



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

#### Sunday Sermon: Romans 7: 1 - 25

We were reminded that, when Paul was presenting the gospel to the church at Rome, his emphasis was on the fact that sin had destroyed the life that God wanted for humanity but there was an antidote in what Jesus had accomplished by his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave.

The positive emphasis of the gospel is on life as expressed in the well-known verse: *For God so loved the world that, "He gave his only begotten son; that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life"*

Living that life is a lifelong responsibility. In dealing with chapter 7, John focused on its teaching to keep us from straying on the path of life.

Using a picture of a straight path on raised ground heading for a safe destination it was pointed out that there is dangerous ditch on either side of it.

The tendency to stray and fall from that path comes from a wrong understanding of the OT Law. It neither gives licence to sin nor encourages libertarianism. Neither should it be legalistic.

It is a struggle to stay on the path and a natural cause of despondency in the believer, expressed by Paul (himself aware of such a weakness) in his cry: *"What a wretched man I am"*.

But, in the gift of Jesus and his risen life, there is a divine power available to enable us to persevere. Thanks be to God.

#### Slavic Gospel Association

Following the excellent presentation by Mark Foster of SGA last Tuesday, there will be an SGA national Zoom session tonight, Monday 19<sup>th</sup>, at 8pm. It will feature contributions from Natalia Shevelova-Harkusha and Pastor Sergei Cynil from the besieged city of Kherson. For security reasons, please request access codes from [office@sga.org.uk](mailto:office@sga.org.uk)

SGA is our Mission of the Month for June.

#### This week

Both the Tuesday evening, 8pm, Prayer Meeting and the Wednesday and Friday morning prayer times take place this week. The Café meets on Wednesday morning and Hashtag and Youth Challenge on Wednesday night. The Bible Study meets on Thursday at 7 30pm.

This Sunday's services will be taken by Jim Gourley in the morning and by Gavin Harrison of the Faith Mission at night.

#### Rejuvenate Weekend Away

Originally planned for this weekend, this venture has had to be postponed due to delay in resolving Health and Safety issues at the Newton Stewart venue.

#### Holiday Club Planning

Preparation is well under way for this event due to take place each morning from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July from 10 am to 12 noon. The theme is Mission Possible. A Parents' Evening will be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>. Leaflets have been distributed during Milngavie Week and invitation letters have been sent out to parents and various contacts.

While the Club itself starts on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 10 am is being set aside for work in preparing the premises for the event. All offers of help will be welcome.

### **Summer Arrangements**

Toddlers has finished for the summer and both the Café and the Bible Study will stop at the end of June, as will the morning Zoom prayer times. The climax for the Children's' work will be the Holiday Club while Hashtag and the Sunday School will meet as arranged. The Tuesday Prayer Meeting will remain throughout the summer.

### **Faith Mission Convention**

Several people have enrolled for the Awayday at the Faith Mission Convention on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July. If anyone is still anxious to go please contact Jim Gourley to see what space may be available. It should be a good visit taking in the morning Bible Reading with Paul Mallard and a seminar by Alan McBride. Coffee, lunch and a tour of the premises are also included.

### **Newsletter arrangements for July August**

The Newsletter will be issued up to and including Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July as normal. Over the summer months two interim editions will be distributed on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August, with regular

editions starting up again, DV, in September. If there is anything you want to see included, please let us know in good time. Thank you.

### **People and Prayer**

Inga has now settled back into routine in Oaxaca balancing the demands of the intricate and time-consuming local translation work with her wider role(s) as trainer and consultant using her experience

Names prayed for during our times of prayer this week include: Janice Allan, Ian Baird, Mary Clarke, George Cowan, Margaret Craig (in hospital), Gordon Craig, Terry and Joan Gallagher, Jack Harvey, Joyce Kyle, Mary Linton, Jim McKellar, Isla Morrison, and Morag Wilson. Let us continue to remember these – and any others in the fellowship at this time. The Church Prayer Diary is a great help.

### **Keswick Convention**

Keswick runs for three separate weeks in July: 15 – 21; 22 – 26; and 29 to August 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is Human and very relevant in the light of forceful attacks on gender, sexuality, and identity. Many of the sessions are streamed so that we can benefit from the teaching being provided at this critical time.

### **Finally,**

Tornadoes are one of the most dangerous phenomenon in nature. In Tornado Alley USA, wise people build tornado shelters. What shelter would you choose, a tent, a house or a reinforced concrete shelter built on solid rock? Many people live life today building on sand their own shelter of good works, attending church, mosques, synagogues and trying to keep the law, instead of faith in Christ. They think that when they die that they are safe in the shelter they have built instead of the shelter God provides in Christ Jesus. In scripture all roads lead to Christ. He is our advocate, rock, fortress and shelter. When we all stand before the judgement seat of Christ, only those who have faith in Christ alone will be saved. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. Ps 91 (1) ESV.

Sandy Allan