



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

16th November, 2020

Sermon: Lawlessness and Lordship

Dealing with a difficult-to-understand passage (2 Thessalonians 2: 1-12) John stressed that the anxieties experienced by the believers there in the First Century resonate with the concerns that many feel deeply today: What's going to happen?

While the answer is not as clear as we would like, it is sufficient to know that the issue of the future is God's business. Christians need to live by faith, knowing that truth now.

Having written to them in the first letter to comfort them regarding the sure coming again of Jesus, Paul now shows concern that they may be deceived by Satan – and distracted - regarding the details of events. He wants to allay the anxiety they naturally feel.

He does that by reminding them of certain events that must happen before the coming of the Lord. These are: rebellion and the appearance of the Man of Lawlessness.

However, the way it is presented has significant implications. It is not our responsibility to speculate about the details, such as identifying the Man of Lawlessness, but to live in the light of what we do know: that Jesus will return for His own- and make sure that we really have responded to the offer of salvation, and are assuredly His own.

That gives the assurance that, though things may get worse, nothing is beyond God's control, there is restraint; and that, in the end, Jesus wins. He is the Victor.

Internet Children's Club

This Wednesday, DV, sees the launch of Allander's Online Children's Club on the Web at 6 30 pm for 30 minutes. It is an attempt to reconnect with the children and their parents from the 78 homes circulated who have not been able to access either the Holiday Club or the weekly #ONE2SEVEN. It will be 'hosted' by John from Allander but the bulk of the interactive programme, which will include songs, quizzes, craft, worksheets and Bible stories – all focused on the theme, unwrapping Christmas – is being provided by Brian Lowrie and his team. Allyson will coordinate the children's WhatsApp responses and maintain the interactive process. Big responsibility. However, if it is to continue next year we will need more help to DIY. In the meantime, Manuel is working hard on the technical aspects while others have put in a lot of effort by way of preparation. Valuable as that is – and it is much appreciated – last Sunday's sermon emphasised the importance of prayer – an activity in which we can all be deeply involved. The programme can be accessed by going to the church website: www.allanderchurch.org.uk and clicking on the #ONE2SEVEN poster on the Home page.

Praying for people

Several of our folk need our prayers at this time. Inga is now well settled back at Oaxaca, after hitting the ground running, but still suffering from dental problems. She has completed a number of key tasks, such as delivering workshops online, revising important journal articles and

attending consultations. The team on the ground, now strengthened, continue to work diligently but struggle with practical difficulties like internet connectivity and other demands on them.

Back home, we continue to pray for George and Margaret Cowan, Joyce Kyle, Jack and Christine Harvey, Janice Thomson and many others. Remember each other as the non-ending present circumstances are bound to wear us out. Yet, as the song says, *“Through it all I’ve learned to trust in Jesus, I’ve learned to trust in God”*.

And, further afield, we pray for the persecuted church constantly under threat from authorities and militant groups.

Praying for Others

We continue to remember all the Missions and Agencies working in different areas and spheres, such as Street Connect, Glasgow City Mission, Hope for Glasgow, Preshal Trust, SAT-7, Slavic Gospel Association and Scripture Union who, along with other children’s ministries and chaplaincy teams, are denied the opportunity to function in our schools.

MAF 75th Anniversary

MAF – Missionary Aviation Fellowship – is celebrating its 75th Anniversary online during November with three ‘live’ events representing the past, the present and the future. The first of these will be on Monday 23rd November at 5 00pm on MAF’s Facebook page or YouTube channel with testimonies of the goodness of God during its early years. The Present, looking at its current operations across the globe, will be featured on Wednesday 25th November at the same time and channels; while a final, interactive, Zoom-only session will be held on Friday 27th November at 5 00pm where opportunity will be given for praise, prayer, and consideration of what lies ahead. Accessed through the MAF website.

Bible Study

On our way through the New Testament we are now into the Epistles. This week we are looking at those letters Paul sent to the churches in Galatia, Thessalonica and Corinth while he was still active on his missionary journeys. The ‘homework’ is to choose one of these letters and say why he needed to write and what he told them.

Finally

Over the last few months, it has been disappointing to note the lack of acknowledgment of our need of God by our nation’s leaders as they update us daily on the battle against Covid-19. One of the most disappointing things I heard was when Boris Johnson recently stated we have to bow ‘before nature’ as he acknowledged a losing battle against rising infection numbers. It was sad that in a state of powerlessness he could say we bow before nature rather than recognising that one of the greatest things we can do in our weakness is bow before God. How true Paul’s words to the Romans are when we see people worshipping the creation rather than the Creator, as we seem to acknowledge nature’s great power but refuse to worship the One who holds it all together by the Word of His Power.

John Macleod