

Preaching Dates

Ian Stephen begins a monthly service this month at the Borders General Hospital

21 January 2018

Andrea Mill (am) at
The King's Covenant Fellowship, Glenrothes
Jonathan Groves (am) at Mitsidi Zambesi
Evangelical Church, Blantyre, Malawi
Charles Sommerville (am) at
Carbrain Baptist Church
James MacKenzie (am) at
Aberdeen Christian Fellowship
Richard Fettes (am) at Kelso Baptist Church
Christine Heron (am) at
Braehead EFC, St Monans
Andrew Swanson (am) at
South Beach Baptist
Gordon Dickey (am) at
Galashiels Baptist Church
Phill March (am) at
Lambhill Mission Glasgow
Aubrey Jamieson (pm) at Nightcap
Service, Peterhead Fishermen's Mission.
Irene Campbell (pm) at
Westwood Baptist Church, East Kilbride
Charles Sommerville (pm) at
Dawson Mission
Jim McNulty (am + pm) at
Islay Baptist Church.

Tuesday 23 January 2018

John Bingham at Men's Meeting Maddiston
Evangelical Church, Maddiston, Falkirk

Wednesday 24 January 2018

Charles Sommerville (pm) at
Shettleston Baptist Church

Saturday 27th January 2018

Jonathan Groves (pm) at Kerusso Trust
fundraiser concert with Adam Baker, at
Lossiemouth Baptist.
Charles Sommerville (pm) at Barnards
Court Mission, Greenock: Discovering Daniel



"The Christian At Work"

By Paul Brightey

Servants, do what you're told by your earthly masters. And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you'll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible.' - Colossians 3:22-25 (Msg)

Being a follower of Jesus doesn't excuse shoddy work.

This week we have heard of the demise of the second largest construction company in the UK. I have spent my entire career in this industry and been "at the crease" on two occasions when a company I worked for went into receivership. God has called for a Christian's workplace to be their primary mission field. It is where we spend the most time and often where we meet the most people. For a teacher, the mission field is co-workers and students; for the businessperson it is clients and colleagues.

I came to faith after I had made my career choice and started with my current company. As a Christian and being responsible for the income and expenditure within my company it was clear to me that how I operated was important; so in addition to reading scripture and praying I asked a trusted Christian for advice. His simple Christian advice over the years has been invaluable. He said "your priorities, in order, are God, Family, Work, and then Church business". I ask myself 'could I work for a company that openly operated with such extended payment terms?'

Paul writes in Romans 13:7 (NIV) 'Give to everyone what you owe. If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour'. I expect to be paid monthly, and so I expect to be able to pay our employees, subcontractors, and suppliers on the same basis. The thought that their money might be retained for a long time and leave me in debt to them is, I believe, anathema to being a Christian. My company therefore pays all its bills in a reasonable time scale. I feel fortunate that this is the way we operate, despite it not being a Christian company, and is the reason I still work there. If it were otherwise I would have to leave because it says in Colossians - my master is firstly my God, and everything I do must honour that.

Work is something we do here on earth and we will also do in heaven. It is a way of bringing honour to God. If work is something we will do throughout eternity we must ask ourselves, "How can we work in such a way that God is glorified?"

Paul says in Colossians 3 that our relationship to work should be radically different from the world's because of Christ. The Christian has a new heavenly position in Christ that should affect everything he does. Paul says it should affect how we think, the type of "clothing" we wear, our actions, attitudes and priorities. It should affect our relationship with our family, and even our work. Our relationship to Christ encompasses everything in our lives, including work.