



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

3rd August, 2020

Sunday Sermon: House of Prayer

(Isaiah 56:1-8; Mark 11: 17)

Continuing the series on Jesus' interaction with the Temple, based on His quotations from the OT, this week brought us to Isaiah 56: 7 – *"My house shall be called a House of Prayer for all nations"*.

Clearly, for Him, how the people worshipped God was a priority. If that was right, other things would follow. And, that might be the primary concern for us today as we evaluate our lives – individually and corporately as a church – in the light of what God is saying to us at this time. In that process, prayer is clearly a priority.

In interacting with the Temple in this dramatic way, Jesus was clearly guided by the authority of Scripture, frequently quoting: *'it is written'*.

That Scripture gives abundant insight into what the purpose of the 'temple' is, and should be: a house of prayer, a place where God himself dwells, whose very artefacts, whether the Temple furniture or the *'fruit of the Spirit'* in our lives, speak of the character of God.

So, what does it mean for us to be a house of prayer? How do we give prayer – interaction with God Himself – the place it should have? No longer a physical building, but a spiritual body, we should be distinguished by total commitment, through prayer, to the purpose of God.

Sunday Services

During August, the current arrangements will continue for our worship services. Due to the seating restrictions we are working under, if you have been attending services, it would be appreciated if you advise your Elder if you do not plan to attend a service, so that your seat can be given to someone else wishing to do so. John Macleod will be on holiday weeks beginning 24th and 31st August. Howel Jones will be speaking at both services on 30th August.

Thank You

A letter has been received from Jean Donnelly following her recent health issues where she expressed the following to the Church at Allander. *Thank you for visits, gifts, letters, cards and phone calls received during my recent stay in hospital and afterwards at home. I was deeply touched and very grateful for all the concern shown to me. It made me realise afresh what a privilege it is to belong to such a thoughtful and caring church. Most of all I was extremely appreciative of all the prayers for my peace of mind and recovery which God answered so abundantly.*

People

George and Margaret Cowan would appreciate prayer for help and guidance during this critical stage and Liz Baxter rejoices in further good news from the hospital.

Quiz

The lockdown has given rise to a number of interesting online initiatives by churches. In addition to delivery of ministry or even whole services, one of the most popular has been to hold a Quiz. It would be interesting to combine these two.

Where we are concerned, the recent Quiz hosted by Donald Crosbie was much appreciated. At the same time the most recent ministry series on Jesus cleansing the Temple in John 2 is very timely – and challenging.

So, combining the two, what about a quiz based on that incident?

If we interpret Scripture as meaning that we, as individual believers, and as a church, are His temples, we could ask such questions as:

1. If Jesus was to cleanse my temple / our temple today, what needs to be 'cast out'?
2. What would Jesus want to see in place as the 'new normal'?
3. In practical terms what would this look like in practice?

Finally

The Atlantic battle was the longest continuous campaign of WW2. Allied aircraft could only give limited protection to the convoys. When these aircraft left them, the convoys entered an area of sea dubbed "The Black Pit". Mariners were aware that German U-Boat wolf-packs were waiting for them. But, in March 1943, special new aircraft called Liberators were deployed on convoy duty. These aircraft could protect the convoys all the way from America to Britain. So, from this point, many more battles were fought and victory was assured.

Just as these mariners took comfort knowing that friendly aircraft were above them, we take comfort in God's word. Psalm 91 v 4 declares: "*under His wings you will find refuge*".

Making a list would be useful as a basis for our response. There are no 'right' answers but there ought to be 'real' answers as we respond to what God is saying to us in these days. And, the prize? Surely, "*a closer walk with God*".

Malachi Mullings

Margaret Stewart found these verses helpful while reading Malachi: *Great is the Lord (1:5), For I am the Lord; I change not (3:6), Return unto me and I will return unto you (3: 7), They shall be mine ... when I make up my jewels (3:17) To you who fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness appear with healing (4: 2).*

Thanks

Thanks for all those who are working so hard on making meeting in the church building safe and compliant.

Faith Mission

Prayer Union meeting tonight, August 3rd, at 7 30. Meeting ID: 763 9639 6519 Passcode: 8mzvey



Sandy Allan