



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

31st October, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Esther 7

Resuming the series on the Book of Esther John focused on the events that came to light showing the motivating factors that were behind Haman's downfall. The scenario in the book presents the existence of two forces, the one seeking to destroy the other, which remind us that even in our day Satan is opposed to God's people and their work.

In these events we see that **evil is personal**. While malevolent forces are constantly in operation, the reality is that evil actions reside in, and are carried out by, people in what they do and are. Sin manifests itself in our behaviour despite laws and counsel that would advocate otherwise.

Not only is evil constant but **evil is persistent**: it will never give up and will always seek a way to succeed. Despite Haman and his evil purposes having been uncovered he persisted, showing no confession or admission of guilt. He was intent on pursuing his mission. That is true of Christian experience: temptation is always present and will never go away.

Yet, this chapter shows that **evil will pass away**. The very outcome that Haman envisaged, both the public execution of Mordecai and the decree seeking the annihilation of the Jews, were providentially overturned when the tables were turned on him and his plans.

As God's people – if we truly have trusted in Him for salvation – that Jesus died for our sins, and rose again triumphant, is the glorious assurance of salvation victory.

Blythswood

Completed Shoe Boxes should be deposited in the church no later than next Sunday, 6th November, for collection by the Blythswood lorry the next day.

Details of what kind of items to be included (or avoided) for various age groups are contained in a special leaflet available in the Crush Hall.

Mission of the Month

Blythswood is also our Missionary of the Month cause for November and cash donations can be made in the normal way until Sunday 27th November in the box at the back of the church.

Wednesday Worship at the UF

On Wednesday, 2nd November, Milngavie UF Church, have a half-hour monthly Worship service at 12pm that is informal and suitable for everyone. A light lunch is served afterwards. Everyone welcome.

Ladies' Meeting

The next Ladies' Meeting will be this Thursday, 3rd November at 2 pm when the speaker will be Allison Hill.

Faith Mission Rally and Prayer Meeting

On Friday, 4th November the next Faith Mission Rally will be held (DV) at Allander at 7 30pm with Albert McWhinnie as the speaker. Peter and Helen Stobart from Cumbria, who have visited Allander before and blessed us with their singing will also be there.

The next meeting of the **FM Milngavie and Bearsden Prayer Union** will be on

Monday, 7th November, this time at Jim and Allyson's home at 20 Craighead Drive on the Mains Estate. G62 7SD at 7 30pm.

Men of Faith

On Saturday 5th November the Men of Faith series continues with **Breakfast and Praise** at Milngavie UF Church from 9am to 10am with Derek McIntyre of Glasgow Street Pastors.

The Christian Institute

The Christian Institute's Scottish Autumn Tour continues with meetings at the Kelvinside Tron Church on Monday, 7th November or at Woodhill Evangelical Church, Bishopbriggs on Wednesday 9th November, both at 7 30pm.

The Gender Recognition Reform Bill has by now been approved in principle by the Scottish Parliament. There is still time to urge your MSP to consider and amend the potentially dangerous effects of some of the detailed proposals.

Remembrance Sunday

The morning worship service on Remembrance Sunday - 13th November will commence at 10am. This will be followed by the Royal British Legion service in Milngavie Town Centre at 10.50am.

The Church will be open to serve refreshments after both services.

Prayer

Recent prayer meetings have been encouraging with a real concern for the church's people and its activities. Pray especially for Terry Gallagher, taken ill while on holiday and now in the RAH in Paisley. Others are: Ian and Margaret Baird, the Carmichael family, George and Margaret Cowan, Christine and Jack Harvey, Joyce Kyle, Margaret Stewart, and David and Morag Wilson. In addition, some covet our prayer support but wish not to be mentioned. A major prayer burden is for family and friends who no longer walk with the Lord or show any interest in spiritual things.

Also, the church's many activities through the week and those helping them are always mentioned as are our neighbouring churches, some of which are going through difficult times.

And, what can we say about national and international witness in these days? While mission and the welfare of God's people are paramount so is our responsibility to pray for the critical political and social issues of our day.

Finally,

This week's 'Finally' comes from Inga's colleague, Sue, in Oaxaca, Mexico, where they labour on the meticulous task of ensuring accurate translation taking account of fine nuances.

Each morning before we start the translation session, we have one of the Mixtec co-translators open in prayer. They pray beautifully in Mixtec, asking for God's guidance to help us understand what the Bible says and then to figure out how to best express the concepts in Mixtec. In addition they ask that the Mixtec translation be used in their respective towns. They also pray for Inga and me and are grateful for our part in facilitating the translation.

It is heartening and humbling to be included in their prayers.

Thank you for your (= Allander) part in making God's Word available to this people group in their heart language.

Sue Huggins