

4 October 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Reflecting God's likeness

Psalm 112 – read it reflectively, then read Psalm 111. These psalms are linked: same number of verses, same number of lines, each line begins with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Like hinged mirrors: Psalm 111 is a portrait of God; Psalm 112 a portrait of the believer – one reflecting in the other: The believer reflecting the character of God.

The theme of Psalm 112: “Those who fear the Lord” (v. 1). This flows from the last verse of Psalm 111. Those who hold the Lord in such awesome reverence that from their heart they delight to obey Him. These are the ones whose character will be transformed into His likeness.

Note specially the characteristics of God that are reflected in the believer:

- ❖ Righteousness (v.2-4, 6, 9) – doing what is right, just, and honourable, reflected in their family values and beyond, because the Lord is righteous.
- ❖ Grace (v.4, 5, 9) – generous, gracious, compassionate because the Lord is gracious and compassionate.
- ❖ Secure (v.4, 6-8) – even if the darkest hour and trouble comes, fear does not overwhelm; there is light because the Lord is always trustworthy and faithful.

What believers have is of eternal value (v.3, 9) – true riches (1 Tim 6:7, 18). In the Lord's sight the believer is truly honoured (v.9b), but leave God out of your life, and your deepest needs will never be met (v.10). We were made to be in the image of God (Genesis 1:27); we are being restored to the image of God in the likeness of Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18). This is accomplished by God's Spirit, through God's Word, in the lives of all who walk in the fear of the Lord.

Prayer

“Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me;
All the wondrous compassion and purity.
O thou Spirit divine, all my nature refine,
Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.” Amen.

Remember

- keep praying
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another. St James is open for Communion at 10am on Wednesdays, and I am only a phone call away if you would like me to visit at home: 0438 455 493.

With Christian love,
Robert

October - Week 1

COLLECT FOR ORDINARY SUNDAY 27

Almighty God, creator of all things and giver of every good and perfect gift, hear with favour the prayers of your people, that we who are justly punished for our offences may mercifully be delivered by your goodness, for the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We commend to your fatherly goodness all who are sick or sad, Jen Begg, Ruth & Des Bright, Joan Ford, Ursula Ibaraki, Rosemary Gordon-Smith, David Kirby (Julie Brereton's uncle in South Africa), Dawn & Peter Hope, Polly Mackay, Ross Moody, Patrick O'Sullivan, Rosemary Pye, Jan Roach, Liz Rupp, Ruth Sutton, Daphne Valtilla, Chris Wood and Bob Young, that you might comfort and relieve them, giving them patience in their sufferings, and a good outcome through all their afflictions. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR GOSPEL PARTNER – JAMES KINGHORN

Pray for James Kinghorn and his team in Isaan, Thailand, for unity and God's strength to thrive in their relationship building and trust amongst the community. Pray for his teammates as they wait for visas to re-open. Pray for re-entry, praying also that they will all use their time faithfully while in limbo. Pray for wisdom and empathy towards local Thai culture in Bee Creek as they seek to faithfully construct a youth mentorship program.

Please pray for James Kinghorn, for ongoing growth in his Thai language. Give thanks for his language helper, Jo.

Pray for the many locals in Bee Creek who struggle with self-worth and self-respect; pray for opportunities for the team to show how much we are loved by God, by showing God's love in their relationships with the locals.

Pray for God's peace and for freedom for many people in the area who are addicted to alcohol.

GOSPEL PARTNER – TCEA

This week while the Turrumurra High School community rests in holiday mode, we pray for the gospel of peace to permeate each school member's heart:

- We praise God for the expansion of face to face teaching after lockdown, progress with maintaining lunchtime activities, and for the continued good health of the school community, especially staff and children.
- We praise and thank God for for Fiona and Heather. We ask you, Father, to help them produce lessons which proclaim life-changing truths; foster classes of warmth, security and joy; and to equip students to proclaim in their whole lives the message that Jesus restores our broken relationship with you. Please enable students to continue to come to their classes with enthusiasm and not opt out. We pray for strengthening of links with the students and local youth groups, including St James. Amen.