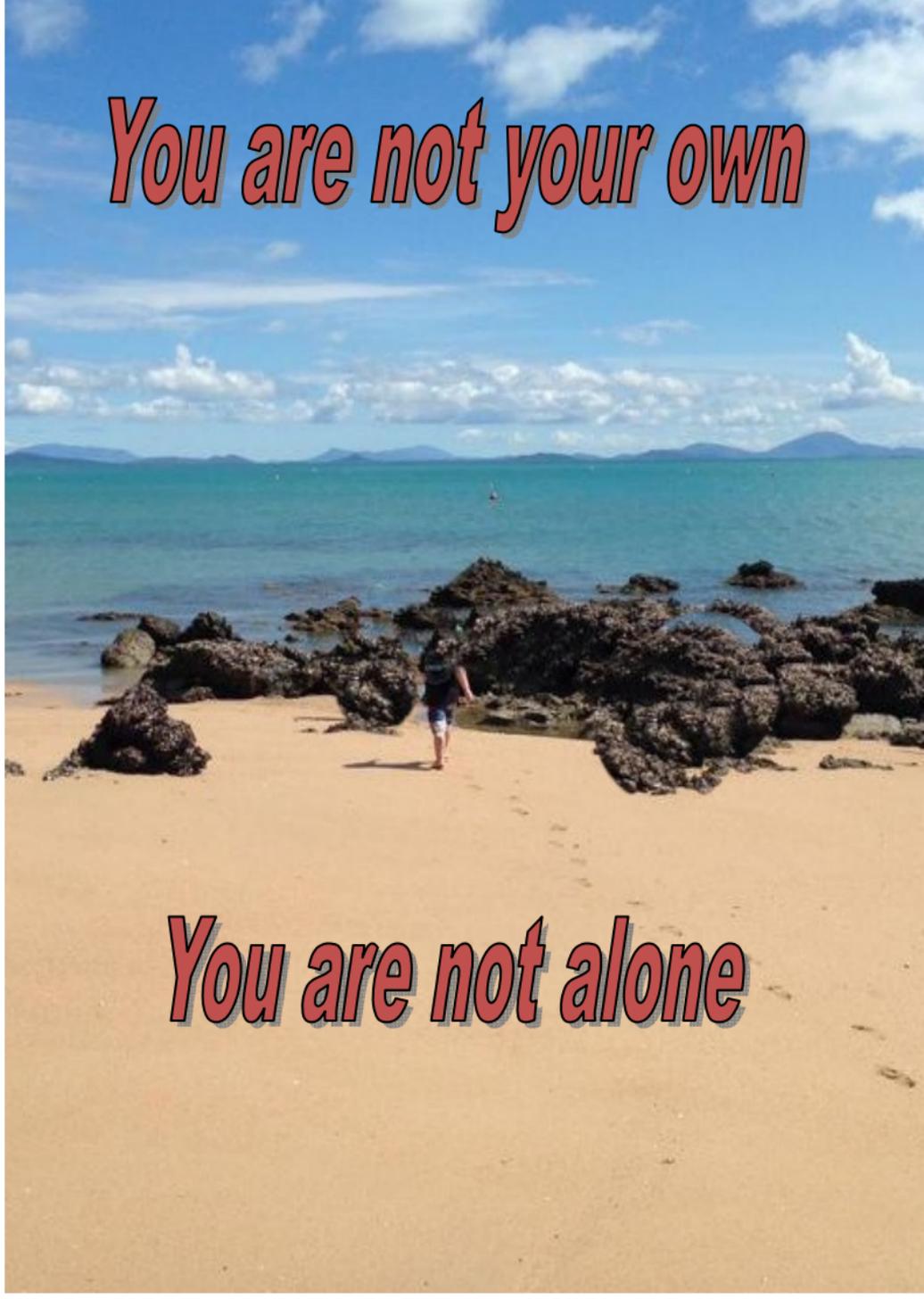


*You are not your own*

A scenic view of a beach with a person walking on the sand, surrounded by large, dark, rocky formations. The ocean is turquoise, and the sky is blue with scattered white clouds. In the distance, there are low mountains or hills.

*You are not alone*

# *You are not your own*

*'Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.'*

1 Cor 6:19-20

Everyone who has truly repented and crucified their natural life in the world to Christ in God, finds that they now no longer live for the flesh of man but for the Spirit of God. If this is understood by all, why would the Apostle Paul write *'You are not your own.'*

**Why would Paul remind believers they are not their own?**

The answer is seen in the way many people respond to life's dramas and adversity and tribulation that comes under God's sovereign providence. Their reactions to the normal experience of living in a fallen world are inconsistent with what we read the Christian life should be like according to the Bible.

Our failure to live as God intends is because we don't all know its truth, as we think we know. It's because of this we need to be reminded we live for another, Christ Jesus. We naturally tend to live for ourselves. We naturally think we can think for ourselves, as to what we will do and when we will do it.

However, the Bible teaches us that we live for God, and we are to do all things as unto God. *'Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.'*

Col 3:23-24

The general state of affairs for many who became Christian is that once forgiveness is received, and a new life in the church has begun, life in general continues much as before. However, the Bible says we are not our own to do and to will as we see fit. But we continue live as if God has left it to us to call the shots. This may not be true for all but it is unfortunately very true for many.

There may be an increase of the awareness of sin, there may be real improvement in the quality of life, and there may even be a real awareness that God loves us and we have a real purpose in life as we prepare for heaven. In a real way we may know we have God on our side.

We may regularly read about His presence and blessings and promises to keep us, and we may work hard to do the best we can. But somehow we haven't realised there has been an even greater change to our lives, far beyond our human capability.

We may be aware we have added something extraordinary spiritual to our lives. It is as if we now have a powerful silent partner.

Unfortunately, from a human perspective, we sometimes think we have an equal partner, who will, as long as we do our best, give us what we want so we go through life without too much disturbance. We even tend to look for a church and teachers who agree with us.

To assist us in strengthen this earthly hoping for all good things to come our way, we have an abundance of teachers who declare that God delights in blessing us with all things down here because He owns all things, He owns all the cattle on a thousand hills.

We are regularly taught by false teachers that God wants us to have worldly blessing flowing over in our lives since God is no mans debtor. *'give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.'*

Luke 6:38

Understanding this verse in its proper context means we know Jesus isn't saying anything about worldly possessions, He is instructing those who follow Him to “give” forgiveness in the same amount we would like to be forgiven. We are to be as merciful as God is to us, while judging, condemning, and forgiving others will be done in the same way we desire to be judged, condemned, and forgiven by God.

The Lord Jesus has given us a different understanding to these false teachers many times in the Bible. To this end God calls His people out of the world. He calls His children to deny themselves and take up their cross to follow Christ's example. He calls His children to be a holy people who suffer with Christ. He calls on all who would be part of His family to give up holding onto all things they treasure in the world in order to follow the Christ. "*none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.*" Luke 14:33

Adam and Eve sinned by turning their back on God by looking to themselves in the world and lost the most precious thing they had, intimacy with God. Therefore there is a warning to all who would be part of the family of God. '*Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the*

*world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.'*

1 John 2:15-17

Many seek their happiness in having a comfortable life in the world, but God has called His children out of the world to live for the Kingdom of God. Jesus said, "*you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world*" (John 15:19) Our meaning and purpose now belongs to another. '*You belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.*' (1 Cor 3:23) '*For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.*' Rom 14:8

All those who are the Lord's live as the Lord requires. Therefore all who are born of God obey God in all things. '*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.*' (1 John 5:1-2) '*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ*

*Jesus.'* (Gal 3:26) *'Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.'*

2 Cor 5:17

Regardless of all that is written, it appears there is a common response to suffering where people feel like God has not given us all we desire. Mostly we see people fall apart when the tragedies of life come their way.

However, God has promised that all those who fix their minds on Him, that is, to live under His sovereign rule and dominion, will live in peace. *'You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.'*

Isaiah 26:3

To all those who do not have the peace of God, we must ask, why is this so, do you not have God? Isn't God with you? *'For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"'*

Rom 8:15

Shouldn't the common believers' response to suffering be peaceful acceptance? *'Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.'* Col 3:15

The problem is we continue to live as if we are still just flesh and blood, left to do our own religious thing. Man is born of flesh, God is Spirit, and we cannot enter the kingdom of God unless we are born of His Spirit so that we can have fellowship with God.

We completely forget that we are born again by God. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* John 3:3, 5-6

The new life with God belongs to God, it comes from God, and so we are not our own, God bought us with the unbelievable price of

the death of His only Son so we can have life eternal in the presence of God.

### **What does it mean, we are not our own?**

In the Christians life, all who have saving faith are children of God. The Bible has said "*as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.*" (John 1:12) Saving faith is receiving Jesus on His terms, and He requires all of us, if we are to have all of Him. You are not your own.

To be born again we have to be baptised into the death of the Son of God. '*We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*' (Rom 6:4) You are not your own.

If we are to have a relationship with God, it has to be according to His Spirit who lives in

us. If we are God's children, surely we need to live in a way that is appropriate for children of the heavenly Father. A Father who has given us all we need for living life according to the nature of Christ. (2 Pet 1:3-4) You are not your own.

*'Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.'* (Col 3:1-3) *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.'* (Rom 8:14) You are not your own.

To be God's children who live as spiritual sons and daughters of God, we need to be led by the Spirit all the time; otherwise we would be delinquent children. If we are to walk with God we must place all our life in His hands. *'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with*

*compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.'* (Col 3:12-14) You are not your own.

In the Christians life, all the glory belongs to God. All the will to do, is with God to do in us. *'Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.'*

1 Cor 6:19-20

Glorifying God in our bodies means God has to be all to us, and in us. If we are not glorifying God with all we are, we are glorifying ourselves. You are not your own.

In the Christians life, The Holy Spirit is given to the obedient. *"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom*

*God has given to those who obey Him.”*  
(Acts 5:32) Those who claim Christ as saviour and fail to obey His commands, show no evidence of being united with Him. The Holy Spirit working in the life of the believer is the evidence they belong to God.

A life of obedience means having a commitment to obeying God all the time. Without obedience we cannot please God because we do not have the Spirit. (Rom 8:8-9) You are not your own.

In the Christians life, The Holy Spirit needs to be our governor and teacher. To be filled with the Spirit is to have all of our lives under His control. *'And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.'* (Eph 5:18) You are not your own.

In the Christians life, we must not live as if there is God and us standing beside God with some sort of authority. *'So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my*

*absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'* (Phil 2:12-13) You are not your own.

When we say God is working in us, we must not mistakenly assume we have a governing part in these works, our part is surrendering to all God is doing, so God is all in us to produce His life in our bodies. You are not your own.

In the Christians life, loving God with all our heart and minds means not being half hearted. Wholeheartedness is what happens in our hearts when the Spirit of God is motivating us with His passion for the things of Christ. *'And He said to him, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'* *This is the great and foremost commandment.*" (Matt 22:37-38) You are not your own.

In the Christians life, if we have been crucified with Christ we have given up all we have of our earthly life for Him.

This means we have saved nothing for ourselves. *'I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.'* (Gal 2:20) If we have died, then Christ is all that should be found in us. We cannot be half dead to sin. You are not your own.

In the Christians life, we are to get all our life needs from the true vine. Our constant abiding in Christ means not seeking to find what we want apart from Christ. *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."* John 15:5

If we are looking to the world, or we are hold something back for ourselves, we are not abiding, we are not remaining, and we are not dwelling fully in Christ; so we will find our lives of righteousness will be inadequate. You are not your own.

In the Christians life, our transformation into the likeness of Christ comes by applying the word of God to every part of our lives. The Lord Jesus said, *"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."* John 17:16-17

We are separated from the world to live in the kingdom of God according to the teaching of Christ. *'So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* (John 8:31-32) You are not your own.

Continuing in His word means all our life is being impacted by His teaching, for the truth must touch everything concerning life as His disciples. All of the truth is needed to set us free; if we settle for less we can't know the fullness of freedom from sin and the world.

Therefore we: *'Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself*

*sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'* (1 Thess 5:22-23) To be sanctified first means to be set aside, and then it means to completely abstain from all forms of evil. You are not your own.

In the Christians life, Jesus has all authority to require we obey all His commands. *'And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Matt 28:18-20

A reluctance to observe all He commands means we are not at all committed to following Him. Disciples need to be doing all Christ has commanded if they are to be

faithful servants of God. You are not your own.

In the Christians life, Jesus has to be Lord in all of our lives all the time. "*Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?*" (Luke 6:46) If God is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all. You are not your own.

In the Christians life, God is sovereign over all things, and He uses all things for our good. '*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*' (Rom 8:28) We can rest in the knowledge that God has our best interest at heart all the time. You are not your own.

Therefore, in the Christians life, trusting in God all the time means accepting all the situations He allows in our lives. Believing in Christ means we have all faith in God who lives in us to enable us to be like Christ who gave us the perfect example. '*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*'

(Eph 5:1) *'Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.'* (Eph 5:20) You are not your own.

In the Christians life, if we live by the Spirit we live under the control of the Spirit. *'If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.'* (Gal 5:25) You are not your own.

### **You are not alone**

*'Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God.*

1 Cor 6:19

We are not just flesh and blood; we are the spiritual children of God. Our bodies are the house where God lives. Therefore we need the Spirit of God to be actively involved with us as our Governing Guardian and Teacher. If we do not acknowledge the Spirit's role as our only link to eternal life, we are without power to live as children of God. The house will be ramshackle and tumbledown, and we will live like we are alone in a sinful world.

When we continue to live as if God has left our lives in our own hands to do the best we can, we are left with the unavoidable conclusion that we do this alone. God may be in heaven, but we are down here in the world trying to manage to live honourable lives in the midst of darkness, all by ourselves.

We sometimes talk about the foot prints in the sand that remind us that Christ was carrying us when we thought we were alone. But in all reality, we walk on the earth where there is only one set of foot prints, ours, because we live as if we are alone, but the Bible says categorically we are not alone.

Jesus didn't promise a great time in the world which is ruled by Satan. (2 Cor 4:4) He told us there would be no peace for His followers. He doesn't come to bring peace but a sword. (Matt 10:34-36) Even then we are not alone. As spiritual children Jesus warned us we would have tribulation in the world. (John 16:33) As God's children Jesus calls us to stay in the

world and be His witnesses. (Acts 1:8) You are not alone.

As spiritual children Jesus promised He would be with us. (Matt 28:20) You are not alone. As spiritual children Jesus promised He will come to us. (John 14:18-20) You are not alone. As spiritual children Jesus promised the Holy Spirit will be in us. (John 14:17) You are not alone. As spiritual children Jesus promised He will abide in us. (John 15:4) You are not alone.

As spiritual children, God is working in us. (Phil 2:13) You are not alone. As spiritual children the Spirit will give us life. (Rom 8:11) You are not alone. As spiritual children we live by the Spirit who lives in us. (Gal 5:25) You are not alone. As spiritual children we walk by the Spirit. (Gal 5:16, 25) You are not alone. As spiritual children we walk as Jesus walked. (1 John 2:6) You are not alone. *'Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?'* (1 Cor 3:16) You are not alone; you have the Spirit of Christ in you. *'However, you are not*

*in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.'*

Rom 8:9-11

What makes a Christian different from the people of the world? The Spirit of God dwells in Christians; anyone who does not have the Spirit cannot claim to belong to God in Christ. Anyone who is not prepared to be led by the Spirit and obey the Spirit in all things has nothing of the Spirit in their life. The true believer is never alone.

The Bible says the Spirit dwells in the Christian; He is not a casual visitor who pays the occasional visit on Sunday. He is not

imputed to us as if we are somehow granted His reputation through the word of God.

The Spirit of God is imparted to live in the Christian as He would live in His home. This means the Spirit is going to be very familiar with those in whom He dwells. He is there when we get up in the morning and when we go to bed at night. He is there to influence our life in all we do and say. If we are not familiar with His dwelling in us, we have not understood the power God gives to us to live as His children should. The true believer is never alone.

However, the new life of the Spirit is one which is to be lived entirely under His sovereign governance and divine authority. We forget that God has called us out of the world to live according to the kingdom of God. The world is not the place we are to seek what we need. We are now spiritual children of God who seek only the things of the kingdom of God. (Matt 6:33) The true believer is never alone. *'Do not love the world nor the*

*things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.'* 1 John 2:15

Instead of relying on our own efforts we must trust in God alone. We must believe the Bible alone. This life we live, we live to the glory of God. We are the spiritual children of God who are born with His life's potential so that we can reflect His character and promote His will in the world.

As His children, He has given us His Spirit so that we are able to know His will and obey His commands as we grow up according to His likeness. You are not alone.

Consequently we are not left to our own to battle through life the best we can, we are not alone. We can enjoy all the benefits of being in Christ. If God is to live in us, we cannot be our own man. We cannot even think we can share the same level with God. For to share the same space is to claim credit for the life we now live. Therefore we *rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give*

*thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (1 Thess 5:16-18) You are not alone.

Because we have God, we are not to live as if the darkness of the world can give us any reason to fear. We have God living in us. He created all things, the devil included. So we can declare confidently we are anxious for nothing because God is within us by the mighty working of His Spirit.

An anxious fearful life is a life not lived under the governance of the Spirit of God, and has no real idea of how to live as a spiritual child of God, always aware of living under His providence and protection. You are not alone.

Everything that is His in the spirit world is used to help us, and everything we face on earth is being used by God to give us the best opportunity to grow up into the image of Christ. Nothing is able to deny God's purpose and nothing can withstand His power to bring all things together in Christ. You are not alone. We are not our own, we are the chosen

people of God, God's own precious possession.

Who or what can be against us that we should be afraid or anxious? *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* (Rom 8:31) You are not alone.

Are you lonely, no one to talk to, no one to share your interest and passion for God? You are not alone, God is with you and always ready for you to talk to Him.

Are you isolated because of your faith, are you imprisoned because you refuse to compromise your faith? You are not alone, the Spirit of Christ is with you to comfort and encourage you while you make up the suffering of Christ. You are not alone.

If you are suffering illness and disease in the world, don't be anxious, you are not alone. If you are unable to get any employment, don't be anxious, you are not alone. If you have all your property taken from you because you are

a Christian, don't be anxious, you are not alone.

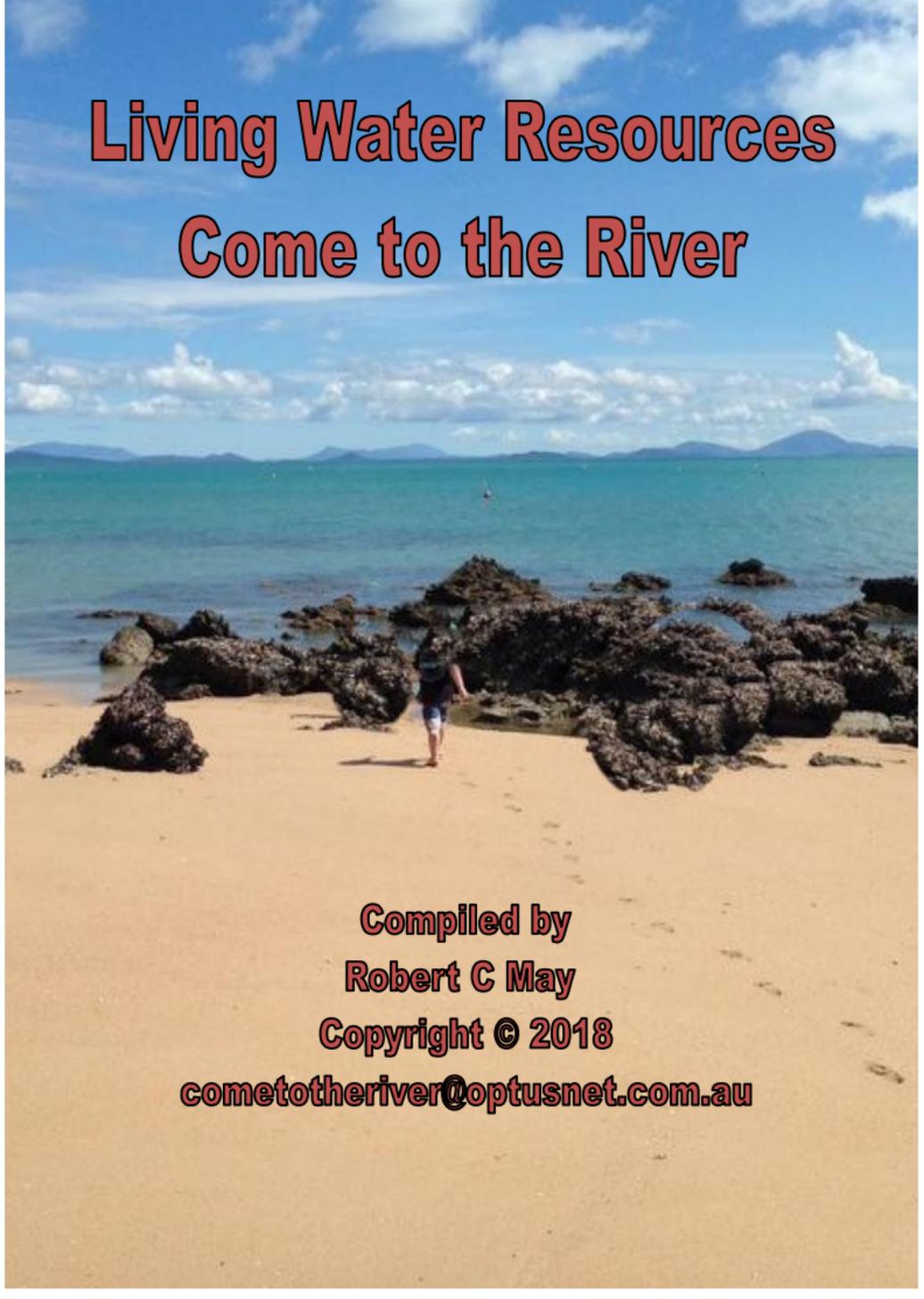
If you are put out of the church because you refuse to accept false teachers, don't be surprised, you are not alone. If your family disowns you for Christ' sake, don't be bitter, you are not alone.

If you are imprisoned on false charges for the kingdom of God, don't be afraid, you are not alone. If you are to be put to death for the sake of Christ, hallelujah don't be afraid, you are not alone.

Because you are His, God is closer to you than your own breath. Nothing can separate you from the love of God, because you belong to God, so you are never going to be left alone.

You are not your own, and you are no alone, thank God for all things, because this is His will for you. You are not alone.

Let us declare with all passion and purpose that Christ now lives in us. Gal 2:20



# Living Water Resources Come to the River

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