What can we do that HE does?

HE does good to all HIS creatures, and we can do good as well!

The FATHER bears witness to HIS SON, Jesus Christ, and we can bear witness too!

The FATHER desires that none should perish. "The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3: 9. YES!! And we are coworkers with HIM!

We are the sheep of HIS pasture!

We are HIS temple, HIS building, HIS church!

HE scatters the seed of truth. We can scatter it too!!

AND ... HIS words speak comfort and can uplift the downcast, and our words can comfort the weary as well!

When the Spirit of GOD guides us, and leads us, we can find ourselves in a wonderful fellowship with The FATHER and HIS beloved SON! Through HIM, we can bless others!

### **The TOOK:**

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is LORD!! Tell others what we have seen and heard!! Amen!! Even today!! What did you hear today? Go share it with others!!!

Now as The FATHER has called us out of the world, we should seek to serve HIM and be HIS hands and HIS feet in fellowship with each other!!

You thought I was going to say, "in the world", didn't you? No! We give HIM glory by serving HIM in unity and in concert with each other! It is seeing the body of Christ function as a unit that is a powerful testimony to the world. It is fellowship with one another that is a testimony to the world, just as Aristides had said.

Salvation is the plan of GOD.

Jesus is the author and we are the benefactors of that salvation! What a fellowship we have in this!!! We can find the touch of The LORD brings us into wonderful fellowship with the body of Christ.

It would have been enough to have saved us from our sin, but The LORD has provided that we could enjoy HIM and the fellowship of other believers!! That's the plan of GOD!!

Wouldn't it be a lonely, difficult journey without the fellowship of the church?

Friends, we don't have to walk alone! We can share each other's joys and trials, even when it hurts!!

Brethren, we were all individuals with little in common until The FATHER's calling separated us from everyone else in the world, and we became part of Christ's body through HIS Holy Spirit! We are all here a part of Christ's body!! We are all together in this church!

True Christian fellowship is primarily a relationship rather than an activity! The church all over the country has bought into fellowship being activity, but it is not so!! Hear me say it again, True Christian fellowship is primarily a relationship rather than an activity!!

What should bring us together and closer to one another is Jesus!!

The apex of Christian Life is to enjoy fellowship with GOD and fellowship with one another!! This is GOD's classroom to develop Christian character! We are meant to be learning and growing here. We are benefited by both the strengths and weaknesses of our church in fellowship with one another! In sharing our weaknesses, we learn to lean on Jesus. And in seeing and sharing the weaknesses of others we learn to develop compassion and mercy!! The mature ones help to strengthen and encourage us, while the weaknesses in the less mature give us opportunities to grow in patience, long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, and kindness, etc.

So, don't go running off when something, or someone disappoints you, or your feelings get hurt. When we fellowship together, pray together, meet over lunch together, take communion together, we are stirred and motivated in our relationship with GOD!!

So, Get involved, and stay faithful in fellowship with the body of Christ!!

Now, here's the WOW factor!! Our fellowship is rooted in the holy example of the FATHER, SON, and Holy Spirit who fellowship together in perfect love and unity! That's how the Trinity works!! That's agape love, perfect love, grace and unity!! AND, we can do the same!!

I hope this helps you all to understand how the church really works! It works best when we follow the Trinity's holy example of working together in the unity of agape love, perfect love, grace and unity!! This is how we are to live! This is how we give glory to GOD!!

Let's do it!! AMEN!!

### **Post Notes:**

Vain Searching: ""Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all *is* vanity.""  
Ecclesiastes 1:2

"I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure"; but surely, this also *was* vanity." Ecclesiastes 2:1