

Preaching Dates

Sunday 5 July 2020

David Andrew (am) has recorded a sermon for Tillycultry Baptist Church which goes out on YouTube.

Frances Bloomfield (am) via Zoom Service at Cathcart Baptist Church

Hazel Brooks (am) at Larkhall Baptist Church YouTube.

Stephen Ilett (am) at both Dingwall and Forres Baptist Churches both at 11am. Dingwall on Zoom and Forres has been pre-recorded

Sylvia Jones (am) via Zoom at Galashiels Baptist Church.

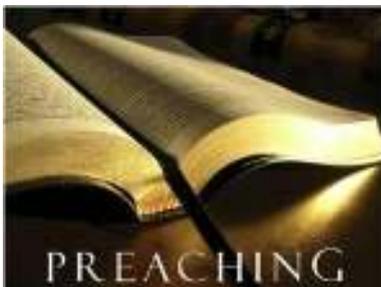
Willem Smit (am) in a pre-recorded message for Lossiemouth Baptist Church

Charles Sommerville (am) at Berwick Baptist Church, Berwick Upon Tweed, via YouTube.

Janet Young (pm) preaching on zoom for High Blantyre Baptist Church.

Wednesday 8 July 2020

Elizabeth de Silva via Zoom (pm) at Inverness Aglow outreach lunch



“Present yourself to God approved”

By Elizabeth De Silva

2 Timothy 2:15 (AMP)

Study and do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling and skilfully teaching the word of truth.

Paul is writing to young Timothy from his prison cell in Rome, sharing his concern that Timothy would faithfully share the gospel after his death. His words to Timothy are very challenging and relevant for us today as lay preachers.

We are being urged to earnestly and diligently study the Word. Are we whole heartedly and passionately applying ourselves to studying God's Word? Paul knew it needed to be a priority in Timothy's life and the same is true for us.

We are to do our best to present ourselves to God approved. I find the word 'approved' (*dokimos*) interesting. Money in the ancient world was made from metal. After being heated until liquid it was poured into moulds to cool before the uneven edges were smoothed off. Some shaved the coins closely and in one century more than eighty laws were passed in Athens to stop the practice of shaving down the coins which were in circulation. Money changers who refused to accept counterfeit money and only put genuine, full weighted money into circulation were called *dokimos*. And *dokimos* is the word used here to describe what you and I are to do our best to become. We are to be those who present ourselves approved to God. We are to be those with integrity, loving only what is genuine and presenting the whole truth of the Word.

We are to be tried and true workmen with no reason to be ashamed when God examines our work. Paul suffered great persecution and when we have trials in our lives others are watching us. Every trial is an opportunity to prove the genuineness of our faith.

We are called to accurately handle (which means to cut a straight line) and skilfully teach the Word of truth. The challenge for us today in our culture is to present the Word of truth in a relevant way but never watering it down, seeking to appease others or giving room to compromise. May we always treasure the Word of God, and with boldness and without fear, communicate accurately its truth at every opportunity we have as lay preachers.