



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

24th May, 2021

Sunday Sermon

Our guest speaker yesterday was Ricky McAddock of Street Connect. Others from the Team joined him at night and shared testimony of what God is doing through Street Connect. But, at the morning service, he spoke on sanctification.

Taking 2 Corinthians 3:18 as his text, he introduced the concept as being the work of God the Holy Spirit sanctifying us. While initially that is positional – registered and guaranteed through His covenant – it is also progressive in that the promised transformation needs to be realised in practice.

Three pictures help us to understand.

Comparing ourselves with an onion, our condition is revealed layer by layer and the sanctifying work needs to go deeper and deeper each time.

Isaiah 48 speaks of God's work as refining us by His Spirit. As we go through experiences, dross rises to the surface and needs to be skimmed off in a process of purification. This may often be through adversity – as we have been learning from Job.

John 15 presents the familiar picture of cultivating a vine. Pruning the plant means getting rid of rogue and redundant growth because it is worthless. It also means pruning 'good' growth because there is a danger it might become dominant or proud and hinder the flourishing of better and more productive fruit.

How well do we embrace God's sanctifying power in our lives?

Mission of the Month

We continue to support Myra's Wells this month. A booklet recording Eddie Martin's recent visit to Burkina has been made available in the Crush Hall.

The Mission of the Month for June will be The Christian Institute

Pray for:

In recent ministry we heard that, sadly, in this world everyone can expect trouble. That is the kind of world we live in and Christians are not exempt. But, there is also help available and so we particularly remember those of our number needing that help in a special way at this time. Among them are Inga, suffering from shingles, Ava facing the pangs of bereavement, Morag Wilson with continuing dental problems, David Jack with severe back and limb pain, Ian Baird enduring the effects of Parkinson's – and there are many others facing personal issues and concern for family members.

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.

Future Arrangements

The Elders met last Monday and are actively considering the way forward as we slowly, but cautiously, come out of lockdown.

Jim Gourley writes: Starting on Wednesday 2nd June and ongoing, our Morning Prayer Meetings will be from 9.00am until 9.30am by Zoom and telephone. The Tuesday evening Prayer Meeting will continue to be at 8.00pm until 9.00pm by Zoom and telephone until

we are able to meet in the church on Tuesday evenings.

It is encouraging to see the number of people who have been coming together to pray and we hope that more will feel led to join with us as we see the great needs that exist in the world today and the healing that is required.

Thank You

Following many years of service Margaret Russell has now retired from organising our catering requirements and we wish to place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the work she has done. Thank you, Margaret, for all that faithful service.

Please

While we are still working through Government restrictions, we wish to have in place a new team of people to help provide for catering requirements when this is possible.

To show your interest or obtain more information please speak to Jim Gourley as soon as possible.

As Exodus says, *"Those whose hearts were willing."*

Bible Study

With the Exodus series now completed a summary of the main lessons is being made available on the church website and also in A5 booklet form on request.

It was encouraging last Thursday to hear testimonies of how the truths contained in that story have been a blessing to many. Hopefully, next week we will be able to include a number of these more fully, but, in the meantime, here is a taster.

Reflections

- The craftsmanship on the precious stones and metals was exquisite reminding us that it is our privilege to be His craftwork, 'clothed in his righteousness' and reflecting his glory. We are even called jewels in his crown.
- The preparations for making the Tabernacle were so detailed that it reminds us of God's concern that we should be made like him, even in the smallest aspects of our Christian character.
- What stood out was the glory of God filling the Tabernacle that had been made for him to dwell in. Even today, it is His presence that makes the difference as we offer him a home to dwell in, both as individual Christians and as a church. Longing for that reviving should be our constant prayer.
- It all takes time and a willing heart.

Finally,

Perhaps, like myself, you were part of an organisation or place of education that had a motto. I remember my BB days and its motto: "Sure & Steadfast" and my early working days in stockbroking when the motto of the London Stock Exchange was: "My Word Is My Bond". As Christians, should we have a motto? In 1 Thessalonians 5: 7 Paul says, *"Pray without ceasing."* Perhaps, as a church and as individuals, we should consider adopting that as our motto. As followers of Jesus Christ, we should never stop praying, despite how dark and hopeless our case may seem to be, trusting in him. May God help us to do that.

Jim Gourley