



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

14th November, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Esther 9: 1 - 17

In a service shortened by the need to finish early for the Milngavie Community Remembrance Service in the Precinct, which John conducted, continuing the series on the Book of Esther appropriately provided a summary of the **Spiritual lessons to be learned from warfare.**

In the story so far the tables had been truly turned. The earlier part shows the relentless opposition to the Jews, led by Haman, and focused on Mordecai's defiance. That culminated in a decree for the total destruction of all Jews in the Province, orchestrated by Haman.

However, with Esther "*come into the kingdom for such a time as this*" those evil plans were reversed and Esther granted her wish to see her people spared when she found favour with the king who listened to her plea.

That unexpected turn of events shows that, whatever the circumstances, **God protects His people**, especially when they acknowledge Him and seek His face. The day of threatened destruction becomes the door of deliverance. Even martyrdom is an occasion for God's glory to be manifested.

Consequently, **we should not fear the enemy yet evil must not be tolerated** so His people work towards righteousness. Scripture warns clearly about standing against the foe. That should be done in love and with grace, certainly not with vengeance, for "**Vengeance belongs to the Lord**". Bold actions are not for our benefit but for His glory.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Sandy and Janice Allan as they celebrate their Golden Wedding and thank God for all His goodness to them over the years.

Mission of the Month

We continue supporting Blythswood Care this month with our financial contributions which can be made by depositing money in the boxes at the back of the church or transferring moneys to the church account suitably labelled so that they are allocated correctly.

Christian Institute Week of Prayer

This week has been designated by the Christian Institute as a week of prayer. With national issues what they are and a relentless push towards secularism and the side-lining of any Christian morals it is an urgent matter that we pray earnestly, as exhorted to do by Albert Mawhinney at the recent Faith Mission Rally. Details of topics and issues are available from the Christian Institute on their website.

SGA Prayer

The monthly prayer meeting for the Slavic Gospel Association will be held in Margaret Russell's home (53 Roman Road, Bearsden, G61 2SG) on **Friday, 25th November at 7 30pm** and not on the 18th. Apologies for the misinformation last week. .

Bible Study

The Bible Study will break after next week and resume again on 12th January, 2023

(DV). We continue this week looking at Chapters 10 and 11.

Morning Prayer meetings

The Morning Prayer Times will continue each Wednesday and Friday morning from 9 until 9 30am until Friday 23rd December and then start again on Wednesday 11th January 2023.

The Tuesday evening Church Prayer Meeting will continue each Tuesday at 8 pm as usual.

Annual Church Meeting

The annual Church Meeting will be held on Thursday 1st December at 7 30pm in the Back Hall.

This year the format may change slightly when a time of testimony and sharing will follow the formal and legal aspects of the meeting. It can be some kind of spiritual health-check for the church and for ourselves. Refreshments will be provided at the meeting.

Church Library

The enhanced and enlarged Church lending Library is now open and available for use, thanks to Jim Flett and Paul Bartlett's carpentry skills and Colin Wilson's work in categorising and arranging the books. Situated at the back

of the Entrance Hall it contains a range of books to help with spiritual growth and to broaden our horizons. Do, please, make good use of it. Donations of good books are always welcome.

Ladies' Meeting

The Ladies meet again this Thursday at 2pm when they look forward to another afternoon of fellowship, refreshments, singing, and a talk from June Adams.

Blythwood Shoe Boxes

The number of Shoe Boxes delivered to Blythwood Care was 46. Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal.

We will advise at the end of November the amount received in cash donations.

Prayer

We continue to pray for Terry Gallagher and Joan as well as others in the fellowship facing health issues, loneliness and challenges at this time. And remember Betty Mackay in Dubai (a real contrast to the Western Isles!) as she will be there over the next several weeks. And remember the church's various outreach activities among the young folk: Sunday School, Toddlers, Hashtag, etc; and the Café and Sunday services at this time.

Finally,

During my recent visit to North Carolina, I was reminded of the well-coined expression that America and Britain are two nations divided by a common language. It is remarkable that despite reputedly both speaking English there were times where neither I nor the person I was communicating with, knew what the other was saying. (Harris accent probably didn't help!) It made me think of the problem we have in the wider church. We use the same phrases, often sing the same hymns and have many of the same traditions but do we all mean the same thing? Professor Howard Marshall used to teach his students that "a word means what the author (speaker) meant it to mean." This is why it is so important that in coming to the Bible we really want to know what God meant when he gave these inspired words to His servant, and not just simply the best opinions of men.

John Macleod