



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 17th April, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Romans 3: 1 - 20

Writing to the Romans, a church he had not founded nor even visited, Paul discharges his responsibility in sharing the gospel with them. As a background to presenting the righteousness in Christ he emphasises that God's wrath is declared against ungodliness and unrighteousness.

The issue being considered under the title: **All and none** is the question how far reaching and inclusive was such wrath, especially for the Jews.

As a **people under God's blessing** the Jews had a wonderful privilege of having been taught and influenced by the tradition of Judaism, the Law and its provision for approaching God.

Yet, on the evidence of actions they, like the Gentiles, were a **people under sin's power**. It is not a matter of knowing but of doing.

Equally, Jew and Gentile, on the basis of evidence of wrongdoing, were a **people under sin's ruin**. Quoting a range of OT statements he reinforces the fact that there is no exception: no fear of God, only rampant godlessness.

That means that they – and we – are a **people under a spiritual sentence**. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God and are under the sentence of death.

Such a fate applies to all; and none is exempt. But there is One who came to pay the price of sin and make it possible for the guilty and condemned to be saved from that wrath through sincere faith.

Thank You

Thank you to Allyson Flett and her team of helpers for the wonderful Church Family Lunch on Easter Sunday. And, to everyone who helped in any way.

Thank you, too, to Esther for the lovely devotional playing just before the service starts on a Sunday morning. Although it is good to chat with each other as and when we meet it is good to reflect on the words of these wonderful hymns as we prepare ourselves for a time of worship.

This Week

Normal activities resume this week after the schools' holiday break. **Toddlers** meets on Tuesday morning at 9 30 and would appreciate again prayers that the sharing of the message, as well as the care shown, will have a good reception. The **Drop-In Café** continues on Wednesday from 10 30 to 12 30 but **#One2Seven** will not start until next week. The **Church Prayer Meeting** takes place on Tuesday at 8pm with **Zoom prayers** resuming on Wednesday and Friday mornings 9 – 9 30am (ID: 851 6446 7898; Passcode 080856). The **Bible Study** continues on Thursday at 7 30pm looking at Acts 20.

Simon Turner will be the preacher on Sunday, 23rd April.

Christian Institute Week of Prayer

The C I's annual Week of Prayer takes place this week until Saturday 22nd with topics such as:

Our Campaigns (Monday),
Sanctity of Life (Tuesday),
Marriage and Family (Wednesday),

Our Schools (Thursday),
Our Society (Friday) and
The Institute (Saturday). Details on the C I
website.

SGA Prayer

The next Slavic Gospel Association Prayer
Meeting will be on Friday 21st April at 7 30
in Margaret Russell's home at 53 Roman
Rd, Bearsden.

Mission of the Month

We continue to support The Faith Mission
during this month.

People and Prayer

While we continue to pray for those facing
difficulties and ill-health etc, two different
requests this week: Ava is visiting her
family in China and Inga is embarking on
the Wycliffe / SIL Translators' Training
Course for which she is responsible. Each
would appreciate our prayers that these
ventures will prove to be blessed and
beneficial.

At the same time we remember our
'regulars' who appreciate being prayed for
as we support each other.

And, promoting prayer and fostering
fellowship, a Church Prayer Guide is
almost ready for publication. Final drafts
have been available in the Crush Hall for
checking before being printed. Contact
Jim Gourley as soon as possible if
concerned.

Holiday Club

The second Planning Meeting for the
Holiday Club will be held next Monday
24th at 7 30 pm. All offers of help are very
welcome, even if you cannot attend this
meeting.

An advert is being placed in the
Community Magazine for this event which
runs from Monday 10th to Friday 14th July
each morning. Hopefully, there will also
be a write-up in the same magazine.
Planning continues with details of further
meetings issued shortly. Any help is
greatly appreciated.

Concert

A Gospel Music concert with a distinctly
Jewish flavour, with ministry in word and
song, featuring Helen Shapiro, Simon
Elman, Chrissy Rodgers is being held at
Queens Park Baptist Church on Saturday
29th April at 7 30 pm. Admission is free
with a freewill offering to be taken on the
night of the concert.

Summer Convention Dates

Faith Mission Convention in Edinburgh
from 2nd to 7th July with Charles Price and
Paul Mallard. Keswick on the theme of
Human in July: 15 – 21; 22 – 26; and 29 to
August 4th.

Finally,

Following our recent Holy Week services, my wife said that it reminded her of the Island
communions! We grew up having Communion as the high point of celebration following
three days of preparatory services, focused on the Cross and its ongoing power and
relevance. Whilst every tradition will have its failures as well as its strengths, it is worth
remembering that the Old Testament religion was one that was built around annual festivals
with the specific focus of remembering some aspect of God's dealings with them. Whilst we
can recognise the danger that meaning can get lost in the ritual of festival, let's not neglect
the good that can come from communal gathering with a Christ-centred focus; *"I joyed
when to the House of God, go up they said to me"* Psalm 122 v 1

John Macleod