



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

14th February, 2022

Sunday Sermon: What think ye of Christ?

Having read the prophecies in Isaiah 55 and Matthew 12: 18-21 we were directed by Jim Gourley to the key question that Jesus posed to those who encountered him in the Gospels: What do you think of Christ? That is a critical question that each one has to answer today.

When looking at what God thought of Christ there is abundant evidence that God saw him as 'my servant' sent to be God's means of redeeming the world, approving of his work and ministry. Jesus saw himself as the Son of God sent by the Father to fulfil that task of redemption, to go to the Cross on our behalf; and be raised from the dead, victorious. Right through his life he was conscious of that divine calling and mission.

Others, both during his time on earth and subsequently, thought of him as a 'good man', someone who could meet their need, and save them. When his earthy ministry was completed and the message proclaimed as the gospel, others - like Paul, Peter and John - believed him totally and entrusted their lives to him; as others in subsequent centuries have done finding in him their own personal saviour: none more so than John Bunyan as expressed in the Pilgrim's Progress. Or, Samuel Rutherford and many others.

That leaves us. What do we think? We have to make up our minds. We have to make that life changing commitment of believing in Him as the One whom God sent into the world to save us from our sins and to bring us eternal life. Or not, and suffer the consequences.

Mission of the Month

This month's Mission of the Month offering goes to Sam Gordon and the work of Truth for Today. Sam has been involved in both radio and in-person Bible teaching for many years and more recently is involved in providing help to smaller churches in several different nations. Sam is speaking at the monthly Yoker Evangelical Church Saturday afternoon Conference on Saturday 5th March at 2 pm and will be with us, taking our services on Sunday 6th March.

Sunday School

The Sunday School meets each Sunday morning at 10 30 in the upstairs hall. It is encouraging to see it operating again since November after quite a long period of absence due to there being so few children. Now, the numbers are up to 23 children with an average of 10 attending regularly ranging from Pre-school to P7 – including two sets of twins. Led by Carol Macleod and Jing, with valuable help from some of the other ladies, the morning is spent looking at different Scripture stories, such as The Lord's Prayer and even the Book of Job. They play games and watch videos to back up the Scripture lessons. Having, last year, read Scripture and taking part by singing at the Christmas service, they are now hoping to be able to contribute to the Easter services in April. We older ones are amazed at their boundless energy during 'refreshments' after their Sunday School and pray for them – and the helpers and the parents - as these children grow up in this godless world with all its challenges.

Scripture Union

Moirá Shaw writes:

I'm part of the SU Action Group for this area. We have a weekend camp organised for 11-13 March '22. As there are no school SU groups running just now, could you please promote this weekend to children and families in your fellowship? This link gives all the details plus booking form: www.suholidays.org.uk/WWDU3a

Many thanks.

It is good to know that ministries like SU, now have the prospect of a gradual return to 'normality' and the possibility of resuming regular activities. In the meantime, the population will have changed and habits – and recommendations from key contacts – changed. Please pray for them and all the other local agencies who have faithfully been 'good stewards' during the lockdown and now face the challenge of opening up again.

Elders Meeting Today

The Elders meet this morning to consider further the way forward for the church and its witness. Please pray for them as they carry this responsibility and also give thanks for all the hard work they undertake in practical matters.

Web site

The church website, like any website, provides helpful information about the church and its activities, especially for any 'outsiders' who may be looking for information. However, despite fairly careful monitoring, it soon gets out of date or may miss vital information. It is proposed to undertake a major overhaul of the site and its information. Any feedback or comment would be welcomed to help inform this exercise and help in its reformulation. Please get in touch with Jim Gourley.

Prayer

As well as remembering the many who appreciate prayer, give thanks for blessing and increased numbers and opportunities in many of the church activities. Warmth, welcome and friendship are human attributes and can be practised at will. But spiritual challenge is the work of God.

Bible Study

In spite of being a complex book Deuteronomy is proving to be quite a source of blessing. The various insights from reading the chapters last week were very encouraging. We continue this week with looking at Chapters 13 – 18.

Finally,

Proverbs 21 v 1 says that

"The King's heart is in the hand of the Lord". In Exodus 9 v 1-7 Moses went to Pharaoh with God's Word saying, *"Let my people go, that they may serve Me"*. God told Pharaoh through his servant Moses, that if he refused to obey God's Word, then all the domestic animals of Egypt would die the following day, but the Hebrews' cattle would be spared. Pharaoh didn't listen. The next day, however, Pharaoh discovered that all the animals of Egypt had indeed died. A servant was sent to Goshen who informed Pharaoh that the Hebrews' cattle were still alive. Despite the tangible evidence that God's Word is true, Pharaoh hardened his heart. Acts 16 v 14 tells us of a woman called Lydia whose heart God opened.

Let us pray that our hearts will ever be opened to the Word of God and be obedient to it.

Sandy Allan