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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

January 2011

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A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

I wonder how much you are looking forward to the new year that we have just entered. I am sure that as you look back on your lives – every new year has brought it's challenges and has added to our overall experience of life.

I know that as I look back over past years and the changes that have accompanied them, life has become richer and fuller and more satisfying as time progressed. The one major common denominator in all of it, has of course, been the Lord's presence and His leading. Without His presence there would have been a great vacuum that could not have been filled from any other source or through any other person. And it is that factor that allows us to enter a new year – and face up to all it's challenges – and accept all it's changes – without fear and anxiety. The Lord who has led us through all the changing scenes of life will continue to accompany us day by day throughout 2011.

I know that in at least one way – if we are spared – this year will be quite a milestone for us. In September we hope to celebrate our Golden Wedding. Who would have thought that in September 1961 we would be standing where we are today. How good is the God we adore.

I hope that this year will be just as exciting for you – it will bring challenges – it will bring changes I'm sure. But the Lord who brought us into a new relationship with Himself, through Jesus Christ, has promised to be with us until the very end of time. So it is with hope, with anticipation, with confidence that we move forward. May the Lord bless you abundantly as we travel together along all of life's perplexing paths.

Rev Robert Gemmell

PULPIT SUPPLY

January	2nd	11.00 a.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell
	9th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	16th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	23rd	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	30th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January	29th	10.15 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	True or False, can the Bible be trusted (more details within Messenger)
February	23th	7.30 p.m.	Annual General Meeting

B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY NEWS FLASH

Remember Lynne Brown at this time as she returns to Angola following the granting of her visa application. She flew out to Angola on the 8 January.

Ewan Sinclair

FLOWER CALENDAR

There are still a number of vacant spaces on the flower calendar. If you would like to provide flowers on one of these dates, please enter your name on the calendar pinned to the foyer noticeboard.



What could 3 experts tell you about 4 Gospels in 1 day that would make you believe the Bible?

When? Saturday 29th Jan 2011. Registration 9.45 a.m., start 10.15 a.m. Finish 4.30 p.m.

Where? Charlotte Chapel, 204 Rose Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4AZ

How much? £10 (£5 concessions), includes lunch and refreshments.

Who is it for?

All Christians who want to understand more of the reliability of the Bible.

Can you answer clearly questions about the authenticity of the Bible? Are you fully convinced of this yourself? Can the Bible stand up against science, archaeology and modern scholarly attacks? This conference will refresh you in the knowledge of the trustworthiness of the Bible.

What is the conference about?

Using the best available scholarship, the Bible and Church series of conferences offer the evidence for the reliability of the New Testament gospels. Many think that science and modern scholarship have proved the Bible irrelevant or even dangerous. These internationally respected speakers will provide accessible material which addresses modern challenges to the reliability of the Bible.

Who is speaking?

Dr Peter Williams , Tyndale House.

Dr Simon Gathercole , University of Cambridge.

Dr Dirk Jongkind , Tyndale House.

How do I sign up?

booking form available from Ewan Sinclair (including concessions).

Concessions (£5) available for students and unwaged. If you would like to come but cannot afford the cost, please contact the conference team in confidence and arrangements will be made.

Bible and Church

"Bible and Church" is a ministry of Tyndale House, Cambridge. Scholars at Tyndale House are dedicated to researching all the primary evidence relevant to the study of the Bible. It possesses one of the finest libraries for biblical research in the world.

HOW TO JUSTIFY SAILING PAST SINNERS



If you care about the lost, you will probably identify with me when I tell you that I don't like evangelism. This will be because, like me, you have a continual battle with your fears. You are aware that you are commanded to tell people things they don't want to hear, and that makes you feel uncomfortable. Very. Spurgeon called evangelism an irksome (annoying) task.

Recently I realized that I hadn't witnessed to anyone for almost a week. This was because bad weather had stopped us from doing our weekly open air preaching at Huntington Beach, here in California. Despite the annoyance of the task, I can't live with myself if I don't reach out to the unsaved. I would be like a professed firefighter who let people burn to death, because I preferred air conditioning to the smell of smoke and the heat of the flames. So I asked God to give me someone with whom I could share the gospel.

As I peddled my bike to the ministry, I saw three workmen standing at the back of a truck. I immediately knew that these three were hardened men, who no doubt spent most of their day blaspheming God. They hated Christians, and the last thing they wanted to happen that morning was for some religious nutcase to ram religion down their throats.

As I sailed passed, the thought also entered my over-imaginative-mind that this was a group of three men, and it was best to witness to people while they are alone. I then thought "What am I talking about!" and slammed on my brakes so hard the rubber tire skidded on the sidewalk. I turned the bike around and went back to share the gospel.

Two of them didn't speak English, but one named Brian did. He was 17 years old, had a Bible at home that he hadn't read for some time, his parents were Catholics, and he was very concerned that if he died that day, he would end up in Hell.

So how do you approach three workmen and talk about the things of God? I began with, "How are you doing? Did you get your Trillion Dollar bill?" When he took the tract, I asked for his name, told him mine, and then quickly followed with, "It's a gospel tract. What do you think happens when someone dies?"

When he gave his thoughts about Heaven, etc., I asked him if he thought he was good enough to go there. He said he was. I went through some of the Ten Commandments to show him God's perfect standard, and that's when he realized he was heading for Hell. Then I shared the cross, repentance, and faith in Jesus. He was very grateful I went back, and I was sure glad I did.

So the next time you struggle with fear, take comfort that you are not the only one, and keep in mind that a wise man once said – "Courage isn't the absence of fear. It's the conquering of it." So ignore your fears, and do it anyway.

BRAINY YAKKING: BEWARE BUSYNESS

The weight of so many responsibilities and distractions – even the worthwhile ones – has a crushing effect on a person's relationship with Christ.

It ruins our taste for spiritual things. It suppresses our exuberance for spiritual service. It suffocates our passion for pursuing Christ and the intimate relationship He offers. It all grinds away at our soul. Eventually, following Jesus starts to lose its luster. The blessings and joys of walking with Him are crowded out by myriad tiny details of life. – Rev John MacArthur

ONE RESOLUTION FIT FOR A LIFETIME

Two resolutions from Martin Luther,

- 1) Resolved: that every man should live to the glory of God.
- 2) Resolved: that whether others do this or not I will.

That second one is fit for a lifetime of effort.

NO RASH VOWS

Daryl Wingerd, Pastor of Christ Fellowship of Kansas City, offers the following advice:

Before making any resolution:



Consider the Scriptures carefully. Some matters for the Christian are clearly commanded or forbidden in the Bible... Other matters are not so clearly or specifically commanded or forbidden... It is in these areas where it is often profitable to make a specific personal resolution.

Consider your other necessary duties. As Christians, we have a number of pre-existing responsibilities that must take precedence over personal resolutions... Before making any personal resolution, ask yourself how it will affect other essential things (that God has commanded of you).

Consider how your family, your church, and the reputation of Christ in a watching world will be affected, either by your faithfulness, or by your failure to follow through (Luke 14:28-30).

Consider your motives

Is it truly my goal in making this resolution to glorify God through obedience and self-discipline and to receive the praise that comes only from Him? Or am I trying to gain the approval and admiration of people? (cf. Luke 6:26; 1 Cor. 4:3-5).

Am I trying to appease my conscience by doing well in this one area in order to distract myself from conviction of another sinful behaviour? (cf. Matthew 15:1-6).

Am I acting defensively, angrily, or in prideful response to criticism from another person? In other words, do I have a sort of "I'll show them" motive for making this resolution? (cf. Phil. 2:3).

Consider the cost. We don't generally need to resolve to do the easy things. The difficulty, discomfort, self-denial, and even sometimes persecution involved in the Christian's pursuit of holiness are the very aspects that make personal resolution necessary. Consider these carefully, weighing them opposite the rewards. Then determine that by God's strength you will endure, understanding the price you must pay, and knowing that what you are doing is good and right.

Source: Let Us Resolve This... A Few Thoughts About Personal Resolutions, 2003, Christian Communicators Worldwide, taken from <http://www.thegracetabernacle.org/quotes/gracequotes.html>

(taken from wretchedradio.com)

BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

January	2nd	Lochgelly & Lochgilphead
	9th	Lossiemouth & Maybole
	16th	Montrose & Morningside
	23rd	Mosspark & Motherwell
	30th	Mull & Musselburgh

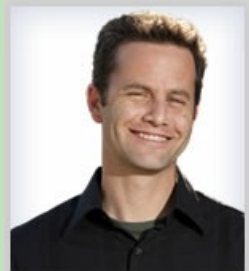
GREAT QUOTES with Kirk Cameron



"Have communion with few, be intimate with ONE, deal justly with all, speak evil of none."

~ from The New England Primer

On New Year's Eve my family and I gathered with just a few good friends – members of our church family – and we prayed, worshiped, and encouraged one another in the Lord. It's so good to spend time with brothers and sisters who know and love the truth. We discussed how many in churches have lots of horizontal fellowship with friends and sadly, lack strong vertical fellowship with God. But as with the cross itself, the vertical supports the horizontal, not the reverse. God must come before friends. Our testimonies and reputations of character must reflect that of our Lord – after all, as His representatives in the world, we are "re-presenting" Jesus to everyone with whom we speak. To speak evil of someone is to slander a man or woman made in the image of God and who may one day be our brother or sister. Just as God saw in us the potential for a glorious future, we too ought to pray, bless, and serve our enemies, hoping that God will grant them repentance and the knowledge of the truth.



~ Kirk Cameron