

Preaching Dates

21 July 2019

David W. Andrew (am) at
Bo'ness Baptist Church

Paul Brightey (am) at
Vale of Leven Baptist Church, Alexandria.

Glen Cartwright (am) at Leaders' Bible Study
LMSoul2 Camp, Soul Survivor, Lendrick Muir.

Gordon Dickey (am) at
Selkirk Baptist Church

Matthew Edmonds (am) at
Strathaven Evangelical Church

James Ewen (am) at Bothkennar and
Carronshore Church of Scotland, Falkirk.

Jonathan Groves (am) at Banchory Christian
Fellowship Church. Preaching and Kerusso
Trust update

Bill Haining (am) at
Bridge of Don Baptist Church.

Dawn Martindale (am) at
Rosyth Baptist Church

Stan Paliwoda (am) at Flemington Hallside
Parish Church of Scotland, Cambuslang

Ian Stephen (am) at
Borders General Hospital, Huntlyburn, Melrose

George Thomson (am) at
Maryhill Evangelical Church

Nigel Johns (pm) at
Broken Chains Drop-In, Ayr

Stephen Ilett (am + pm) at
Peterhead Baptist Church



"Heresy"

By Richard MacPhee

Confession time! I was not brought up as a Baptist. I was brought up in a Christian context that may horrify some. The first half of my Christian life was spent in a "Word of Faith" church. I was brought up believing that God wanted to heal us in all circumstances; that God wanted us all to be millionaires. I was brought up to not question why the preacher had a fleet of expensive airplanes.

In time, I saw inconsistencies in the message. I couldn't reconcile the approach to healing - if you haven't been healed it's because of a lack of faith. I noticed scriptures being ignored that didn't fit in with their message. Gradually I saw that other things had become the end goal instead of maturity in Christ. There were many other issues that began to bother me. My family and I left our church and moved to a Baptist church where God began to gradually and lovingly realign my theology.

Are there problems with the message? Major problems. Do prosperity preachers teach a balanced view of Christianity? Nope. Are there corrupt practices? Probably. My argument is simply that God is able to use the foolish to confound the wise. I was brought up with a resolute belief that God loved me and wanted to bless me. I still believe that to be true. However, I now believe God wishes to bless me with Himself and His presence and love rather than a treasure which fades away. I never suffered much "Christian guilt" or condemnation. We were steeped in the generous love of God - although not in a balanced way.

Why am I saying this? I recently observed a situation where those two halves of my life collided. I was surprised by the vitriol extended by those from the second half of my Christian life towards those from the first half. The history of Christianity is littered with embarrassing inquisitions and excommunications; we don't want to think about the crusades!

It has caused me to reflect and ask myself questions. Am I certain my doctrine is so "on point" that I can react vehemently to those I disagree with? Do I avoid certain scriptures because I know I don't live up to them or they don't fit in with my approach to scripture or worse still, life? Will being further along the faith journey allow me to look down on those who are further behind? What are the limits of "freedom of conscience"?

Indeed, let he who is without sin cast the first stone.