

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Penrith

9 Doonmore Street, Penrith NSW 2750

www.penrithpresbyterian.com



ENCOURAGEMENT LETTER 6/8/2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

How are you today? I am thankful for the joyful voices I hear each Sunday morning, raised in song together as we praise our glorious Maker and Saviour.

Today's encouragement continues in Psalm 119 – "Psalm 119 Nun – The Revealed Path". It has the verse from Psalm 119 that many people know off by heart. After our encouragement we move onto church matters.

ENCOURAGEMENT: Psalm 119 Nun – The Revealed Path

How are you at walking in the dark? The problem with walking in the dark is the darkness hides hazards from you that you can easily bump into. I remember as a teen camping with some mates at Cataract Scout Park. We are playing a game at night where we are chasing each other around. I remember running full tilt away from one of my mates, when suddenly I feel resistance to my forward moment before being suddenly catapulted several metres back the way I came. I had hit a wire fence that I could not see in the darkness. I found it funny when I see it happen to one of my friends a moment later. Sometimes life can feel like stumbling in the dark. It is not clear which choices to make or the right way to live. Where do we find light for our path?

Psalm 119 Nun is a stanza that shows us how we can see God's clear path for us.

*Your word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light for my path.*

Psalm 119:105

The Psalmist sees that God's word is our lamp and our light to show where we should walk, to point us in the right way to live. Like a torch will reveal to us what the darkness hides, so the word of God shows us what God is like, what the world is really and the right way to live in the world. If we are to have a clear path in life, we need to make knowing God's word a priority in our life, daily reading it and meditating on it.

We see the Psalmist's commitment to God's word in knowing it not only in head knowledge but practice.

*I have taken an oath and confirmed it,
that I will follow your righteous laws.*

*I have suffered much;
preserve my life, Lord, according to your word.*

Psalm 119:106-107

The Psalmist is committed to living a life of obedience to God's word. He has sworn to follow God's righteous laws and backed up with his actions. Knowing God's word will be evident in keeping God's word. Even in the face of suffering he holds on to the word of God trusting the Lord will keep his promises to him.

The Psalmist is driven by a desire to glorify and seeks that God might teach him.

*Accept, O LORD, the willing praise of my mouth,
and teach me your laws.*

Psalm 119:108

The Psalmist returns praise to the Lord in response to God's word, worshiping him with the words of his mouth, and bringing with him a desire for the Lord to teach him and grow him in his understanding of the law and all it reveals about God, ourselves and how we should live.

The Psalmist's commitment is again evident in his resolve to keep God's law.

*Though I constantly take my life in my hands,
I will not forget your law.
The wicked have set a snare for me,
but I have not strayed from your precepts.*

Psalm 119:109-110

His life is filled with danger and risk. The wicked are trying to trap him. He holds fast to the word of the Lord: he will not forget nor will he stray from his precepts. He follows the revealed path that the word shows to him no matter how hard or dangerous it gets.

The goal of his heart and the direction of his life is set by God's word.

*Your statutes are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.
My heart is set on keeping your decrees
to the very end.*

Psalm 119:111-112

God's word is his heritage, his inheritance. They are his treasure and his reward. They are what he passes on to those who follow. So he finds his delight and joy in God's word. Think of it like the man who treasures the letters from his beloved, because they are her words and show her heart. The Psalmist finds his joy in the Lord's statutes because they are his words and show his heart. Because of this, he sets his heart towards keeping God's decrees, to live in step with God until he appears before God.

God's word shows to us the revealed path we are to live, and we see this even more clearly in Christ. As we read in 1 Peter:

But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:20b-21

Jesus shows us what it means to be faithful in the face of suffering and challenge. He sets the path before us. He who went to the cross for our forgiveness, now that we have trusted in his mercy, works in us by the Spirit so we might live his way. God's word points us to the Saviour who leads us to live for God in every way. He forgives our missteps when we have missed the path and gives us what we need to keep to the path before us. Is your heart fixed on Christ to live for him? Is it fixed upon the word of God that leads us to Christ?

BARBARA HUTCHISON'S THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A thanksgiving service for Barbara Hutchison and her life and faith will be held at church on Friday at 11.30am. If you are attending, please bring some refreshments to share.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

I am looking at running membership classes for people who are interested. Why might you do membership classes? Because you are interested in being a communicant member and professing your faith before the congregation. Because you have not been baptised and would like to be baptised. Because you want to know more about what it means to be part of Penrith Presbyterian Church. **I will be starting these classes on 2pm Sunday, 10th August.**

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.

SERVING THE CHURCH: Dealing with Difficult Questions (Apologetics)

This year once a month, our training seminars will be equipping us to serve God's church in various ways. Our next night will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26th August and we will be looking at Dealing with Difficult Questions (Apologetics).

KIDS AND YOUTH PRAYER MEETING

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

FINAL COMMENTS

So how did you go with the "4 Persons" to remember the gospel on Sunday? Here's the four persons again, can you remember what to say about each? Are there Bible verses you can include?

GOD

HUMANS

JESUS

YOU

As always, love and prayers, Steve