

Word For The Week

16 October 2020

Preaching Dates

Saturday 17 October 2020

Elizabeth de Silva at morning Zoom outreach meeting for Carshalton Aglow.

Sunday 18th October 2020

Frances Bloomfield (am) at Giffnock United Reformed Church
David Craig (am) pre-recorded at Ayr Baptist Church and on the church website
Ruth Skillin pre-recorded (am) at South Beach Baptist Church, Saltcoats

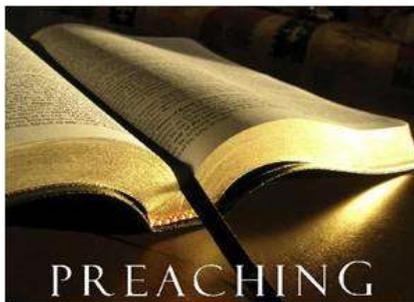
Charles Sommerville (pm) at Kelty Evangelical Church

Monday 19th October

Elizabeth de Silva speaking (pm) at Aglow International zoom outreach meeting, Skipton.

Thursday 22 October

Charles Sommerville (pm) via Zoom, Thursday evenings Bible Study on Ephesians. For details:
drcharles.sommerville@sky.com



“Maranatha”

By Richard Allison

“Maranatha” (“Come, Lord Jesus!”) was the cry of the early church. The hope of Christ’s return was of central importance, with many believers expecting this to occur in their own lifetimes! But do we in the modern church still cry “Maranatha” with the same intensity and sense of expectation? The whole Biblical account culminates in that cry for Christ’s return:

Revelation 22:17,20:

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life... He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

This is awe inspiring! However, with the elapse of centuries, it's understandable that the expectation of Christ's imminent return would decrease. Failed predictions of the end don't help. Meanwhile, unbelievers mock, asking “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised?” (2 Peter 3:4). Yet, though the wait has been long, our hope should not be diminished - we can desire Christ's return as much as the early church did.

It's the hope of all creation: we know that things are bad and the world is unjust, but living between the first and second comings, we've been touched by Christ and have a glimpse of what will be, when the age to come is inaugurated and all injustice will cease. The Maranatha cry is a longing for that day, but until then all creation is groaning as if in the pains of labour (Romans 8:22). How can we endure if our focus is on the birth pains? Our focus should be on the birth!

It's the lens we've been given to view the world through: it affects our outlook and our actions. The Maranatha cry isn't about waiting passively for Christ to sort everything out. If you've been touched by Christ, you'll want others to know him - you'll desire the completion of the great commission to hasten his return. The evidence of the early church supports this. They turned their world upside down because they were willing to die for Christ, because their hope was not in this age but in the age to come.

It's our reason for being: on that day, Christ will present the church to himself as his bride, made ready, holy, and without blemish. Because of how he's touched our lives, we yearn for the day when we will be with him, ultimately into eternity - this is the Maranatha cry.

Amen. Maranatha!