



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

23rd November, 2020

Progress, Prayer and Perseverance

2 Thessalonians 2: 13 – 3: 5.

Having dealt with weighty theological problems about details of the Second Coming of Christ, Paul now reverts to giving thanks for the church in Thessalonica and encouraging the believers there.

Despite there being flaws in their experience and incidences of deviations in their past, there is clear evidence of their **progress** as they actively respond to God's Sovereign work among them. Though far from perfect, they are going in the right direction, so they are encouraged to '*hold fast*' and to '*stand firm*' to the teaching they had received. Paul had not only preached the gospel to them initially but also continued to nurture them in the truth of God.

Such progress is maintained through **prayer**, especially for him as the one who had brought the gospel to them and was, with others, their 'mentor'. He was concerned that the gospel would progress with power and that he and the others involved would know protection.

Knowing that *the Lord is faithful* is ground for having confidence in Him and so Paul anticipates **perseverance** from them as they obey the word and acknowledge the indwelling of God in their lives day by day. Even if there has been a weakening, humble contrition is enough to come back to Him and continue persevering with His enabling because He never fails. In short:

Persevere Pray Progress.

Children's Meeting Progress

The #One2Seven Online Club was launched last Wednesday as a means of outreach to young people with whom the church has had contact in recent years. Apart from a few very minor glitches at the beginning experienced by some, the whole programme went out very easily, thanks to Manuel's work on the technology side. It was a bright, lively and clear presentation of the Road to Christmas, the first of five Rs in this series.

Taking the theme: Unwrapping Christmas, the programme proved very effective. Allyson now has the task of responding to the children by WhatsApp – quite a few have already been in touch - as they send in pictures of their completed worksheets, quiz answers and craft models which will be awarded reward points.

But, to be more than just entertainment we need to pray for its effectiveness as gospel communication to all who might tune in. Access is by going to the church website (www.allanderchurch.org.uk) and clicking on the One2Seven banner on the Home page.

The next broadcast will be this Wednesday at 6 30 pm but last week's programme can still be accessed and played back as a video at any time.

Prayer Times

Although they are by Zoom, the meetings for prayer have been very effective in generating a sense of corporate fellowship. Last Tuesday, several answers to prayer were shared as well as

continued intercession made for people who are facing difficult circumstances, the welfare of folk who – for whatever reason – are not able to join in and benefit from such meetings, blessing on all the outreach, and concern for missions. Even without a computer these times can be accessed by phone. And prayer requested for Jim Gourley's daughter and son-in-law who both tested positive for Covid.

Christmas Advert

Look out for an advert the church has placed in the December issue of the Community Magazine which is circulated free to 20500 homes in Bearsden and Milngavie. It says that although Christmas Celebrations may well be cancelled the Christmas Message is still the same.

Christian Institute Week of Prayer

The Christian Institute is calling for a Week of Prayer from Sunday 29th November to Saturday 5 December. They have produced a helpful booklet guide for the week covering topics like: Society, Authorities, Marriage and Family, Schools, Sanctity of Life, Transgenderism and Religious Freedom. Contact them at info@christian.org.uk

Mission Partners

Each month we partner with a Mission Agency by prayer and in financial support

Finally

Hebrews 10 v 25 says *"not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near"*. Eccles. 4 v 12 says, *"A threefold chord is not quickly broken"*.

Scripture emphasises the importance of meeting together, to strengthen and encourage each other. During the war, merchant ships were shepherded together in convoys for their mutual protection. Sailors watched intently through their binoculars, looking for the unseen enemy lurking beneath the waves. Like these sailors, we are encouraged to watch and pray that we enter not into temptation.

Sandy Allan

through free will offerings placed in the boxes provided. The Mission for September was Truth for Today through which Sam Gordon provides Bible Teaching across various countries. Sam wrote back saying: *"It was a real joy and pleasure to receive your generous gift of £200 on behalf of the church family at Allander for my support and the ministry of Truth for Today. Thank you."*

Tier Four Restrictions

With travel between local authority areas being curtailed some of our folk will be 'in exile' in West Dunbarton, Glasgow and Stirlingshire unable to join the service in Allander on Sundays. We'll miss them. This is the time to remember each other wherever we are placed. For those able to attend, numbers are restricted to 20 per service. The back hall will be used to accommodate beyond that number with separate entrances and protocols.

Paul in Lockdown

Paul found himself in 'lockdown' in Rome at the end of his life, but he used the opportunity to write Ephesians, Colossians and Philippians as well as to Timothy, Philemon and Titus. Sharing thoughts on these will form a key part of this Thursday's Bible Study.