

GRACE SHAPED LIFE: AGAINST COLD, JUDGMENTAL CHRISTIAN ORTHODOXY

First Reading: . Romans 14: 1-23 *Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

Gospel Reading: John 16: 5-15 Listen to sermons on iTunes: Church of the Messiah



Making disciples of Jesus gripped by the gospel, living for God's glory.

April 24, 2016

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Follow us on twitter: @messiah_church
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Questions and/or comments about the sermon or scripture text? Email george@messiahchurch.ca

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.

Are you new? Get connected!

Is this your first visit to Church of the Messiah? Thank you for being with us. We are glad you're here. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Contact us: info@messiahchurch.ca or 613.235.0596. Check out our website at messiahchurch.ca

Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am Service. For Nursery, please bring children to the lobby before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to "follow the cross" during the last worship song.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Canon George Sinclair Rector	Daniel Gilman Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship
Shirley Allan Administrator	Wardens: Dick Butler, Gary Graber, John Rayson, Shannon Ripley, Karl Ruban, Dana Scherf
Jonathan Camiré Ministry Intern	

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

If you are visiting, please feel free to let the basket go by. If you would like to donate, there are many ways to give:

- 1) Place cash or cheques payable to "Church of the Messiah" in the offering basket on Sunday, or mail to the church office. Please contact the office if you are interested in using offering envelopes.
 - 2) Email your contribution to givings@messiahchurch.ca. Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George"
 - 3) You can use PayPal to donate to the church. Click on the "Give" tab (far right side) on our website (messiahchurch.ca)
 - 4) Pre-authorized debit – You can authorize the church to debit your bank account for a fixed amount on a recurring basis of your choice. To get started, please contact the office: info@messiahchurch.ca
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FINANCIAL UPDATE AT MARCH 31, 2016

Target Offering: \$ 69,405

Actual Offering: \$ 68,887

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON ROMANS 13

Dear friends,

I confess that this blog will not make very much sense if you do not know what Romans 13 says! I apologize for this. Last week I preached on Romans 13; it was a long sermon on an even bigger topic. Some of the questions and comments that came my way afterward led me to think I should use one or two blogs to make a couple of points. If you are curious about my sermon you can listen to it here: messiahchurch.ca/sermon-archive/series/romans/

First, Romans 13 helps make it clear that human beings were created to be social, with a social structure and with an authority structure. The Bible does not specify one timeless social and authority structure. However, as we read the Bible we see that the Bible understands human beings as inherently social with a social and authority structure. While human social and authority structures share in the Fall, the mere presence of a social and authority structure is not a sign of the Fall nor a result of the Fall.

Secondly, in a sense, Romans 13 applies to Christians as they face every "authority" - whether it is in government, employment, religious institutions or the family. This is important to understand. In my sermon I said that Christians can and should pray that God would have mercy on their nation and not give us the government we deserve, but a government that is a blessing. We can pray this in the context of every "authority". In my own tradition, people take Romans 13 to mean that every bishop who is chosen to be bishop must be God's man - in the sense of a blessing. But properly understood, Romans 13 does not teach that everyone in authority is a blessing - some are part of God's judgment.

Thirdly, the force of Romans 13 is positive in the sense that it encourages Christians to be involved in institutions and organizations outside of the church. We should not read Romans 13 as an argument to disengage from the world and retreat into the "Christian world". Romans 13 is an encouragement for Christians to be involved in politics, government, education, business, the arts, law and the armed forces. Romans 13 is not saying we have to wait for a "pure" government or business before we can be involved. As Larry Osbourne put it in his superb book, *Thriving in Babylon*, Christians can thrive in Babylon.

Finally, Romans 13 is part of the New Testament rejection of the idea that Christians must form their own Christian nations. In the Lord's Supper Jesus revealed that His death and resurrection would inaugurate a New Covenant between God and humanity. We enter that new Covenant one-by-one when we receive Jesus (and His finished work) as our Saviour and Lord by faith. God finishes us into His New Covenant. His people are then called to go to every people group and proclaim the Gospel. He longs to have His people in every people group. In the New Testament there is no command to make a Christian "Israel".

George +

GROWING IN GRACE

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 want to have a strong, Gospel-shaped mind and a soft, Gospel-shaped heart.
- 2) How will I honour the Lord today?
- 3) Cultivate a spirit of welcome, not rejection, towards other Christians.

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:

Dear Lord, I confess that when I read Romans 14 I tend to see myself as “strong” and other Christians as “weak”. I confess that I flatter myself too much to detect or hate my own sin. Please form me by the Gospel and the whole counsel of God as found in Your Word written. Please make me a disciple of Jesus, gripped by the Gospel, who is being led out of self-deception into humble self-knowledge. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

I need to get God’s Word in my mind and heart.

Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.
Romans 14: 3

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 _____.”

GOING DEEPER

Getting to know me.

What was your weakest subject in high school? What was your strongest subject?

Getting into the Bible.

Ask the Lord to help you renew your mind as you read His Word written.

- 1) Read Romans 14
- 2) Read Mark 7: 1-23; Acts 10: 1-48; Matthew 7: 1-5

Getting real.

What has come to your mind and your heart as you have read and discussed God’s Word? Can you share some of this with others so they can pray for you?

UPCOMING EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

MON / APR 25	Prayer Meeting 7pm @ 315 Lisgar St
TUE / APR 26	Lowertown Home Group 7pm @ 110 Nelson St.
WED / APR 27	Hintonburg Home Group 7:30pm @ 84 Fairmont Ave.
THUR / APR 28	King Edward Home Group 7:30pm @ 703A King Edward Ave.
FRI / APR 29	Revive Youth Group 7pm @ École Ste Anne (235 Beausoleil)

We continue to search for our next Worship leader. If you know anyone who might be interested in this part-time, paid position please ask them to contact the office: info@messiahchurch.ca

Learner’s Exchange continues! Come out at 9:15am Sundays to hear a 30-minute TED-style talk followed by a 10-minute Q&A. Light food will available.

Upcoming talks:

- April 24: Euthanasia (Julia Beazley)
- May 1: The flaws and failure of moral relativism (Jonathan Camiré)
- May 8: Anglicanism 101 (Gary Graber)
- **NEW**** May 15: Getting the Word to the World (Brian C)

You can **support our Revive Youth Group** by purchasing or donating new or used basketballs, soccer balls, dodge balls (soft, large balls), skipping ropes and hula hoops. Contact Hilary or Josh deBoer (hilary.moate@gmail.com) or the church office (info@messiahchurch.ca) if you will help!

There are still tickets available for the debate on Sunday, May 1 @7pm here at the OLT. Dr Os Guinness, a renowned Christian, will debate with Dr. Christopher DiCarlo, a well-known atheist about *Meaning without a Maker*. The suggested donation is \$5. Space is limited, so please register at www.diganddelve.ca

Please note: Our regular 10am worship service on May 22 will be held at 9am.