

TGC CANADA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

TAKING REFUGE
UNDER THE LORD'S WINGS
BITTERNESS AND BLESSING IN THE BOOK OF RUTH

NOVEMBER 14 - 16 | OAKVILLE, ON



2019 FALL SEMESTER

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CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

Welcome!



Real Jesus
REAL MIRACLES

AUGUST 18, 2019

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS GRIPPED BY THE GOSPEL,
LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY.

BEING ON HOLIDAY

Dear Friends,

I am a redeemed sinner, called by the Lord to be a Pastor. Being a redeemed sinner means that I am never in short supply of things to repent of and call out to the Lord for help to amend my life. This blog will touch on this.

I got to know a lot more Pastors after I was ordained. One of the things I learned was that a significant number of Pastors did not go to church when they were on holiday. At first it struck me as odd. And then it struck me as wrong. Sunday is the Lord's Day. The Bible warns us "to not forsake assembling together" Hebrews 10:25. I did not see how those called by the Lord to His minister got a pass to not meet with other Christians or keep the Lord's day just because their on holiday. I thought and still do, that for a Pastor to skip church when he's not upfront, plays into dangerous conceits that Pastors can fall into, "It is my church" "I am central to the worship" "If I am not upfront then what is happening has less value or worth" "Only I get preaching, leading, and worship right".

Another danger for the Pastor with kids is that he unwittingly communicates to them that he does not go to church because he is a Christian, but that he goes to church to be upfront and get paid.

So, I have resolved to go to a church service when I am on holidays. However, the spiritual dangers and my sinful heart can still be mightily at work even while I worship in church with others. This is on top of the danger of being self-righteous – sitting there thinking, "I am not like those other Pastors – I came to church!" It is easy to be there, singing and listening and praying, but all the while I am comparing and criticizing. I can slip into being very critical of what is happening, becoming picky and superior. No surprise, I can then easily slip into feeling "hard done" by God. "Why is this church better attended than mine when I preach better and we have better music and a better service and... and... and...?"

So, when I am going to church on my holidays I pray that the Lord will help me die to being comparative and critical and that instead He will help me to be appreciative and playful. I pray for Messiah and all who are leading and preaching that day, asking the Lord to bless them mightily. I pray for the church that I will be attending, asking that the Lord will bless the preacher and the leader and all in attendance in a special way.

(Continued on next page)

If I think the Pastor is struggling or doing poorly as he preaches, I pray that the Lord will pour out the Holy Spirit upon him, and us. When the service and the sermon are going well, I give thanks to the Lord for those up front, and that I am blessed to be with this church today. I give thanks for the congregation and ask the Lord to bless them in the days and months ahead.

This year I attended a Free Methodist church, a Pentecostal church, and twice, an Associated Gospel church. I can truly say that I was glad that I joined them in worship. The truth is that whatever is healthy and good in a local church is from the Lord and not from us. Praise God that Jesus is lifted up as the Saviour and Lord in so many local churches in this city and to the ends of the earth. Please pray for me, and for Messiah, that the Lord will build us up.

George+

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I NEED TO DEVELOP GODLY ATTITUDES.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

ATTITUDES.

1. The more entitled I feel, the less thankful I will be.
2. "We hide our mercies under a basket and net our wants and trials on a hill. This ought not to be." J.C. Ryle
3. Lord, help me to live with gratitude and thanksgiving.

I NEED TO GROW IN PRAYER.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading:

Lord, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You are good to all, and Your mercy is over all that You have made. Fan into flame within me a deep gratitude for the Gospel and a longing to see the day when all creation gives thanks to You and all Your saints bless You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

I NEED TO GET GOD'S WORD IN MY MIND AND HEART.

"The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.."

Psalms 145:9

I NEED TO DO SOMETHING OR START TO DO SOMETHING.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to _____."

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