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| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



May 2021 Newsletter

Dear Friends

 “God is love” (1 John 4:16), is an oft-quoted statement made in churches, and of course it is true. However, the way in which this is often explained and used by people can give a rather twisted view of God’s love that is not found in God’s Word. First of all, it’s important to read that statement in context, and the best way of doing that is to pick up a Bible and read from John’s first letter chapter 4, starting at verse 7 through to the end of the chapter. Once we’ve done that we can begin to see the bigger picture of exactly how God is love.

Let’s briefly look at verses 9 and 10 together. “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” The first important point here is that God’s love does not ignore sin, or simply choose to forgive or forget it. Instead God chose to provide a solution for human sin, by sending His only Son into the world to be “the propitiation for our sins”.

So what is “propitiation”? The late Bible scholar, RC Sproul, once said this, “propitiation brings about a change in God’s attitude, so that He moves from being at enmity with us to being for us.” In other words it is the result of our sins being forgiven, by which we may be restored to a right relationship with God. “God is love” does not mean that everyone can keep on doing whatever they want and then, when they die, they will go to heaven. Those who proclaim things like this are misrepresenting the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is also holy and just.

God’s love for humanity is so great that He doesn’t want people to continue living with sin and its consequences. God’s love is such that He wants all people to come to a saving knowledge of His Son, Jesus Christ, but not everyone will. God’s love also extends to granting us free will to either chose or reject salvation by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone. God is love in that He acted first, seeking to reconcile us to Himself, even while we were far off and dead in our sin.

If God were not love, then there would be no hope for us. We would receive the just punishment for our sin of death and hell. It is only because God is love that we may be saved to eternal life, because none of us deserve it. Salvation can not be earned, but only granted to us because of God’s grace, mercy and love in His Son, Jesus Christ. Even more than this, though, God’s love has an amazing effect on us too.

If God’s love is revealed to us, and we chose to accept it, then it comes to dwell within us, making a difference to the way we live and how we treat others. If we truly love God, we will love other people with the kind of love God has for us. That love desires the very best for the other person, and this does not make allowances for living in constant sin. If you truly love someone, as a parent does their child, you do not let them continue to steal, lie, or be sexually immoral without challenging them (in love). If you love someone you do not want to see them eternally separated from God in hell come judgment day, do you?

So, yes, “God is love”. To quote John’s Gospel, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16-17) In response to God’s love we are to love one another too. However true love does not rejoice or participate in sin. Rather it repents of its own sin, and calls others to repent and believe the Gospel. That is what “God is love” truly means.

Yours, Fred.

etary’s Thoughts





 !

!"

##

 



$!#

"%& '(

)

\*

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+$,

"

' -

.

/0

Secretary’s Thoughts





 !

!"

##

 



$!#

"%& '(

)

\*



+$,

"

' -

.

/0

Secretary’s Thoughts





 !

!"

##

 



$!#

"%& '(

)

\*



+$,

"

' -

.

/0

Secretary’s Thoughts





 !

!"

##

 



$!#

"%& '(

)

\*



+$,

"

' -

.

/0

Secretary’s Thoughts





 !

!"

##

 



$!#

"%& '(

)

\*



+$,

"

' -

.

/0

Sunday Services

Services will continue every other week on 2nd, 16th and 30th May, with Fred leading the services.

Newsletter Editor

 In the February Newsletter, we appealed for a replacement Editor following Faye’s resignation. So far, no-one has offered to take it on.

 In the absence of any volunteers before the next publication date, I will continue to edit and produce the newsletter for the time being. If this is the case, it will be on the understanding that it will only be published bi-monthly, starting from the June/July edition.

 David

Flowers for Church

 We needvolunteers to arrange flowers for the following months March, April, May and October.

 We also need donations for flowers on the following dates:

 7 and 28 March, 16 and 30 May, 27 June, 1, 8 and 29 August,

 5 and 19 September and 14 November.

The flower list and rota is now available on the church notice board.

Thanks

Carole

Addresses:

Pastor: Secretary & Treasurer: Editor: Fredrik Rich Janet & David Muschamp

##

##  Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

** facebook.com/allertoncongregationalchurch**