

**Home
Groups**

Groups meet at No 17 on Sunday evening @ 6.30pm, on Tuesday afternoon @ 1.30pm & also on Wednesday afternoon @ 1.30pm (studies continue in 1 & 2 Samuel). For more details on our Home Groups speak to Andy Wood.

Prayer

We meet to pray on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm: 7th November, 'Praying for Mission Aviation Fellowship' (at Elke's), Geoff to lead.
14th November, 'World Mission' (at Steve's), Steve to lead.
21st November, 'National Issues' (at Susan & Kebede's).
Week commencing 25th November, prayer triplets, 'Advent and Christmas'.

Leaders

The elders meet to pray every Wednesday morning at 8am & for business on 27th of November at 9.30 am (at David's).
Email: becelders@gmail.com

**Dates for
the diary**

'Billy Graham event', Saturday December 1st, 4.30pm (at No 17): including food & message from Billy Graham.
Advent Family Service, Sunday 9th December.
Carol Service, Sunday 16th December, Guest Speaker - Mike Wildsmith.

November 2018

November 4th, 10.30 am,

Andy Wood will be preaching on
1 Corinthians 12 (Gifts).

Remembrance Sunday, 10.30 am,

Sun Park will be preaching on
1 Corinthians 13 (Love).

The service includes communion.
(*'Picnic lunch'* after the service.)

November 18th, 10.30am,

Andy Wood will be leading our family
service on 1 Corinthians 14.
(*'Becky's birthday lunch'* will be after the
service, all invited.)

November 25th, 10.30am,

Andy Wood will be preaching on
1 Corinthians 15 (Resurrection).

Communion & Notices - Geoff Wildsmith.

Co-ordinator - Steve Coates.

Requests for intercessory prayer to be given to Andy Wood.

Complete in Christ

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him

(Colossians 2:9, NRSV)

These words take us to the very heart of the gospel. They remind us, in the words of the King James Version, that we are complete in Christ. In him there is fullness, we share in that fullness, and we are fulfilled in him. In him we have all that we need.

We find that so hard to believe! Christ cannot be enough. Surely we must add something of our own: other mediators, like the Colossians; some special, insider knowledge; some additional rites and ceremonies; careful observance of some taboos; or some special experiences, like a dramatic conversion or an immediate and direct encounter with the Holy Spirit?

In him there is all the fullness of the godhead

This epistle is a protest against all such thinking: 'You have fullness in Christ!' and we have it because in him 'all the fullness of the godhead dwells bodily'. In the abstract, that means that the whole of deity dwells in Christ. The whole divine nature, everything that makes God God, is to be found in him. Dynamically, it means that in Christ it is God himself who comes to save us. In him, God acts and God speaks. In him, God shows us his face. In him, God gives himself on the cross for our sins. The love of Christ is the love of God; the suffering of Christ is the suffering of God; the blood of Christ is the blood of God (Acts 20:28). In him, the infinite comes so close to us that we need no other mediator, whether priest or angel. In him, we meet infinity dwindled to infancy.

Paul adds that this fullness dwells in Christ 'bodily'. He is not simply God. He is God incarnate, living an earthly human life and able to represent us and take our place because he is one of us. Yet Paul chooses his language carefully. 'Godhead' is in Christ 'bodily', but it is not confined to his body. When Christ lay in the manger, his presence as the Son of God was not confined to that manger. His bodily presence was, but his divine activity was not. He was still upholding all things by the word of his power. The tabernacle of God was indeed with man, but just as the 'heaven of heavens' couldn't contain him neither could his human body. The person, the Son of God, was omnipresent, and active far beyond the confines of his human body.

We are in him

Then Paul reminds us where exactly we ourselves stand as Christians. We are 'in him'. That is our new, spiritual address. Paul himself has been described (by the late Professor James S. Stewart) as 'A Man in Christ', and it was certainly a key theme of his gospel. It was also a key theme in the theology of John Calvin, who insisted that only in union with Christ do we receive the divine blessing: blessings which God has first of all bestowed on his only-begotten Son, and which we receive only when, by the secret operation of the Holy Spirit, Christ becomes ours and dwells among us. 'So long as we are without Christ and separated from him, nothing which he suffered and did for the salvation of the human race is of the least benefit to us.' (Institutes Bk. III, Ch. I) We must change our address. But immediately we change it, every spiritual blessing becomes ours in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3).

In Christ we experience fulfilment. We are fulfilled in him. We find rest in him. We find satisfaction for all our needs: intellectual, emotional, relational. Even our physical needs will eventually be met in the glory of the resurrection. We find joy and peace and assurance. And we find scope for every natural talent God has given us and for every spiritual gift with which he has blessed us.

We must, as mere Christians, realise the extraordinary glory of our position. We are 'in Christ'.

We must draw on our resources.

We must live lives worthy of our position and of our resources.

Posted 6 years ago by Donald Macleod. For whole article see <https://donaldmacleod.org.uk/dm/complete-in-christ/>

Church Rota - November

Date	Children's Item	Crèche helper	Inter. Prayer	Refreshments
4th	David	Becky	Steve	Elke
11th		Michelle	Geoff	Beth
18th	Pauline	Family Service	Jimmy	Michelle/Diane
25th		Becky	Beth	Jimmy/David