

# Word For The Week

## 10 August 2018

### Preaching Dates

**31 July – 23 August**

**Jonathan Groves** in Malawi with  
The Kerusso Trust

**12 August 2018**

**David Andrew** (am) at  
Tillicoultry EU Congregational Church

**David Bebbington** (am) at  
Larbert Baptist Church

**Brian Crockett** (am) at  
Bethany Evangelical Church, Paisley

**Gordon Dickey** (am) at  
Selkirk Baptist Church

**Phill March** (am) at  
Shettleston Baptist Church

**Dawn Martindale** (am) at  
Leslie Baptist Church

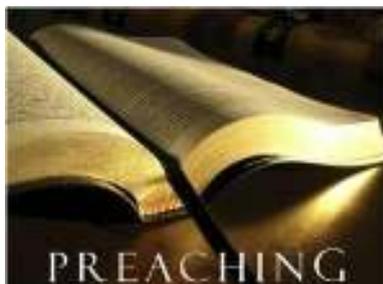
**Adam Renberg** (am) at  
Tobermory Evangelical Church

**Charles Sommerville** (am) at  
Kelty Evangelical Church, Fife

**Chris Townsend** (am) at  
Strathendrick Baptist Church

**Bill Haining** (pm) at  
Footdee Mission Hall, Aberdeen

**Jim McNulty** (pm) at  
Kildalton Cross open-air service, Islay



**“Death’s sting”**

**By James Ewen**

### *'Death's sting' - what is it?*

Verse 56 says the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. We are all subject to the law of sin and death: 'The soul that sins shall die'.

It seems that no sooner have we begun to appreciate what it is to be alive than we have to come to terms with the fact that one day we too will die. From the least to the greatest, we are all subject to this law. Scripture distinguishes between those who die in Christ, and those who die in their sins.

To die in sin is a serious matter. All the fear, anger, bitterness and resentment that many experience and exhibit in a bereavement situation are evidence that death's sting is something very real to both the deceased (if they were aware of their impending death), and to those left behind.

A funeral service for a non-Christian is very different to that of a Christian. We have a hope that others do not have, and we avoid the utter despair experienced by many of those who do not share our faith in the promises of God.

Whether Christian or not, a great part of our human reaction to death is grief. Psychologist Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross tell us there are, roughly speaking, 5 stages of grief. These may be described loosely as - Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, Acceptance.

As far as I know Dr Kubler Ross was not a Christian but she had a great impact on psychology and helped establish the hospice movement. She also helped a great many come to terms with their personal grief. She herself had a sad end, suffering two disabling strokes; her life illustrating the apparent injustice that even the best of us may suffer the worst life has to offer.

Verse 58 tells us that the promises of God ensure that those who live and die in Christ do not labour in vain. Jesus said 'If a man will own my name before others then I will own his name before my Father and the angels in heaven.' We remember those who preached Christ to all that would listen to them - their race is now over and their place in glory is assured.

As for those who mourn the Christian's passing - their grief is natural, but it is tempered by the knowledge that those who die in Christ have ultimate victory over death.

Verse 54 says 'when the perishable puts on the imperishable and the mortal puts on immortality death is swallowed up in victory: O death where is thy victory? O death where is thy sting?' 'It's only when we truly know and understand that we have a limited time on earth, and have no way of knowing when our time is up, will we then begin to live each day as if it were the last.' (Dr Elizabeth Kubler Ross).