

Preaching Dates

Saturday 27- Sunday 28 January 2018
Glen Cartwright leading team devotions
 (Saturday and Sunday morning) at the
 Megamix Weekend at Lendrick Muir,

28 January 2018

Riaz Mohamed (am)
 at Lenzie Christian Fellowship
Gordon Dickey (am) at Kelso Baptist
David Rathel (am) at Whyte's
 Causeway Baptist Church, Kirkcaldy
Chris Townsend (am) at
 Alexandria Baptist Church
Jim Ewen (am) at
 Maryhill Evangelical Church
Florence MacKenzie (am) at
 Blaby Baptist Church, Leicester
Charles Sommerville (am) at
 Carbrain Baptist Church
Cheryl Nicolson (am) at
 Ayr Baptist Church
Jim Ewing (am) at Ardbeg Baptist,
 Rothesay, Isle of Bute
Matthew Payne (pm) at
 Lossiemouth Baptist Church
Jim Ewing (pm) at
 Port Bannatyne, Isle of Bute
Charles Sommerville (pm) at
 Shettleston Baptist Church
Irene Campbell (pm) at
 Westwood Baptist Church, East Kilbride
Aubrey Jamieson (pm) at Fishermens
 Mission Nightcap service at Lerwick
 Congregational Church.
Paul Cairns (am + pm) at
 Islay Baptist Church

31 January 2018

Charles Sommerville (pm) at
 Dykehead Mission



"Two Minds"

By Andy Bell

The nature of my work is that I spend a lot of my time from Monday to Friday making decisions and so, when I leave the office Friday evening, my head often switches off. When Saturday morning arrives, I find myself in two minds about most things, but fortunately none of these 'choices' matter much.

I've been a committed Christian for more than half a century and I feel sure that being in two minds about my devotion to God isn't something that threatens my relationship with Him.

Is this complacency? In my more honest periods of self-searching and meditation I accept that I often face temptations to choose an insidious path that leads me away from God, instead of a godly path that will help me to grow in *"the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:39). I find myself being subtly – often imperceptibly – drawn away from Father God by someone or something competing for my affections. It doesn't have to be intrinsically bad and is often something good or at worst neutral. Perhaps a blossoming friendship or particularly in my case my love of TV sport, especially football, rugby and cricket!

When it comes to defining idolatry we usually think of Exodus 20:3, *"You shall have no other gods before me."* We think "before" means, *"ahead of in importance."* Wrong! Literally it means *"in front of my face."* God isn't saying, *"Don't have anything in your life that's more important than me."* He is saying, *"Don't have any gods in addition to me."* God doesn't want to be our top God, He wants to be our only God. To bring anything else into the presence of God – into the place where God dwells in our hearts – is to make that thing an idol, a false god.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" responded Jesus when asked *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law"* (Matthew 22:37).

At the beginning of a new week, it's worth stopping to consider *"who or what might be in danger of becoming an idol in my heart?"* The Lord desires our undivided devotion. He is, after all, completely devoted to us; the Cross at Calvary being a poignant symbol of a love that surpasses all understanding (Ephesians 3:16-19).