



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

8th March, 2021

Sunday Sermon: Sam Gordon

Speaking in the context of the end of a year of lockdown and the daunting prospect of entering another period of restrictions, Sam Gordon took as his theme the words: *"He will hold me fast"* and based the sermon on Romans 8: 31-39 and the encouraging assurance that God can be trusted whether times are good or bad.

Remembering that, while the chapter begins with *"no condemnation"* it ends with *"no separation"*, these verses contain a series of rhetorical questions, the answers to which reaffirm that confidence and assurance. Even in low moments in life even failure is not final because of such a great salvation.

From these verses four comforting promises emerge. It is clear that we are:

Secure in Jesus vv31. No one other than God could give us salvation so no one else can take it away. We are secure in His hands: God is for us.

Sufficient in Jesus vv32. His resource is inexhaustible. For in not sparing His own Son for our sins he will also *'freely give us all things'*.

Shielded by Jesus vv33, 34. By His death on the Cross he has paid the debt of our sins and freely justified us. More than that He now lives and intercedes for us at the Father's right hand.

Safe because of Jesus vv 35-39. Through troubles and difficulties of all kinds the Lord will bring us through for *"When I fear my faith will fail, He will hold me fast"*

Mission of the Month

David Jack writes: - During February several people contributed to the Mission cause of the month with the result that a sum of £400 has been sent to – and acknowledged by - Release International.

This month, the Mission we support as a church will be: SAT-7 which beams a range of Christian programmes across the Middle East.

Arrangements for contributing, while church attendance is not possible and the offering box not available, is by direct giving through David Jack, the treasurer.

Gems from Genesis

The notes summarising the Genesis studies from our Thursday evening Bible Studies are available on the website or by email. Hard copies in the form of an A5 booklet can be made available on request.

Anniversary

Next Sunday marks the end of a whole year of lockdown of different kinds while the coronavirus has been – and still is – raging across the world and through our land. Sunday 16th March 2020 was the last time we were able to meet together 'normally'. Since then we have been able to hear the sermons on the website or Facebook, benefit from eavesdropping on different churches' online services, even attended Allander during the summer easing, and now we are able to meet on Zoom, each Sunday morning, followed by a voluntary 15 minute 'fellowship time'.

During this long period John Macleod has been ministering faithfully - at one stage

preaching the same sermon three times each weekend (once on Saturday for the recordings, and twice on Sundays). We really appreciate this tremendous endeavour; not only the work involved but especially the nature and relevance of the powerful ministry that has been shared. Great has been our privilege; and equally great is the responsibility that we carry, to reflect the thrust of that ministry in our individual and corporate witness.

Local Churches

Local churches here in Milngavie – as well as our friends at Maryhill Evangelical Church with whom we have good fellowship – have faithfully maintained an online witness to the community. We remember them in prayer.

Holy Week Services

Milngavie churches will present a series of Holy Week services on YouTube at 7 pm each evening from Monday 29th March to Friday 2nd April on the theme: *The Servant of the Lord*. The YouTube link is:

<https://www.milngavie.church/holyweek/>

Inga

We receive regular Prayer Bulletins from Sue and Inga in Mexico each Friday. They value prayer for help with the highly

specialised translation work, finding suitable words and phrases to convey the true meaning of concepts and also for the practical provision of electricity supply and internet connections.

Inga continues with this work while also serving as consultant and trainer to a wider group of specialists.

#One2Seven

The first of the Easter series sessions on *From Darkness to Light* was broadcast last Wednesday and is available on the church website for anyone to watch again. The topic was *The Light that came into the World*, with a clear presentation of the gospel message. Pray for its effective reception.

Prayer Time

Mark Foster of the Slavic Gospel Association will be with us at the Zoom Prayer Meeting next Tuesday 16th March to share about the work of that mission.

Myra's Wells

It was encouraging to hear Eddie Martin and see pictures of the amazing growth of the Myra's Wells charity – now up to 200 wells in Burkina Faso.

Finally,

One of the features on many smartphones is to automatically generate memories based on your past photos. This week, my phone reminded of the Shepherds' Conference I was at last year; and in many ways the memory was bitter-sweet as I should have been there this year! Memories are wonderful, but we should train them to inspire us rather than depress us.

When we think of past blessings it can be easy to mourn what used to be and that is understandable, but the God who was with us when the memories were made is the God who is still writing the biography of our lives. May each joyful memory from the past inspire us to pray for blessings which are in our Maker's heart and are yet to come to us?

Psalm 139 v16 says: *"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."*

John Macleod