

**DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC**  
**TRINITY OAKLEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA**

8 September 2019

Bulletin for the 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 357 171 377 847 356 339

**INTROIT:** Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of wicked people, stand in the path of sinners, or sit in the seat of scoffers!

Rather, his delight is in the Instruction of the LORD, and on His Instruction he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which produces its fruit in its season, and has leaves that do not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

The ungodly are not like that, but are like the chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore wicked people will not stand in the judgment, or sinners in the assembly of righteous people.

For the LORD knows the way of righteous people, but the way of wicked people will perish.

Psalm 1

**COLLECT:** O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Life for obedience and death for disobedience.

Philemon 1-21 I prefer an appeal on the basis of love.

Luke 14:25-33 Whoever does not follow Me cannot be My disciple.

**SERMON:** Luke 14:25-35 Our life in Christ is a life in tension

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the AELC Statement of Faith, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

### **The Way of the Godly leads to Blessing**

Our Introit Reading today, Psalm 1, is a marvellous Psalm that shows two responses to God's Word. The first three verses set forth three characteristics of the godly: they resist sin, they love God's Word, and they produce the fruits of faith.

Because the godly are guided by God's Word, they do not govern their lives by the false values of the unbelieving world. In Romans 12:2 Paul admonishes us: "*Do not conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may approve of what God wants, namely, what is good, pleasing, and perfect!*" Psalm 1 implies the same warning. Christians must not derive their values and goals from the sinful standards of the world. Whatever shapes our thinking will soon shape our actions.

The three verbs, walk, stand, and sit, warn Christians against letting ungodly influences gradually penetrate into their lives. Don't **walk in the counsel of wicked people**, that is, don't begin to accept their values. Don't **stand in the path of sinners**, that is, don't hang around with them and join in their sinful actions. Don't **sit in the seat of scoffers**, that is, don't make yourself at home with them. Don't join them in their impenitent way of life and their bold defiance of God. Don't become one of them.

When we see the prevalence of ungodly attitudes in the world around us - covetousness and materialism, sexual immorality and disregard for the family, violence and war - we realise that we must resist these influences before they gain a foothold in our lives. If we let them walk into our lives, they will soon stand firmly planted there. Finally, they will sit down and make themselves at home. We will soon grow comfortable with ideas and actions that once would have horrified us. When this happens, we will be no different from the world around us.

We cannot expect to resist the values of the unbelieving world if we devote one hour of the week to meditating on God's Word and the other 167 hours to providing for the needs of our bodies and enjoying worldly entertainment. If we wish to have our whole lives shaped by God's Word, we need more than our Sunday worship hour. We need regular Bible study with fellow Christians. We need to recognise the importance of regular family devotions and personal Bible study. We need to cultivate the habit of remembering and applying the truths of God's Word when we are confronted with temptations or faced with decisions in daily

life. God’s children will find their greatest joy and satisfaction in studying His Word and thinking about it day and night.

In this psalm and in many other passages of the Bible, the “**Instruction of the LORD**” refers to the whole Word of God, both law and gospel. Law is the translation of a Hebrew word meaning “teaching” or “instruction.” We find our greatest joy in the gospel, which tells us of God’s forgiveness of our sins. But when we are motivated by the new spirit of faith that the Holy Spirit has created within us, we also delight in God’s law as it is summarised in the Ten Commandments and other passages of Scripture. Because we love our Saviour, we want to obey His commands and do the things that will please God. We delight in all of God’s Word from beginning to end.

When we are motivated by the gospel and guided by God’s law, we shall produce the fruits of faith, that is, works pleasing to God. The good works we produce in our lives are often called fruits because of the similarities between a Christian and the branch of a fruit tree. The branch of a tree can produce fruit only if it remains attached to the main trunk of the tree. We can produce good works only if we are connected to Christ by a living faith. A tree can produce fruit only if it is well watered. A Christian can produce good works only if his faith is “watered” by God’s Word. A tree is a living organism that produces fruit according to the nature God has given it. It is the nature of a healthy apple tree to produce apples, of a grape vine to produce grapes. It is the new nature of a believer in Christ to produce Christlike works.

Although verse 1 contains an implied warning against ungodly values, strictly speaking, this verse is a promise, not a warning. Those who guide their lives by God’s Word, so that they avoid the way of the ungodly and produce the fruits of faith, will be truly blessed. To be blessed means to enjoy the happy and rewarding life that comes from God alone. Real happiness is the peace that comes through the forgiveness of sins. Real happiness is receiving the freedom to live according to God’s Word. Real happiness is enjoying the glory of living with God throughout eternity: This is the blessing that awaits all those who delight in God’s Word.

*Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!*  
 Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.  
 Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com)  
 Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au).  
**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

15 September 14 Pentecost	22 September 15 Pentecost	29 September 16 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MINDEN HC and Sunday School Picnic	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MINDEN LR	10.00am HC Greenwood AELC Service
<b>Sunday, 15 September</b>		
READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-24;      1 Timothy 1:1-17;      Luke 15:1-10		
HYMNS: 391 317 418 (320 291) 604		
<b>Sunday, 22 September</b>		
READINGS: Amos 8:4-7;      1 Timothy 2:1-15;      Luke 16:1-15		
HYMNS: 19 372 374 (323 325) 454		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DOWNS PARISH

Tuesday, 10 September, 7.30pm. Men’s Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Darryl.

### MARBURG PARISH

Next Sunday, for our Sunday School picnic, please bring along a shared lunch.

### SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDIES:

20 September, Greenwood.

26 September, Lowood.

27 September, Aub/Oakey.