



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 12th June, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Romans 6: 15 - 23

In Paul's account of the gospel to the church in Rome, the emphasis has been on the fact that when "*Christ died for the ungodly*", God not only made provision for forgiveness of sinfulness inherent in human nature but also, by the risen life of Christ, offers eternal life to the believer.

Expanding that truth, the theme for today was **God's great gift of grace.**

Using the familiar picture of slavery (as practised in that society) Paul highlights the principles for living a spiritual life in the light of available grace. The essence of this kind of slavery (or servanthood) is obedience. It also reveals who (or what) the master is. Being a 'slave' (under the bondage of natural, sinful, motives) leads to destruction while being obedient to God means life.

The gospel speaks of a power to set us free from human, sinful, lives. Conversion means release from the domination of Satan to becoming born again as a child of God and under a new Master.

That experience gives a pattern for the life we should now live. Following the old master meant sinful actions. Following Christ means submitting to expected behaviours that reflect His values, expressed by the very same faculties that previously were used to facilitate sin. Holiness means that the tongue that used to curse is now engaged in praise.

It is a difference of consequence; for "*the (deserved) wages of sin is death, but the (graciously offered) gift of God is eternal life.*"

This Week

Only a few weeks to go before regular activities, like Toddlers, #One2Seven and Youth Challenge take a break over the summer months. Other activities, like the Café and Zoom Bible Study and morning Zoom prayer times will stop at the end of June.

But, our important Tuesday night Prayer meeting – "*the power-house of the church*" – continues unabated.

Saturday sees our Church Day Out to Balloch with a Meal at the Balloch Inn at 1pm and then a Sail on Loch Lomond from 3 – 5pm. Sign-up sheets are located in the Entrance Hall. Last-minute places may be available. Please contact Janice, Ellen or Gayle asap.

Mission of the Month and SGA

We continue to support SGA this month. Mark Foster will be with us on Tuesday at 8pm bringing updated news of the work of SGA and its missionaries. Come and hear about the work that is being supported this month.

SGA Prayer

The next Slavic Gospel Association Prayer Meeting will be on Friday 16th June at 7 30 pm in Margaret Russell's home at 53 Roman Road, Bearsden, G61 2SG.

Sunday Speaker

Continuing our close links with our friends at Maryhill we welcome Danny Sutherland as the speaker at our evening meeting this Sunday, 18th June. Versatile Danny helps us in so many ways.

Holiday Club

Publicity material for the Holiday Club is now available. Carol, Linda and others have distributed flyers at various Milngavie Week events last week and an advert will appear in next month's Community Magazine.

People and Prayer

Margaret Craig took unwell last week but is making steady recovery; bright and resilient as ever. Others, too, appreciate prayer.

Faith Mission Convention

The Faith Mission Convention will be held in Edinburgh from 3rd to 7th July with Charles Price and Paul Mallard as speakers; and various seminars. Arrangements have been made for an Allander Awayday at the Convention on Thursday 6th July taking in the morning Bible Reading and a seminar. It includes lunch and a tour of the premises. There is still time to book. Please contact Jim Gourley if interested

Keswick Convention

Keswick runs for three separate weeks in July: 15 – 21; 22 – 26; and 29 to August 4th. 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.

Summer Arrangements

As we approach the end of June some of our activities will take a break, as follows:

Toddlers is not normally held during school holidays. Its last meeting of this session will be tomorrow. All those who have served in it deserve a well-earned rest. Thank you all for all your endeavours.

The **Church Cafe**, will be closed over the months of July and August, ending on Wednesday, 28th June and restarting on Wednesday, 6th September.

#One2Seven and Youth Challenge will also conclude on Wednesday, 28th June and resume in September.

Wednesday and Friday morning **Zoom Prayer Times** will be suspended from Wednesday 28th June and re-start on Wednesday 6th September.

Similarly, the last **Zoom Bible Studies** will conclude our extended study on the Book of Acts on Thursday 29th.

The **Prayer Meeting** will continue to meet every Tuesday evening at 8pm during the summer months.

Finally,

I regularly attend classes at a gym in my feeble attempt to maintain some sort of fitness. There are many parallels between the worlds of physical and spiritual exercise and I am often challenged spiritually by things I'm taught physically. The recent spell of good weather has brought another lesson to light. With the advent of sunny weather, the number of people coming to classes dropped dramatically. This is understandable as people want to make the most of the good days, but from a trainer's perspective you shouldn't stop exercising just because it's a sunny day! I wonder if we tend to slow down spiritually when things are going well as if we don't need to exercise our faith as frequently as when we are in difficulty. May God help us to keep exercising our faith whether the days are bright or dark. *Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving*

John Macleod