

30TH MAY 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

It is a great comfort to a believer, when his prayer is weak, and he can hardly pray for himself, that Christ's prayer in heaven is mighty and powerful. (Thomas Watson)

PSALM 72: 17 - 19

His name for ever shall endure;
last like the sun it shall:
Men shall be blessed in him, and blessed
all nations shall him call.

Now blessèd be the Lord our God,
the God of Israel,
For he alone doth wondrous works,
in glory that excel.

And blessèd be his glorious name
to all eternity:
The whole earth let his glory fill.
Amen, so let it be.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank You for the promise, for the covenant of grace. We thank You that the very substance of the covenant is Christ and His righteous obedience for His people even to death on a cross. Bless Your Word, we pray. Keep Your hand upon us all and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. We pray that Your grace and mercy and peace will be the abiding portion of all Your people both this day and evermore. We ask in Jesus' precious name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING ROMANS 5: 1 - 21 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;
4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.
5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

13 For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

SERMON

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous - Romans 5:18-21

Justification by faith alone (*sola fide*), apart from our works, was a guiding principle of the Reformation. Ultimately, however, the Reformers emphasised justification by faith alone because they wanted to guard the truth that we are declared righteous before God because of Christ alone (*solus Christus*). Faith, we will see, is the means by which we receive the righteousness of Christ and not, what actually secures our justification. We must have faith in Christ to be justified, but faith is not the righteousness that benefits before God's judgment. Only the obedience of Christ can do that.

The law of God, though it was not given to sinners as a covenant of works or as a means by which to secure one's own righteousness, nevertheless holds out the promise of justification for all who keep it perfectly (Rom. 2:13). We know that God's original covenant with humanity was one wherein Adam would have earned eternal life for himself and his offspring if he had perfectly obeyed God (Gen. 2:15-17; Rom. 5:12-21). These truths tell us something particularly important: God demands complete obedience.



Keeping His commandments halfway or even most of the way is not enough to meet His judicial standard. And since our Creator is fully just, He cannot simply change His demands when they are not met. After the fall, God gave sacrifices to His people so that they could maintain fellowship with Him as they continued to fall short of His perfect standard. But the Lord never relaxed His demand for perfection. From a legal standpoint, God still demands that we be perfect (Matt. 5:48).

But we have also seen that because of sin, not because of any flaw in God's law, this standard is impossible for us to meet. So, in His grace, God chose a different way to give us the perfect obedience we need to stand before Him. He chose to accept the obedience of another in place of our own. This is what Paul tells us in today's passage. "By the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous" (Rom. 5:19).

Paul is looking at all of Christ's obedience from birth to death as a whole, and he is speaking of righteousness in a forensic or legal sense. The flawless obedience of our Saviour is what constitutes us as righteous or what provides the basis for God's declaring His people righteous. So, the question is not whether we are going to be saved through works; the question is whose works? We are saved by the works of the one who alone fulfilled the terms of the covenant of works, Jesus Christ.

The good news of the gospel is that Christ obeyed for us. He took upon Himself the yoke of the law, fulfilling it perfectly on our behalf. There is no righteousness of any creature that can be added to the righteousness of Christ, for it is perfect. Let us rejoice in His righteousness and tell others that they can stand before God unafraid if they are clothed with Christ's righteousness by faith alone.

HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
'til in heav'n we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to know Christ better, to know that He has loved us to the end and to love and trust him more. We pray for His sake and for our good in His name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all this day and forevermore, Amen.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

We begin a new series of studies on Wednesday 2nd June. These are held on Zoom at 9.45am each week. If you'd like to explore The Creed with us in the next few weeks please send an email to jintyse@btinternet.com so that a link can be sent to you. Look forward to seeing you then.



HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Please place your donations in the box in the vestibule which can be taken to the depot. For now, the Foodbank is unable to accept beans, pasta, soup and pulses. They are happy to receive rice, long-life fruit juice, UHT milk, sugar, tinned potatoes, ham, corned beef, mince and stew, oatcakes, crackers, tinned custard, coffee, small washing powder and toilet rolls. Monetary donations are also very welcome. Last year 8267 local people were given emergency food parcels. The need is still immense. Thank you.

WORSHIP

Sunday Church services are at 11am and 12.15pm (if required). Seating in the Church is limited to comply with current guidelines. To attend you must contact the Session Clerk, Martin McLauchlan, by Friday at 5pm prior to the service to book a place.

To book, either visit the church website, and complete and submit the online booking form at: ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk/booking or email the Session Clerk at

SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk and he will send you a link to the Booking Form for you to complete and submit. If you do not have access to the Internet, phone him on 01349 830303 and leave your name and phone number and he will get back to you as soon as he can to take your details.

The Sunday Zoom service is at 6.30pm. If you would like to join the Zoom-service, please contact the Session Clerk at SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

Please continue to take care and stay safe.

CHRISTIAN AID

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Christian Aid recently.