

Word For The Week

8 March 2019

Preaching Dates

9 March 2019

Charles Sommerville, (2pm and 3.30pm)
'Ezekiel Explained' at Barnards Court
Mission, Greenock

10 March 2019

Ian Barr (am) at Family Service,
Renfrew Evangelical Church

Glen Cartwright (am) at Fusion,
Newton Mearns Baptist Church

Alastair Crockett (am) at St Monans FIEC
(Federation of Independent Evangelical
Churches) - also known as Braehead
Evangelical – Fife.

Eric Macarthur (am) at
Campbeltown Community Church.

Dawn Martindale (am) at
Rosyth Baptist Church

Charles Sommerville (am) at
Kelty Evangelical Church, Fife

Hugh Tannock (am) at
Drumchapel Baptist Church

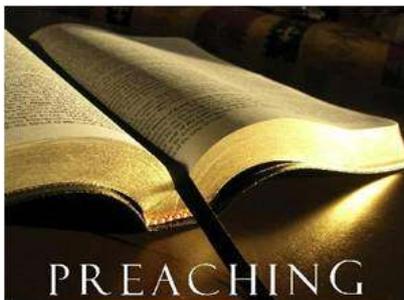
Charles Sommerville (pm) at North
Berwick Baptist Church. Study Series:

The 7 Letters To The 7 Churches.

Matthew Edmonds (am + pm) at
Alloa Baptist Church

12 March 2019

Charles Sommerville at Maryhill
Evangelical Church, Glasgow;
Revelation Revealed Part 5.



"You are My friends!"

By Douglas Inglis

In John 15: 15, Jesus says, ***"I no longer call you servants.....I have called you friends"***

Can I invite you to consider the beautiful, simple, disarming proposition that you and I are, or can be, a friend of Jesus and of God?

Jesus used different word pictures to describe His relationship with His disciples. For example He talks about **Branches relating to the Vine**, underlining the need to remain deeply connected to Him. Then using a picture of **Sheep relating to the Shepherd**, He portrays a sense of intimacy and dependency in our relationship with a Shepherd who knows every one of us by name. And Jesus even refers to us as **Brothers and Sisters** and therefore joint heirs in all that the Father has in His will for us.

But in John 15, He calls us **friends**. Notice the distinction that He makes. He says ***"I no longer call you servants.... I have called you friends"***. And the reason He gives is that ***"a servant does not know His master's business. Instead, He says, I have called you friends for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to you"***

What a generous, "hold-nothing-back" kind of relationship! It seems to me that Jesus is saying that it not the privilege of the servant to understand his master's business – he just does what he is told. No questions asked! No reasons given! And that is fine and dandy – for He instructs that our friendship depends on us keeping His commands (John 15:14). But Jesus makes it plain that He wasn't looking for mindless robots to follow him around. He was looking for men and women that would relate at the level of friends. He is looking for people who will do more than just serve him out of obligation, He's looking for people who will develop a relationship with him. God is looking for friends that he can confide in, more than servants that simply serve him.

And I am thinking that *this is a relationship* at a different level. From now on, Jesus said, *"I call you not servants, I call you friends. I want to share my mind with you – and my heart – and my mission"*. I love the verse in Exodus (33:11) which says simply ***"Moses talked with God as a man talks to a friend."***

Now that sounds like the kind of relationship that we would all love to have with God. It seems to strip away the flowery language that we often adopt when we are thinking of spiritual things. Folks, this friendship with God or with Jesus is not a vague, sentimental union; it is robust and active, it is bound by the steel girders of God's love and by our obedience to His commands. Oh, it's not easy but it is the most rewarding friendship a man or a woman can have. **Do you see the depth of it?** Jesus is saying, *"I don't want a servant, an employee, who just does what they are told – I want a partner, a friend with whom I can share our vision, our truths and our mission here on earth"*.

Oh, the joy of being a friend of Jesus!