

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Penrith

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www.penrithpresbyterian.com



ENCOURAGEMENT LETTER 4/6/2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

How are you today? I am thankful for our loving God's sovereign hand upon our lives and every event that happens to us and in our world.

Today our encouragement continues in Psalm 119 with "Psalm 119 Waw – Salvation and its Fruit", then we will move on to church matters.

ENCOURAGEMENT: Psalm 119 Waw – Salvation and its Fruit

What impact does God's salvation have on your life? Now, I am not a very good gardener. At most, 50% of the trees I plant survive. If I am fortunate, those I plant may bear fruit. We have a lemon tree that gives us plenty of lemons; a mandarin tree that took years before it started to give us fruit, now it has an abundance; a kaffir lime tree that gave its first fruit today; an orange tree that we are still waiting to produce fruit. But God's salvation is not hit and miss. It does not fail and it produces fruit in our lives.

Psalm 119 Waw teaches us about God's salvation and the fruit it bears in our lives. The first three verses talk about God's salvation pointing us towards Christ.

*May your unfailing love come to me, Lord,
your salvation, according to your promise;
then I can answer anyone who taunts me,
for I trust in your word.
Never take your word of truth from my mouth,
for I have put my hope in your laws.*

Psalm 119:41-43

These verses teach us four things about God's salvation in Christ:

1. Salvation is the action of God's covenant love. The word translated "unfailing love" is the Hebrew "hesed" and refers to God's covenant love, a love grounded in God's promise and commitment to his people. This love is seen ultimately in Christ, when he dies on the cross as an action of God's love towards us (John 15:13).

2. Salvation is the fulfilment of God's promise. God promises to save us and bring us to himself, as we read in Joel, "everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." (Joel 2:32) This we see in Jesus. Salvation is achieved by Christ so that all who trust in him and call upon him are saved from judgement for their sins and made God's very own people (Romans 10:9-13)
3. Salvation is gained by faith in God's word. The Lord does what he says, and rescues all those who trust him, that the Lord will save and bring us home to be with him. It is Christ who achieves salvation for us and we receive his salvation when we trust in him.
4. Salvation gives us confidence before the world. The world cannot take away from us what the Lord has given and there will be a day when our faith in him will be proven right before the world on the day Jesus returns. We have a real hope that the jeers and ridicule of the world cannot take away.

Such a great salvation has a significant impact on our lives, indicative of the work of the Spirit in us. Knowing how the Spirit works in us to cultivate the fruit of salvation in Christ, we are to nurture and encourage such fruit. We see the fruit that is produced in the next four verses:

*I will always obey your law,
for ever and ever.
I will walk about in freedom,
for I have sought out your precepts.
I will speak of your statutes before kings
and will not be put to shame,
for I delight in your commands
because I love them.*

Psalm 119:44-47

The Psalm talks about the fruit of salvation as:

1. The fruit of obedience. Salvation results in a changed life of increasing obedience to Christ in all areas of life. The Psalmist's resolve to obey the law of the Lord is the product of God's action to rescue him.
2. The fruit of freedom. Salvation restores to us what we are created to be, so we experience the joy of knowing the Lord and living in step with him as the Spirit works in us.
3. The fruit of declaration. The work of the Spirit in the saved produces a desire to make Christ known and proclaim him to others – to speak to

those in the greatest positions and those in the least. It is to point them towards Christ so they too might know his salvation.

4. The fruit of joy. In being brought back to God in Christ we will have our highest delight is living to please him and all that we have in him. His commands are not a burden, but a joy, because it is to live to please the Lord.

The impact of God's salvation is huge and has an everlasting impact in our lives bearing fruit for his glory. So it is appropriate then that the last verse encourages us to reflect on his salvation in Christ:

*I reach out for your commands, which I love,
that I may meditate on your decrees.*

Psalm 119:48

The Psalmist meditates on the Lord's decrees, and is not the Lord's greatest decree the gospel in which we find salvation? Should we not all the more meditate and consider the salvation of the Lord decreed in Christ and offered to all people? Shouldn't we spend time plumbing the depths of our salvation and its fruit in our lives, as we read in Philippians: "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose" (Philippians 2:12-13)?

COMMUNITY PANTRY

Thank you for all your contributions to the pantry. If you would like to contribute this week we need:

Peanut butter	Biscuits	Full cream milk	Sugar	Toilet paper
Spray on deodorant liquid	Tinned Corn	Tissues	Laundry	
Tea	Coffee	Pepper	BBQ sauce	Cereal
Women's spray on deodorant		Women's roll on deodorant		
Sanitary pads	Shampoo	Floor cleaner	Toothpaste	

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

*And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.
No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
and those the Lord has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

Isaiah 35:8-10

As always, love and prayers,
Steve