



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

19th April, 2021

Three Degrees of Believing: John 12:37ff

This section brings to a conclusion the essence of Jesus' ministry as recorded by John so that people *"might believe that Jesus was the Son of God and that, believing, they might have life in his name"*. It highlights three degrees of believing.

Determined unbelief. There were those who, despite overwhelming and undisputed evidence, refused to believe. They were determined not to. They knew the truth and its effect but they would not contemplate any radical change. It was deliberate unbelief – a danger that we, too, may be guilty of.

Wavering belief. Others did believe but they were wary of the implication of any open stand. Fearing peer- and public-ridicule they succumbed to the intensity of opposition. This kind of 'half (secret) belief' is insufficient. Yet we may be equally guilty of not taking a stand, choosing the praise of man – which is a snare – rather than the fear of God - which is the beginning of wisdom.

Saving Belief. The rallying call was to 'believe and be saved' for there is a dire consequence to inadequate believing – judgement and doom. Specifically, there has to be trust in Jesus as our Saviour and the only Source of life-giving redemptive illumination that comes by hearing and doing his words.

Where do we stand in relation to these three categories? For they apply today just as much as they did then. Mercifully, Jesus did not come to damn, but to save.

While the morning service spoke of failure to believe despite overwhelming evidence the evening series introduced the inspiring story of deep faith when *"all things seem against me"* as told in the Book of Job. Both sermons are available in recorded form on the church website (www.allanderchurch.ork.uk) and on (<https://www.facebook.com/allanderevan gelicalchurch>)

Sunday Services

Now that we are back in the church for both services on Sundays it has been encouraging to see such a good turn-out. Yesterday, as well as continuing with the studies in John's Gospel (Chapter 13) a new series was launched in the evening looking at the Book of Job.

Bread of Heaven

The picture given in Exodus of the children of Israel being fed with manna from heaven each day has inspired many over the years. Recently, Margaret Stewart collected her 'basket' of manna and came up with the following:

M	Shows Mercy
A	Offers Adoption
N	Gives New Life
N	Promises Nearness
A	Promises Answers

*"Bread of heaven,
Feed me, 'til I want no more"*

Christian Institute

Nigel Kenny of The Christian Institute shared with us on Tuesday night at the Prayer meeting various items which encouraged and challenged us about the

need to be vigilant concerning what is happening in our society. The Hate Bill has been amended for the better but there are challenges ahead on transgender issues and the right to believe and practise Christian morals. Literature to help with considered voting is available for anyone interested, including Election Briefing Guidelines for use in deciding how to vote responsibly as Christians concerned for the welfare of our society.

More reflections

Encouraged by Betty Mackay's reflections over the last two weeks, Allyson Flett shares the following, starting with a note of thanks.

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers after my fall. God is good and my knee is healing nicely. It is so great to have Christian friends who can pray for one another. Blessings to each one of you and sincere thanks to you all.

And, then, her thoughts when she says:
Having read Betty's lockdown report, here are a few of my thoughts on it

I found it very interesting. It is so easy to fill our days without Him and do other things, not read his word or spend a quiet time with him.

I have moaned about the isolation not seeing anyone. I've had down days often, I still do, wishing we could see loved ones but can't.

Finally,

With the passing of HRH the Prince Philip, we have seen the media saturated with various assessments of his life. All kinds of Royal experts and commentators have said their piece on what kind of man, husband, father and leader he was. Before his body has been laid to rest, many want their opinion of him to be known. It is quite a challenge to think, 'what will people say about me when I'm gone?' but the more important question is what words will greet me when I'm gone? His Royal Highness has experienced the same process as every human ever born, as it is appointed unto man once to die....and after death the judgment. In that moment what will really matter is not what the world thought of us, but did we live to hear God say 'well done'.

John Macleod

But, for me the prayer meetings in the mornings and on Tuesdays nights, as well as the Bible study on Thursdays evenings, have been my life saver. They have been very uplifting and encouraging to feel God's presence among us and to hear prayers answered.

*When we pray God listens,
When we listen God talks,
When we believe God walks.*

I feel so much better after them. God has been so good to us being able to meet and pray by Zoom and feel the unity of God's people praying together.

Pray for:

Anna Gardner as she comes to terms with the sudden and devastating loss of her devoted sister, Netta. The funeral will take place on 28th April by invitation only because of ongoing Covid restrictions. Inga, not keeping too well and yet heavily involved in translation and training with Wycliffe in Oaxaca in Mexico. And, PTL, better news of John Cattanaach

Romania

Thanks to David Jack and his colleagues, a truck-load left Scotland on Saturday bound with supplies for Romania, including contributions from Allander. Another victory over lockdown. Pray for its safe passage.