

"You are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me" Psalm 31:3

The Presbyterian Banner



August 2026

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Meditation: The Revelation of the Glory of God



The following is an abridged and edited version of the first part of the retiring moderator’s sermon, given at synod on 5 May. The text is Deuteronomy 4:35.

Brothers and sisters, up in Brisbane, for our fortnightly mid-week Bible Studies this year, I’ve been giving talks on the themes, the biblical topics, covered in a book by the American Presbyterian theologian Geerhardus Vos, “Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments.”

In preparing my talks, I’ve been helped by a series of podcasts put out by Reformed Forum. If you haven’t done so yet, look up Reformed Forum online. They have a ton of solid material on a lot of different subjects, hosted by a variety of conservative Presbyterian and Reformed pastors and teachers.

Anyways, they had a series of podcasts on Vos’s book. They just finished the last one: number 108. They’ve been working through it for about 14 years.

In one of the more recent episodes, one of the hosts mentioned that for Vos, what lies at the centre of Reformed theology is: “the revelation of the glory of God.”

I don’t see how you can’t put it much better. What is Reformed theology, biblical theology, all about? What is the message of the Bible at its heart? “The revelation of the glory of God.”

This is what I’d like to highlight in my address this afternoon: the glory of God. I hope this can help keep things in perspective as we begin our meeting.

Never forget, brothers, everything God did throughout the history of his people, pointing to and

The Presbyterian Banner [ISSN 0729-3542] is the official magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

The PCEA was founded in 1846 and adheres to the Westminster Confession of Faith (1647) as a correct summary of the teaching of the Holy Scriptures.

There are congregations in Kalinga in QLD; Maclean, Wauchope, Kindee, Taree, Cardiff, Raymond Terrace, Sydney CBD, and Mt Druitt in NSW; Narre Warren, Carrum Downs, and Geelong in VIC; Ulverstone in TAS.

Subscriptions: \$30 per year in bulk (5 or more) and \$35 for Australian individual subscriptions and \$50 overseas.

Bank details for Direct Credit: Bendigo Bank, BSB 633 000 Ac: 163 581 242 Please add your name in the details panel when making payment.

The opinions expressed in the articles and news reports are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editor, his assistants, or of the PCEA itself.

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The magazine is available as a pdf file for free download on the Church website: www.pcea.org.au

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The editor is grateful for the assistance of an informal network of Banner liaisons from the various PCEA congregations.

leading up to Christ, everything Christ did during and right after his earthly ministry, it all reveals God's glory. Everything about who Christ was, who he is, what he did, his continuing to call his people into fellowship with him, it's all about the glory of God. Everything about how we are saved, why we are saved, about grace, it all comes down to the revelation of the glory of God.

When you read the Bible, do you take the time to sit back and reflect on how it's about the glory of God? Do you read Scripture from the basic perspective of considering who God is, reflecting on the glory of his person, the majesty of his being?

Or maybe your primary consideration focuses on what the Bible says to you and your congregation about the day to day reality of living as a Christian, seeing the Bible as being first and foremost an instruction manual on what we should be doing in our churches and in our everyday lives. You see the story of the Bible as being first about giving us examples of what we should do, rather than first being about what God has done.

As for “the revelation of the glory of God” being the centre of Reformed theology, who really thinks along these lines, except

maybe a few nerds who might be inclined to listen to podcasts discussing the theology of an obscure seminary professor who lived about a century ago.

Brothers, even if you or people in your congregation may not be inclined to consider the theology of men like Geerhardus Vos, which, granted, may not be everyone's cup of tea, still, it's important, before anything else, for every Christian to have an understanding from the Bible of who God is, how incredible he really is, and how awesome his glory really is. It's important to read the Bible with this in mind, that it is in fact about the revelation of the glory of God.

When it comes right down to it, what we're talking about here is simply knowing God, and knowing Jesus Christ. Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Christ, the glorious Saviour. Christ, whom we proclaim. Knowing Christ, and knowing the triune God, as glorious. That's crucial.

If you don't know God in his glory, you can't really understand life. After all, we're talking about the glorious being who gives life meaning and purpose. Life is empty, without direction, apart from Him.

Of course, this assumes that there is a glorious God whom we

can know. Sadly, according to some, that's not a safe assumption.

Atheists would say that there is no God, no divine being who is the creator of everything, and who watches over all that he has made. There is no glorious God at the centre of reality. The universe simply is. So the atheist tries to convince us.

Mind you, there are others who would say that even if there is a God, it's impossible to know Him in his glory. Such people might call themselves agnostics, literally meaning: not knowing, ignorant.

Ah yes, God, He is totally beyond our reach, totally outside of all human experience. How can we possibly know such a God, let alone proclaim him glorious?

Well, such people might have a point, if were it not for one simple fact: God has revealed Himself to us. He has made Himself known. He has made his glory known.

God has seen fit to enter the realm of human limitations, using images, ideas and terms that are understandable to us. The holy, glorious God has lowered himself, graciously condescending so that we can know him.

Remarkable, when you think about it. We couldn't go up to him to know him at his level, so He revealed his glory at our level.

All praise be to him!

FAMILY CAMP 2026

Monday 21st - Thursday 24th September
At Camp Elim, Forster, NSW

Speaker: Rev Zach Dotson
Theme: Communion with God

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Brisbane

[Report by Jim Klazinga]



During the morning service on August 19th, we rejoiced in being able to witness the sacrament of baptism being administered to a covenant child, Lydia Grace Morrison, daughter of Weylin and Irene.

We confess in paragraph 1 of chapter 28 in the Westminster Confession of Faith, "Baptism is a sacrament of the new testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, not only for the solemn admission of the party baptized into the visible Church; but also to be unto him a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, of his ingrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of remission of sins, and of his giving up unto God, through Jesus Christ, to walk in newness of life. Which

sacrament is, by Christ's own appointment, to be continued in His Church until the end of the world."

We have begun another round of New Member's Classes, which, in addition to the pastor and Elder Stewart Carswell, are being attended by three regular visitors who hope to eventually become members, as well as a number of current members contributing to the discussions.

The course consists of at least six sessions, during which a number of questions asked of prospective members are discussed:

"(1) Do you repent of your sins and profess your faith in God, the Father who has created you, Jesus Christ the Son who has redeemed you and the Holy Spirit who has called you to trust wholly in the grace, the free mercy and the love of God through Jesus Christ?

"(2) Do you promise to nourish the faith which you have professed, by the study of God's Word and by prayer, in your private devotions and at public worship?

"(3) Do you promise to live, with the help of the Holy Spirit, a godly life?

"(4) Do you promise to take your due part in the work and witness of the Church and to give of your means for its maintenance and extension as God shall prosper you?

"(5) Do you promise to submit to the Lord in the Scriptural teaching, discipline and government in the Church?

"(6) And all these things do you profess and promise as you will answer to your Lord - and as you will enter, at last, into His eternal Kingdom?"

The pastor and his wife are making plans to be overseas for three months, from the middle of October to the middle of January. They will spend the first three weeks in Korea, where Jim is scheduled to be attending two meetings on behalf of the PCEA, and then for the next ten weeks they plan to be in Canada. During this time, Andrew Bajema has agreed to provide pulpit supply for the Brisbane congregation.

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Hastings

[Compiled by the editor]

From the Hastings bulletin for the 28th of June, "We delight to gather to worship God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Bibles and psalm books available at the door. The service is live-streamed to hall for benefit of parents with small children who may require it. Tea and coffee are served in the hall after the morning service. All welcome to join us. Psalmody - Today after the afternoon service".

The following is compiled from the weekly bulletins from the 5th of August through to the 2nd of

August:

"Election of Deacons - Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we prepare to have an election of deacons in our congregation. Pray that men would desire the role and would be equipped and recognised as having the gifts for this important role and service in the church. Deacons are to be male communicant members of the congregation meeting the requirements laid down in the Scriptures (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

"Ordination questions put before Deacons:

"(1) Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and manners?

"(2) Do you sincerely own and declare the Confession of Faith approved by General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland to be the confession of your faith; and do you own the doctrine therein contained to be the true doctrine, which you will constantly adhere to?

"(3) Do you sincerely own the purity of worship presently authorised and practised in this Church, and also own the Presbyterian government and discipline; and are you persuaded that the said doctrine, worship, and discipline, and Church government, are founded upon the Holy Scriptures, and agreeable thereto?

"(4) Do you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, as King and Head of the Church, has therein appointed a government in the hands of Church officers, distinct

from, and not subordinate in its own province to civil government, and that the Civil Magistrate does not possess jurisdiction, or authoritative control over the regulation of the affairs of Christ's Church; and do you approve of the general principles embodied in the Claim, Declaration, and Protest, adopted by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1842 and in the Protest of Ministers and Elders, Commissioners from Presbyteries to the General Assembly, read in the presence of the Royal Commissioner on 18th May 1843, as declaring the views which are sanctioned by the Word of God, and the standards of the Church, with respect to the spirituality and freedom of the Church of Christ, and her subjection to Him as her only head and to his Word as her only standard?

"(5) Do you promise to observe uniformity of worship and of the administration of all public ordinances within this Church as the same are at present performed and allowed?

"(6) Do you accept of the office of an Elder (deacon) of this congregation and promise, through grace, faithfully, diligently, and cheerfully, to discharge all the duties thereof?"

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Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

We are very sad to share that our dear sister, Finau, is once again suffering from ill health. She was treated for ovarian cancer a few years ago, and the treatment gave her two years of health and

strength. Now various problems have recurred, beginning with a hernia operation that lead to complications, and many other issues. She has been in and out of hospital and has trouble eating. We really pray for her, and Lopeti, her husband, and the family. She is normally like a bright flower - colourful, beautiful and fragrant - but now she is quite weak and thin and distressed.

Our brother Tom Reeve has been very well for about a year but now he, too, is having further cancer treatment so we pray for him and his family.

A Syrian migrant from the Syrian Orthodox Church has been attending our church for quite a few weeks now. He is earnestly seeking to understand the Bible and its teachings more fully. We pray that God will open his heart to truly understand the wonder of the Gospel - that the Bible alone, and not traditions, are the truth, and that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone.

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Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

We are thankful for an increase in attendance at worship services at both centres in recent months.

On the last Saturday of August a very helpful men's fellowship breakfast presentation and a ladies' fellowship afternoon meeting were held.

Dr John Fluit gave a very informative and helpful presentation on "men's health" from a Christian perspective.

The first of the ladies' fellowship meetings was held on a recent Saturday afternoon. There were 16 women present. The meeting involved viewing a video presentation by well known American author and women's Bible teacher Nancy Guthrie.

The presentation was based on her book God Does His Best Work with Empty. Nancy demonstrates a considerable grasp of God's word with a particular strength of application of Scripture to everyday life. There are seven more videos in the series. Next month's meeting promises to be a valuable opportunity to share together in the things being learned.

It is planned that Rev Ball will conduct worship and the Lord's Supper this month as both centres combine at Raymond Terrace. A fellowship lunch and a Thanksgiving Service are to follow.

* * * * *

Manning

[Report by Joyce Bennett]

Another month has passed and we are thankful to the Lord for his wonderful provision of faithful elders and visiting preachers who fill our pulpit each Lord's day. We are also thankful for those who have had health issues during the past month are recovering and we are continuing to pray for those who are having ongoing issues.

A quote from Jerry Bridges in our Free Press: "Don't just share our struggles, and above all, don't commiserate with one another. Remember, we are to be ministers of grace to each

other. We are to seek to be avenues of the Holy Spirit to help the other person appropriate the grace of God. Praying with and for one another, sharing applicable portions of Scriptures, and helping each other submit to God's providential dealings with us, must characterise our time together."

* * * * *

Melbourne

[Report by David Lachman]

As a congregation we have taken a few small steps in the last months.

As planned, we restarted evening worship in Narre Warren in mid-April and then completed the transition to the new combined Psalter in June.

In May, we started a monthly Friday night fellowship meeting in Carrum Downs, inviting people from the community to join us for a meal, a time of fellowship, and a brief devotion. We thank the Lord that a few ladies from the community (who are involved in a local community group led by one of the ladies in the church) have come along and asked for prayer that He would bless this meeting, both in building relationships in the church and also in giving opportunities to reach into the community.

We plan to start maths tutoring sessions, led by an experienced teacher in the congregation, at the Narre Warren church. We also intend to leaflet the communities around both congregations in the coming months.

We are thankful for the Lord's blessing on the Ladies Bible Study,

which has been a source of encouragement for many in the congregations, as the ladies seek to put Titus 2 into action.

We would appreciate prayer for the Lord's blessing on these endeavours and for wisdom as we explore options for other midweek meetings and opportunities for outreach.

* * * * *

Northern Rivers

[Report by Beth Sonter]

August saw the unexpected death of our sister member, Sue McPhee. Sue had a brief stay in hospital and sadly passed away. Many will know Sue as the sister of our beloved elder, John McPhee. Please remember John in your prayers as he mourns the loss of Sue.

During August we saw Katherine MacLeod move from her unit in Bethesda to the Mareeba nursing home. Please remember Katherine in your prayers as she adjusts to this new phase in her life.

The recent wet weather has slowed progress on the replacement of the tiled roofs on five of the Bethesda units. The work is nearing completion and we hope that the residents have not been overly inconvenienced during this process. The Bethesda Management committee will be meeting to discuss finding a new resident to occupy the unit recently vacated by Katherine MacLeod.

Our next communion season is planned for the end of August. As is our usual practice, the morning service will be followed by

luncheon in the hall.

Our evening Bible Study has taken on a new format. We now meet fortnightly at the Kerridge home for dinner followed by the study. We thank the Kerridge family, and particularly Mandy, for providing this venue and delicious food for dinner. A wonderful time of study and fellowship is enjoyed.

* * * * *

St. Georges

[Report by Alex Steel]

The restoration and repairs works of the church steeple are drawing to completion with "end of project" items being signed off. During August we have seen more of the spire appearing as the scaffold is dismantled which has revealed a new look in the differing colours of the old and new stonework which will be the case for some years to come.

The outer contract works are 86% complete and the current estimated completion date for such is the end of September.

The City of Sydney Council has approved a schedule of interior works and the building company invited to tender for them.

* * * * *

Letter from Central India

Note: this letter from Vipin (Vicky) Reuben John was sent to the editor by John Greensill.

John writes, "Vicky is the son of Michael John, nephew of Pradeep, and grandson of Rev Prakash Kumar who was the first orphan who became a minister in Chhapara.

"Some of the older members would be aware of the history and

also those that travelled on the mission awareness trip would have fond memories of Vicky's involvement with them."

Dear Uncle Muldoon and Greensill,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I trust that you are all doing well by God's grace. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support. Your support has been a great source of strength to our family, and we thank the Lord for each one of you.

The past few months have been filled with many reasons to praise God. During my summer break at home, the Lord graciously opened several opportunities for ministry. I had the privilege of preaching God's Word in the churches at Lakhnadon, Premnagar, Vijay Nagar, and my home church in Chhapara. In addition, I was able to lead the weekly youth Bible study every Saturday at Chhapara and teach during a three-day Vacation Bible School. Although the summer was busy with both ministry and family responsibilities, it was a season of great joy, learning, and encouragement as I witnessed God's faithfulness in every opportunity He provided.

We also rejoice in a very special blessing the Lord has added to our family. On 20th June 2026, God graciously blessed us with a baby girl. We have named her Caroline Elora John, and our hearts are filled with gratitude for this precious gift. Now we have two gifts from God, Catherine and

Caroline, and we are deeply grateful to Him. We praise God for His kindness and faithfulness toward us.

This Saturday, we will be traveling back to the seminary, and next week I will begin the final year of my Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program. This will be an important and demanding year as I seek to faithfully complete my coursework, research and thesis, while continuing to prepare for ministry.

I would be grateful if you would remember us in your prayers: Kindly pray for:

- Our safe travel as our family returns to the seminary.
- Caroline's health and for God's grace, care, and provision as we adjust to life with a newborn while returning to campus.
- Lord's wisdom, discipline, and perseverance in my studies, especially as I work on my thesis and fulfill my ministry responsibilities.
- God's help in faithfully balancing the responsibilities of family, ministry, and academic work, bringing glory to Him in each area.
- Our family would continue to grow in our love for Christ and serve Him with joy wherever He leads us in ministry.

Thank you once again for faithfully remembering us in your prayers and for supporting with us in the work the Lord has entrusted to us. We are deeply grateful for your love and support. May the Lord richly bless you and continue to use you for the advancement of His kingdom.

Regards, Vipin Reuben John.

Selections from the Report to Synod 2026 of the Church and Nation and Publications Committee

by Rev George Ball

Note: The following were received by synod as part of the Church and Nation and Publications Committee Report.

1. The NSW Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024.

This Act came into effect in April 2025. In May 2025, over 2,100 signatories, including some of our own ministers and members, signed an open letter to the Premier of NSW urging his government to rescind or amend the Act, citing the threat to religious liberty.

The letter stated: ‘We are . . . deeply distressed to find that the Conversion Practices Ban Act of 2024, which came into effect on the 4th of April 2025, impinges on fundamental practices of our faith. The legislation, along with the accompanying media and Frequently Asked Questions document, makes it clear that our duty as ministers of proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ and obedience to his commands is now regarded as criminal behaviour. Christian parents will be criminalised for giving advice to their children concerning their sexual desires or gender identity. Christians will be criminalised for praying with individuals seeking to live in a way that is according to their conscience and the Bible . . . Should these laws remain in place, we will have no option but to continue to exercise orthodox

Christian ministry and discipleship, including counselling and praying with individuals concerning the Christian view of sex, marriage, and gender.’

The Sydney Anglican Synod on 17 September 2025 passed a motion in response to the NSW Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024. The resolution stated that the Synod, ‘encourages Christians to be unafraid to proclaim the truth of God’s word in matters relating to sexuality, marriage, identity and gender, and to provide prayer for those who seek to live a godly life in obedience to God’s word and aligned with God’s purposes, notwithstanding that they may be subject to a complaint under the Conversion Practices Ban Act for doing so.’

The NSW PCA Assembly on the 26th of September 2025 resolved to adopt the Sydney Anglican resolution.

We also commend the statement. The principles stated have relevance not only in NSW – but in other states too.

2. Hate Speech Legislation. Jan. 2026.

Neil Foster, Associate Professor of Law in Newcastle assesses the impact of the recent Hate Speech Legislation. He writes, “After the dreadful terrorist incident at Bondi on December 14, 2025, where 15 people from the Jewish community were murdered, the

Federal government introduced new ‘hate speech’ laws at the national level . . . it seems that the recently enacted changes will have little impact on religious freedom in Australia, except where religion is offered as a reason to justify calls for violence against others . . . Most religious groups do not incite hate against folk from specific racial groups. In Christianity, the New Testament makes it clear that God accepts people from every nationality or tongue, and there is no longer any ethnic aspect to faith - see for example, Acts 10: 34 35, Galatians 3:28, and Revelation 7:9. Where there are religious groups that incite hatred or violence against others due to their racial identity, these laws will indeed penalise such actions . . . For the moment these laws generally seem wisely limited to respond to the dangers facing members of the community following the Bondi incident”

5. Private Daily Devotions.

The busyness of modern lifestyles, the demands of daily employment, the deceptive call of the ‘urgent’ demanding prompt attention, the demanding responsibilities of parenting, and caring for others (the sick, aged and disabled), all tend to limit the time or ability for the sustained private daily study of Scripture and prayer. Many Christians restrict themselves to one of the many

‘Daily Devotionals’ in booklet or e-copy, or e-text form. Such devotionals may be helpful but are no substitute for the serious Bible reader.

Busyness in doing “good” may be the enemy of doing the “best”. Legitimate things may not be the best if they distract from, or replace, Bible study and prayer. E. M. Bounds (1835-1913) provides food for thought in ‘The Power of Prayer’. ‘Short devotions are the bane of deep piety . . . they deplete spiritual vigour, arrest spiritual progress, sap spiritual foundations . . . They are the prolific source of backsliding, the sure indication of superficial piety: they blight, blot, rot the seed and impoverish the soil (of the soul)’. Bounds prescribes much time seeking God in the Scriptures and in prayer as essential for spiritual growth, faithful living, and effectual prayer. God especially blesses those who persevere in constancy, earnestness, and persistence (Luke 18:4-8, 22:44, James 5:16). Preachers may labour long to refine their sermon content, its structure and delivery, yet without time spent in private devotions little may be achieved of enduring significance for the Kingdom of God. Henry Martyn once lamented that “want of private devotional reading and shortness of prayer through incessant sermon-making had produced much strangeness between God and my soul”. A warning surely to ministers, elders, Sunday school teachers, and youth leaders.

William Wilberforce, one of the most significant figures in British politics, an MP in the late 18th and

early 19th centuries, dedicated 45 years of his life to the abolition of slavery and many other worthy causes. In the midst of busyness and following a failure in Parliament, he once admitted, “I must secure more time for private devotions. The shortening of devotions starves my soul; it grows lean and faint . . . and so God let me stumble.”

There are many Biblical examples which demonstrate the necessity of spending time seeking God’s mercy and grace, whether for ourselves or others. Jacob’s victory of faith could not have been gained without that all-night wrestling with the Angel of the Lord (Gen 32:24-31). The Lord had regard for Moses’ prayer (Num 11:2, 21:7, Ps 78:3). This illustrates just how much one person praying can influence the course of history. Daniel, in Babylon, refusing to obey the king’s ban, prayed irrespective of the consequences. He “kneeled upon his knees three times a day” (Daniel 6:10). He prayed as he had done before. David’s morning, noon, and night prayers were doubtless extended on many occasions (Ps 55:17). Christ spent many nights in prayer. He had His habitual places to pray. Many seasons of prayer epitomized His life (Mt 11:26, 26:36-44, Lk 23:34, Heb 5:7). The apostles were determined not to be distracted by the squabbles of a growing church. They desired to devote themselves to prayer (Acts 6:4). Paul prayed day and night (morning and evening) for the progress of the gospel, and for the protection of the fledgling congregations from sin and false teaching (Eph 1:15-20,

3:14-21, Phil 1:3-11). While we don’t know how long he spent, indications are that he spent considerable time. John Welch (John Knox’s son-in-law, 1570-1622) thought a day was somewhat misspent if he did not spend eight to ten hours in prayer. He kept a woollen plaid to wrap around himself when he arose to pray at night. His wife would sometimes complain when she found him lying on the floor weeping, pleading with God. He would reply: “O woman, I have the souls of three thousand to answer for, and I know not how it is with many of them!”

In addition to attending public worship, the sacraments and fellowship, private Bible study and prayer are necessary for spiritual growth, faithful living, and for effectively serving Christ and His Church. Believers have graciously been granted a privileged role to play in this age of the Divine plan for the conversion of sinners, their sanctification, and to be light and salt in a fallen world. God has given His special revelation (the Bible) and established prayer as a divine ordinance. Our lives, our families, 51 congregations, communities, nation, and world will be spiritually blessed as we diligently attend to the means of grace.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb 11:6). Should we continue with short, even hurried devotions, if we are capable of doing better?

August Search Work

“With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!” Psalm 119:10

Senior and Intermediate
(Intermediate omit questions 2 and 8)

1 Peter 1

1. Why is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ to be blessed? (3 verses)
2. Why are we to pass the time of our sojourning here in fear? (3 verses only)
3. What is the contrast between the glory of man and the word of God? (2 verses)

1 Peter 2

4. To what class of people is the chief corner stone precious? What is he to those who are disobedient? (2 verses)
5. What are our respective duties to all men [people], the brotherhood, God and the king?
6. What example did Christ leave us when he suffered for us? (3 verses)

1 Peter 3

7. How are women to adorn themselves? (2 verses)

8. How are we to act if we suffer for righteousness' sake? (2 verses)

Junior

1 Kings 18:17-40

1. Name the people that Elijah commanded Ahab to gather on Mount Carmel.
2. What happened when the prophets of Baal called, “O Baal, Hear us”?
3. What was Elijah's prayer at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice? (2 verses)
4. What did the people do when they saw the fire of the Lord fall on the altar?

Find the verse(s) in the Bible that answer the questions, write/type them out, and send to:

Mrs Irene Steel

18/1-55 West Parade, West Ryde NSW 2114
or Email: iesteel@gmail.com

A book voucher is awarded at the end of each year to children who send in the answers.

August Prayer Points

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Saturday, 1st: Pray for the vacant congregations to worship in a manner consistent with the second commandment.

Sunday, 2nd: From WLC Q&A 109

– “The sins forbidden in the second commandment are, all devising, counselling, commanding, using, and any wise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself; the making any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever; all worshipping of it, or God in it or by it; the making of any representation of feigned deities, and all worship of them, or service belonging to them...” Pray that God by His Spirit may enable us as assembled

Monday, 3rd: Pray for the ministry of the Geelong congregation.

Tuesday, 4th: Pray for the Geelong office-bearers: for Rev John Forbes, and for elder Donald Ramsay.

Wednesday, 5th: Pray for Young Lee and his work with Indigenous children in Taree.

Thursday, 6th: Pray for Finau and her husband Lopeti of the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation. Finau has been in and out of hospital with various problems and is quite weak and thin and distressed.

Friday, 7th: At this year's meeting, it was resolved, “Synod pray for those involved in teaching Sunday-school and youth classes and for the children and youth in the Church.”

Saturday, 8th: Pray for Tom Reeve of the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation as he is having further cancer treatments.

Sunday, 9th: Pray that our services today will be used by God to enable those attending to focus on the glory of Christ.

Monday, 10th: Pray for the ministry of the Melbourne congregation in Narre Warren and Carrum Downs.

Tuesday, 11th: Pray for the Melbourne office-bearers: for Rev

August Prayer Points

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

David Lachman, and for the assessor elders serving on session.

Wednesday, 12th: Pray for the work of Dr Dickson in Delhi, India.

Thursday, 13th: Pray for wisdom for the Hastings congregation as they prepare to have an election of deacons.

Friday, 14th: At this year's meeting, it was resolved, “Synod abhors every expression of racism in the church and society. We affirm that in Christ, ‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus’ (Gal. 3:28). We also affirm that in the church we welcome and embrace every nationality and colour upon acceptance of our terms of membership.”

Saturday, 15th: Pray for the Lord's blessing on the recent endeavours initiated in the Melbourne congregation, and for wisdom as they explore options for other midweek meetings and opportunities for outreach.

Sunday, 16th: Pray that the Word preached today may encourage the worshippers to rest in Christ, and in him only.

Monday, 17th: Pray for the ministry of the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation in West Sydney.

Tuesday, 18th: Pray for the Hawkesbury-Nepean office-bearers: for Rev Dennis Muldoon; for elders Tom Hallett and Tom Reeve; and for deacons Tevita Fihaki and Lopeti Latu.

Wednesday, 19th: Pray for the work of the Middle East Reformed

Fellowship.

Thursday, 20th: Pray for the ministry of the Associated Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, and the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Pray for our relationship and contact with them.

Friday, 21st: At this year's meeting, it was resolved, “Synod affirms its conviction that the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest need of the Jew the Muslim and all false religions, and endeavours to pray for their conversion, and for the Lord's blessing upon those who labour among them in the work of the gospel.”

Saturday, 22nd: Pray for Northern Rivers elder John McPhee and for his family as they mourn the death of his sister, Sue McPhee.

Sunday, 23rd: Pray that as the gospel is preached in our services today, those attending may, by the power of the Spirit, be transformed and strengthened in their reliance on Christ and trust in him.

Monday, 24th: Pray for the ministry of the St Georges congregation in Sydney.

Tuesday, 25th: Pray for the St Georges office-bearers: for Rev Robin Tso; for elders Donald McIntosh, and Alex Steel; and for deacons Chris Oakley, Ken Shaw, and Allan Steel.

Wednesday, 26th: Pray for the work of Mark and Rahel Landrum of the International Mission for Jewish People.

Thursday, 27th: Pray for Katherine MacLeod of the Northern Rivers congregation. She has recently

moved into the Mareeba nursing home.

Friday, 28th: At this year's synod meeting, it was resolved, “In response to the NSW Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024, Synod ‘encourages Christians to be unafraid to proclaim the truth of God's word in matters relating to sexuality, marriage, identity and gender, and to provide prayer for those who seek to live a godly life in obedience to God's word and aligned with God's purposes, notwithstanding that they may be subject to a complaint under the Conversion Practices Ban Act for doing so.’”

Saturday, 29th: Pray for the new members' classes being held in the Brisbane congregation.

Sunday, 30th: From WLC Q&A 109 – “The sins forbidden in the second commandment are... all superstitious devices, corrupting the worship of God, adding to it, or taking from it, whether invented and taken up of ourselves, or received by tradition from others, though under the title of antiquity, custom, devotion, good intent, or any other pretense whatsoever; simony; sacrilege; all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God hath appointed.” Pray that God by His Spirit may enable us as assembled congregations to worship in a manner consistent with the second commandment.

Monday, 31st: Pray for the ongoing ministry of the Hunter congregation in Cardiff and Raymond Terrace.

