

Sunday 31 August 2025



SERMON TOPIC: Romans 3 - 8
BIBLE TEXT: Romans 7:14 - 8:17
PREACHER: Peter Williams
ELDER ON DUTY: Jacob du Toit
OFFERINGS:
1st Collection: The work of the Church
2nd Collection: World Transform

What does it mean to be tested by fire?

During this past week there has been many sad and disturbing events - both locally and abroad that surely stirred many of our hearts with sadness and deep thought. Even Speaking to families, friends and fellow congregation members, it is apparent that each of us, in some way or another have hardship, concerns, sorrow or pain.

I read once that if we all were to gift wrap our troubles and throw it into the air, you would prefer to catch your own.

As these somber thoughts have captivated my thoughts this week, 1 Peter 1:7 stirred my heart and captivated my thoughts.

In 1 Peter 1:3-12, the apostle Peter delivers an uplifting sermon about our salvation in Jesus Christ. Peter wants his audience to understand the importance of faith. He says that faith is "tested by fire" (verse 7, NKJV) in order to prove its genuineness.

In the same context, Peter says that, through faith, God protects us by His power until we receive the fullness of salvation and our eternal inheritance (verse 5). This "priceless inheritance" is secure and "beyond the reach of change or decay" (verse 4, NLT). We can rejoice, knowing that joy awaits us, explained Peter. But in the meantime, we "must endure many trials" (verse 6, NLT).

The believer's faith is "tested by fire" through trials for a specific purpose: "These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world" (1 Peter 1:7, NLT). Peter asserts that trials serve to authenticate our faith by deepening it and strengthening our commitment to Jesus.

Testing by fire is part of the metalworker's process to determine the quality of metal and remove all impurities. A goldsmith or silversmith must repeatedly heat the raw metals to extremely high temperatures until they melt. The contaminants rise to the surface in this liquid state and are skimmed off. Only after this refining process of separating the precious elements from the dross can a pure, valuable, and useful object be formed.

The Bible contains many references to God as the refiner who tests His people's hearts in the fire of adversity. When Peter penned his message, he may have had the suffering of Job in mind. Amid his horrendous ordeal, Job said of God by faith, "He knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold" (Job 23:10, NLT).

Through the prophet Isaiah, God spoke to the remnant of Israel, "I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering" (Isaiah 48:10, NLT).

To an end-times group of Jewish survivors, the Lord declared His purpose again: "I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure. I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God'" (Zechariah 13:9, NLT).

The Bible tells believers to live with the expectation of being tested by fire. If we are prepared to experience troubles in life, we won't be so shaken when they come. Solomon observed with matter-of-factness, "Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart" (Proverbs 17:3, NLT). The psalmist affirmed, "For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver" (Psalm 66:10).

If you find yourself asking, "Why God? Why are You allowing this suffering?"

Remember this:

being tested by fire will make you stronger and purer in faith as you remain steadfast through hardship. We can have hope and courage in the face of adversity if we understand that, through it all, God is working His purposes for our good (Romans 8:28). James held that a Christian who perseveres under trial is blessed "because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12).

Faith that stays true through every fiery test is more valuable than the finest, purest gold.



Our Giving, an Act of Worship

In our Church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering is for World Transform.

If you would like to support the work of you can do so by in Church giving - simply add your offering to the bag at the back of Church or by bank transfer -

BSB 063-167. A/C 1015-8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

This week's **PRAYER POINTS**

Our prayers must not be efforts to bend God to our will but to yield ourselves to His. Catherine Marshall

Personal **PRAYER POINTS**

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

Committing ourselves to honour God in all we do by obeying the words of Jesus in thought, word, deed, and attitude so that we may be worthy of whatever he has called us to and bring glory to him.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called. (Ephesians 4:1 CSB)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for giving us the knowledge and wisdom to know what is good and right in his sight.

Congregational **PRAYER POINTS**

Please pray for Steve and Maralin Miller, pray that the Lord will grant them his merciful healing so that they may be relieved of their suffering.

Please pray for the reading your bible course being run, pray that this will be of great benefit and blessing for all those who partake.

Please pray for our Sunday school teachers, give thanks for their willingness to serve in this way and pray that they may have all the resources they need as they play a vital role in the upbringing of our children.

Please continue to pray for our leadership as they seek new elders to serve on our behalf, pray that the Lord will guide them to those he has chosen for this office

Local & Global **PRAYER POINTS**

Please pray for our nation that the Lord will not give us what we deserve but that he will have mercy on us through the work of his Holy Spirit touching the hearts and lives of our citizens.

Please pray that peace will reign throughout the earth and that those who perpetuate conflict will have their mindset changed so that this will come about.

Please pray for the church in Nigeria.

More than 7,000 Nigerian Christians have been murdered in the first 220 days of this year. That's an average of 32 for every day of the year, so far. The killers have been terrorists from Islamic extremist groups and radicalised Fulani herder Muslim militias.

Nearly 8,000 Christians were violently seized and kidnapped by the same groups – usually for ransom. All this data has been verified by the Nigerian-based International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety). It is run by Christian criminologist and researcher Emeka Umeagbalasi. The organisation relies on what it deems to be credible local and foreign media reports, government accounts, reports from international rights groups and eyewitness accounts to compile the data.

It estimates tens of thousands of Nigerian Christians have been murdered in the last decade. Intersociety reports that “185,009 defenceless Nigerians” have been killed since 2009, including 125,009 Christians and 60,000 liberal Muslims.

Its data indicates 19,100 churches were razed during the same period when more than 1,100 Christian communities were pillaged and 600 Christian clerics abducted, including 250 Catholic priests and 350 pastors. Tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, more people have been displaced amid the rise of Islamic extremist groups like Boko Haram and Islamic State-affiliated extremists in the northeast of the country.

Intersociety also claims that Nigeria is providing a “safe haven” to at least 22 Islamic terror groups, several of which reportedly have links to Islamic State and the World Jihad Fund. The organisation began tracking violence against Christians and religious intolerance in Nigeria in 2010. “We have been following the patterns and trends, and the situation is getting worse,” Mr. Umeagbalasi told The Christian Post. Human rights advocates continue to criticise the Nigerian government’s inability to protect Christians. Persecution watchdog Open Doors reports that more than 16 million Christians have been driven from their homes across Africa in the past decade.

Henrietta Blyth, CEO of Open Doors UK, said: “We need justice, restoration, and protection for these communities. The world must wake up to this crisis.” Nigerian youth leader D’Young Mangut said: “People are being killed like chickens, and nothing is being done.” Mr. Umeagbalasi believes the Nigerian government is culpable, telling The Christian Post that it has not apprehended the perpetrators for many of the mass killings. He condemned the government for arresting victims of Fulani militias who attempted to defend themselves.

“For over a decade, atrocities against civilians in Nigeria have been downplayed or minimised,” according to Intersociety’s 136-page report. It said Islamic groups are working in concert to eradicate Christianity and indigenous cultural traditions across Nigeria, with the long-term goal of imposing a caliphate or sultanate in which political authority and religious leadership are fused under Islamic law. There is precedent for such a model.

The Sokoto Caliphate was established in 1804. At its height, it controlled most of what is now northern Nigeria and parts of neighbouring countries, enforcing Islamic Sharia law and governing through a network of emirs. The British dismantled the caliphate’s sovereign authority in 1903, but its religious and cultural influence endures to this day. The White House has this month pledged to take action following the wave of brutal attacks on Christians in Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique.

A spokesperson said: “The Trump administration condemns this horrific violence against Christians.” A US State Department official added: “Religious freedom is a moral and national security imperative.” Addressing how the United States and other Western governments can address the issue, Mr. Umeagbalasi said the US State Department must include Nigeria on its Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) list. It carries with it the possibility of sanctions and other deterrent measures. Nigeria was on the CPC list during President Trump’s first term, but the Biden administration removed it.

Source: Vision Christian Media

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Tuesday the 2nd of September at
7.30pm

TERM 3 **2025**

SUPERDASH

25
JUL

SOCIAL : ESCAPE ROOM

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

8
AUG

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

10
AUG

STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ GEELONG CRC

22
AUG

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

5
SEP

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

19
SEP

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

Term 3 2025

YOUNG ADULTS

23 July	YA Bible study ^a
6 Aug	YA Bible study ^a
10 Aug	SYS* (Geelong)
17 Aug	YA Social
20 Aug	YA Bible study ^a
3 Sep	YA Bible study ^a
13 Sep	YA Social
17 Sep	YA Bible study ^a

Series: Jesus the game changer

a — Location: 70-72 Ennismore Crescent, Park Orchards
Time: 7:30-9:30pm

* — State Youth Service

News from the SOLOMON ISLAND WORK GROUP

Thanks and appreciation

The Katova High School planning committee would like to thank everyone who supported us financially with donations, and for the army of prayers that supported our team. We would also like to thank the many generous people who donated so many items as well.

We now have 8 completed classrooms, 4 staff houses, three dormitory blocks, two ablutions blocks and running clean water at the Katova High School site. The local Katova High School committee is completing the construction of more ablutions and dormitory blocks and the kitchen and dining hall right now. We are pleased to announce that the school has commenced with Grade 7 this year with another Grade being added each year in the foreseeable future.



Project Co-ordinator Rod Peet
with Solomon Islands Prime
Minister Hon Jerry Manele

The cash budget for the 2025 project exceeded AUD280,000. This was raised through generous support of our churches and the Australian community.

Finally, general elections were held in the Solomon Islands prior to our trip and we are pleased to announce that the Honourable Jerry Manele is now Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands. Mr Manele is actually from Samasodu Village and a good friend to many of our team members. We now communicate directly with the leader of the country.

If you are interested in further information, would like to join a future team, or would like to contribute financially to this project then please reach out to the coordinator, Rod Peet, on email repeat777@hotmail.com or Phone 0412 058 848.

Financial contributions are tax deductible and we have many financial needs that still need to be met so if you can support us financially that would be appreciated.

Dates for our 2026 Project have been set and are;

Sunday 5 July to Sunday 19 July, 2026

To God be the Glory!

Rod Peet

Katova High School Project Coordinator (Australia)

An update from the **REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE**

A great many things have been happening at RTC over the last couple of months.

the RTC

Board had just taken to accept an offer to sell the RTC Waurin Ponds campus as part of a strategy agreed in late 2024 to consolidate more of RTC's teaching, academic and administrative activities into the Melbourne CBD.

The background to that move is outlined in the letter, and a copy is attached for your information. We would be grateful if you would make that news widely known in your congregation, and to join with us in both public and private prayer for the Lord's leading and blessing on the further decisions to be taken and the considerable workload which RTC now faces over the next 6-12 months. You may also be aware that RTC Support Services General

Manager, Chris

Bongers, has been unwell and unable to fully manage his role for some time, and in May Chris decided to resign from the position. Please pray for Chris and his family for both the recovery of his health and for God's leading in their decisions for the future. In the light of Chris's departure we have decided to change and simplify the RTC organisation structure, and we are currently in the process of recruiting a new RTC Business Manager. We have engaged a professional Executive Search Consultant to assist us in this process, and are now assessing a short list of potential candidates, but we'd also welcome adding to the short list if you are aware of anyone in your congregation with relevant business skills who may be interested in and available for such an assignment. Attached is a brief Position Description on the new Business Manager role.

Finally, a vacancy will also soon become available at RTC for a Finance Administrator, and we would be very keen to recruit someone from within RTC's network of supporting churches to fill that role. A very brief advertisement for that position is attached. Please publicise it in your congregation, and if you know of anyone who could be qualified and available please encourage them to consider it.

We thank God for His extraordinary providential leading of RTC through the decisions of the last six months, and earnestly seek your continued prayer for the RTC Board, Faculty, staff and students in all these matters.

Positions available at REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



Finance Administrator

Part-time position for a skilled Christian to join the staff of Reformed Theological College in Melbourne

RTC is at present relocating much of its activity from Waurin Ponds (Geelong) into the Melbourne CBD, and a position has become available for an experienced bookkeeper and finance administrator to work part time in RTC's Melbourne-based Business Support team.

Responsibilities of the role, using Xero accounts systems, include:

- Accounts receivable, including billings, account administration & collections
- Accounts payable
- Payroll processing and administration
- Bank and General Ledger reconciliations
- Monthly financial reporting to Trial Balance level

The position is for 2 or 3 days per week, and will report to the RTC Business Manager.

There is flexibility in work hours and work location - at RTC's Melbourne campus at least one day per week with further work arrangements, including WFH, negotiable.

After a short probationary period, the role will be a permanent part time position under the Educational Services (Post-Secondary Education) Award.

There is scope for the right person to grow their skills, and to grow the job, to include a greater role in financial and operational performance reporting and/or HR administration.

As well as using your sound financial and administrative skills, as Finance Administrator you will be a member of a team of Christians who are dedicated to the work of RTC in training men and women for gospel ministries in churches and Christian organisations throughout Australia and New Zealand. If that doesn't excite you, this position would not suit you at all. But if it does, you will find yourself surrounded by RTC's faculty, staff and students who are learning together and living out their Christian faith in a vibrant Christian environment.

If this description sounds like you, call or eMail Tina Wang to arrange an initial discussion with RTC Principal, Phillip Scheepers.

Phone – (03) 5244 8600
eMail - twang@rtc.edu.au

RTC Resource Centre
125 Pigeons Rd Waurin Ponds VIC 3216
All correspondence to resource centre

RTC Melbourne Campus
Level 3, 221 Queen St Melbourne VIC 3000

P 03 5244 2955 F 03 5243 6055
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ACN 087 541 884 ABN 21 087 541 884

Position description

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Reformed Theological College

Position Description

RTC Business Manager

Position Outline

- A full-time position, reporting direct to the RTC Principal
- 'Dotted line' access to Chair of RTC and Chairs of RTC Board Committees for liaison, counsel and sounding board purposes
- 4-5 staff report to the position

Chief Accountabilities

- RTC strategic and operational planning, including annual budgets and capital works programs
- Chief Finance Officer with accountability for funding; banking; insurances; financial policies and controls; internal & external accounting & reporting including liaison with Supporting Denomination finance officers, RTC auditors, AUT and relevant regulators
[Supported by Finance Administrator]
- Chief Information Officer, including for data and records management; data & system security; authorising IT system changes; contracts for IT and telecommunication services
[Supported by Systems & Technology Officer]
- Oversee office management & admin processes
[Supported by Office Assistant]
- HR/Employee policies & processes, including recruitment, appraisal, remuneration, payroll, superannuation, award & other legal compliance
[Supported by Office Assistant; Finance Administrator]
- Liaise closely with RTC Principal on all aspects of the running of RTC facilities, especially student-facing facilities for teaching both on campus and on line.
[Supported especially by Systems & Technology Officer; Office Assistant & Property Supervisor]
- Support RTC Principal and Faculty on design, promotion and running of events by liaising and contract management
[Supported especially by Marketing & Promotions Officer]
- Oversee student accommodation facilities, including RTC-sponsored share-house and apartments, either RTC-owned or supporter-owned.
[Supported by Office Assistant]
- Provide Company Secretary functional support, either directly or through staff, for Boards, committees and Member communications
- Co-ordinate legal issues, including contracting; liaison with legal counsel as needed

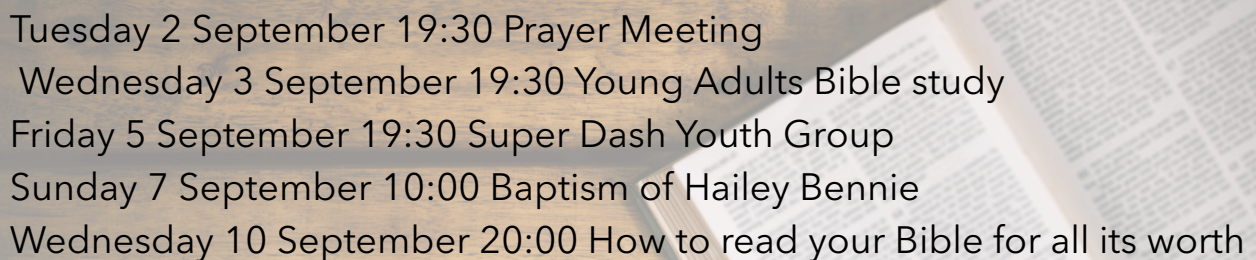
If you feel you are or know of the right candidate for this position, please contact the Director Ken Dean at dean.ken@bigpond.net.au

SAFE CHURCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Classis is looking for a suitable person from amongst its churches to be its representative on the Safe Church Advisory Committee (SCAC).

If anyone is interested and wants to know more about being a rep, please email David Timmins at: classis.maroondah.clerk@gmail.com

Upcoming events OUR CHURCH CALENDER



Tuesday 2 September 19:30 Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 3 September 19:30 Young Adults Bible study
Friday 5 September 19:30 Super Dash Youth Group
Sunday 7 September 10:00 Baptism of Hailey Bennie
Wednesday 10 September 20:00 How to read your Bible for all its worth

Dining room mission HOW TO HELP

The next Dining room mission is Tuesday 23 September.

If you would like to contribute with a cooked meal or pantry staples please contact Joy van Veen

Discussion QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be “freed from the tyranny of sin,” yet still struggle with sin daily?
2. What does it mean to set your mind on the things of the Spirit rather than the flesh?
3. How can the church community support one another in the ongoing struggle with sin?
4. How do we cooperate with God in the process of sanctification?
5. In what ways does baptism illustrate being dead to sin and alive to God?
6. What encouragement do we find in knowing that lapses into sin are consistent with being a growing Christian?
7. What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us through our struggles?
8. What does it mean that we are children and heirs of God?
9. Why is suffering part of the Christian journey, according to Romans 8?
10. How does the “satellite view” perspective help us endure struggles in daily life?

Romans 3-8 Structure

Part 1 – our status before God

- Salvation is made possible through the death of Jesus
- Salvation is received through faith in Jesus
- Therefore we have peace with God through Jesus
- It follows that we are now freed from the tyranny of sin

Part 2 – Reality Check

- However, we have an inner struggle with sin (in this life)
- Enter the Spirit, to cement a new relationship as God’s children,
- and guide us through the struggle, looking forward to the fulfilment of God’s purposes.

Sermon NOTES

Bible passage:

Date:



Something
that shines
from the
passage



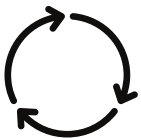
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



Personal
application
for your life



Theme of
passage



How does it
fit with other
passages in
the Bible



Who will you
tell about
what you have
learnt?

Helping HANDS

	31 August	7 September	14 September
Preacher	Peter Williams	Colin Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Jacob	Martin	Peter W
Prayer Leader	Jacob	Martin	Inge
Music Leader	Mia	Brendina	Inge
Children's Talk	Mia	Nicky	Lize
Bible Reader	Steve	-	Mari
Sound	Cassie	Nic	Nina
Visuals	Isaac	Ene	Visuals
Broadcasting	James	Pieter	Christo
Sunday School	Ilze, Lize B, Nici	Sarah, Lize B, Izelle	Ilze, Lize S, Nici
Coffee	Lynette Pretorius & Nelleke Arnold	Herman & Heather Linde	Theron Family

Upcoming BIRTHDAYS



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Alexandre Theron 2 September
Jenna Miller 3 September
Johan Schachtner 4 September
Adriaan van Gent 5 September
Danielle Bezuidenhout 7 September
Herman Dyer 10 September
Cassie van Veen 12 September
Ina du Plessis 14 September
Luke Corney 14 September
Macy Miller 16 September
Suzanne Nel 16 September

Who Should I Contact?

Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	pastor@wpcrc.org.au
Chairman of Session:	Peter Williams	0431 500 006	session@wpcrc.org.au
Community Engagement	Jenna Miller	0403 650 398	
Church Administrator:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Deacons:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Music Ministry:	Mia Van Wyk	0420 817 800	
Sound & Visuals:	Cassie Van Veen	0499 230 872	
Children's Talk:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Sunday School:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Youth Group:	Kasha Schubert	0450 012 177	youth@wpcrc.org.au
Young Adults:	Michael van der Merwe	0456 960 424	
Growth Groups:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	
Prayer Chain:	Herman Linde	0411 069 808	
Facilities & Maintenance:	Dale Reed	0412 216 300	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au