

STORNOWAY
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO
THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS
(1 TIMOTHY 1:15)

March 2022 Newsletter



WELCOME

LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship—11.00am

Evening Worship—6.30pm

PRAYER MEETING

Thursday—7.30pm

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NEWS & EVENTS

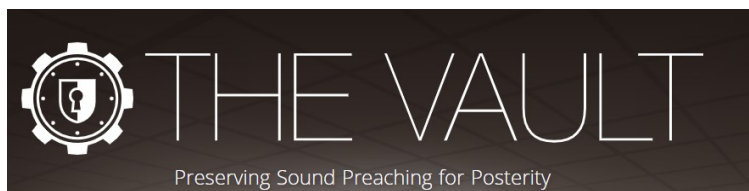
FAREWELL TO THE MCCOLLUM FAMILY

Following 5 years of ministry here in Stornoway, Rev. Stephen McCollum preached his last sermon in the congregation on the Monday evening of the February communions.

We wish him God's richest blessing in his new ministry in Airdrie and thank him for his years of faithful service here in Stornoway. Furthermore we pray that the Lord would bless his wife Brenda and children Zoe, Eloise and Knox as they settle into life in a new town.

The Airdrie induction service will take place on Saturday 19th March.

SERMON AUDIO—THE VAULT PROJECT



Presentation to the McCollum Family

It should be of great concern to every church that the level of hostility toward Christianity is escalating. The logical culmination of this hostility will be to silence the most offensive message of all, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, along with the plain teachings of the Bible. As we witness case after case of Big Tech cancelling voices that do not agree with their progressive agenda, churches will increasingly need to find a friendly platform that will safeguard their ability to proclaim the truth. We are aware of this impending threat and are working hard to maintain infrastructure resilience to ensure censorship resistance.

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself." Proverbs 22:3.

THE VAULT

There is a long-term, secure storage facility tucked away in the side of an icy mountain above the Arctic Circle between Norway and the North Pole, called the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, or more commonly referred to as the Doomsday Vault. Its purpose is to house all of the world's seeds securely so that in the event of an apocalyptic situation or a global catastrophe, the seeds will be preserved to allow nations to grow various foods again.

We would like to build a "doomsday vault" of our own. Except in this vault, we would be housing the good seed of the preached word in the event of a catastrophic breakdown in relations with cloud providers and platforms. The bottom line is simple. It is imperative that we make every effort and take every step to ensure that the millions of sermons on SermonAudio are preserved for posterity—for this generation and the next.

We are calling this project THE VAULT and it is a long-term, ongoing project that will involve multiple stages of development over time. This is our hope. This is our vision.

1. Physical ownership of equipment in a secure location.
2. Replication of equipment in multiple locations.
3. Penetration of sermons into closed countries.
4. Training the next generation of skilled technicians, developers, and engineers.

Please consider helping us in this critical mission to preserve and propagate sound, Biblical preaching throughout the world.

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You can contribute to this vision by giving a gift to help fund the creation of The Vault. All support designated to THE VAULT will be 100% applied to this project.

For further information and to watch Sermon Audio founder, Steven Lee, speak on video about the Vault, visit web.sermonaudio.com/vault

WHEN EVERYONE PLAYS HIS PART

We all have a tendency to look at what is most celebrated and to aspire after it. This is sometimes seen in men who do not have the gifts for preaching or teaching striving endlessly to get into pastoral ministry. How many young men I have seen come and go, or do great harm to the church, because they were not gifted by God for the task. I have seen others desiring to serve as elders in a church when they were clearly more gifted to serve as a faithful deacon. Still, I



have seen those who had strong gifts of hospitality, service, and administration not using them for the building up of the body. No matter where a failure to exercise the gifts God has evidently given the members of a local church may manifest itself, of this much we can be sure, the church is the worse for lacking those who would willingly play their part in seeking to put their gifts to use for the building up of the body. Conversely, the church is all the better when each members willingly and joyfully plays his or her part.

I have a mentor in ministry who, many years ago, was talking about the importance of every member of a local congregation using the gifts God had given them for the wellbeing of the body of Christ—no matter how menial the act of service may seem to be. He said, “The local church is like a fishing boat. The pastor and elders are those God has called to cast the nets. In order for them to be most free to do so, the other members on the boat need to carry out the tasks needed to keep the ship afloat. Often, those tasks seems less noteworthy. Shovelling water off the deck of a boat with a bucket often goes uncelebrated. However, without that particular congregant doing what God has called him to do, those casting the nets cannot give their utmost attention to what they are called to do.”

It’s not a perfect illustration (since there is no such thing), but it compliments what the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 about each member of the body doing his part. There is a great need in our day for the saints to be equipped to carry out the role God has called them to carry out in the local congregation to which they have bound themselves. There is perhaps no better short passage of Scripture that captures the essence of this principle than that of Romans 12:6-8. There, the Apostle Paul writes, “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness” (Rom. 12:6-8).

Regarding verse 3, John Calvin wrote, “Paul. . .reminds us that according to the wise counsel of God everyone has his own portion given to him; for it is necessary to the common benefit of the body that no one should be furnished with fullness of gifts, lest he should heedlessly despise his brethren. Here then we have the main design which the Apostle had in view, that. . .the gifts of God are so distributed that each has a limited portion, and that each ought to be so attentive in imparting his own gifts to the edification of the Church, that no one, by leaving his own function, may trespass on that of another. By this most beautiful order, and as it were symmetry, is the safety of the Church indeed preserved; that is, when everyone imparts to all in common what he has received from the Lord, in such a way as not to impede others. He who inverts this order fights with God, by whose ordinance it is appointed; for the difference of gifts proceeds not from the will of man, but because it has pleased the Lord to distribute his grace in this manner.”

There is a “beautiful order” and a “symmetry” in the use of the diverse gifts God has given His people. How glorious when the saints are desirous of using their gifts to the full. When the member of a congregation does what he or she is gifted to do, and each member compliments the others in bringing their gifts to use in the life of the congregation, all the members collectively benefit. No gift is elevated high above the others so as to make the others unnecessary or inconsequential. Rather, those gifts that may appear less significant than others are often most necessary for the carrying out of those that may appear more significant.

As we think about these things, as we assess our own gifts and the use of them in the local church to which we have bound ourselves, may the Lord give us grace to think soberly about the need we have to exercise them to the full for the good of the whole body. We all need one another and the gifts God has given us, and we all need to play our part for the good of the church on the whole and the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Children's Corner



Dear Children

There is nowhere here on the Isle of Lewis where you are very far from the sea. We are a small island which is surrounded by water. But if you were somewhere miles and miles away from the sea and you saw someone busy building a huge ship you would think that person was crazy. Well, that is just what people thought of Noah.

Noah lived thousands of years ago. He was a grandson of Methuselah, the oldest man that ever lived. Find out how old Methuselah was when he died by looking up Genesis, chapter 5, verse 27. God saw that the people on the earth were becoming very very wicked and that their thoughts were evil continually so God told Noah that He was going to remove every living person from the face of the earth except Noah and his family. God saw that Noah was a righteous (good) man who feared God.

When God told Noah to build a large ship called an ark I'm sure Noah must have wondered at this but God told him why. He told him that he was going to send a flood to destroy every living creature on the face of the earth. Read this story in Genesis chapters 6, 7, and 8. For one hundred and twenty years Noah was busy building this ark. All this time he was telling the people that a flood was coming and that if they did not repent they would be destroyed. The people just laughed at him and did not believe him. The years went by and no flood was coming so the people thought it was all a mad idea. Eventually, at the end of 120 years, Noah finished the ark. God told him and his family to get inside and to take with him the animals and birds as He had instructed him. They had seven days to get everyone inside. Then once they were all in God shut the door from the outside. They were secure. No one could open that door.

Once they were safely in the ark it began to rain and it rained for 40 days heavy non-stop rain. By the time it stopped there was not a person, animal or bird left alive. It may have taken a long time but what God had said would happen did happen. The whole world was completely covered in water for 150 days. At the end of the 150 days God sent a wind to dry up the water. Then after seven months the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. That is in the north east of Turkey. Noah kept sending out a raven and a dove to see if they could find a place to rest. It was only when they did not return that Noah then knew that the waters had completely dried up but he waited until God opened the door of the ark for them all to exit.

The first thing that Noah did was to build an altar to worship God. God was pleased with that and gave Noah the promise that He would never again destroy the earth in a flood. He then gave Noah a sign that this would be the case. That sign is the rainbow which we see when it rains. Every time you see that rainbow remember it is God's promise and God always keeps His promises.

The Bible has many promises which God has given to us. One of these is the promise God gave when Jesus was taken up to heaven. Two angels appeared to the disciples and said to them: "This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come again in the same way as you have seen Him go into heaven." Jesus is coming again! That is a promise that will be fulfilled even though it is now more than 2000 years since it was given. What a day that will be – the great Day of Judgment! The dead will all be raised and our souls will be reunited with our bodies to appear before the judgment seat of Christ who will determine our eternal destiny either in heaven or in hell. Most, if not all, of us will probably die before that day comes. Are you ready for the day of your death and for the Day of Judgment? Make sure that you are trusting in Jesus as your Saviour before then for it is only those who trust in Him who will go to heaven. I pray that you will be found amongst God's people when you leave this world and that you will be forever "with Christ which is far better".

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May God bless you all with His salvation.

With my love, Granny M