



Working to see what Christ will do in Scotland tomorrow.

Stornoway Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland

part of a global church with a glorious heritage



June 2017 Newsletter



WELCOME

LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship—11.00am

Evening Worship—6.30pm

PRAYER MEETING

Thursday—7.30pm

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WORD FROM THE MANSE

Dear congregation,

June is here and the temperatures are high – in the political sphere that is! Politics is dominating the news and politicians are working hard to get every last vote. Some people love the buzz from the debates, while others are worn out from all the bitter fights between opposing factions. Perhaps the children who will be getting another day off school are the happiest!

If recent votes are anything to go by, we should expect the unexpected. However, there is one prediction that I am willing to make: the vast majority of voters will follow in the pattern of the Israelites in the days of the Judges – “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” There will not be much consideration given to Jesus who is King over our nation and there will not be much thought put into which candidate best promotes His law. Instead, the electorate will look for the candidate which promises to give them the things that they want.

Christians cannot succumb to this lax thinking. We must seek in all areas of life to do what is right in God’s eyes. Nothing is outside of the dominion of Christ and therefore we must always seek to submit to our King. I am encouraged to see that attitude in many of your lives.

But perhaps there is something that we can learn from energetic electioneers. Yes, our methods, motives, and aims will be very different, but think about the earnest devotion that is displayed. How many candidates are so passionate for their cause that they will spare no expense to get an extra vote? Indeed right up to the day they will seek to persuade the undecided. The party leaders travel up and down the country to gain support for local candidates and party members will eagerly come alongside their candidate with their loyal assistance from the grassroots. No one is ashamed of belonging to their particular party.

Perhaps we Christians are a little too bashful in our evangelism. Perhaps we hide our colours out of sight. Perhaps we don’t want to offend.

Let’s reflect on the fact that our message is far more important than the great political decisions before us.

“For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...” (2 Corinthians 5:10-11)

In Christ,

Stephen

NEWS & EVENTS

ORDINATION AND INDUCTION

There was a large attendance in the Town Hall on Friday 28 April for the ordination and induction of Stephen McCollum as the new minister of Stornoway Reformed Presbyterian Church. Many had travelled from Northern Ireland and the mainland for the occasion and there were representatives from other congregations on the island.

Stephen, from Northern Ireland, first came to Scotland when he was a student in Glasgow nine years ago.

Two years later he moved to Pittsburgh to attend the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary there.

In 2012 he married Brenda, an American. In 2014 they moved back to Scotland and Stephen took up work as headmaster of the Sunrise Christian School in Glasgow. He was an elder in the Airdrie RP Church. Stephen and Brenda’s little daughter Zoe was born in January.

At the ordination and induction service The Rev Kenneth Stewart, Moderator of the Scottish RP Presbytery and minister of the RP Church in Glasgow, preached a powerful and inspiring sermon from 1 Timothy 4:14 (Neglect not the gift that is in thee) and from 2 Timothy 1:6 (Stir up the gift of God which is in thee).

The Rev Donald Macdonald of Stornoway presented the new minister with a monetary gift as well as a copy of the

Puritan Hard Drive which contains over 12,500 of the best classic and contemporary Reformation, Protestant and Puritan books, MP3s and videos ever gathered on one digital device.

Olivia McElhatton presented Brenda with a bouquet of flowers and a gift for little Zoe.

Scott Maciver presented a gift to the Rev Stewart, who has been the Interim Moderator to the Stornoway congregation and Cliff McElhatton a gift to the Rev Donald Macdonald, for his services to the congregation.

A reception was held afterwards in the Cala Hotel.

Bill Lucas



Olivia McElhatton & Brenda McCollum



Rev Donald Macdonald & Rev Stephen McCollum



Rev Kenneth Stewart



Presbytery

LEWIS CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

The Lewis Christian Conference will take place from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th June at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Dr Joel R. Beeke and the venue will be Stornoway Free Church (kindly granted). The conference theme is "Pursuing Godliness". For further information, please visit www.lewischristianconference.com.

FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

If there are any in the congregation who would like to contribute financially via the envelope system, and don't already do so, please speak to DR Macdonald. Gift Aid forms are also available on request, in order to increase the value of your giving's by 25%, at no cost to yourself.



Dr Joel Beeke

THE RP MISSION TEAM 2017

RP Missions is the Short Term Mission Organisation of the American RP Church. The team this year will be in Scotland from the 25th May to the 29th June. They will be helping Airdrie, North Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stornoway, and Stranraer. The mission team will be in Stornoway from 21-27th June.



Joey (Team Leader) & Monica Dunlap – Joey and Monica live in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania where they are members at Grace RPC. Joey just finished his first year at the RP Seminary in Pittsburgh. Monica works at a country club. Joey has been on the Semester in Scotland programme, and this is his third time leading the RP Mission Team. This is Monica's second time on the Team. They are expecting their first child in December.



Matthew Latuche – I am from rural Powhatan, Virginia, and I currently worship with Grace and Truth Reformed Presbyterian Church. I am 20, and I work as a full-time caregiver for my elderly grandparents and an aging friend, in addition to doing lawn care and other jobs on the side. This is my second trip to Scotland-- I am so happy to be coming back!



Susanna Spitler – I am from Oklahoma and I am a member of the Stillwater Reformed Presbyterian Church there. I have just graduated from high school and I plan on attending university in the autumn. I'm really looking forward to serving in Scotland! (Susanna and her family lived in Airdrie and worshipped at the Airdrie RP Church for 6 months in 2008.)



Emeline Ferguson – I am 19 from Prosperity, Pennsylvania. I will be starting my third year this Autumn at Grove City College, where I study English and Biblical and Religious Studies. I am a member of Upper Ten Mile Presbyterian Church in my hometown.



Leigh Pietsch – I am a practicing attorney located in Wheaton, Illinois. I am married to Maddy and have two adult children, Christopher and Nathan. I belong to Grace Lutheran Church. After practicing law for more than 35 years, I attended Bible College for three years. I am extremely excited to be going on this mission trip!



Paul Lorenz– I was born and raised in Toronto, Canada moving out west to Alberta 5 years ago to further my career. I am a member of the Camrose Church of God, a congregation that has quickly become a family to me. I am an industrial tradesmen (steamfitting and welding) currently working on a state-of-the-art refinery build while also taking courses at school to further my education.



John Macdonald – I live in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I’m currently serving the Lord as an associate pastor at Vineyard Christian Fellowship. I am married with two adult children.



Lydia Marquith – I’m from Illinois. I am now in my second year in college at Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa, getting my associates degree for now in Education, so that I can work and then later take online classes to get my degree for teaching history to high school students.

ABERDEEN FREE CHURCH (CONTINUING) - NEW BUILDING

The Aberdeen Free Church (Continuing) congregation have recently purchased a former congregational church in the Mastrick district of Aberdeen. They have been very well received with many of their new neighbours telling them that they are glad the building has returned to its original use as a church. A number of local Christians have begun worshipping with them.



GLEANINGS BY BILL LUCAS

MARANATHA

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them that love His appearing (2 Tim. 4:8)

Another fruit of love is to long for Christ's appearing. Love desires union; Aristotle gives the reason, because joy flows upon union. When our union with Christ is perfect in glory, then our joy will be full. He that loves Christ loves His appearing. Christ's appearing will be a happy appearing to the saints. His appearing now is very comforting, when he appears for us as an advocate (Heb. 9:24); but the other appearing will be infinitely more so, when He shall appear for us as our husband.

He will at that day bestow two jewels upon us. His love; a love so great and astonishing that it is better felt than expressed. And His likeness: "When He shall appear, we shall be like Him" (1 John 3:2). And from both these, love and likeness, infinite joy will flow into the soul. No wonder then that he who loves Christ longs for His appearance. "The Spirit and the bride say, come ... even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22: 17,20).

By this let us test our love to Christ. A wicked man who is self-condemned, is afraid of Christ's appearing, and wishes He would never appear but such as love Christ, are joyful to think of His coming in the clouds. They shall then be delivered from all their sins and fears; they shall be acquitted before men and angels; and shall be forever translated into the paradise of God

These are fruits of love to God. Happy are they who can find these fruits so foreign to their natures, growing in their souls.

Thomas Watson ("A Divine Cordial")

A NEW DAY

Lord Jesus, we thank you that a new day affords another opportunity for commitment and devotion. You have turned a fresh page in my life's story. It comes from you without blemish or soil; help me to keep it so. Forgive the past blotted with my failures and sins, and help me to walk in paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

F B Meyer

AN UNERRING CHART

God has placed His Word in our hands for an intensely practical purpose -- namely, to direct our walk and to regulate our deportment. The primary purpose for which God gave the Scriptures, is to make a practical use of them -- ordering the details of our lives by its rules and regulations.

"Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105). The metaphor used here is taken from a man walking along a dangerous road on a dark night, in urgent need of a lantern to show him where to walk safely and comfortably, to avoid injury and destruction.

God, in His infinite condescension and transcendent grace, has given us His Word for this very purpose, so that we need not stumble along blindly, ignorant of what pleases or displeases Him -- but that we might know His mind. That divine Word is not given to us simply for information, but . . . to regulate our conduct, to enlighten our minds, and to mould our hearts.

The Word supplies us with an unerring chart by which to steer through the dangerous sea of life.

Arthur W. Pink, "The Attributes of God")

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Behold, how independent of outward circumstances the Holy Ghost can make the Christian! What a bright light may shine within us when it is all dark without! How firm, how happy, how calm, how peaceful we may be, when the world shakes to and fro, and the pillars of the earth are removed! Even death itself, with all its terrible influences, has no power to suspend the music of a Christian's heart, but rather makes that music become more sweet, more clear, more heavenly, till the last kind act which death can do is to let the earthly strain melt into the heavenly chorus, the temporal joy into the eternal bliss!

Let us have confidence, then, in the blessed Spirit's power to comfort us. Dear reader, are you looking forward to poverty? Fear not; the divine Spirit can give you, in your want, a greater plenty than the rich have in their abundance. You know not what joys may be stored up for you in the cottage around which grace will plant the roses of content.

Are you conscious of a growing failure of your bodily powers? Do you expect to suffer long nights of languishing and days of pain? O be not sad! That bed may become a throne to you. You little know how every pang that shoots through your body may be a refining fire to consume your dross—a beam of glory to light up the secret parts of your soul. Are the eyes growing dim? Jesus will be your light. Do the ears fail you? Jesus' name will be your soul's best music, and His person your dear delight. Socrates used to say, "Philosophers can be happy without music;" and Christians can be happier than philosophers when all outward causes of rejoicing are withdrawn. In Thee, my God, my heart shall triumph, come what may of ills without! By thy power, O blessed Spirit, my heart shall be exceeding glad, though all things should fail me here below.

C.H. Spurgeon

THE LOVE OF CHRIST

"Having loved His own who were in the world -- He loved them unto the end!" John 13:1

The Lord Jesus Christ is God -- possessed of all divine attributes, and entitled to all divine honours. He is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit -- God over all, and blessed for evermore! He is naturally, essentially, perfectly, and eternally possessed of everything peculiar to Deity.

He owes His existence to none. He says, "I am Jehovah, and beside Me there is no Savior!" He is God -- and there is no other. There is no other name given under Heaven, or among men, whereby we can be saved. He is the Rock of Ages. He is the infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, gracious, just, holy, and unchangeable I AM!

James Smith

GRACE EXPERIENCED

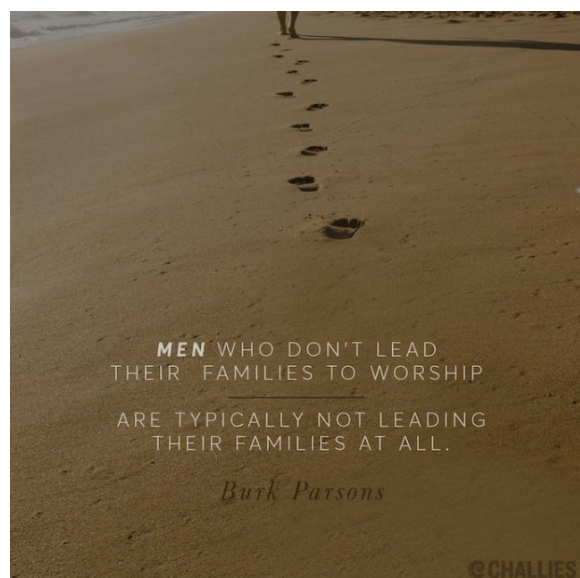
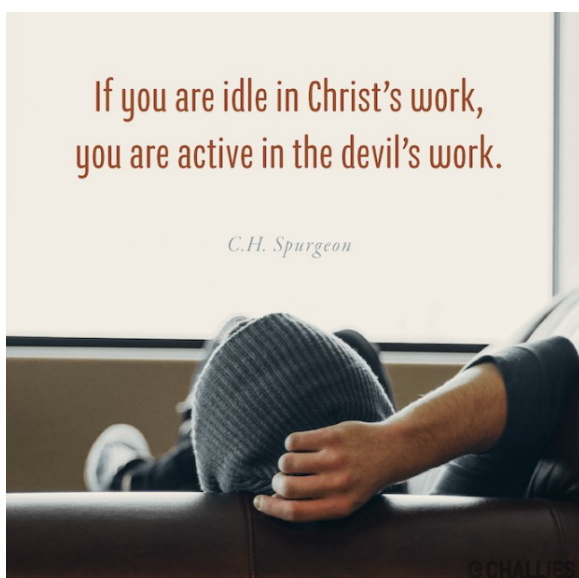
Grace is God coming into human experience. You cannot separate grace from Christ and you cannot separate Christ from the Father. If you have grace you have it because God in the Trinity of his persons has come into your life. He has come in through the Son: "Christ shall dwell in your hearts by faith." (Eph. 3:17).

This is what makes a Christian. It is not merely what a person believes intellectually. It is not what is done morally. What makes a Christian is Christ coming to dwell in his or her heart.

The Holy Spirit is involved as well. It is the Spirit who regenerates the sinner. He is grace in its aspect of power. We speak of irresistible grace, of a working of God in our lives that cannot be effectually stamped out.

As one of the Puritans expressed it: "Grace is glory in the bud and glory is grace in full flower."

J Douglas Macmillan ("The God of All Grace")



WHY DOES GOD COMMAND US TO REJOICE ALWAYS?

When writing to Christians in the city of Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul instructs them, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:16-18). These words are instruction to a church newly founded by Paul, composed of people who left Greco-Roman paganism to embrace Jesus Christ by faith. Rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks in all circumstances should characterize the lives of these new Christians in the face of heated opposition from those who do not understand why people would worship a Jewish rabbi from far-away Palestine who claimed to be the Son of God but was put to death by the Romans.



To command Christians to rejoice under difficult circumstances is hard to understand without a context. We can understand why people who are facing opposition would need to pray—they must seek the grace of God to sustain them during their trials. We can understand why they should give continual thanks for the mercies of God that they continue to receive. But why must God’s people rejoice during times of trial and persecution?

Paul’s teaching about Jesus reveals the Apostle to be a critic of Greek Stoicism, a philosophy of life that taught people to live resolutely in accordance with fixed laws of nature. Yet, at first hearing, Paul’s command to rejoice during trials sounds a bit like what Greeks might expect from a Stoic philosopher. Why would Paul command this if he was not a Stoic himself?

The answer is found by looking to the future and the eternal hope promised to every Christian, which is the context for the command to sufferers to rejoice in difficult times. In Romans 12:9-21, Paul is addressing the marks of a true Christian—the manifestations of new religious affections in the lives of those who have been justified through faith in Jesus, who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and who are being conformed to the image of their Savior. The key manifestation is love for Jesus and for those redeemed by Him (v. 9). Such love is drawn toward the good while abhorring evil. It can be seen in brotherly affection and honor (v. 10), as well as in zeal and sincerity in serving the Lord (v. 11).

In verse 12, Paul gives us the context for rejoicing in times of trial: “Rejoice in hope.” The reason why Christians are commanded to rejoice in the midst of trials, suffering, and persecution now becomes clear. By looking to the future, Christians know that their trials, however difficult, are temporary, and that when all is said and done, God promises to turn every current trial to our eternal good (8:28). True joy is not grounded in personal sentiment or emotions (“I feel joyful”), nor in a stoic resolution to bravely face the future. Rather, it is grounded in the fact that the crucified Savior who died for our sins so as to turn aside the wrath of God was also bodily raised from the dead and will come again in fulfillment of all His promises.

Christians rejoice in times of trial and suffering because doing so emulates the saving work of Jesus, who suffered and died before being raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of the Father, where He rules over all things. The pattern established by Jesus—suffering precedes glory—holds true for all those who trust in Him and are united to Him by the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus suffered and was raised, we are promised the same thing. Our suffering, trials, temptations, and persecution will give way to all the blessings Jesus has promised to us—the future hope of which Paul often speaks (see 1 Cor. 15:19; 1 Thess. 5:8, 2 Thess. 2:16-17).

Rejoicing in times of trial is not some meaningless religious ritual in which we focus on how we feel or in which we resolve to be brave. Instead, we are following the example set by Jesus in His own life, death, and resurrection. Suffering and trials give way to the resurrection of our bodies, future glory, and eternal life. Paul makes this point earlier in Romans:

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (8:23–25)

Christians can rejoice in the midst of suffering because of Jesus, who has secured and now guarantees a future joy for all those whom He redeems.

Kim Riddlebarger, Ligonier Blog

CAN UNANSWERED PRAYER BE A BLESSING?

It seems so obvious to us that our prayers should be answered. They are things we long for and about which we are burdened. Surely they are good things and would bring glory to God. Why doesn't God answer? Such questions put faith and patience to the test especially when we reach the point of desperation. There is a deep mystery here that may be very painful. But we must also recognise that there may be a purpose of mercy when our desires are not fulfilled.

There are some especially helpful insights in a series of sermons preached by Christopher Love on refusing to give up in prayer. Christopher Love (1618-1651) was born in Cardiff, Wales. He was converted at the age of 15 and later became a puritan minister in London. He held firmly to the engagements of the Solemn League and Covenant and was arrested together with other puritans such as Thomas Watson on a charge of treason. It was alleged that they were plotting to bring Charles II to the throne. After being imprisoned he was executed under Cromwell's government on 22 August 1651. His speech before execution and his final letters to his wife are especially moving.

WHAT GOD LOOKS FOR IN YOUR PRAYERS

Love observes that Luke 11:8 speaks of the request in the parable being answered not because of the state of friendship but because of the importunity. He notes that sometimes it is not enough that we are reconciled to God and are His friends for certain requests to be answered. We must keep going and not give up. Yet, even when we persevere in prayer – we may not experience the fulfilment. Not only this but prayer must be engaged in by a person in a right relationship with God, in a right way and manner and with a right end in view. God does not say that he will hear our prayers no matter how we pray. This would make us careless.

God requires that prayer is done with feeling, fervency, faith, fear, and reverence. It must be done in a right manner.

There are five things that God requires of us in accepting your prayers.

1. Your heart must be prepared (Psalm 10:17)
2. Sin must be removed (Job 11:13-15)
3. Your affections must be raised (Psalm 25:1)
4. Your mind must be fixed and not distracted (1 Corinthians 7:35)

Your desires must be enlarged after God (Jeremiah 29:13; Psalm 81:10)

WHEN DOES GOD REFUSE TO ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS?

1. When you indulge sin

Indulging and approving sin in your heart provokes God so that He will not give an answer to your prayers (Psalm 66:18).

2. Asking for things for sinful reasons

We must not seek for mercies from God which we will make fuel for our sin (James 4:3; Matthew 20:21).

3. Asking for things you will not use in the right way

Perhaps God sees that enlarged gifts would make you proud. In Genesis 26:1-2 God denied Isaac from going to Egypt during a famine but in Genesis 46:3 He commands Jacob to go there. Isaac was weaker and would have fallen into the sins of the land. But now Jacob is stronger in grace and would resist their idolatrous ways and not be guilty of their sins. If God denies you something, say to yourself, "this denial is in mercy, for He did not think me fit for it". This would silence all the murmurings of our hearts against God.

4. Asking for things in a cold and careless way

God promises to be found, if we seek Him with our whole heart. But if we are regardless ourselves how can we expect that God will regard us?

WHEN CAN IT BE A BLESSING FOR GOD TO REFUSE TO ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS?

God does not hear the prayers of the wicked but denies them in wrath. He only denies His people's prayers in mercy. This is so in the following situations:

1. If it is something sinful in itself

God will not always give His people what they pray for but what is best for them. If God gave His people all they ask for, they would be undone. It is mercy to deny a mad man a sword, for he would cut his own throat with it or to deny a child a knife, for he would cut his fingers with it. In Luke 5:8 Peter says, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord". If Christ had granted Peter his request, he would have been undone forever. This denial was in mercy.

2. If it would cause us to sin

A man may ask God for wealth but God sees that having wealth would make him proud. Such denial is mercy.

3. If He gives something better in exchange

Moses desired to go into the land of Canaan but it was better to him to go to the heavenly Canaan. God therefore took him there. The apostles asked Christ to tell them when he would restore the kingdom to Israel. He would not tell them but gave them a greater mercy, He gave them the Holy Spirit. David prayed for the life of his child but God took away the illegitimate child and gave him Solomon. As Bernard of Clairvaux says, God will either give us what we ask or what He knows to be better for us.

4. If He intends to increase your desire for it

God may deny us in order to increase your desires and affections in prayer and make you more eager in pursuing mercy. God often denies what we seek for not because He is unwilling to listen but to see how your heart will be drawn out towards Him in prayer. He wants to make you more vehement and importunate in your desires.

You find this in the woman of Canaan (Matthew 15:22). Jesus Christ takes no notice of her; He answers her not a word (verse 23). That is discouragement. One would have thought she would desist, but she prayed again, and the disciples besought Him to send her away. That is another discouragement, which would have knocked off many; but she continues her request still. Jesus Christ Himself answers her, "I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the House of Israel." That is a third discouragement; and yet that does not cool her affections, but she comes afresh to Christ, and worships Him, saying, "Lord, help me." She found yet another repulse, and that worse than the former (Matthew 15:26). Christ calls her a dog but she takes encouragement even from this discouraging answer. She was resolved not to give up till she got what she came for. The denials and discouragements God's people meet with make their desires stronger and their affections to burn hotter.

God was angry with the prayers of His people (Psalm 80:4) so that they might be more fervent. Anselm says that God does not delay to hear our prayers because He has no intention to give but so that our desires may be kindled. This gives Him a reason to give more plentifully.

5. If He sees that we have an excessive desire for it

It may be merciful for God to deny us something in mercy if we set our heart on it too much. If we love it too much in asking we will be excessive in having. Rachel was better to lack children than to desire them with an impetuous desire and rash words (Genesis 30:1). She had a child and died in child-bed. God turns mercies desired too passionately into curses and snares to us, or else takes them away from us.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. God gets glory even by denying your prayers.

It is better that God should be glorified than that we have what we ask for when we want it (John 11:3-4 and 40).

2. If you do not listen to God's commands, no wonder if He does not listen to your prayers.

It may be God has been calling you to repent and believe for many years – to be reformed, to forsake the evil of your doings, yet you have not heeded His call. Is it not just for God to let you call and He not hear you? (Micah 3:4; Zechariah 7:13).

3. If you ask coldly.

Do you think God will listen to that prayer which you yourself do not listen to? Do you think God will accept a prayer in which your yourself do not know what you are saying?

4. Perhaps God has given a blessing that you do not acknowledge.

God may have answered your prayers, yet you have not taken any notice of it (Job 9:16-17).

5. Perhaps you are not ready for the answer.

God is always ready to give an answer to our prayers but we are not always ready to receive the answer. God may deny us so that we open our mouths wider (Psalm 81:10).

6. God's people may wait long for an answer.

It was fifteen years from the time of God's promise of a child to Abraham until it was accomplished. Zachariah and Elizabeth prayed for a child and while God heard their cries and prayers He did not answer until they were old. So it is often for the Church (Lamentations 3:8 and 44; Habakkuk 1:2).

7. Sometimes God is angry with His people's prayers.

God may not only defer or deny an answer but even be angry at some times and in some situations with His people's prayers (Psalm 80:4; Job 30:20-21).

8. God may accept you and listen to your prayers but not grant your request.

In one sense this was even true of Christ in praying for the cup to pass from Him (Matthew 26:39) yet He was heard in that which He prayed (Hebrews 5:7). Moses was a godly man and prayed to see the promised land and go over Jordan to possess it. But God was angry with him and commanded him to pray no more (Deuteronomy 3:23-26).

9. God may give you something better.

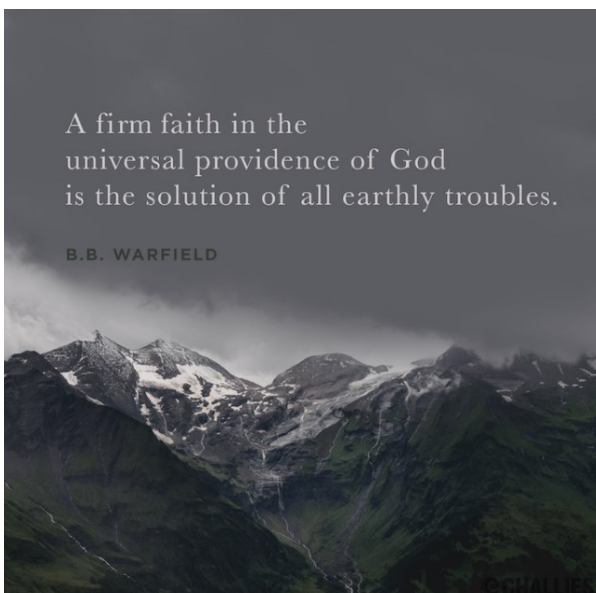
Abraham prayed that Ishmael might live before God. God did not hear his prayer as Abraham desired but gave him Isaac and the covenant which was a greater mercy.

10. God may deny your request because to grant it would be a token of wrath.

This would be so if someone asks for something sinful in itself, or that which would be an unavoidable cause of sin or for sinful reasons.

11. God may answer someone else's prayers for you even if He does not answer your own.

This is a great comfort to every poor weak Christian in the world – they have a stock of prayers going for them to the throne of grace. God forbade Job's three friends to pray but told Job to pray for them (Job 42:8-9).



Children's Corner



Dear Children

Did you enjoy the beautiful sunny days we had at the beginning of last month? I hope it caused you to thank our Creator God for the beauties of His creation. Read in Genesis chapter 1 the story of God's creation on each of the six days and notice what God thinks of all that He has made. At the end of each day's creation it says: "And God saw that it was good."

What a wonderful world God has created for us! Even though sin has spoiled it, it is still very beautiful with rolling hills, lochs and white sandy beaches. Then think of all the different trees, assorted plants and colourful flowers as well as the many varieties of birds and animals. All these give us so much pleasure and a reason to praise our Creator God who has filled our world with so much to interest and delight us. Also, don't forget the sun, moon and stars which brighten our days and nights. We have so much for which to thank God. Without all these life would be dull and boring but God's wonderful creation provides us with so many pleasures and pastimes. We can go walking, fishing, bird-watching, spend time gardening and engage in so many other hobbies as well as enjoy the varieties of weather – sun, rain, wind and snow. All these give their own pleasures. Take time to think of God's creation and remember to thank Him for all that you enjoy in it.

In Psalm 19 and verse 1 the psalmist David says that "The heavens declare the glory of God." God's creation preaches to us about the glory of God's power and wisdom in bringing this world into being out of nothing and in keeping it going from day to day.

Next month we will look at something else which is even more wonderful and which gives us an even greater cause to thank God and praise Him. I will leave you to think about what that could be!

With my love and prayers

Granny M

Activity: Read Psalm 148 and name some of the things that are to praise God.



1. a _ _ _ _ _ (v2)
2. s _ _ and m _ _ _ (v3)
3. a _ _ c _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (v5)
4. d _ _ _ _ _ _ (v7)
5. f _ _ _ , h _ _ _ , s _ _ _ , v _ _ _ _ _ , s _ _ _ _ _ , w _ _ _ _ (v8)
6. a _ _ h _ _ _ _ and m _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (v9)
7. f _ _ _ _ _ _ t _ _ _ _ and c _ _ _ _ _ (v9)
8. b _ _ _ _ _ and a _ _ c _ _ _ _ _ (v10)
9. c _ _ _ _ _ _ t _ _ _ _ _ and b _ _ _ _ _ (v10)
10. k _ _ _ _ , n _ _ _ _ _ , p _ _ _ _ _ and j _ _ _ _ _ (v 11)
11. y _ _ _ _ m _ _ , m _ _ _ _ _ , o _ _ m _ _ and c _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (v11)

