

Word For The Week

6 November 2020

Preaching Dates

Sunday 8 November 2020

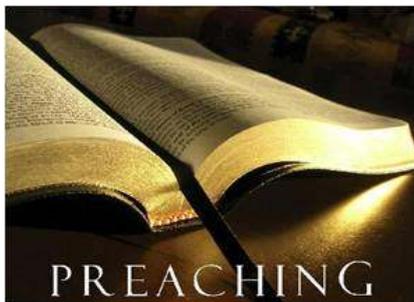
Frances Bloomfield (am) at Remembrance Day Service, Giffnock United Reformed Church

Phill March speaking (am) "live" at Clydebank Central Methodist Church

Dawn Martindale (am) via pre-recording at Rosyth Baptist Church

Thursday 12 November 2020

Charles Sommerville (pm) via Zoom, Thursday evenings Bible Study on Ephesians. For details: drcharles.sommerville@sky.com



"Righteousness exalts a nation"

By Ian Stephen

"Righteousness exalts a nation but sin condemns any people" Prov 14.31"

I have followed recent events in America closely. I also watch services on TBN UK many from the American Bible belt. Sadly, I have found the emphasis in many services there are all about 'this great nation' It mirrors the election slogan 'Make America Great Again'.

There is an obsession that somehow the 'church' is at heart of America's return to greatness.

Here is a clear division. 'Greatness' in the view of politicians is to do with the ECONOMY. This has been central in listening to the views not just of politicians, but the views of ordinary Americans. I keep hoping that God will get a mention, but so far haven't heard mention of Him. For many in American churches, appear to have lost their way. The idea of God is linked to America's greatness.

In contrast the motto of Glasgow is 'Let Glasgow flourish through the preaching of the Word' - attributed to St Ninian. In the 1950s a movement 'Tell Scotland' used this very motto in services in Glasgow and beyond. Rev. Tom Allan preached the 'gospel'. Sadly the motto has gradually changed to simply 'Let Glasgow Flourish'. Again, the economy has become the new 'God'.

Many quote the verse from Proverbs, linking the idea of 'righteousness' with a nations success or position. This of course denies God's grace which deals with individuals, who make up the 'nation'. Glasgow is a bit nearer the mark with 'preaching the gospel'. But it takes committed 'Christians' who know the forgiveness of sins and indwelling of God's Spirit through Jesus who are the salt of the earth i.e. of 'nations'.

America needs our prayers, but so does our own nation if we are to find our 'greatness' in Him.