

Word For The Week

1 November 2019

Preaching Dates

1 November 2019

David Bebbington (pm) on 'Baptists and Seminoles' at Oklahoma Baptist University, USA.

Douglas Inglis, (pm) Guest Speaker at Gala Dinner celebrating 150th Anniversary of the Scottish Baptist Assembly, Motherwell.

2nd – 3rd November 2019

Charles Sommerville (am + pm) at New Farm Chapel, Alresford

3rd November 2019

David Bebbington (am) at Indian Nations Baptist Church, Seminole, Oklahoma, USA.

David Craig (am) at Vale of Leven Baptist Church, Alexandria

Bill Duffy (am) at Galashiels Baptist Church

Richard Fettes (am) at Kelso Baptist Church

Willie Henry (am) at Kings Park Baptist Church

Stephen Ilett (am) at Alness Baptist Church Ross-shire

Aubrey Jamieson (am) at Lerwick Congregational Church

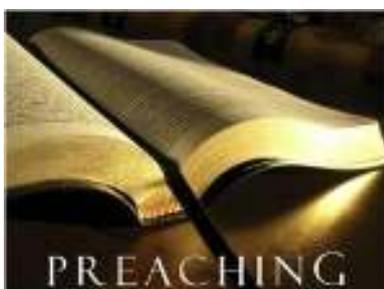
Phill March (am) at Clydebank Central Methodist Church

Willem Smit (am) at Lossiemouth Baptist Church

Tony Walters (am) at Lighthouse Church, Arisaig

Jonathan Groves (pm) at Skene Murray Mission, Huntly, Aberdeenshire

Aubrey Jamieson (pm) at Lerwick Baptist Church



“God’s Mercy and Judgment”

By J Mark Donaldson

After requesting the Ephesians elders meet him in Miletus, whilst hurriedly on his way back to Jerusalem (Acts 20), the Apostle Paul reminded them there that he hadn't hesitated in his preaching, regardless of his audience's demographic, to testify to the gospel of God's grace; declaring that all must turn to God in repentance and have faith in the Lord Jesus. In so doing he asserted that he was innocent of the blood of all men; having proclaimed to them the whole will of God. He then reminded them to carefully watch over themselves and the congregation which God had entrusted to their oversight; as under-shepherds of His church.

We too, like Paul and those Ephesians elders before us, as fellow ministers of God's Word, are tasked with the faithful preaching of the whole purpose, plan and counsel of God that is found in Scripture.

In "A Grief Observed," C. S. Lewis wrote, "There is no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than the doctrine of hell, if it lay in my power. But it has the full support of Scripture and especially of our Lord's own words; it has always been held by Christendom and it has the support of reason."

We fundamentally preach the gospel; a good news message which declares that God, in the person of Jesus Christ, came into the world to save sinners. We proclaim that our God, full of grace and mercy, so loved us that He gave us His Son. Yet we cannot and must not ignore or minimise the fact, as we communicate this glorious message, that the gospel is only 'good news' precisely because of the 'bad news' of our fallenness and the inevitability of God's holy justice against the wretchedness of our sin in the inescapable, eternal, conscious, agonising torment of hell if we were left to our own devices. Jesus himself warned often of hell - likening it to "Gehenna"; the cursed location of historical spine-chilling atrocities and at the time of speaking, the rubbish tip of Jerusalem which assaulted all the senses; where continuous fires and wild dogs consumed whatever was thrown into it (including the bodies of executed criminals).

Like C.S. Lewis, we too may find the doctrine of hell awkward and inconvenient, but it does not change the truth of it one iota. We are called to present a biblically-balanced message of our loving God's mercy and judgment, irrespective of cultural pressure or our audience's comfort. Let us not swerve therefore from preaching boldly about the reality of the hell we all deserve and the amazing grace of the One who took it on Himself to rescue us from its terrors through the offer of eternal life to all who place their trust in Him. Good news indeed!

"This is what the LORD says: Stand in the courtyard of the LORD's house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the LORD. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word." (Jeremiah 26:2)