

# St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Penrith

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## ENCOURAGEMENT LETTER 16/7/2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

How are you today? I am thankful for the Presbyterian Church in NSW and hearing about God's wider work in the denomination, and how the gospel is changing people's lives.

Today's encouragement continues in Psalm 119 with "Psalm 119 Lamedh – An Eternal Foundation" before moving onto church matters.

### **ENCOURAGEMENT: Psalm 119 Lamedh – An Eternal Foundation**

What should we build our life upon? There is nothing worse than building upon a poor foundation. Eventually the structure will collapse upon those within it. The recent rains have shown this with my next door neighbour's trees. During one rainy night while working in my office I heard a crash, walking outside I saw his tree fallen on his drive way. Since he works nights, his car providentially was not parked there. In the next rains, a second tree fell down, this time on his letter box. The reason for these collapses? The ground was soft, the root system rotten, the foundations poor. When considering our lives, we must build upon firm foundations lest we be swept away in the rain and the flood.

Psalm 119 Lamedh presents to us the eternal foundation of God's word and the results of trusting upon it. The first few verses in this stanza present to us the Word, God's eternal foundation.

*Your word, O LORD, is eternal;*

*it stands firm in the heavens.*

*Your faithfulness continues through all generations;*

*you established the earth, and it endures.*

*Your laws endure to this day,*

*for all things serve you.*

Psalm 119:89-91

The LORD's word lasts forever and will never fade away. It stands firm, immovable, in the heavens, that is, before the throne of God. The word is the decree of his will and purpose, the expression of his everlasting reign. He

remains faithful through all the generations of people, keeping the promises he has spoken and sustaining the earth upon which we live. His laws endure as by his sovereign will all things serve him and give glory to him in the end according to how they have responded to his law – either he will be glorified in mercy in their repentance and trust in his word or he will be glorified in justice for their resistance and rejection of his word.

The next four verses describe the life built upon the Word.

*If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.  
I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have preserved my life.  
Save me, for I am yours;  
I have sought out your precepts.  
The wicked are waiting to destroy me,  
but I will ponder your statutes.*

Psalm 119:92-95

The life built upon God's word is preserved by God's word. Since his life is built on God's law and so he finds his delight in the law, then he does not perish in his affliction. Suffering does not win out in the end. He holds onto the precepts of the Lord for by them, by the promises given in them, the Lord preserves the Psalmist's life. Salvation comes to those who trust in the word and seek out the Lord's commands, to live by them. Since his life is built on the word, he will not fear the wicked who are out to destroy him, but will keep his vision squarely fixed on the Lord's will expressed in his statutes.

The stanza finishes with a final reflection on God's word:

*To all perfection I see a limit,  
but your commands are boundless.*

Psalm 119:96

In life, once perfection is reached there is no where else to go from there, but when considering God's commands they are boundless. How is this possible? Because God's commands are not only about obedience and character that conforms to God's righteousness, but they are lived out relationally before God. They are the expression of a relationship with God and our love for him, and since God is infinite and eternal, there is no end to our growing to know God more and his love and the expression that this finds in our lives.

The eternal word brings us to Jesus, the one who is the Word, God become flesh. And it is Jesus who says:

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.*

Matthew 7:24-27

We who now know the fulfilment of God's word in Christ and see God more clearly, are to build our lives upon Jesus words as we trust in him and put them into practice. Life is only lived well when it is lived by the gospel of Christ and through faith seek to obey him. It is with Christ, that we know the life built upon his word will not ultimately perish in the storm and flood of the day of the Lord. We rest securely in Christ and know that he will carry us into eternity to live with God forever. Are you building your life upon God's word? Is there an area of your life you need to seek to bring in conformity with word by power of his Spirit at work in you?

### **EVANGELISM SERMON SERIES**

Our next sermon series is on Evangelism and will begin Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

### **KIDS AND YOUTH PRAYER MEETING**

There will be a Kids and Youth Prayer meeting at 12.30pm on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August in the Education Block.

### **FINAL COMMENTS**

Don't forget the challenge from a couple of weeks ago. Memorise:

*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Ephesians 4:22-24

As always, love and prayers,  
Steve