

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Penrith

9 Doonmore Street, Penrith NSW 2750

www.penrithpresbyterian.com



ENCOURAGEMENT LETTER 30/10/2024

How are you today? I am thankful for the joy of being God's family together, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Today we continue our encouragement from Psalm 62 – "Laying Our Troubles in God's Hands" before moving on to church matters.

ENCOURAGEMENT: Laying Our Troubles In God's Hands

What do you do with troubles that come your way? Go and tell someone about? Shout at the wall? Throw things around? Mull over it and worry? Think over the worst outcomes that could happen? In Psalm 62 we see what David does with his concerns.

*How long will you assault me?
Would all of you throw me down—
this leaning wall, this tottering fence?
Surely they intend to topple me
from my lofty place;
they take delight in lies.
With their mouths they bless,
but in their hearts they curse.*

Psalm 62:3

David puts his concerns in a prayer laying it all out before God. The "How long...?" question is common in Psalms of lament when the pray-er lays out their concerns before God. He says it as it is – he is being assaulted. Others are making life difficult for him. His request is pitched as an accusation at his persecutors even as he presents his troubles to God.

He is honest about his own weakness and vulnerability, calling himself a leaning wall and a tottering fence. He is about to fall over and collapse. Just one push, one more hit, and he goes down with a crash. He cannot of himself resist these evil men and it drives him towards God, to cry out to him.

He speaks their plans to God about the wicked people who seek to topple him from his lofty place. These are people who rebel against his rule and kingship. Political opponents who spread lies and misinformation about David in order to undermine him and create instability. In David's presence they smile and bless him with kind words, but in their hearts they are plotting and scheming, seeking his ruin.

In difficult circumstances, David gives his situation into God's hands. It reminds me of what Paul writes:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Every circumstance we find ourselves we are to bring before God and lay it in his hands and trust in him to act. We are to leave our worries in God's hand and let him sweat the hard stuff. We have confidence in Christ by his death and by his intercession to enter into God's presence. God welcomes his children and invites us to pray to him. Will you bring your circumstances to God and trust him to deal with them according to his grace and power?

ENGAGING WITH GOD #7: The Big Picture

Our next engaging with God seminar is on Wednesday 20th November at 7.00pm at church building.

We will be bringing it all together as we think how all we have looked at helps us live a life that engages with God.

COMMUNITY PANTRY: CHRISTMAS

As we approach Christmas, we would love some donations of Christmas gifts for all ages so we can offer our guests an opportunity for affordable Christmas shopping.

"PRAISE THE LORD" – AN AFTERNOON OF HYMNS AND CAROLS

On Saturday 23rd November at 2.00pm we are having an afternoon of hymn singing and Christmas carols followed by afternoon tea.

TEAR: USEFUL GIFTS

The TEAR Useful Gift Catalogue is now available and is a way to support ministries in developing countries to build community and declare the gospel. This will be available at church, look out for Rhonda Milligan and the TEAR stall. Also, you can access the Useful Gift Catalogue online at: <https://www.usefulgifts.org/>

CONTACT

The latest copy of Contact is out and can be downloaded at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8b9z4zkqhy4msp6qoz9uq/OCTOBER-FINAL-CONTACT-emailcopy-2024.pdf?rlkey=84ozekckcbap9bmtneb3kp21j&dl=0>

There will be physical copies available at church.

FINAL COMMENTS

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

*God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.*

Psalm 46:4-5

As always, love and prayers,
Steve