



Date Night

SEPTEMBER 14TH | 4:30 - 7PM | THE BIBLE HOUSE

Celebrate With Us!

SEPTEMBER 15

IN THE LOBBY AFTER THE 10AM SERVICE!

Come join us in celebrating and honoring all of those who serve in our church family!

This is a time to learn more about the different ways in which you can volunteer at Messiah along with enjoying some amazing desserts!!

COMPASSION PROJECT GUATEMALA

SEPTEMBER 22ND

More details coming soon!

WOMEN'S POTLUCK BREAKFAST

SEPTEMBER 21ST | 9:30AM | THE BIBLE HOUSE

MESSIAH OFFICE | 315 LISGAR ST. OTTAWA ON, K2P0E1

SUNDAY SERVICE | OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE, 400 KING EDWARD AVE. OTTAWA, ON



CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

Welcome!

Ephesians LETTERS FROM A ROMAN JAIL

SEPTEMBER 8TH

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

THE CHURCH IS NOT A FAITH COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

I recently received an email written by a well-meaning Christian leader. The email was addressed to local "faith communities". The writer wanted to enlist our support in reaching out to students – a very worthy cause. I answered politely. I resisted the urge to advise the writer that churches should not be referred to as "faith communities".

Now some of you might think I am being pedantic. Others of you might add that we are faith communities, and that it is a good way to refer to churches in a culture like ours which is, at best, suspicious, and at worst, hostile to the institutional church. Some of you are expecting me to say that "faith communities" is not what the Bible calls the church, and we should use Bible words. If I made an argument like that you would pounce and say the word "Trinity" is not in the Bible and you use that! I will not make that argument here. I have different concerns.

Language effects how we think. Words help and/or hinder us in thinking. If we use words in a way that goes against the biblical world view, then we will be confused. So it is here. The logic behind the phrase "faith communities" or the similar expression "people of faith", is that most people have no faith and most communities and organizations just are. What distinguishes Christians is that they are people of faith. But this whole picture is the opposite of what the Bible teaches about human beings and human institutions.

The consistent biblical teaching is summarized very well by part of a Bible verse, "... they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator..." Romans 1:25a ESV. Notice what this teaches. It is not that Christians worship and non-Christians don't. No. Both Christians and non-Christians worship. No human being has an option about worshipping. The question is never, "Will I worship?" The question is always "who or what are you worshipping?" Similarly, the text does not say Christians have faith or trust and non-Christians do not. No human being has an option about whether or not to have faith/trust. The question is, will you have faith in God as He reveals Himself or will you exchange this for something else?

(Continued on next page)

Similarly, every human organization, because it is human, is organized around worship and faith. Every human institution, including the local church, is a faith community. For a Christian to talk otherwise is to walk into confusion. What matters is worshipping the true and living God as He has revealed Himself.

This matters. There is, humanly speaking, nothing virtuous about faith. God made us to breathe. He made us to always connect by faith. It makes no more sense to be identified as being "a person of faith" as it would to be identified as a "person who breathes." Biblically speaking what matters first and foremost is the "object" or "end" or "goal" of faith, not the strength of my faith. A weak, but true faith in Jesus Messiah is of vastly greater value than very strong personal faith in an idol, a lie, yourself or anyone/thing other than the Creator who made you for Himself and sent His Son to save you. I may have an exceptionally strong faith I can jump across the Grand Canyon. Another person is terrified of flying, but enters the plane anyway. My strong faith leads to my death. Their weak faith, well placed, takes them across an ocean.

So if you feel you need to avoid the word church, say "a community whose faith and hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ". He is worthy of all our worship, all our faith.

George+

RECTOR | Rev. Canon George Sinclair

CHURCH PLANTER | Daniel Avitan

MINISTRY INTERNS | Jonathan Camiré,
Matt Usherwood, Jason Biggs

ADMINISTRATOR | Jen Murray

GRAPHICS | Amy Usherwood


WARDENS | Shannon Hoops-Ripley,
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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. I was made by God to praise Him for who He is and all He does.
2. As the Lord frees me up to praise Him, He frees me up to praise others rightly.
3. As I hope in Jesus Christ above all things, I begin to be healed to have a proper hope in myself and others.

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:

Heavenly Father, giver of all good gifts, help me to boast in nothing except the cross of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. By the Holy Spirit, please grip me with the Gospel so that the world's proud ways die in me and I die to seeing the world's proud ways. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."

Romans 8:29-30

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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