



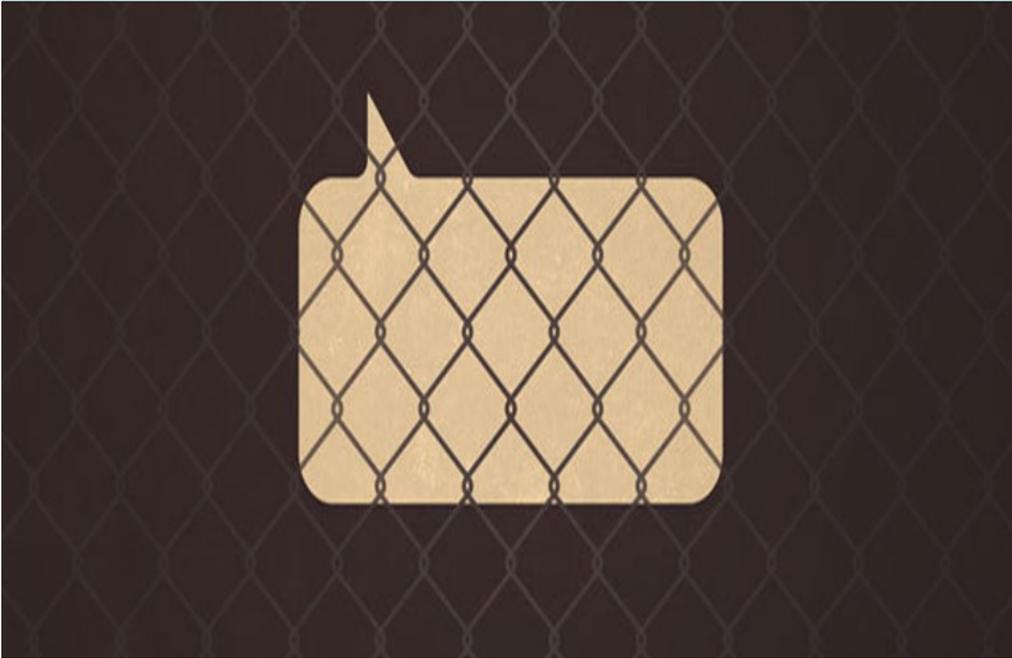
Working to see what Christ will do in Scotland tomorrow.

**Stornoway
Reformed Presbyterian
Church of Scotland**

part of a global church with a glorious heritage



September 2018 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,

When Judah was taken into exile, Nebuchadnezzar chose out some of the brightest and best and had them taught “the language and literature of the Chaldeans” (Daniel 1:4) Their education would have consisted of mathematics, science, politics, history, and astronomy, among other things. Yet none of these subjects is neutral. Their education was an indoctrination. All of these subjects could be studied in a Christian way, i.e. from a perspective of God as Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer; or they could be studied in a pagan way, i.e. a humanistic man-focused perspective. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were to become Babylonian in their thinking. The true God was to be forgotten.

How different this education was from the one commanded by God:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

When a government wants to indoctrinate its citizens, it must get control over the curriculum. If it controls what is taught then it can successfully direct how most people will think and even behave.

Recently, the Christian Institute brought to our attention that children as young as five in Scotland could be taught that they can decide their own gender. But don't just take the Christian Institute's word for it. Let me quote from a draft lesson plan which is “supported by a partnership of NHS Boards, Local Authorities, Education Scotland, Scottish Government and Third Sector agencies.” This lesson plan is for early level.

We have been learning that each of us is special and unique, and so each of us will be able to say who we are. Some of us will feel very much like we are a boy, some of us will feel very much like we are a girl, some of us will not be so sure if we are a boy or a girl. It is important that we are happy, no matter what gender we feel we are. When people grow up, sometimes they decide to change their gender so that they are happier with who they are, this is called being transgender.

The lesson plan even suggests books to accompany this topic: *Are you a boy or are you a girl?* and *Jacob's new Dress*, which both look to be very attractively produced books.

Dear friends, is that not sinister? How can we bear to think of our dear children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews learning such confusion and wickedness? Do we not feel like the parents of Moses, for: “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command” (Hebrews 11:23).

I wrote to Alasdair Allan (MSP) to express my concern over these draft lesson plans but at the time of writing this article I have not received a response.

Indoctrination is not just a goal of the Scottish Government; the BBC is a shameless promoter of such confusion, calling good evil and evil good. The BBC claims to be impartial and yet is dangerously biased. In the month of July alone the BBC news website covered at least 16 different Pride events. Are we surprised? Over 10% of BBC staff are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. The media is their pulpit and they use it. We are constantly being told by the media that transgenderism is normal. That is education at times – we must teach our children the same thing over and over until they understand.

One of the greatest propagandists ever to live said, “The receptivity of the great masses is very limited, their intelligence is small, but their power of forgetting is enormous. In consequence of these facts, all effective propaganda must be limited to a very few points and must harp on these in slogans until the last member of the public understands what you want him to understand by your slogan.” (Adolf Hitler) Do we not feel subjected to such methods?

What is to be our response?

1. We must not compromise on the truth

This first response is rather obvious and yet it is not as easy as it sounds. Think through church history – why has the church compromised in various time periods? Simply because a compromise was easier. What made some Covenanters compromise the Reformation principles and accept a church that was a mixture of Presbyterianism and Episcopalianism? There was a choice – suffer and possibly die – or compromise and have some sense of liberty. Persecution is a test of our heart loyalties. No matter how much a loud and aggressive lobby attacks the truth of God’s Word, we must say as Luther said, “Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God.”

2. We must speak out for the truth

As children of the light our righteous lives and words should expose the darkness of this world. After all, you were “once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8). There are various ways in which we can speak out. We can correspond with MPs, MSPs, and local councillors to express our disapproval of unbiblical propaganda being taught in the schools. Perhaps you don’t feel very gifted at speaking, especially when situations get tense. Writing letters to politicians is an excellent way to speak out. Just keep your letter simple and clear. And yet, if we find ourselves in a situation where the truth is being distorted we must speak. Not too long ago, I heard someone mention how she thought it was nice that people could choose their gender. I was so stunned to hear this that I hardly knew what to say, yet it would have been wrong to have kept silent.

3. We must pray for mercy

We find ourselves under the merited wrath of God. As a nation we have backslidden from being a people who professed Christ to being one that delights in ungodliness. It is evident from the types of sins that are engaged in today that God has “given us up” to uncleanness, vile passions, and a debased mind (Romans 1:24, 26, 28). The wrath of God is manifested against us. There is no way for it to be removed but by repentance and humiliation, casting ourselves upon God’s mercy in Christ. Perhaps He may yet have mercy on us. “Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin” (Exodus 32:30).

In Christ,

Stephen



NEWS & EVENTS

ANUGARHA RP CHURCH, BANGALORE, INDIA

For the past few months, Bangalore has been under the gloom of thunderous storm clouds and torrential rains, with temperatures dropping to about 70F.

It might be laughable for our friends from the West if they heard us Indians ever mention how cold and sick we feel in this weather. Yet, rains are coming, and that is always good news for a country that is predominantly agrarian. Church life too has been witnessing many showers from the Lord in terms of renewed life, vigor, and yes, even harvest! Anugraha has been seeing a steep increase in first-time visitors, adherents and those interested in becoming members.

Recently, a young cosmopolitan lady from a Hindu background came to saving faith in the Lord Jesus and now regularly attends our church services and events. Here is a portion of her confession:

“While listening to [a sermon online], I was struck by the thought of the extent of God’s love for sinners like us. Us, who have turned away from him completely and dead in our sins, loves us so much that he gave up his Son for us ... you almost get the feeling that God loved us more than his own Son, who he shared an eternity of mutual love with. Oh, my! When you think of that, it just amazes you. God loves me so much? SO MUCH? REALLY? ME? Even after all I’ve done against you? And God says, ‘Of course!’ ... Lord, thank you for loving me so much and pulling me out of my future of your just wrath. Thank you for loving me so much that you have given me your Spirit that you have now enabled me to receive your love and praise you!”

Another man, Sunil by name, was a fruit of the labors of our church as he made a credible profession of faith in Christ, after much wrestling with the reality of Christ’s Deity. Other unbelievers have also been frequenting our church, some more regularly than others, pondering the astonishing Christ, as Pastor Venky preaches through the book of Mark. Truly, we are astonished by our Christ!

Please praise God for these precious souls and pray for:

Those whom we are reaching out to personally, as well as those we are reaching out to strategically, that they too may enter the kingdom of Christ.

Those who are attending the women’s bible study on God’s covenant love story. Please pray that more women would join in who have never heard this story, and some may even be changed in their hearts towards God.

Sarmishta (Pastor’s wife @ Anugraha Church)



ABORTION: NOT AN OPTION

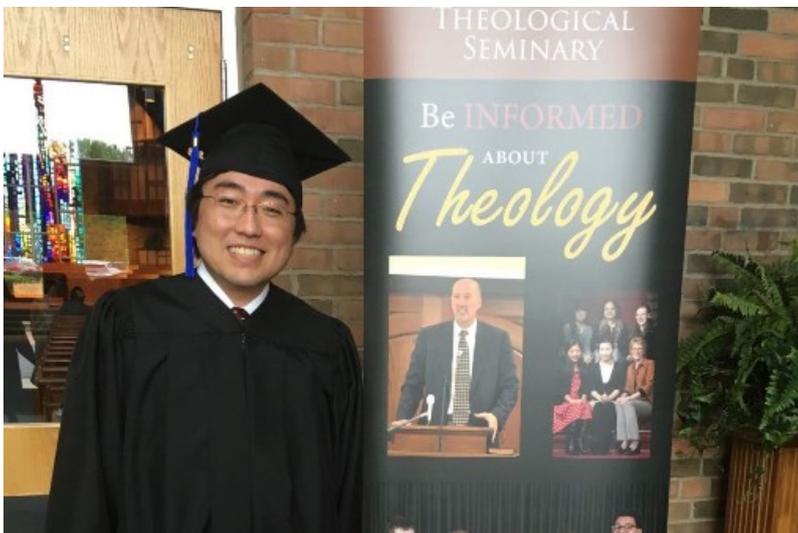
Cookstown RP Church held a pro-life meeting on Friday 10th August. The three speakers were all members of Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Ireland.

Judith Tait (who has a son with Downs Syndrome) covered the topic ‘**What if there’s a disability?**’,

Trevor Wills (who lost his daughter at the age of 24 weeks) gave a talk entitled ‘**What about fatal foetal abnormalities?**’, and Paul Wright (Pastor of Cookstown RPC) spoke on ‘**The Bible and abortion.**’



YUSUKE HIRATA LICENSED



At a meeting of the Japanese Presbytery on Monday 13th August, Dr. Yusuke Hirata was licensed and is now eligible to receive a call to the ministry.

Mr Hirata trained as a medical doctor before travelling to the States to study at RPTS, where he graduated in May 2018. Here he is pictured with the rest of his graduating class, with students from all over the world including America and even Scotland!

Pray that Mr Hirata might be used by God to build up and encourage the church in Japan.

BOOK RELEASE

Barry York, President of the RP Seminary in Pittsburgh has a book coming out on 7th September called ‘Hitting the Marks’. The book is being published by Crown and Covenant Publications

“Evaluating a church or choosing a good one can be a difficult task. So many styles, so many types, so many different experiences and focuses. We quickly see the activities of a church, and those can be important; but how much do they reveal about the church’s essential nature? Are there signs that a church is actually a good church, both on the surface and deep down? What distinguishes a true congregation of God’s people from a cult, a misguided sect, or an apostate church? What may be signs that a church is drifting away from its calling?”



Historically, the church has provided answers to these questions from the Scriptures, which are a sure and lasting guide. Certain marks have been given to distinguish the true, visible church from false ones. In particular, there are three essential identification marks, which we will explore in this book. Whether you are looking for a church, seeking to understand your own church experience better, or wanting to guide others in deepening the church’s true identity, this book is for you.”

GLEANINGS BY BILL LUCAS

THE SWEET PSALMIST OF ISRAEL (2 SAMUEL 23:1)

Among all the saints whose lives are recorded in Holy Writ, David possesses an experience of the most striking, varied, and instructive character. In his history we meet with trials and temptations not to be discovered, as a whole, in other saints of ancient times, and hence he is all the more suggestive a type of our Lord.

David knew the trials of all ranks and conditions of men. Kings have their troubles, and David wore a crown: the peasant has his cares, and David handled a shepherd's crook: the wanderer has many hardships, and David abode in the caves of Engedi: the captain has his difficulties, and David found the sons of Zeruiah too hard for him. The psalmist was also tried in his friends, his counsellor Ahithophel forsook him, "He that eateth bread with me, hath lifted up his heel against me." His worst foes were they of his own household: his children were his greatest affliction. The temptations of poverty and wealth, of honour and reproach, of health and weakness, all tried their power upon him.

He had temptations from without to disturb his peace, and from within to mar his joy. David no sooner escaped from one trial than he fell into another; no sooner emerged from one season of despondency and alarm, than he was again brought into the lowest depths, and all God's waves and billows rolled over him. It is probably from this cause that David's psalms are so universally the delight of experienced Christians. Whatever our frame of mind, whether ecstasy or depression, David has exactly described our emotions.

He was an able master of the human heart, because he had been tutored in the best of all schools -- the school of heart-felt, personal experience. As we are instructed in the same school, as we grow matured in grace and in years, we increasingly appreciate David's psalms, and find them to be "green pastures." My soul, let David's experience cheer and counsel thee this day.

CHS

THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23 v1)

It is exceedingly interesting to know the many names by which Christ calls Himself in the Bible. There are above one hundred, I think one hundred and seven. He calls Himself a rose, "I am the rose of Sharon," as a lily, "I am the lily of the valley." The reason why He has so many names is that one name would not describe Him; He has so many offices that one name would not explain them; nay all of them put together do not, for Paul said, "Unto me who am less than the least of all the saints is this grace given, that I might preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." Of all the names given, that of the Shepherd is the sweetest.

Robert Murray McCheyne

CHRISTIANS

Have mercy, I pray, on all who call themselves Christians; lead them out of their wanderings and divisions so that people may see their unity in Jesus Christ and believe that you sent Him to be the Redeemer of the world.

F B Meyer

NOT MY OWN

6

Since He looked upon me my heart is not my own, He hath run away to heaven with it.

Samuel Rutherford

NEVER STOP GROWING

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things which is the head, even Christ (Eph.4:15)

The growth of grace will hinder the growth of corruption. The more health grows, the more the distempers of the body abate. So it is in spirituals; the more humility grows, the more the swelling of pride is decreased. The more purity of heart grows, the more the fire of lust is abated. The growth of flowers in the garden does not hinder the growing of weeds; but the growing of this flower of grace hinders the sprouting of corruption ...

The more we grow in grace, the more will God love us. It is not that we pray for? The more growth, the more God loves us. The gardener loves his thriving plants; the thriving Christian is God's Hephzibah, or chief delight ... Christ accepts the truth of grace, but commends the growth of grace. "I have not found so great faith, not in Israel." Would you have much love from Christ? Labour for much growth, let faith flourish with good works, and let love increase into zeal ...

The more we grow in grace, the more we shall flourish in glory. Though every vessel of glory shall be full, yet some vessels hold more.

Thomas Watson

BIBLE READING

Next to praying there is nothing so important in practical religion as Bible reading. God has mercifully given us a book which is "able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2nd Tim: 3. 15). By reading that book we may learn what to believe, what to be, and what to do; how to live in comfort, and how to die in peace. Happy is that man who possesses a Bible! Happier still is he who reads it! Happiest of all is he who not only reads it, but obeys it, and makes it the rule of his faith and practice!

J C Ryle (Practical Religion)

SHOWERS OF GRACE

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest ... shall not cease (Genesis 8:22)

Growing up on a farm I realised how dependent we were on the supernatural. Weather is the key for a successful crop. The tiller prepares the soil, drops in the seed, but cannot call forth life. God furnishes the warmth to pull the sprouts through the earth's crust. Clouds open to water the plants. Prayers ascend for protection from hail and destructive winds.

In the spiritual realm we cannot save a soul. We pray and witness to prepare the seedbed. Then we pray against the enemy's interference. God sends showers of grace, love and mercy to instill germinating life into a repentant sinner.

E. Dyck

THE TRUTH

I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)

Being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform (Romans 4:22)

Many reading this meditation can say with the Psalmist David, "I have been young, and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." (Ps. 37:25). He, like you and I, proved the Word of God, "I will never leave thee, not forsake thee." We know what God has promised He is able also to perform. Dear believer, drink in the truth today and enjoy it to the full.

Arnot P. McIntee

TOO BUSY TO READ THE BIBLE



“Busy” is something of a status symbol for success currently. Everyone is busy, it’s a stock response. But is it the best way to measure importance and productivity? We feel overwhelmed but the research tells us that on average we actually have more free time. It’s a case of how we use our time. It seems like many are chasing ever-inflating expectations from society and themselves that they will never achieve. Are we trying to do everything in order to project an image of a perfect life? Wouldn’t it be more sensible and satisfying to prioritise the essentials (not forgetting what is of eternal significance)? Without rehashing the statistics, we are familiar with Christians claiming they are “too busy” to read the Bible. What is the remedy?

We need to reassess our use of time in the light of our priorities. We make time for what we either want to do or must do. If we value God and His Word and believe that it must shape our lives and hearts then we have to make time for it. The person who delights in God’s Word and wants their mind to be transformed by it makes time for it each day (Psalm 1:2-3). David Dickson gives some brief counsel on this. He was so committed to helping with this that he wrote many expositions of Bible books.

TIME IS SCARCE

There should be daily set time for private reading of the Lord’s Word. Everyone is not set apart for the Word and doctrine (as ministers are). Most have, by God’s appointment, everyday callings and necessary employments about the matters of this life. Each calling and employment has its own work and each work requires its own time so that many have little time remaining besides these.

SET ASIDE TIME DAILY

The person who does not daily redeem as much time as the necessary duties of being exercised in the Word and prayer require is too busy. They are too busy in temporal affairs and more involved in the world than they can justify. There may be secret spontaneous prayer to God mixed in with his outward affairs. His conscience also needs to examine each action like a builder using a level and the eye to see if it conforms to the rule of the Word.

EVEN THE MOST IMPORTANT HAVE TIME

Suppose someone was as full employed as a king with so many realms to govern as were under David King of Israel. Yet he could not be excused because of this from neglecting God’s Word and prayer. David oftener than once a day and even in the night found time to call on God, praise His name, and verse himself in His Word (Psalm 119:55, 62, 164).

DELIGHT IN GOD’S WORD NOT WORLDLY PLEASURES

- 8 Let the men of this world neglect reading the Scriptures and all serious religious duties. They have their portion in this life and have set up in their hearts the filthy idols of worldly profit, pleasure and promotion. In order to gain and keep these, they make use not only of all men but also of God and religion only as far as they serve these debased purposes.

Let such (I say) neglect reading the Scriptures, but let not the children of God do so. They hold their standing here and the hopes of eternal life to come by faith in Christ. In order to advance His cause and kingdom, they are resolved to bear His cross even to the doors of heaven if that is God's will. They would lay it down on the threshold with thanks and praise that ever they were counted worthy to suffer for His name. Let not these blessed souls walk in the way of the ungodly, but rather delight themselves in the law of God and meditate in it night and day (Psalm 1:2-3).

MAKE USE OF HELPS

Brief explanations of the Bible are helpful. These should not only show the overall meaning and aim of each book and chapter but also the connection between verses and the meaning of the words. They should also expound the key doctrines taught in each place. By this means people might see the whole basis of Christian doctrine in the text of Scripture. They would then be guarded against all damnable errors (which easily ensnare those who know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God). This should be done with such brevity and clarity that men in their daily set reading of the Lord's word, might during half an hour peruse a sufficient portion of Scripture, thus explained.

Reformation Scotland Trust

EXPLORING ISLAM—TEACHING SERIES FROM LIGONIER.ORG

What do Muslims believe? With so much diversity in the Muslim world, it is common for people to hold uninformed opinions about Islam. In Exploring Islam, Dr. James Anderson prepares Christians to better witness to their Muslim neighbours with gentleness and respect, as he surveys the central tenets, history, and practices of the Islamic religion. This is a series to stir confidence in the gospel and equip you to speak the truth in love to the Muslims in your community.

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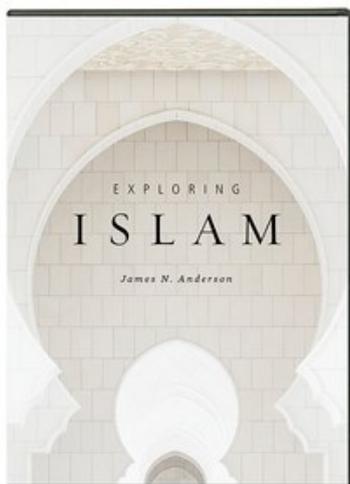
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[Diversity in Islam](#)

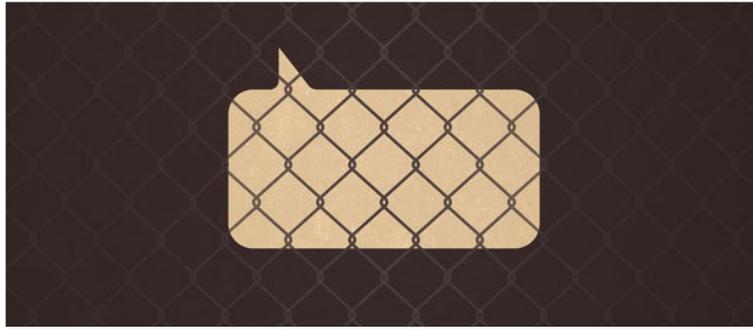
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THE CRISIS OF NOT LISTENING



Psalm 81 is a remarkable and important psalm in the Psalter. This psalm of Asaph is more specific than many psalms about the original occasion for its composition. The formal occasion for writing this psalm was to celebrate a season of important religious festivals in Israel: “Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day” (v. 3). Only in the seventh month of the year do we find holy days at the new moon and the full moon. In the festivals of this month, we see Israel called to reflect on God’s great mercy to and care for her, and we see Israel called to remember and repent of her sins.

The new moon marked the new year in Israel’s ecclesiastical calendar. Leviticus 23:24 calls this day a “day of solemn rest.” Numbers 10:10 speaks of this feast as a time in which the Lord remembers His people: “On the day of your gladness... you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings. They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am the LORD your God.

The full moon of the seventh month marked the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles. Israel was to live for a week in tents or huts to remember its wanderings in the wilderness and to remember that the Lord had given it the Land of Promise and its annual harvests (Lev. 23:23–43).

Between these two festivals, on the tenth day of the month, was the solemn Day of Atonement. This day was for repentance and sacrifice. It was for rest and for holy convocation. God commanded His people: “You shall afflict yourselves” (Lev. 23:27).

Even more remarkable than the occasion for writing Psalm 81 is the place of this psalm in the Psalter. In a sense, it is the central psalm in the book of Psalms. Of course, it does not stand at the numerical center of 150 psalms. But it is the central psalm in the central book of the Psalter. And at the center of Psalm 81 are these words: “O Israel, if you would but listen to me!” (v. 8b). For all the mysteries of God’s providence with Israel, here is the central truth: Israel was suffering a crisis of exile because she had not listened to her God.

Israel’s failure to listen was a failure of faith and of obedience. At the heart of the Mosaic covenant, God had commanded His people: “Hear, O Israel” (Deut. 6:4), and that command is echoed in Psalm 81:8. Indeed, throughout Psalm 81, there are echoes from Deuteronomy (see, for example, Deut. 6:6–16; 32:12, 16, 21, 28, 43, 46–47).

Psalm 81 renews God’s call to His people to listen to His proclamation of truth. For what was Israel to listen? First, Israel needed to hear God’s word of deliverance. This psalm calls on Israel in very personal terms and very directly to remember how their God had delivered them in the past: “I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket. In distress you called, and I delivered you... I am the LORD your God who brought you up out of the land of Egypt” (vv. 6–7, 10a). God had heard His people’s prayers and saved them in the past.

God also reminds His people that He can deliver them in the future: “I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes” (v. 14). What God has done for His people in the past, He can do again.

The word of deliverance is accompanied with a word of direction. God reminds His people that they must listen to Him. He has given them His law (v. 4) and they must heed it. In addition to the call to listen in verse 8, God says, “But my people would not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. . . . Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!” (vv. 11, 13).

As is often the case in the Old Testament, God focuses on the many ways in which Israel has failed to listen to Him on the central issue of worship (see, for example, Deut. 4). Here, after calling His people to worship Him (vv. 1–3), God warns against false worship: “There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god” (v. 9).

The words of deliverance and of direction lead on to a word of destruction. God warns His people that He can and will judge His enemies: “I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward Him, and their fate would last forever” (vv. 14–15). His people are warned implicitly by this word not to be numbered among those who oppose God.

This psalm is clear that despite all the calls to listen, both in this psalm and throughout her history, Israel has not listened. She has not followed the law of God and she has not kept her worship pure. The people have preferred their own wisdom to that of God: “So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels” (v. 12). These words are particularly ironic in the midst of feasts that remembered and celebrated how God had delivered them from Egypt. Time and again, the people made foolish choices in the wilderness—including actually wanting to return to the bondage of Egypt—rather than listening to the wisdom of their God.

The crisis of Book Three of the Psalter is a crisis provoked by the people’s not listening. Because they have not listened, God has taken away their king, their temple, and their land. But God has not utterly abandoned them. He still declares in this psalm that if they will listen, He will bless them. But is this promise really encouraging? If they have not listened in the past, despite all of God’s mercy and goodness to them, will they ever listen? Ultimately, the Psalter and the whole Bible teach that God must provide a king and substitute who will do for the people what they cannot do for themselves.

Psalm 81 begins with the words, “Sing aloud to God our strength.” God must be the strength of His people when they are weak. He will be their strength when He comes in His Messiah-King.

Jesus is the King who always listened and always did the will of God. Hebrews 10:5–7 quotes Psalm 40:6–8 (a psalm of David) and applies it to Jesus: “Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” At the transfiguration of Jesus, the Father declared, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 17:5b). The Father in this place also said to Jesus’ disciples, “Listen to him”—that is, listen to the good news that He brings for sinners.

As we see in Psalm 78, Jesus rejected the three temptations of the evil one that Israel had failed to resist. Here in Psalm 81, we again find echoes of those temptations and of the blessings God has promised to those who are faithful to Him. First, God promises to give His people the bread they need: “But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you” (v. 16). Second, God promises to preserve and protect His people who do not put Him to the test: “In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah” (v. 7). Third, God promises abundant blessing to those who worship Him alone: “There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god. I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it” (vv. 9–10).

Jesus, the righteous King, keeps the law perfectly for His people and becomes their substitute and sacrifice. He fulfills the Day of Atonement by offering Himself as the full and final sacrifice for His people. Jesus is the solution to the crisis of Book Three. He is the One who listened, obeyed, died, and now ever lives for us.

Children's Corner



Dear Children,

This month we are going to look at the next three letters of the alphabet – D E F – and see what texts we can find in the Scriptures beginning with these letters. Then we will see what they teach us.

D. Deliver me from all my transgressions. Psalm 39, verse 8.

E. Enter in by the narrow gate. Matthew chapter 7, verse 13

F. Follow Me. Matthew chapter 9, verse 9



The first text comes from the Psalms and it is a prayer. David is praying that the Lord will deliver or save Him from all his sins for that is what transgressions are. When we transgress we break God's holy Law. That is a prayer which I hope you will all make. It is very important that God will forgive your sins and take them away. David also prays in Psalm 51: "Cleanse me from sin. Wash me." Unless your sins are forgiven and you are cleansed from the filth of sin then the Bible tells us that we can not enter heaven. That is an awful prospect – to be barred from heaven. Make this your prayer then.

The next text commands us to enter by the narrow gate. What does that mean? The narrow gate is the same as "the door". Jesus says: "I am the door" and also says: "I am the Way". The way into God's kingdom is through Christ and that is the ONLY way. There are NOT many ways to heaven – ONLY ONE – and it is through Christ. Don't let anyone make you believe anything else. You need to trust in Christ as your Saviour for He alone is the way to God the Father and the only way to heaven. Make sure you enter in by that narrow gate.

Our last text says : Follow Me. It is the Lord Jesus who says this to you and it is your wisdom to obey Him. There are lots of voices in this world calling for your attention and trying to draw you to follow them. They will tell you that to become a Christian, or a follower of Christ, (for that is what a Christian is) will mean your life will be dull and drab with no joy or happiness. Don't believe them. I have been a follower of Christ now for well over 50 years and I can tell you they are wrong. You can ask any Christian if they wished they hadn't followed Christ and I can guarantee you that not one will say that. In spite of many difficulties along life's journey you will find Christ to be the best friend and companion. He will surround you with His love and He is always faithful to His promises. Follow Him, then, and enjoy a life of contentment, satisfaction and every other blessing you can think of. He will support you through difficult times, comfort you when you are sad and will bring joy that cannot be expressed into your life. This is my prayer for you all.

With my love and God's blessing.

Granny M

Activity: Unscramble these texts. This time you have to find the verse yourself! Then learn them.

1. Lord the yourself delight in also and desires will your of you heart give He the. Psalm 37.
2. Path not enter the into wicked the of not and in way men go the of evil. Proverbs 4
3. Idolatry from flee. 1 Corinthians 10.