

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Penrith

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Encouragement Letter (6NOV24)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
How are you today?

I am thankful that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and not in keeping with commands that are impossible to keep. I am thankful that in being saved by grace that God works in us to enable obedience to his good and right commands.

Today our Encouragement continues in Psalm 62 with “Reminding Ourselves To Find Our Rest In God” before moving on to church matters.

ENCOURAGEMENT: Reminding Ourselves To Find Our Rest In God

When it comes down to the crunch, how well do you remember the Lord and trust in him? When we face troubles, turning to the Lord is not always our first instinct. We trust in our own strength. We resort to our own wisdom. We think our words will talk our way out. We become morose as if the world is against us. Yet in all this we do not consider the Lord nor trust in his kindness to us. We forget him and fall back on our own resources. We need to be reminded time and again of the Lord's grace, and so we read for the second time the words with which Psalm 62 began.

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone;

my hope comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation;

he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

Psalm 62:5-6

The repetition of the initial words serve to act as a means of remembrance, reminding us of God and his mercy. There is, however, a difference to the first words of the Psalm. Where the Psalm opens with a statement of trust, here he now speaks to his soul, telling himself to rest in God alone, an encouragement towards trust. In the face of trouble and opposition, he has to persuade his soul towards faith, he reminds himself to trust in God.

We too need to repeat to ourselves the encouragement to find our rest in God. We need to remind each other in the face of our struggles to find our rest in God. We daily need reminding of the gospel and God's grace in Jesus, and we should not take it as a given that each of us, just because we know the gospel well and know God's word well, that we are remembering to actively put our trust in Jesus. Peter writes it this way:

So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as

our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

2 Peter 1:12-15

See how Peter says he will remind his readers of these things, that is, the gospel, even though their faith is resting on Christ. He is diligent to refresh and remind his readers so they will remember when he is gone. We need people who will constantly remind us of God's grace in Christ, in the midst of difficult times, so that we consistently find our rest in him.

There is another difference from the beginning of the Psalm too. Where the outset it says, "my salvation comes from him" it now says "my hope comes from him." This speaks of an anticipation for the Lord to act according to his goodness and love. In resting in God, he now waits on God with an expectation for God to supply what he needs and carry him through his ordeal. How often do we expect to see God act according to his kindness towards us in Christ? When we commit ourselves to God, resting in Christ, praying to him for help, are we anticipating for God to answer in a demonstrable way where we can say, "Look at what the Lord has done"?

Remembering his kindness to us – that he is our rock, our salvation and our fortress – remembering who he is towards us, should cause us to look with expectation for his work in our lives for his good. Will you remind yourself, and those around you, of the gospel and to trust in God? Do you look with hope to see him act in this world and in your life?

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.

FINAL COMMENTS

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;

he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord Almighty is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46:6-7

As always, love and prayers,

Steve