

Preaching Dates

21 September 2019

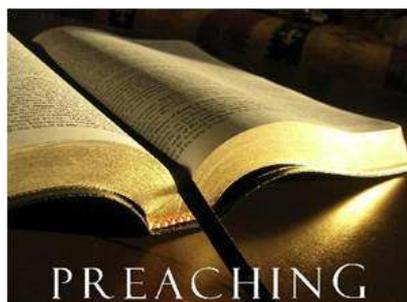
Charles Sommerville at PWMI Conference,
Bethesda Church, Fraserburgh

22 September 2019

David Andrew (am) at
Tillycoultry Baptist Church
Ian Barr (am) at Cumbernauld Baptist Church
Richard Fettes (am) at Kelso Baptist Church
Bill Haining (am) at
Bridge of Don Baptist Church
Richard MacPhee (am) at
Uddingston Baptist Church
Alex Ramsay (am) at
Banton Independent Baptist Church

25 September 2019

Charles Sommerville (pm) at
Shettleston Baptist Church



"It's The Weight That Keeps Us Going"

By Bill Duffy

James 1:2-3

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

I suppose all of us, from time to time, have come across times of frustration or times when we seem to be loaded down with problems of one sort or another. Just lately that has been my experience. Over the past few days my mind has gone back to a daily devotion I read on the UCB Word for Today website.

Part of the devotion tells the story of a man who inherited an antique grandfather clock with a brass pendulum. He watched as it pushed the big heavy weight back and forth. 'What a burden for a 100-year-old clock to bear,' he thought. So one day he opened the glass case and unhooked the pendulum. 'Why did you remove my weight?' the clock asked. The man replied, 'It was heavy and I wanted to lighten your load.' The old clock exclaimed, 'What you don't understand is, it's the weight that keeps me going!'

At the same time I remembered the story of a man who sat watching a butterfly struggling to get out of its cocoon. Thinking he would help the butterfly, the man broke open part of the cocoon to make the job easier. As a result, the butterfly could not fly and died. It was in going through the ordeal of breaking out of the cocoon the butterfly was able to strengthen its wings so that it could fly. God allows us to experience frustrations and burdens in order to develop our patience and humility and make us more dependent on Him. He knows 'it's the weights that keep us going'.

In His Word, God tells us that all things work together for good for those who love Christ Jesus. Not just the good things but the frustrations and burdens as well.

So, when the hard times come, I have to ask myself, 'what is God using to produce the nature of Christ in me?' In other words, instead of letting my earthly nature rule, I must ask the Holy Spirit to bring new life in me. These are words that I have found to be both comforting and encouraging. I pray that they will, in some way, do the same for you.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.