

# Alton Baptist Church e-Service 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Have confidence, the Lord is our helper

Welcome to this e service today. Even though we are a scattered congregation we can encourage one another as we hear songs and study the Bible passage given for today. We give thanks that we have the opportunity to praise the Lord and acknowledge His faithfulness whilst we are in our homes and still unable to be together. Through this service let us be conscious of each other and truly appreciate what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ.

Psalm 89 speaks of the Lord's love and faithfulness

1. I will sing of the Lord's great love for ever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. 2. I will declare that your love stands firm for ever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

**Song:** The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBX\\_YvQ8BKE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBX_YvQ8BKE)

### **Prayer:**

Loving Father we thank you for your steadfast love and faithfulness. We praise you that you have revealed this to us by sending your son Jesus to redeem us from our sin and through your grace we can put our trust in Him. We confess that we struggle in our walk with you and to be faithful, that we often want our way rather than submit to your will. We ask for your forgiveness and that through the power of the Holy Spirit we will live lives that proclaim Jesus. Take this time that we now spend with you and enable us to grow in love and knowledge of our loving Heavenly Father. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

**Song:** Dear Lord and Father of mankind

The words of verse 5 speak to us in these unusual and stressful times.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of Thy peace.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqOnjmr9Ah0>

### **Intercessory Prayer:**

Father as we commence harvest time we give thanks for our farmers and those who work the land to provide our food. We pray that they will be kept safe and that you will help them with the management of the precious resource of our countryside. We ask that you will be with our teachers and children as the school term gets underway. We ask that you will give wisdom to church leaders as they seek to open our places of worship so Christians can meet together. We pray that those who trust in you will so let their light shine that they will encourage people to put their trust in the Lord and not in the things of this world.

Let us bring before the Lord our prayers for those people and situations known to us.

We thank you for our fellowship at Alton Baptist Church that we are able to encourage one another in our walk with the Lord.

Father we thank you that we bring our petitions and requests in the Name of Our Saviour Jesus. Amen

**Song:** Thy Word is a light unto my path

This song reminds us that the Lord guides us along the path of life. Verse 1 says "When I feel afraid .... still you are right beside me"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKlQpjl\\_oqY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKlQpjl_oqY)

This is the last message in the series **Do not be afraid**

**Have confidence, The Lord is our helper Hebrews 13: 6**

**Reading:** Hebrews 13: 1 – 6

1 Keep on loving each other as brothers. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. 3 Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering.

4 Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and the sexually immoral. 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 **So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"**

**Prayer:** Father we praise and thank you for the Word of Truth that is a light along the path of life. We ask that as we look into the scriptures that the Holy Spirit will illuminate it in such a way to speak to our hearts and minds and that our confidence in You will grow. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

The title given to chapter 13 is **Concluding Exhortations**. Let us look at these exhortations.

V 1 Keep on loving each other as brothers. V 2 Practice hospitality. V 3 Remember prisoners and those who are ill-treated. V 4 Marriage should be honoured by **all**. V 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content. V 7 Remember your leaders. V 9 Do not get carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. V 17 Obey your leaders. V's 18 and 19 Pray.

These exhortations are given so that, as it states in verse 18 in order, **“That we have a clear conscience and desire to live honourably in every way.”** This is a very practical blue print for the life style of a follower of Jesus.

Yet we live in a society where the current culture challenges many of these exhortations. Let us consider some of the challenges that we see in society today in the light of what God's word says to us.

The importance of showing brotherly love is outlined in **John 13: 34 Jesus said “A new command I give you: Love one another ..... V 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”** Sadly the church today has divisions and brotherly love is not always seen and this is a poor witness to non-believers. We must make every effort to let our love for each other be evident to all.

**Romans 12: 13 “Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.”** This highlights our responsibility to care for the vulnerable and share the provision that God has made available to us with others.

We come to one of the most contentious areas of our exhortations when it states we must honour marriage. In our society we see that cohabitation is rife that same sex marriages are permitted that divorce rates are high and that resulting from that there are single parent families, unfaithfulness makes the news in the media and teenage pregnancy persists. Even our education system and the church gives confused messages on human sexuality. We see division in the church over issues relating to sexuality. We have to be careful to be politically correct in what we say because of the laws that have been passed. Yet scripture gives clear guidance. **Hebrews 13: 4 “Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually impure.”** When we proclaim this we risk being alienated by society but we must remain faithful to uphold the importance of marriage.

We then see in V 5 **“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.”** Some homework for you, read Luke 16: 19 – 31

The Rich Man and Lazarus. Paul also said in **Philippians 4: 11** “**I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.**” **1 Timothy 6: 6** “**But godliness with contentment is great gain.**” For many in society the pursuit of money is their main aim in life because they think that it will give them power, pleasure and possessions that will bring happiness but it does not always bring contentment. We too must not be tempted by such things.

The final exhortation to draw our attention too is in V 9 “**Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.**” Timothy 4: 3 “**For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.**” We need to be faithful to stand firm for the truth in the scriptures. This will not be popular in the society in which we live.

We see that the church is failing to give the full message of the Bible and a book that I have read recently gives a very good account of the need to hold to Biblical truth. It is, “The Bible Theft” by Peter Sanlon and I would encourage you to look it up and obtain a copy. *(A copy will be available in the church- Robin)*

You might be saying at this point, what has this to do with, **Have confidence, The Lord is our helper.**

As I read this chapter it seemed strange in the midst of these exhortations to read. God said, “**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**” **6 So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”**

These verses are highly relevant in that if we are to hold to these exhortations then we need the help of the Lord. How encouraging it is to know that He will never leave us or forsake us. Indeed He gives us confidence for He is our helper. In these days when we are troubled by the decline in moral standards when we see the ravages of political correctness and we know if we speak out against it we will be seen to be intolerant and bigoted so we can easily become afraid. So let us stand firm and let our light shine holding on with CONFIDENCE **The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.**”

#### **Prayer:**

Father we thank you that in these difficult times of seeking to stand firm for Biblical truth that we can have the confidence of knowing that you are our helper. Enable us to live by the exhortations given in your word so that we can live honourably in every way for your glory in the name of Jesus. Amen

**Song:** O God, our help in ages past  
God is our helper and our hope for years to come

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asrwllxLeko>

**Blessing** Hebrews 13: 20 - 21

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen