

### Preaching Dates

#### 11 January 2020

**Sylvia Jones** (am + pm) at all day Borders Lydia Prayer Day in Melrose.

**Charles Sommerville** (pm) at Bible Prophecy Conference, Barnards Court Mission, Greenock

#### 12 January 2020

**Aubrey Jamieson** (am) at Cunningsburgh United Free Church, Shetland

**Jackie MacDonald** (am) at Rosewell House, Aberdeen

**Richard MacPhee** (am) at Uddingston Baptist Church

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

**Scott McKenzie** (am) at Whyte's Causeway Baptist Church, Kirkcaldy

**Jim McNulty** (am) at Round Church, Bowmore, Islay

**Jim McNulty** (am) at St John's, Port Ellen, Isla

**Willem Smit** (9.15am and 11am) at Lossiemouth Baptist Church

**Charles Sommerville** (am) at Cleland Baptist Church

**Andrew Swanson** (am) at Mansfield Trinity Church, Kilwinning

**Hugh Tannock** (am) at Vale of Leven Baptist Church, Alexandria

**Charles Sommerville** (pm) at Shettleston Baptist Church

**Jonathan Groves** (am + pm) at Cowdenbeath Baptist Church

**Nigel Johns** (am + pm) at Larkhall Baptist Church



### **“Grow In Grace and Knowledge of Jesus”**

**By Brian McCarthy**

#### ***“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ” - 2 Peter 3 ; 18 (extract)***

Peter in chapter 3 of his second letter has been speaking of the challenges of the last days and urging his readers, then and now, to be prepared to stand firm and be ready for the returning Jesus; exhorting them (and us) as part of that preparation to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. It is very possible these words in verse 18 of 2 Peter:3 were some of the very last things that Peter said before his martyrdom, the end of his beginning and his beginning of eternity with Jesus.

You may feel that after the festive season the last thing you need is physical growth. However it may be wise to stop to consider Peter's words.

So what can Peter mean by growing in the grace of Jesus? Well we know that grace is the undeserved favour of the Lord and that it is this grace that saves us, justifies us, sanctifies us and eventually glorifies us in heaven. However, do we fully receive undeserved grace? Could it be possible that we sometimes are more aware of our shortcomings than in the all-encompassing, unconditional love of God expressed through Jesus? His love is infinite, we can never receive more and we will never receive less. Shall we therefore grow in our understanding and acceptance of the truth that, however we may regard ourselves, Jesus loves us for who we are now; that His grace to us is complete and constant.

Further, we are to grow in knowledge of Jesus objectively, factually knowing the life of Christ, the data about Christ, certain doctrines about Christ. However it is one thing to know ABOUT Christ; it is another to know him personally, relationally. “Jesus loves me this I know” not JUST because the Bible tells me so but because I feel his love personally, yes emotionally; the familial love of Father to son; and I want to reciprocate that love - knowing Jesus with head and heart equally.

CS Lewis said “You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start from where you are and change the ending”. Perhaps at the beginning of another year Peter is encouraging us to look up before we look ahead, be as prepared as we can to meet him face to face.