

Word For The Week

11 January 2019

Preaching Dates

13 January 2019

Irene Campbell (am) being ordained and inducted into Westwood Baptist Church, East Kilbride and preaching in the evening.

William Henry (am) at Shettleston Baptist Church

Christine Heron (am) at Braehead EFC, St Monans

Cheryl Leckie (am) at Carbrain Baptist Church

Jackie Macdonald (am) at Rosewell House, Aberdeen

Jim McNulty (am) at The Round Church, Church of Scotland, Bowmore, Islay.

Jim Mc Nulty (am) at St John's Church, Church of Scotland, Port Ellen, Islay.

George Thomson (am) at Vale of Leven Baptist Church, Alexandria

David Craig (pm) at Airlie House, Ayr Baptist Church Care Home

John Mark Donaldson (pm) at Peterhead Baptist Church

Stephen Ilett (am + pm) at Alness Baptist Church



“Caleb”

By Tony Walters

.....So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.”
Joshua 14:10-12 (NIV)

I was challenged this week watching a TV programme about the life of Billy Connolly. Billy's assessment of what was left of his life brought about an apology in the press a few days later, for depressing his fans. This was followed by a more positive statement on Twitter from his wife. What a contrast to Caleb's statement to Joshua above.

As we reach our twilight years, it's easy to think that our best days are behind us. The bloom of youth has gone and our life has reached its autumn. Surely there can be no more spiritual blessing or mighty work to be done now! How wrong we can be! It may be the biggest spiritual experience of our lives is yet to come. Perhaps we make too much of youth and too little of being elderly: and finish up underestimating our own usefulness.

Perhaps both young and old should reflect on the following considerations. To begin with, as a general rule the elderly still possesses *remarkable abilities*? Research has shown the richest productivity lies in the decade between the sixtieth and seventieth birthdays. A research project once selected some four hundred names, which included – statesmen, poets, authors, painters, and military personnel. Against each name was written what was considered to be their greatest achievement (masterpiece) together with the date. The list was submitted to competent critics to assess the accuracy of the achievement and data. The following facts were revealed.

35% belonged to those aged between sixty and seventy; 23% belonged to those between seventy and eighty and 6% to those over eighty. A massive 64% of great achievements are accredited to those over sixty years of age. This means only 36% of great achievement occurs in our younger days. So, there it is, the likelihood of greater achievement comes in later years.

One thing is certain, the elderly can offer the *richest of qualities when serving others*?

Who can provide such experience as they?

Who can sympathise with such seasoned feeling?

Who can counsel with such prudence?

As we look forward into the coming year it is a good time to consider the new challenges that God will present to us each day and consider where we are now and the blessings that are heading our way in the future.

Perhaps our greatest achievement is yet to come, no matter how old we are - Amen

(Inspired by an article written by Sidlow Baxter)