

Preaching Dates

Sunday 29 December 2019

Neil Fisher (am) at
Hawick Baptist Church

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

Dawn Martindale (am) at
Rosyth Baptist Church

Brian McCarthy (am) at
Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline

Alan Milnes (am) at Kings Covenant
Fellowship, Glenrothes

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

Jim McNulty (am + pm) at
Islay Baptist Church

Charles Sommerville (am + pm) at
Cumbernauld Baptist Church

Tony Walters (am + pm) at
Fort William Baptist Church



“A Christmas Carol for today!”

By Andrea Mill

As the year draws to a close it is normal for us to reflect on the year gone by, the joys and sorrows, regrets and rejoicing. This is good and healthy, so that we can repent if necessary, learn from our experiences, give thanks to God for everything and seek His will for the future.

However, if we get stuck in the past, it becomes unhealthy and not what God wants for us.

Ephesians 2 reminds us that we all have a past, were once dead in our sins when we followed the ways of this world, led by the ruler of the kingdom of the air into gratifying our fleshly thoughts and desires.

But praise be to God that Jesus Christ died to set us free from our past, and by his grace we are saved and born again into a new life where our sins are remembered no more. No guilt or shame to carry into today or into the future whenever we say sorry and turn away from the things of the past. So we need to let go and forgive ourselves in order to move forward into the bright future God has in store for each of us.

We worship a living God who is as much involved in our life today as we allow Him to be. He is the Creator who calls us in Isaiah 43 to *‘Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.’

Only God knows our future, though He reveals glimpses of it to us as we spend time with Him in prayer and Bible study and through words of prophecy spoken to us.

In the Lord’s prayer we are called to ask for what we need for each day – one day at a time. So we ask God today what we need to do, and for Him to help us move towards His plan -one day at a time. In so doing Jesus also teaches how not to worry about the future, but to trust God with all aspects of our lives. (Matthew 6)

So, as we reflect on the past, may we look forward with hope and excitement as to what the Lord will do in the future but stay fully present, involved in the lives of loved ones as well as what God is doing today!

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ