

Preaching Dates

22nd April.

Jonathan Groves (am) at Huntly Christian Fellowship. Preaching and Kerasso Trust update.

Stephen Ilett at (am) Alness Baptist Church

George Thomson (am) at Campbeltown Community Church

Aubrey Jamieson (am) at Skerries Parish Church, Shetland

Richard MacPhee (am) at Westwood Baptist, East Kilbride

Brian Crockett (am) at Cambuslang Baptist Church

Chris Townsend (am) at Strathendrick Baptist Church.

Gordon Dickey (am) at Selkirk Baptist Church

George Hunter (am) at Helensburgh Baptist Church

Glen Cartwright (am) at Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church

Stan Paliwoda (am) at Maryhill Evangelical Church, Glasgow

David W. Andrew (am) at Larbert West Church of Scotland

Andy Bell (am) at Lochgilphead Baptist Church

Andrew Chalkley (am) at Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Free Church

Charles Sommerville (pm) at Carbrain Baptist Church

David Mitchell (pm) at Airdrie Baptist Church

Tony Walters (am + pm) at Fort William Baptist Church

Hugh Tannock (am + pm) at Drumchapel Baptist Church

23 April

Hazel Brooks at funeral service, Larkhall Funeral Parlour then South Lanarkshire Crematorium.

25 April

Charles Sommerville (pm) at Dykehead Mission



"Hebrews"

By George Thomson

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." -Hebrews 12:1

To persevere means to persist in an undertaking in spite of opposition or discouragement.

As a keen sports fan and in particular football, I love this time of year just now as we have the Commonwealth games on our screens (*at the time of writing*) Where athletes are competing with each other to win prizes.

Also it's the stage of the football season where trophies and prizes are won due to cup finals and player of the year awards.

No matter the sport, you need to be encouraged to do well and you require perseverance to do your best to win the prize.

So I am drawn to one of my favourite verses of encouragement in the Bible to help us in our race in life despite all the suffering and difficult times we go through.

Hebrews 12:1 gives a command to develop perseverance.

Satan is a formidable enemy. To overcome him takes more than training, more than doing the right thing, more than desiring to be good. To defeat our spiritual enemy takes perseverance. How do you develop perseverance?

Peter 1:5-8 tells us, *"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Our goal is to be able to say as the Apostle Paul did, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"* (**1 Timothy 4:7**). Let us persevere in order that we might finish the race in spite of overwhelming odds. It will be worth it!

1. Are you growing spiritually and adding to your faith the qualities that will help you run the race?
2. Are you willing to be the Christian God wants you to be in spite of overwhelming odds and spiritual opposition?
3. Try to establish a spiritual training plan that will help you add to your faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.

Amen.