

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Penrith

9 Doonmore Street, Penrith NSW 2750

www.penrithpresbyterian.com



ENCOURAGEMENT LETTER 10/4/2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

How are you today? I am thankful for the vast forgiveness which we enjoy in Christ and his sacrifice on the cross.

Today's encouragement is the pen ultimate encouragement from John 17 before heading onto another series. Also in church matters there is an update from COM that needs your prayers as well as other important announcements.

ENCOURAGEMENT: Jesus wants you with him

Am I loved? It is a question we might ask ourselves. We might feel like those around us do not see us and do not love us. We might feel like it was better we were somewhere else. We wonder, if anyone really loves us. Everyone seems too busy and too caught up in their own lives to care much for us. Now while thoughts like that are probably untrue and we are loved, we have here in John 17 a wonderful promise of love from Jesus.

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

John 17:24

Jesus says to the Father that all those whom God has given him, he wants them to be with him. Jesus loves us and wants us with him. He does not say, "You know, he is a bit hard to tolerate, but I love him, I just do not want to stay near him." He does not say, "Yeah, I love her, but while she keeps on with that little sin, I do not want her near me." No, Jesus says of those who are his, who have trusted in him, he says, "I want them with me." His love goes the whole way. He gives us himself and he wants us with him where we can know him and experience his love.

When two people are in love, and when they are married, they share everything they have and long to open their heart to each other. Jesus not only wants his people with him, he wants to share with him his very self. So he says he wants us to see his glory, the glory that is his since the very Creation of the world, the glory that is his because of the Father's eternal love for the Son. He wants to show them his glory, share his glory and love with his people.

Jesus death on the cross gains for us a relationship with the Lord Jesus that knows his love to the uttermost. Jesus does not hold back and he wants us with him and wants to

share with us his glory and love. Jesus sacrifice gains for us more than we realise. Jesus is present with us by the Spirit, right where he wants to be. We will be with Jesus when he returns, enjoying his love in the New Creation.

So if you are feeling distant from people, or even distant from God, remember John 17:24. Jesus wants you with him and shares with you his glory and love. Jesus is present with you by the Spirit, not reluctantly, but wholehearted to meet you with his love and be with in need and when life is going well. Jesus shares his life with us, and interested in us and our lives, eagerly wanting us to connect with him and enjoy him. Do you see that Jesus wants to be with you? Why not stop and enjoy some time with him?

As always, love and prayers,
Steve