



Old Parish and St Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels
Old Parish and St Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels, is a Charity registered in Scotland, No: SC010389

Newsletter ♦ February 2018

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Letter from Leon

Dear friends,

I hope everyone is well and that you are looking forward to the rest of the new year and what God is going to work in your life.

The Word of God and the Spirit

'Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God...' [1 Peter 1:23]

The Bible has a lot to say about the glorious work of the Holy Spirit. It tells us that to do His work, the Spirit uses the Word of God. He reveals, through the Word, the great love of God to sinners in general:

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us" (Ephesians 2:4).

He also presents and offers salvation in Christ through His people. That is the task of all Christians and preachers of the Gospel. It is to speak of the life, the death and the resurrection of the Lord.

Preaching is the proclamation of the life and work of Christ. It is also the explanation of what salvation means. When the Word is preached in the power of the Holy Spirit, these facts and their meaning are presented. When that happens, the Holy Spirit also calls us to repentance. He calls everyone to repentance, all men and women everywhere, "because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed" (Acts 17:31).

And finally, the Holy Spirit calls us to faith in Christ. When we look at the words of Paul in his farewell message to the church at Ephesus, we see he preached "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). He called men and women to faith in Christ so that they might obtain forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life.

That was the way in which the Lord commissioned Paul on the road to Damascus. He said that He was going to send him to the people and to the Gentiles "to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:18).

May we in the new year experience more of the incredible work of the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ.

Rev. Leon Keller

