

Word For The Week

8 February 2019

Preaching Dates

9 February 2019

Alistair Mackay (am) at Men's Breakfast,
Dumfries Free Church

10 February 2019

Ian Barr (am) at Johnstone Baptist Church

Brian Crockett (am) at
Cambuslang Baptist Church

Richard Fettes (am) at Kelso Baptist Church

Jackie Macdonald (am) at
Sheddocksley Baptist Church, Aberdeen

Andrea Mill (am) at
Bristo Baptist Church, Edinburgh

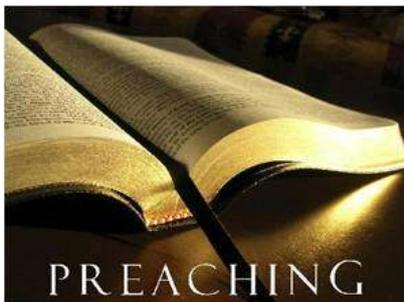
Andrew Swanson (am) at
South Beach Baptist Church, Saltcoats

Mark Laing (pm) at
Millar Evangelical Church, Falkirk

Hugh Tannock (pm) at
Drumchapel Baptist Church

11 February 2019

Hazel Brooks (pm) at
Kirkintilloch Baptist Church



"Reflecting Heaven"

By Kay Leishman

One of the simple pleasures of life, whether we live near the coast or visit on holiday, is to stand on the beach and watch the waves break on the shore. On a calm day it can be soothing to watch and listen as the water gently laps up to your feet. Then on a stormy day it's exhilarating to watch (from a safe distance) as the waves build in height and come crashing down noisily onto sand or shingle. Stretches of water can have a fascination for many of us, whether horizonless ocean or rushing river or bubbling stream. My favourite, though, is probably none of these but a still, calm Scottish loch when barely a ripple can be seen and the surface is like glass. I love to gaze on the reflection of clouds and sky in the water as a mirror image is formed. It reminds me that heaven isn't far away from earth and that God's desire is for earth to reflect heaven.

When Jesus began preach in Galilee he said, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matt.3:17). A little later he taught his disciples to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (Matt 6:10). Earth is to increasingly look like heaven. And Jesus is not talking here about a superficial makeover. He's not talking simply about the need to obey a few rules or sing a few worship songs (much as obedience and worship are foundational). Nor is he solely looking for reformation where we line ourselves up with him and his ways. Jesus is after transformation, he is after our hearts.

Heaven was powerfully reflected on earth when Jesus lived and ministered amongst us. Hebrews tells us that "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (Heb 1:3). Jesus revealed the Father and the reality of heaven to those who had eyes to see.

However, Jesus is no longer on the earth, he is seated at the right hand of the Father. So how is heaven to be reflected on earth? The answer is found in 2 Cor. 3:18 – "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." As we continue to make Jesus our focus we are transformed into his likeness by the Holy Spirit and we reflect his glory. We have the wonderful privilege of reflecting heaven on earth.