



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

#### Sunday Sermon: Romans 8: 1 - 8

Following a break over the summer months there was a return yesterday to study the Epistle to the Romans and its magnificent Chapter 8. (That is likely to be the context for a number of sermons over the next several weeks.)

It comes at a turning point. Chapters 1 – 7 have presented the gospel, outlining our inherent sinfulness and presenting God's redemptive answer - the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus - to be received by faith. The consequence of such believing faith is to know newness of life and seek to live out its implications. However, sin still lurks in the old nature, trying to assert itself, so that the new believer is in anxiety, almost despair over a sense of failure. Chapter 8, counters that despondency.

It begins with the **Promise of Assurance** with the bold declaration that there is "*no condemnation*" because of our status "in Christ". The **Place to find that Assurance** is to remember that the answer is in Jesus and His redeeming work. **The Process that brings that Assurance** is to realise that, by taking our sin in Himself at Calvary, Jesus fulfilled the law on our behalf, so that God regards us as being 'not guilty' and breathes His Spirit into our lives to enable things to happen as they should.

To enjoy the blessings of that "*no condemnation*" and the *enabling of the Spirit*, it is essential that, we make sure that we have trusted in Christ initially; and, having trusted, make sure we make use of that assurance in living out a peaceful and powerful Christian testimony

#### Visitors

It has been a blessing to welcome several visitors to our church over the summer months and at other times. Many of these are in the area on holiday or visiting family and friends and have found Allander a welcoming church with good ministry. Others have been drawn to Allander for various reasons in their quest for some kind of spiritual home or resource. That is very encouraging and opens up the question of what being a member of Allander means and how it can be developed.

The basic essential is a definite experience of becoming a Christian – leading to Christian commitment - through confession of sins, repentance and an act of saving faith in the message of the gospel (as set out in the sermon and by Sandy in Finally, below) resulting in a new life: that means being "born again". And testifying to that through believer's baptism.

Another is to follow that up by attending supplementary meetings, like the Prayer Meeting, Bible Study and to read relevant books from the Church Library; or to have a talk with someone as to what it means to be a Christian. Further aspects may be featured in future issues of the Newsletter.

#### Prayer Meeting

We meet weekly on a Tuesday at 8 pm in the Back Hall for our church prayer meeting. This is an opportunity for us each to give thanks to God for His salvation and to seek His help in relation to our

personal, corporate and world situations. No one is forced to take part but it is very inspiring to be part of a committed, praying, group. Zoom access is available for those unable to attend in person.

### **Prayer**

Prayer is not confined to Tuesday evenings. The church Prayer Diary is designed to help us pray for each other through the week with names being allocated to each day.

Among those needing particular prayer we include those in Care Homes (Joyce Kyle, George Cowan, Margaret Stewart, Jack Harvey) and others facing health and circumstantial challenges, such as Jean Donnelly (in QUEH), Margaret Russell, Christine Harvey, Isla Morrison, Mary Atwell, the Gallaghers, and so many others, many of whom have chronic problems or long-standing challenges. And, also, those who are involved in the various ministries and work so hard in different aspects of church life.

### **Bible Study**

Complementing the preaching on Sundays we have a regular Bible Study session at 7 30pm on a Thursday evenings on Zoom. It works its way through a Book of the Bible, currently Proverbs, with participants reading the allocated chapter(s) [next

week, chapters 1 and 2] and sharing their thoughts before the whole is summarised by Howel or Manuel.

### **Mission Prayer Meetings**

Local missionary support groups meet once each month.

SGA meets normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at various venues. This month, for practical reasons, it will meet on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7 30pm in Manual and Ava's home (Location details on request).

Also for practical reasons, the next Faith mission local prayer meeting will meet on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7 30 in Jim and Allyson Flett's home at 20 Craighead Drive, Mains Estate G62 7SD.

### **Thank You from Inga**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support, both personal support and that which we give to the Mixtecs. Thank you, too, for your continued prayers for us and for the Mixtecs who work alongside us in the translation.

May the Lord bless you. In His Love

Inga

### **Finally**

If a criminal is found guilty of a crime and, while awaiting sentencing, the Judge says to him in his summing up, "I love you, you are free to go" would that be just? To remove God's Righteousness, Holiness and Justice would make God unrighteous, and remove man's need of a Saviour. God the Father sent his Son, Jesus Christ into this world to be that Saviour. He 'who knew no sin' died on the Cross bearing our sin and on the third day rose from the dead, God's Justice was satisfied. We all know of John 3: 16 (*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son .....*) but to the believing eye, God's love and His Justice are highlighted in the remaining words of the text, "*shall not perish*". Christ paid the penalty for sin for those who confess their sin, repent and - by faith - trust in Christ alone. All others will perish.

Sandy Allan