

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Penrith

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www.penrithpresbyterian.com



ENCOURAGEMENT LETTER 23/7/2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

How are you today? I am thankful for the gift of rest and being to find refreshment in resting in Jesus and his love for us.

Today in our encouragement we consider “Psalm 119 Mem – Wisdom For Living” before moving on to church matters.

ENCOURAGEMENT: Psalm 119 Mem – Wisdom For Living

Where do you look for wisdom for life? Our world is filled with competing voices offering wisdom. Youtube and Tiktok is full of Influencers seeking to steer you towards a particular lifestyle or buying certain products, usually because they are getting a kick back or their popularity drives an income stream the more people watch their videos. There are motivational speaks who, for a price, can tell you how to get rich or live a more healthy lifestyle. The bookshop has various self-help, DIY and inspirational books to help steer your life. Usually the wisdom that is given has a cost, and often can do more to make the one who pedals it richer than the life of the buyer better. But here in Psalm 119 Mem we see that wisdom is found in God's word.

The language of this stanza uses language found in the wisdom literature like Proverbs. Terms like wise, insight and understanding as well as the picture of life as “a path” and choosing the right way. The stanza begins by showing the Psalmist in continuous contemplation on the Word of God:

Oh, how I love your law!

I meditate on it all day long.

Psalm 119:97

The Psalmist loves God's law – it is not something he tolerates because God commands it, but there is an honest joy in living according to God's law, and so he meditates on it through the day and contemplating its benefits and its application to his life, seeking to live a life in step with God. Would you describe yourself as meditating on God's word all day long?

The Psalmist continues talking of the wisdom imparted by God's word.

*Your commands are always with me
and make me wiser than my enemies.
I have more insight than all my teachers,
for I meditate on your statutes.
I have more understanding than the elders,
for I obey your precepts.*

Psalm 119:98-100

Wisdom is not just knowledge. It is living out right knowledge, and here it is obedience to God's commands – it makes him wiser than his enemies, with more insight than his teachers, and more understanding than his leaders. A life directed towards knowing and living what God commands and says is the right way embodies true wisdom.

The Psalmist speaks further about the right way to live.

*I have kept my feet from every evil path
so that I might obey your word.
I have not departed from your laws,
for you yourself have taught me.*

Psalm 119:101-103

He steers his feet away from every evil path. The world may offer him hundreds of different and seemingly desirable ways to live, but there is only one right path and it is that laid out by God's word. So he seeks to obey God's words, to not depart from his laws but to listen to his word as taught by God himself. God's way is the only way worth living.

The Psalmist finds true joy in living by God's word.

*How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
I gain understanding from your precepts;
therefore I hate every wrong path.*

Psalm 119:104

True joy and satisfaction that lasts is found only in living according to God's word. It is living life in relationship with God as we are made to live. The more we live wise, obedient lives the more joy we have and we will grow to hate the paths of sin that would lead us astray.

Wisdom leads us to Jesus who in 1 Corinthians is called "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24). He lives a perfectly obedient life in step with God's word and law, living in perfect communion with the Heavenly Father. He then goes to the cross for us dying in our place for our disobedience and for every wrong path we have wandered down. He is the path we now walk, as Jesus says, "I am the Way" (John

14:6). The word and wisdom brings us to Jesus that we might live by faith in his work of redemption for us and submit to the wisdom he gives as the Spirit and Word work within us. So take the time to submerge your mind in the word and the gospel of Christ (Colossians 3:15) and then live by the word in all you do. How much are you reading God's word with the purpose of living it out?

PRAYER FOR COLIN AND ALISON MORROW (PIM MISSIONARIES)

Please pray for Alison and Colin as Alison's cancer is being treated. Pray they be comforted in our great hope in Christ, to continue finding their refuge in his love, and to know and see the power of our God.

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO SERVE

There are a number of areas in church where we are looking for people to serve. Please read through the following and pray about whether you serve in any of these ministries.

SRE – We need helpers/teachers in can join the team in teaching the Bible in Penrith South Public school. SRE is on a Tuesday.

Welcoming – More people are needed for welcoming in the 10.30am service

Sound/Computer Desk – We urgently need people to serve at the 9.00am service at the sound/computer desk. You will not be thrown in the deep end but will have someone with you, to help you along, until you get the hang of it. This would be of great benefit to improving the experience of those online too.

Morning Tea – people are needed for the morning tea rosters in the 9am and 10.30am services. We are hoping to have enough people so those on the roster need only serve once every 6 weeks.

Please let Steve know if you are able to serve in any of these ways.

FINAL COMMENTS

Do everything without grumbling or arguing,¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."^[c] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Philippians 2:14-15

As always, love and prayers,
Steve