

Preaching Dates

Sunday 24 May 2020

Hazel Brooks (am) online, via YouTube, at Larkhall Baptist Church

Brian Crockett (am) in a pre-recorded message for Bethany Evangelical Church, Paisley

John Mark Donaldson (am) in a pre-recorded message for Peterhead Baptist

Stephen Ilett (am) at Dingwall Baptist Church. It is a written sermon provided to all and preached to those on Zoom.

Andrea Mill (am) at Bristo Baptist Church, Edinburgh via Zoom

Andrea Mill (am), via pdf, sermon sent to King's Covenant Fellowship, Glenrothes.

Willem Smit (am) in a pre-recorded message for Lossiemouth Baptist Church

Charles Sommerville (pm), via Zoom, at Kelty Evangelical Church



“Final Words”

By Glen Cartwright

Final words and the lasting impact and legacy they leave are interesting. They often reveal much about the one who is to die. The words of William Wallace, played by Mel Gibson in ‘Braveheart’, tell us much of Wallace’s aim in life as well as in death, and the lasting impact of his final call which, in 1314, resulted in patriots of Scotland, starving and outnumbered, charging the fields at Bannockburn, fighting like warrior poets, fighting like Scotsman and winning their freedom.

Arguably the greatest missionary statesman and church planter the world has ever known, the apostle Paul, as he sits in his cold, damp, prison cell, awaiting his final fate from the Emperor Nero, pens his final words on parchment in his second letter to his young protégé, Timothy. Words which placed great emphasis on the proclamation of the Word of God and which set for Timothy the sails by which he was to journey.

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus so in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, I give you this charge. Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction but you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry”.

Echoing the words of the apostle Paul, and as humbly as I know how, my final words to you today as I step down after 13 years service as your Secretary, would simply be to ‘Preach the Word’. To preach the Word, biblically, boldly and prophetically. It may make you unpopular in some quarters, but take heart that the essence of a good preacher is not whether they are popular, but whether they remain true to the Word of God and ‘preach the Word’, the full counsel of God. So whether it be one of correction, one of rebuke, one of challenge or one of encouragement, ‘preach the Word’ without fear or favour.

Paul’s final charge to Timothy, and the parallels for today are no less true, was to:

- ***delight and defend God’s Word in a day when people would not put up with sound doctrine;***
- ***avoid the peril of being distracted or drawn away from the truth by discharging the duties of his ministry;***
- ***be diligent and wise in sharing Gods Word in and out of season;***
- ***continue in what he had learned from his mother and grandmother.***

May we be lay preachers who not only apply the final wise words of Paul to our lives, but may our lasting legacy be that we, in ‘preaching the Word’ as Psalm 78 reminds us, would “tell the next generation of the marvellous deeds of the Lord”.

Preach the Word!