

Word For The Week

31 January 2020

Preaching Dates

Saturday 1st February 2020

Elizabeth de Silva at Interdenominational Breakfast Meeting, Alloa

Saturday & Sunday 1-2 February 2020

Aubrey Jamieson and his brothers ("The North Ness Boys") singing at three services and giving an evening concert at Fraserburgh Baptist Church for 180th Anniversary Weekend

Sunday 2 February 2020

David Bebbington (am) at Stirling Baptist Church

Alastair Crockett (am) at Cupar Baptist Church

Gordon Dickey (am) at Selkirk Baptist Church

Jonathan Groves (am) at Kabula Zambezi Evangelical Church, Blantyre, Malawi.

Nigel Johns (am) at Coatbridge Baptist Church

Jim McNulty (am) at Round Church, Bowmore, Islay

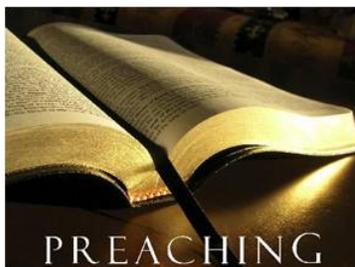
Jim McNulty (am) at St John's, Port Ellen, Islay

George Sprott (am) at Galashiels Baptist Church

Elizabeth de Silva (pm) at South Beach Baptist Church, Saltcoats

Wednesday 5 February 2020

Charles Sommerville (pm) at Dykehead Mission, Shotts



"How do we see Jesus?"

By Stan Paliwoda

The historian Josephus (AD37 - c100) formed his own opinion (Book 16, Chapter 3):

"Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day."

How do we see Him today? The mass media on which so many of us depend for our interpretations of current affairs is bitterly anti-Christian under the guise of being impartial and even handed, so, if we turn to Acts 13, v.10-12, we read in similar vein of Barnabas and Saul being sent by the Holy Spirit to Cyprus and encountering a sorcerer named Bar-Jesus, an attendant to the pro-consul Sergius Paulus, who seeks to oppose them and totally undermine their message. Saul shows his strength of character and confronts him: ***"You are a child of the Devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"***

Bar-Jesus is rendered blind and it is total, for he is told by Saul (Paul) that he will not even be able to see the light of the sun. For us today, we appear to be continually encountering "fake news" and the adulteration of acts, photos and reports by those who would wish us only to believe their version of the truth, if truth it is. Yet, for the Roman pro-consul, he is amazed by what he has seen and he is persuaded by the power of this powerful God that he has seen for himself.

The mass media today have taken the place of Bar-Jesus as then but while we continue to have the Word of God with us, we lack a modern-day Saul prepared to confront and to challenge.