



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

3rd October, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Esther 5

Continuing the series on the Book of Esther, this chapter, set in the context of events taking place that seemed to be dominated by "the enemy of souls", is focused on **Responsibility and Providence**. Given a situation where a death sentence had been pronounced on the Jews, how was God's will to be put into practice? It entailed both God's sovereign working and the practice of human responsibility.

What do these situations call from us as God's people with an underlying conviction that God is in control.

Essentially it means being **committed to prioritize God's purpose**. Esther had been brought to the point that the outworking of God's purpose took priority over her personal welfare. That was manifest in a clear **dependence on prayer** for, knowing what lay before her in her approach to the king for release for the Jews, she had mobilised prayer and fasting for success in her venture.

In pursuing her (God-inspired) initiative she **made progress patiently** and even was happy to **suffer the enemy's pride** when Haman boasted of his anticipated triumph in persecuting God's people. She knew that she could **trust in God's unseen power**. That was vindicated as we shall see in the next chapter.

That challenges us to be aware of our responsibility to 'give ourselves' in taking up spiritual initiatives knowing that *"it is God working in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure"*.

This Week's Activities

Our normal activities will continue this week with Toddlers on Tuesday morning, the Prayer meeting on Tuesday night, the Café and #Hashtag on Wednesday, and Bible Study on Thursday. Morning Prayer will continue on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 to 9 30 and next Sunday we meet, DV, with John taking both services. Extra activities are listed below.

Faith Mission Prayer Union

After meeting on Zoom for the past two years because of the pandemic the Milngavie and Bearsden Faith Mission Monthly Prayer Union will meet in Margaret Russell's house (53 Roman Rd, Bearsden, G61 2SG) tonight at 7 30 pm.

Christian Women's Viewpoint

The first meeting of the Bearsden and Milngavie Christian Women's Viewpoint for this winter takes place at Allander on Wednesday – 5th October – with a light lunch at 12 45. The speaker will be: Marion Young who will talk about the work of Street Pastors.

Ladies Meeting

The Ladies' Meeting gets under way this week on Thursday, 6th October, at 2 pm. There will be the usual warm welcome, 'tea and biscuits', chat, and a sing along. Mima Campbell will be the Guest Speaker.

Romania

Sorting donated goods for Romania will take place on Friday, 7th October from 10 30am at the church. Any extra help will be greatly appreciated

Evening of Gospel Music

Morag Wilson has sent in details of an Evening of Gospel Music on Saturday, 8th October at 7pm in Freedom City Church Centre, Cumbernauld organised by Inspirational Gospel Music Scotland. It will feature several performers including Colin Elliott and Joy Glass. Tickets cost £7 and can be obtained by contacting 07909 697573 or 01236 821077.

Harvest Service

This year our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on 9th October. The cause we will be supporting is Blythswood Care through their Annual Shoe Box Appeal and by cash donations, Full details will be given at the service

Church Library

We will soon be able to open our new library in the Entrance Hall behind the partitions as the shelving is now in place.

Our thanks to Paul Bartlett and James Flett for undertaking this work and also to Colin Wilson who has taken responsibility for the library. We will advise when you will be able to view and select books.

People

Inga has now returned to Oaxaca in Mexico no doubt "hitting the ground, and running" as she resumes her wide-ranging workload and sphere of activities in the fields of Bible translation and Linguistics.

It has been good to hear of the work while she has been at home.

We received the sad news that following a short illness Peter Martin Snr died on Saturday 24th September. During his days at Allander we valued his presence and friendship. We have expressed to his wife Fiona and family our love and sympathy. The funeral will take place at New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden, on 14th October at 2 15pm.

Mission of the Month

With £400 having been contributed to Platform 67 in September we move on during October to support SAT-7, a mission specialising in broadcasting gospel programmes by satellite across the Middle East into countries otherwise closed to any form of Christian witness.

Christian Institute Tour

The CI's annual Scottish Tour meets at Greenview Evangelical Church on Wednesday 12th October at 7 30pm, with other meetings at The Kelvingrove Tron and Woodhill in November.

Pray for:

Our folk in Care and Nursing Homes: Margaret Cowan, Jack Harvey, Joyce Kyle, Margaret Stewart or isolated at home along with those – directly and indirectly - who constantly care for them.

Finally,

"For such a time as this" is a truly wonderful phrase. As Queen Esther was challenged regarding her role in the purposes of God, Mordecai encouraged her to consider that maybe everything she had received in life was all for this one wonderful moment in the service of God. Considering how amazing her rise to the throne had been it is remarkable to find that her very life was on the line when it came to potentially saving the Jews. As the New Testament would later explain, from those who receive much, much will be required and whilst we may not reach the heights Esther rose to, we have all been granted much of God's blessing that can lead to critical moments of service. When the opportunities come may we be ready to depend on God's power to do His will.

John Macleod