

Morning Services 10.30am

| Date | Subject | Speaker |
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| 'THE CROSS OR THE CROWD' | | |
| 1 Apr Communion All Age Inc | DBC EASTER CELEBRATION The crowd of witnesses - 1 Cor 15:1-11 | Rev David White |
| 8 Apr IP All Age Inc | Open Subject | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 'LIVING FROM THE RIGHT PLACE' -series from the book of Philippians | | |
| 15 Apr Communion | Grace and peace 1:1-2 | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 22 Apr All Age Inc | Joy 1:3-5, 7-8 | Pastor David Childs |
| 29 Apr Communion | Confidence 1:6 | Rev David White |
| 6 May | Guest Service: 'Can the Bible be Trusted?' | Elaine Duncan |
| 13 May IP | DBCC All Age Opening Weekend Service | Rev Alistair Purss & Rev David White |
| 20 May Communion | Love and righteousness 1:10-11 | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 27 May Communion | Humility and obedience 2:1-10 | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 3 Jun | DBC Children's Ministry Service | Owain Evans |
| 10 Jun IP Communion | Selflessness 2:12-30 | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 17 Jun Communion | Mortification and perseverance 3:1-4:1 | Rev Deans Buchanan |
| 24 Jun | Discoverers Prize Giving Peace and contentment 4:2-23 | Rev Alistair Purss |

Important Contact Details

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Alistair Purss | Senior Pastor | 07882698428 |
| David White | Associate Pastor | 07476379865 |
| Andy Feather | Youth & Community Worker | 07889900850 |
| Church Office | Mon-Fri 9am-1pm | 01387 268926 |
| Lesley Mackay | Church Secretary | 01387 247456 |
| Ian Penn | Treasurer | 01387 263242 |

Evening Service 6.30pm

| Date | Subject | Speaker |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 'THE CROSS OR THE CROWD' | | |
| 1 Apr | The crowd in glory - Hebrews 12:1-3; Revelation 5:9-10 | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 8 Apr Communion | DBC WORSHIP & TESTIMONY EVENING | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 'IN CHRIST ALONE' A series from the book of Ephesians Chapters 1-3 | | |
| 15 Apr IP | Grace and peace in Christ 1:1-2 | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 22 Apr IP Communion | Chosen in Christ 1:3-6 | Willie Taylor |
| 29 Apr | Redeemed by Christ 1:7-10 | Dr Alistair Mackay |
| 6 May Communion | Marked in Christ 1:11-14 | Rev David White |
| 13 May Communion | DBCC Opening Weekend Service | Rev Alistair Purss & Rev David White |
| 20 May | Thankful in Christ 1:15-23 | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 27 May IP | Raised with Christ 2:1-10 | Rev Alistair Purss |
| 3 Jun | DBC FOCUS SERVICE - SCRIPTURE UNION | Owain Evans |
| 10 Jun | One in Christ 2:11-22 | Willie Taylor |
| 17 Jun | Free in Christ 3:1-13 | Rev Deans Buchanan |
| 24 Jun IP Communion | Rooted and established in Christ 3:14-21 | Dr Alistair Mackay |



Special Diary Dates

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| Saturday 12th May | Dumfries Baptist Church Centre Opening Dedication Service @ 2pm Speaker: Peter Maiden |
| 1-8th July | DBC Summer Mission |
| 19th August | DBC All Age Back to School Service |
| From Sunday 2nd September | Alpha Course <i>There will be a short reflective service of worship from 5.15 - 5.45pm in the Newall Boardroom. Soup & traybakes will be served from 5.45pm with Alpha beginning in the Gillbrae Auditorium at 6.30pm.</i> |

'The Cross or the Crowd' – A short series for Easter

The cross is where Christ obeyed His Father and took on our sin, suffered and died our death that we might receive eternal life. While everyone abandoned Christ, He did not abandon us. While others followed the crowd and cried out against Christ, Christ himself took up the cross and prayed *'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing'* – Luke 23:34

The challenge of this short Easter teaching series is this; who will we identify ourselves with? The cross or the crowd? For the Christian the challenge of Easter is a discipleship challenge! Coming to the cross for salvation results in taking up the cross in Christian discipleship. It's about obeying our Father in heaven and seeking to please him in all things, just like Christ did. It's about following Christ not the crowd like his first disciples did when they abandoned him!

The words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer sum up this series well; *"The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ... When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate... Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy for which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him"*.

'Living from the right place' - Studies from the book of Philippians

'Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ' - Philippians 1:27.

Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians from prison. Despite the fact that he was experiencing great suffering, pain and persecution, he wrote his letter from the right place! Paul did not write his letter from a place of self-pity, complaint or anger but rather from a place of joy, confidence, humility and contentment. Warren Wiersbe says that "the person whose happiness depends on ideal circumstances is going to be miserable much of the time".

In chapter 1, Paul discusses his experience and conditions in prison, he is in chains (1:7, 13, 17), is suffering (1:29) and struggling (1:30). Paul is honest about his circumstances and his feelings but he is not overcome or consumed by them. In fact he redirects his focus away from himself on to the opportunities that his troubles afford him to share the gospel with those who have imprisoned him (1:12-13) and also to encourage the Philippian Church (1:3-5). Despite his dreadful circumstances, he rejoices because the gospel is being advanced.

In chapter 2, Paul explains the kind of attitudes and behaviours that are necessary to live a life that looks to the interests of others, and then he directs us to the perfect example of this in the person of Jesus Christ (2:1-11). We are to model our lives on Christ and imitate him and this will result in us shining like stars in a crooked and depraved world (2:12-30)

In chapter 3, Paul reflects on who he was and what he possessed without Christ compared to who he now is and what he now possesses in Christ. He comes to the conclusion that what he once thought was gain is actually loss and what he once thought was loss is actually gain! To Paul nothing on earth is more valuable than knowing Christ; all he once treasured is rubbish and temporary in comparison (3:4-14) and this helps him to persevere because his hope is not on earthly things but on Christ and the new heaven and earth (3:12-4:1).

In chapter 4, Paul is encouraging unity and peace within the church. Two ladies had fallen out and he asks others in the church to get the two ladies together to sort their issues out (4:2-3). There is nothing like trouble and strife to rob us of our peace, so Paul discourages us from becoming consumed with anxiety and encourages us to trust in God and find true contentment in Christ, the one who supplies all that we need for life and hope (4:4-20).

One writer comments on the letter to the Philippians by saying; "This letter single-handedly helps us get our perspective right. As the fight for joy rages on, Paul is helpful beyond simply commanding us to "rejoice!"— he provides a method. We learn that the battle for joy and contentment begins in our minds. We are told that humility is an attitude of the mind (2:3), and those who "set their minds on earthly things" fall into destruction (3:19). A careful study of Philippians helps equip the believer to fight for joy in an age that tries to convince us that we need 'things' to make us happy". Let's set our minds on 'living from the right place'.

"You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day, by the deeds that you do and the words that you say. People read what you write, whether faithful or true: Just what is the gospel according to you?" — (source unknown).

'In Christ Alone' - Studies from the first three chapters of Ephesians

When walking into our Church Centre the words on the curved wall remind us of what we're all about at DBC; 'In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song. This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease, my Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand'. 'Here in the love of Christ I stand!' In order for us to be able to keep going, to persevere and to take our stand as Christians we

must have a grasp and appreciation of our standing in Christ. I fear that there are many Christians who have neither grasped nor appreciate their standing in Christ.

Paul wrote to the Ephesian Church from prison in Rome. Once again he is writing to a church from a place of personal suffering and he acknowledges this in referring to himself as a prisoner (3:1, 4:1) in chains (6:20). In order for him to survive this trial he reminds himself of the deep truths of his faith and this foundation is what he stands on. Paul is building 'on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Chief Cornerstone' (2:20). Paul is clearly convinced that the only power to enable him to live is to be found in Christ alone; this was true also for the Christians in Ephesus and it is true for us.

There were many evil powers at work in Ephesus, false gods were worshipped, magic and sorcery was practised and idolatry was rife (Acts 18-19). Into this kind of culture Paul challenges the Church to trust in Christ alone. Paul exhorts all 'Christ followers' in Ephesus to *'be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power'* (6:10). He ends his letter in the way that he began it by reminding them and us of God's power and of what this means for our lives.

Over the coming months we will be thinking of the power of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father's great power which he exerted in Christ when he raised him victoriously from the dead (1:17-19). The Son's great power which brings us from spiritual death to spiritual life (2:1-10). The Spirit's power which strengthens us in our inner being and is our guarantee of eternal life (1:13-14; 3:16). All of these blessings (and more) are ours in Christ alone, 'for through him we both have access to the Father by the one Spirit' (2:18).

The first three chapters of Ephesians are rich with deep truths about the Christian faith and it's these truths that enable us to stand as Christians. Paul begins with a Greek and a Hebrew greeting (1:2). God's grace (Greek word) in Christ gives us what we don't deserve and the peace (Hebrew word) of God brings us wholeness and completeness in Christ. Grace is the means and peace is the outcome. We stand in grace and peace.

Grace and peace are the experience of every true believer in Christ. This is why Paul then goes on to confidently say; 'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ' (1:3). Despite being in prison Paul considers himself to be one of the most blessed human beings in the world because of his standing in Christ alone. It's because of his standing in Christ alone that Paul can stand at all! It's the same for all 'Christ followers'. That's why we believe and sing, 'In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song...this cornerstone, this solid ground...here in the love of Christ I stand'.



Worship | Reach | Serve

Dumfries Baptist Church April – June 2018 PROGRAMME



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BAPTISM/MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to be baptised or find out more about church membership and/or baptism, please speak to Alistair Purss or David White.