



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

16th August, 2021

Sunday Sermon: Genesis 4: 1-10

The next question in this series of *Questions God asks*, like the first (*Adam, where are you?*) is not because God does not know but is intended as a prompt to evoke the recipient's understanding.

In this instance the question opens up the issue of what Cain has done, and why, in killing his brother. There is a sequence to the story in that each of Adam's two sons had prepared and presented an offering to the Lord, assumedly as an act of intrinsic worship. We don't know, but subsequent Scripture makes clear that, of the two offerings, Abel's was regarded as better than Cain's. The key is in how Cain responded to that fact. Illustrating the truth that *"sin is crouching at the door"* Cain becomes angry, devises a scheme to get Cain on his own and, secretly, kills him. It was a sinful act arising from the fact that a faulty relationship with God leads to a hostile relationship with his brother.

But, God knows and challenges him, following that up with the specific supplementary question: *What have you done?* Previously, during the angry period, the situation could have been reversed, but not now. Cain allowed his poor relationship with God to manifest itself in fatal animosity against his brother.

For us, a right relationship with God, through Christ's sacrifice, is the secret of being able to *"Love one another"*.

Peace (Thanks to Margaret Stewart)
Perfect Ease At Christ's Expense

People and Prayer

David Jack made a surprise appearance on the Zoom Prayer meeting last Tuesday where he shared with us the latest news. Following further investigation it appears that the cancer in the hip has spread extensively. Consequently, there does not appear to be any curative treatment, only palliative care. David's calmness in sharing this news was amazing as he bore wonderful testimony in giving *"a reason for the hope that is within him"*. Our prayers are with him in these critical days.

More pleasing news came from Donald Macleod. Following his recent operation for the removal of a tumour, he has now received very positive results and been advised that no further treatment will be required.

Mary Linton is making good recovery from her injuries and is able to join in – and participate – in the various Zoom events.

In Mexico, Inga is planning to go to South Dakota for a double vaccination and more treatment for her dental problems before returning to Oaxaca where there is deep concern for a colleague, Karina, seriously ill with Covid.

Others continue to *"lean on the Lord"* such as George and Margaret Cowan, Christine and Jack Harvey and Joyce Kyle. And, this Wednesday will be the funeral of Irene Carmichael's father, Tom, at Yoker.

Each of these is grateful for the prayers of the fellowship as they pass through these difficult times and prove that *"underneath are the Everlasting arms"* (Deut. 33: 27)

Welcome

As preparations are being made to resume the Hashtag activities, and Toddler Time, it was good to be introduced to, and to welcome, Simon and Hannah Snodgrass who will be helping with the #One2Seven and other Children's work over the coming months.

Bible Study

The second of our summer Bible Studies will be held by Zoom this Thursday at 7 30pm. It will focus on the final two chapters in Leviticus – 26 and 27.

Coming Events and new Arrangements

*Some of our midweek meetings will be relocated to the church from Tuesday 24th (Prayer meeting) but will still be accessible by Zoom for the time being.

*The new Drop-In will start on Wednesday 1st September from 10 30 to 12 30

*#One2Seven starts at 6 30 on that same evening.

*The new series of Bible Study will resume on Thursday 2nd September at 7 30pm; initially on Zoom but may move into the church at a later date.

*Mother and Toddlers will start up on Tuesday 7th September from 9 30 to 11 00am.

Week of Prayer 22 -29 August

As things begin to "open up" and more (and new!) church activities begin we want to dedicate the week from 22nd August as a week of prayer to commit our lives individually and congregationally to be: 1) Aligned with God's Priorities, 2) Accommodating God's Presence and 3) Accomplishing His Purposes. A prayer guide will be issued on 22nd August to give guidance for each day as we pray. This can be requested by email.

Finally

This week's 'Finally' comes from Sue Huggins, Inga's co-worker with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Oaxaca, Mexico.

The continuing relevance of God's Word for all of us today is found in the following verse:

"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Romans 15:4

This summary statement is an apt reminder that the record of Scripture is available for our benefit. We're not left alone to flounder around wondering where the guidelines are as to how to live amidst many competing voices, how to go about our daily activities, and what the will of God is. The Bible includes painful examples of what not to do and the searing consequences of disobedience, along with positive episodes of men and women who made good decisions in alignment with God's will. There is teaching and history and consolation, along with many other helpful passages to guide us. And the Word points toward hope, that there is more than just the current physical life.

This verse also serves as an impetus as to why Bible translation is so important. It is crucial to provide God's Word to other people groups who have no access to Scripture, so that they, too, may be able to tap into the many benefits of God's precious Word.

Sue Huggins