

Teaching/prayer session on the wings

People notified on G and H wings will be meeting 08.45 to 09.45 today. A & D will come later.

Brian

Worship for Sunday 25th July 2021

from Brian & Clare Kennard

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us....with every spiritual blessing.” (Ephesians 1:3)

Suggested Hymn: *Here is love*

HERE IS LOVE vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of life, our ransom
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Prayer time:

Be still and focus on the awesome God we serve: great beyond all words, but revealing Himself through His Word, and most clearly through the Word who became flesh - the Lord Jesus Christ. Express your adoration, worship and praise in whatever ways you can.

The Bible says, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 4: 8-9)

Let God speak to you about the attitudes and actions that need changing in your life. Confess to Him your weaknesses and failures, and receive His cleansing and forgiveness as He has promised.

Prayer for today (“Collect”):

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here
and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Reading: If you have a Bible of your own, please read **Psalm 14**

Reading: Ephesians 3: 14-21

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the LORD's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



Bible Study: “Rooted and established in love” (v17)

Rather like a puzzle page, first I have put some questions and then some of the answers at the end.

v14. What is implied by Paul's statement that he **kneels** before the Father?

v.16. Where can you get “inner strength” from and just what kind of strength/power are we talking about?

v.17 Wealthy people often have more than one residence...the Queen for example has many homes. Christ is “seated at the right hand of the Father” in eternity, but where else does He live?

v.18 Think gardening (if you can!) What would it mean to say that a plant was well rooted and established? How does this speak of our relationship with God?

v.18 (again) Why do you think Paul uses four dimensions here -“wide and long and high and deep” to describe the love God has for us?

v.19 If God’s love “surpasses knowledge”, why bother even thinking about it? And how much love does God want to share with each one of us?

v.20 What BIG prayers do you want to offer to God in the light of this verse? And, where is God’s power at work today?

v.21 What do you understand by ..”to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus...”?

Now a few answers...but let God give you the answers you need as well!

v.14 *He is expressing an attitude of humility, dependency on and reverence for God...so essential for true spiritual worship.*

v.16 *Obviously not just physical strength (though God can give that too when needed) but Paul is talking about what happens when we have the Spirit of God filling our lives: “Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit says the LORD” (Zechariah 4:6)*

v.17 *In our hearts, that is the deepest part of our beings. This is what God says: For this is what the high and exalted One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.(Isaiah 57:15)*

v.18 *A plant gets the nourishment it needs through it’s roots, and likewise the believer is fed through meditating on the scriptures, prayer in the Spirit and so on. An established plant is one that is going from strength to strength and can cope with adversities (see what Jesus said in the parable of the sower.. in Matthew chapter 13.)*

v.18/19 *God’s love is “better felt than told” as they say in Yorkshire! God gives Himself to us without reserve and calls us to love Him in the same fashion (see Mark 12:30 for example)*

v.20 *“All over the world, the Spirit is moving” as the song goes, but don’t forget the next verse: “Deep down in my heart, the Spirit is moving” talking of songs, did you know that God sings a song of rejoicing love over you? “The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” Zephaniah 3:17*

v.21 *Whatever else it means, we who are known as Christian disciples are called to bring honour, thanks and praise to our saviour through our lives. There’s a challenge to end with!*

Prayers of intercession

In your own words, remember before God...people affected by severe weather in many parts of the world..those in authority in this country and around the world grappling with the present crisisall those “on the front line” whether NHS staff, transport workers, shop workers, the emergency services...those most personally affected by the Covid-19 outbreak: the bereaved, those seriously ill, those who have already lost their jobs.. the Church of Jesus Christ as together we seek to witness to the love and care of God in word and action....and the many other difficult problems humanity faces...and for yourself and your family. Remember, too, thankfulness!

The Lord’s Prayer (traditional version):

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The blessing: Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always. **Amen.**