



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

20th February, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Romans 1: 1-7

Taking the current preoccupation with identity as a frame of reference, John introduced a study of Romans under the title of **Knowing Who You Are** as represented in these opening verses of Paul's letter to the Romans.

Writing to a church he had not yet visited nor was familiar with in terms of any problems, Paul begins by **Clarifying his own personal identity**.

He describes himself as a **slave**. That is not what we traditionally associate with the concept a slavery: bondage, oppression, cruelty, etc. Rather Paul is a willing bondservant, one who gladly submits himself to the service of Another. As such he is called to be an **apostle** – one who has been sent with a message; a task that is so all consuming that he is '**set apart**' dedicated to that very task. Later Paul explains that he is a debtor to the Romans: he has something that he needs to deliver to them - the message of salvation.

The purpose of such a mission is that they can be **called to a true spiritual identity** themselves by believing the message – responding to that message – the gospel of Christ, through the 'obedience which comes from faith', with all the implications of such a response.

That message is based on the **centrality of Christ's identity** as the One who was made a man, taking the punishment of our sins on the Cross, yet declared to be the Son of God by being raised Victor over sin and death. By it, I can be a Christ-ian.

This Week

Our regular activities continue this week on Tuesday, with Toddlers, resuming in the morning after a break, and Prayer Meeting at 8pm; Drop-In Café from 10 30 to 12 30 and Hashtag / Youth Challenge at 6 30pm on Wednesday; Ladies Meeting and Bible Study on Thursday; and Zoom prayer times from 9 to 9 30 on Wednesday and Friday. John Macleod will take both services on Sunday.

Ladies Meeting

The speaker at the Ladies Meeting on Thursday afternoon from 2 to 3 pm will be Helena Bryce.

Mission of the Month

Street Connect – who reported on their developing work two Sundays ago are our Mission of the Month for February.

Pray for:

Several folk are enduring challenges of different kinds in these days. We remember them in prayer and trust that, whether it is medical concerns or other situations, they will know the Lord's enabling in their varied experiences. Young Larry Malkin faces major surgery on both legs to improve walking. Margaret Russell has not been well for a few weeks now and is still undergoing investigation. There is also a request for Margaret Craig's daughter, Lorna, due for a scan on Monday; and for Inga needing strength for her heavy programme. Remember our house-bound and those in Care Homes, such as Joyce Kyle, Jack Harvey, Margaret

Stewart and others, especially those who care for them.

Romania Packing Day

Our long-standing commitment to help the Children for Christ charity in Romania depends on generosity and volunteer help. The next packing session is on Friday morning, 3rd March at 10 30am.

Turkey / Syria Earthquake Appeal

The news from southern Turkey and northern Syria has touched many and has already evoked heartfelt responses in prayer and other ways.

One such response is reminiscent of what happened in the early church where individuals contributed of their own resources for local relief purposes.

During lockdown, Jean Malkin produced a number of landscape paintings which have now been framed. These are being donated to the Turkey/Syria appeal and will be available on display in the church for the next week or so with a view to their being converted to cash. Anyone may take one and, if they so wish, make a donation to the Appeal. All the proceeds will go directly to the Appeal through the Barnabas Fund as from Allander folk. Donations should be determined by the individual (cash only, please, to avoid banking and accounting complications)

Finally,

My recent trip to London included a visit to Wesley's chapel and home in Islington. It was incredible to be in a place so steeped in religious history that was integral to such a powerful move of God in a previous time. Across the road from the Chapel is the graveyard where many spiritual giants, like Isaac Watts and John Bunyan, are buried along with many others whom God used mightily in the past. Sadly, speaking to some of the present leadership in the church, I realised that today's work in that church is so far removed from what stirred the heart of the Wesley brothers and their peers. Whilst that fact can be greatly discouraging, we find hope in remembering that the God the Wesleys served is still God today; and He is the one who once challenged a disobedient and dispirited people with the words: *"Return to me and I will return to you"*

John Macleod

and placed in an envelope in the receptacle provided. In the event of not enough ready cash being available at first viewing, pictures can be reserved and procured later in the week or the following Sunday.

Faith Mission Rally

The next FM Rally will be on Friday 3rd March at 7 30pm.

Meetings in the Weeks ahead

Cornhill are offering a conference workshop to help those concerned with sharing the Word. Entitled: A day of Bible-Handling Skills – God's Word in my Hands: His Word in My Hands - is being run at The Tron Church in Bath Street on Saturday 4th March from 9 30 to 4pm. Further information and booking at www.cornhill.scot/conferences

Echoes Conference

Echoes International will hold their Annual Scottish Mission Conference on Saturday 11th March 2023 at Woodhill Evangelical Church in Bishopbriggs. This is a good opportunity to hear what God is doing in various situations across the world and the role Scottish missionaries – like Inga – are playing in it.

Details in Entrance Hall of Church.