



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 2nd October, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Romans 8: 9 - 11

Under the title **The Spirit of Certainty** John continued his series looking at aspects of the assurance of salvation as set out in the significant eighth chapter of Romans.

In the earlier verses we saw that there are two ways of living, either according to the flesh (the old nature) or by the Spirit (the new life). Both tend to be in conflict with each other causing uncertainty as to spiritual health and wellbeing.

But there is 'no condemnation' because God's provision in Jesus overcomes the hold and claim of the old nature.

Regardless of being plagued by the potential confusion it is important to realise that the only **source of spiritual certainty is God**. Assurance of being a Christian is based on the fact that Christ is in you by the Spirit. Equally, the corollary is true that if there is no evidence of having trusted in the gospel and been 'born again' by the Spirit then we do not have certainty of being a Christian.

That truth needs to be **applied personally**. Earlier in Romans, Paul has explained that Jesus died instead of us, bearing our sins, but was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit. If God thus raised Jesus from the dead that same Spirit will enable the believer to have victory over sin and walk in the Spirit experiencing the virtue of Christian life.

That Spirit will also be the means of our being raised at the 'Last Day' of glorious resurrection.

"What a day, glorious day, that will be"

Ladies Meeting

The new session of the Ladies' Meeting will commence this Thursday, 5th October with Gordon Thomson as the speaker. Due to shortage of personnel it has been decided to reduce the frequency of the meetings this session to the first Thursday of each month but to extend the times to 2 until 3 15pm. The welcome, warmth, programme content, refreshments, fellowship and purpose will still be the same as it always has been.

Friday Rally

The first of this winter's Faith Mission Rallies at Allander will take place this Friday, 6th October at 7 30 pm with the usual menu of music, testimony and an invited speaker-to share the Word with us. Gordon's cheerful welcome, refreshments and fellowship afterwards with other believers are always a bonus.

Rejuvenate

The Rejuvenate programme for young people will also start up on Saturday, 7th October at 8pm with its opportunity for "food, fun, and fellowship" with young people from Allander and other churches.

Sunday, 8th October

Both services this Sunday, 8th October, will be taken by Simon Snodgrass while John is away taking Communion Services on the Isle of Lewis.

Mission of the Month

Each month we support a different Mission agency. Last month £475 was collected for Hope for Glasgow. This month the focus is on Blythswood Care.

Blythewood Shoe Box Appeal

We will be supporting the annual Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal as part of our Thanksgiving. This entails individuals filling Shoe Boxes with appropriate items for Christmas distribution.

The usual leaflet about the Appeal, offering guidance as to what to give and where it might be sent, is now available from Jim Gourley. Completed boxes should be returned to the church no later than Sunday 29th October.

Baptismal Service

It is so encouraging to know that there will be a Baptismal Service on Sunday morning, 15th October. Believer's baptism, which we practise at Allander, is a symbolic act of testimony to Christian commitment. The word 'baptism' is the same as the word 'bath'. It signifies the ending of one life following repentance and the beginning of a new, Christian life. From New Testament times it has been the recognised public testimony of believers in the Christian church.

People, Prayer and Projects

The church universal is made up of people; people who have responded to

the gospel, trusted in Jesus' work on the Cross, have known forgiveness of sins and are 'born again' meaning that they are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

All need prayer to help them grow in their Christian life by resisting the temptations of sin, guarding against indifference and renewing their commitment to serve the Lord.

Here at Allander, some people face great difficulties and challenges with heavy burdens arising from ill health, circumstances or other things that they encounter. All such in our fellowship appreciate special prayer at times of difficulty.

Others serve faithfully in different roles in the church and value the support of fellow believers for strength and stamina as they serve.

Yet, others, like Inga in Mexico, or our friends at Maryhill Evangelical, or in Romania, are involved in special projects. We pray for them all, both loving God and our neighbour.

Finally

As the harvest moon approaches, celebrations are held by people of many cultures all over the world. We, as Christians, usually have a thanksgiving celebration for God's bountiful provision, both in the fruits of the field and in the provision of Jesus for our salvation. However, there are other images of the harvest that are used through the Bible. We can read about a harvest of righteousness (James 3:18, 2 Cor. 9:10, Hebrews 12:11) to encourage us to live in a godly or a wise way, as we are seeing in our Thursday Bible Study on the Book of Proverbs. We also remember the words of Jesus as he saw the crowds *"like sheep without a shepherd"* (Matthew 9:36): *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"* (Matthew 9:37-38). We are reminded of all the people around us in need of the gospel of Jesus, and there are plenty of things we can help with in the work!



Manuel Aldegunde