

Preaching Dates

7 January 2018

Charles Sommerville (am) at
Carbrain Baptist Church

Andrea Mill (am) at
Bristo Baptist Church, Edinburgh

Hazel Brooks (am) at
Carluke Baptist Church

Andrew Swanson (am) at
Cambuslang Baptist Church.

George Hunter (am) at
Vale of Leven Baptist Church

Riaz Mohamed (am) at
Lenzie Christian Fellowship

Richard Fettes (am) at
Kelso Baptist Church

Jonathan Groves (pm) at
Deeside Care Home, Aberdeen

Gordon Dickey (pm) at
Selkirk Care Home

Jim McNulty (am + pm) at
Islay Baptist Church.

Wed 10th Jan

Hazel Brooks (pm) at
Ibrox Church of Scotland, Glasgow

Thu 11th to Mon 22nd January 2018.

Jonathan Groves teaching and planning
in Blantyre, Malawi, with The Kerusso
Trust



“Grace and Truth”

By Douglas Inglis

About a year ago, when driving to Motherwell, I was stopped by the police on Airbles Road and advised that I was driving without an up-to-date MOT. I said that this couldn't be the case as I was meticulous about these things, but the officer soon revealed the truth - and then indicated that the fine was £100. I apologised profusely, and surprisingly he then said that if I promised to get an MOT within two days, he would forget about it. The officer had established the facts but then offered some leniency. In Christian terms he had offered **truth and grace**.

The coming of God to earth in the form of the baby Jesus, heralded a new era, one in which we would have the opportunity to relate to God in a different way. This new era is a time which has been called the Day of Grace. John, in his Gospel introduction, states simply and succinctly, “*The law was given through Moses, **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***” (John 1:17) It seems that John is saying that the new covenant has shape and definition in these two words and these two attributes – **grace and truth**.

In these strange days, politically and morally, surely these words, “grace and truth” desperately need to be restored to their true meaning. I heard a fascinating political lecture last week which asserted, among other things, that there is an alarming and a growing disregard for truth on the one hand, and on the care of those less fortunate on the other – and yet, the lecturer argued, these are fundamental to a good democracy. I'm not quite sure what all that means nationally and globally – time will tell - but one thing I know, **grace and truth must be foremost in the DNA of the Christian**.

So as we move from Christmas into another New Year, forget those impossible resolutions that we can't keep, but rather let us ask God to fill us with **grace and truth**.

In terms of **truth**, I think that means that we should seek for ourselves, and we will preach to others, the truth of Scripture, striving to discover or rediscover the whole truth of God's word. There is nothing more exciting.

In terms of **grace**, it means that we must embrace the fallen, the weak, the disenfranchised, the sinful, the hurting, the lonely and the people who don't think the way we do – and offer to them the deep love of Christ Jesus our Lord.

“**Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ**”. And may they be in evidence in my life - and yours!