



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

21st November, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Esther 9b and 10

The Book of Esther tells a remarkable story in a unique book. Tracing the sovereign work of God while the Jews were in a land of captivity, the narrative does not mention the name of God, *per se*, but clearly outlines His sovereign acts through people and events 'on the ground' as it were. From the evil designs of Haman in orchestrating the proposed annihilation of the Jewish people, which dominates the early chapters, the situation is overturned with Esther gaining favour and securing from the King a complete reversal of that plan. Destruction was turned to deliverance. That triumph was to be remembered in the Feast of Purim, still observed to this day.

Focusing on **Final Insights from Esther**
John pointed out that:

- *Deliverance is to be celebrated.*
Reflection on what has achieved salvation is a matter of joy and praise. Yet,
- *Victory needs humility.* It is not due to human achievement but to God's saving work. "*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God*".
- "*The sun that melts butter hardens clay.*" Response to that grace can mean acceptance - or rejection.
- God honours his servants whose motives and actions are right.
- Grace transforms situations and people, because
- God is in sovereign control. That gives us great assurance as we trust in Him.

SGA Prayer Meeting

A reminder that the monthly Prayer meeting for the Slavic Gospel Association will be held at 7 30pm this Friday in Margaret Russell's home at 53 Roman Road, Bearsden, G61 2SG

Bible Study

This Thursday marks the last of the Thursday Bible Studies for this autumn. By then we will have reached Chapter 12 and the end of the 'local' fellowship and outreach and where the believers were first called Christians.

What a lovely appellation emphasising that their one universal message was: Christ.

Thanks to everyone who has diligently 'done their homework' in reading and reflecting on the chapters each week. The contributions that have been made are most helpful.

Mission of the Month

Forty six boxes have been given to Blythswood Care and are now on their way to needy areas in Eastern Europe. Blythswood is our Mission of the Month so there is still opportunity to make any further financial contribution through the Missionary Offering Box at the back of the church.

This week's Activities

These activities continue this week before scaling down next month. Attendances have been very encouraging with: Sunday School very busy; Toddlers still having a waiting list; and Hashtag running a

Secondary Age session as well as the One2Seven Club.

The Wednesday Drop-In Café attracts a number of regulars as well as a few casual callers.

All of these activities are so dependent on volunteers who service them. They, in turn, value support by way of prayer and encouragement.

We have two visiting preachers taking this Sunday's services. James Fraser of Release International will speak in the morning and Greg Ferguson of Yoker Evangelical Church in the evening, when communion will be celebrated.

To the Glory of God Clean Church

Visitors to the church often comment on the excellent condition of the building and its maintenance. Much of that is due to our faithful and willing Cleaner, Emma Young, as well as to others who discreetly attend to a range of practical matters, unseen but not unnoticed. Thank you. To God be the glory.

Church Business Meeting

The annual AGM for the church will be held on Thursday 1st December **at 7 00pm** in the Back Hall. Papers will be issued beforehand.

This year the format will change slightly. Starting with tea and coffee at 7pm we

will then review the work of the church through reports as well as fulfil our legal obligations for accountability. There will be opportunity for reflection and prayer. It is a good time to take a "health check" of the church and our part in it.

Arrangements over the Christmas Period

The two services on Sunday 18th December will have a Christmas focus.

A Carol Service will be held on Saturday 24th December at 7pm and the following day, Sunday 25th, will be a special Christmas Morning service. There will not be an evening service that day nor will refreshments be served at the close.

The Morning Prayer Times will continue each Wednesday and Friday morning from 9 until 9 30am until Friday 23rd December.

Prayer

We again remember those of our number whose access is restricted: Joyce Kyle, Margaret Stewart, Margaret Cowan and Jack Harvey. And also Terry and Joan Gallagher at this time.

OM

OM celebrates 60 years with a rally at Perth Baptist Church on Thursday 24th at 7 30pm. Details from: www.uk.om/perth-60th

Finally,

As we get older we seem to get more forgetful, wandering into a room and thinking "what am I in here for?" One thing I am very guilty of doing is intending to telephone someone and remembering when it's too late at night to make the call. A phrase we often hear is 'forgive and forget', easier said than done, but there is a difference between forgetting and choosing not to remember.

In Isaiah 43v25 God says '*I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more*'.

How good it is to know that God, through the death of our Lord Jesus, has taken away the penalty for the sins of those who trust in Him, and chooses **not to remember them**.

Ian Baird