

JARS OF CLAY: BEING HUMAN IN CHRIST  
HOW DO I FORGIVE GOD AND MAKE PEACE WITH HIM?

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First Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 11-6:2      \*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

Gospel: Matthew 9: 18-26      Listen to sermons on iTunes: Church of the Messiah

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

November 6, 2016

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Follow us on twitter: @messiah\_church  
Like us on Facebook: Church of the Messiah, Ottawa

Questions and/or comments about the sermon or scripture text? Email [george@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:george@messiahchurch.ca)

## WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

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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](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca) or 613.235.0596. Check out our website at [messiahchurch.ca](http://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 come to the front after the last worship song.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

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### Rev. Canon George Sinclair

Rector

### Jonathan Camiré

Ministry Intern - Evangelism and Discipleship

### Yasmine Alli-Smith

Ministry Intern

### Deborah Reid

Worship Leader

### Shirley Allan

Administrator

### Daniel Gilman

Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship (Children, Youth and Young Adults)

### Rev. Neil Stephens

Pastor of Discipleship and Pastoral Care

### Wardens:

Dick Butler

Earl Maynard

Karl Ruban

Jeremiah Hadwen

Shannon Ripley

Dana Scherf

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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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](mailto: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 "Contact" tab (far right side) on our website ([messiahchurch.ca](http://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](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca)

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FINANCIAL UPDATE AT OCTOBER 30, 2016: Preliminary estimates, based on financial data available, indicate we need \$88,000 to balance the books by year end. Please pray for discernment as you make giving decisions and we make spending decisions.

## DEFENDING THE INDEFENSIBLE?

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Dear Friends,

He knew I am a pastor. He knew I was working on my sermon. He came up to me and politely asked what my sermon was going to be on. He listened politely to my answer. He then politely asked me how I can believe in a God who allows natural disasters. How can I believe in a God who allows pain and evil and suffering. He was quite eloquent. I have only summarized his several minute long description of the evil that takes place. He did finish speaking though and he stood there waiting for my answer. Hopefully my few words below will be of help to you when you are faced with this question from without or within.

I told him that I could only give him the shape of an answer. Thick books have been written on this subject. If he wanted to sit down for a meal sometime we could have a longer conversation.

I said that the first thing to realize is that the "problem of evil" is not just a problem that only Christians have to answer. Every religion and spirituality and world-view has to answer the set of questions involved in the problem of evil. Someone might think the Christian answer has some big problems, but if they look at how secular people and atheists and Muslims and Hindus and Buddhists deal with the set of questions around the problem of evil, they might come to the surprising conclusion that the Biblical, Christian answer is by far the wisest - and has the deepest ring of truth.

For instance, one of the big problems that secular and atheist thinkers have is that they cannot account for why things are good or evil, right or wrong. If there is no true good or evil, then how can you accuse God of allowing evil? In other words, one of the first of many problems that secular thinkers have with using "the problem of evil" to argue against God's existence is that they need to adopt a biblical and theistic account of good and evil to make their argument against theism!

I then said that I believed that if the Christian answer to the problem of evil was compared to its alternatives, then people would see that the Christian answer was the wisest, with the deepest ring of truth.

I was about to go into the Christian account when my friend just said, "The problem of evil proves God does not exist." Then he walked away. The fact is, many people do not want to think through the problem of evil. Many people do not want to puzzle over the problem of evil as they seek the truth. For many people, the problem of evil is a talisman which will always work to silence Christians because the Christian position is indefensible.

Friends, pray for your friends and pray for opportunities to bear witness to Jesus.

George +

## GROWING IN GRACE

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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 I fear the Lord, the more I choose to persuade people rather than manipulate them.
- 2) Unworthy as I am, God has made me one of His ambassadors to this city.
- 3) Do not boast about outward appearance. Instead, know God; know the person.

### 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:

Father in Heaven, I feel humbled that You would take all the steps necessary to reconcile me to Yourself through Your Son Jesus Christ. I confess to You that I feel inadequate that You also call me, and my church, to be Your ambassadors. It is hard for me to believe that You made Your appeal to the people of this city and the world through us. Please make me a disciple of Jesus gripped by the Gospel who lives for Your glory. Please pour out Your Holy Spirit upon me to help me fulfill what You have called me, and my church, to do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### 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

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1. **READ** 2 Corinthians 5: 11-6:2. \*Note all the prepositions (i.e. of, through, into) that have to do with Jesus. Also note what God has done and how he has done it.
2. **LEARN**
  - How does this passage connect to what has come before?
  - Paul quotes Isaiah 49:8-12 in 6:2. Read it to see why he might be quoting it here.
  - What is Paul saying to the Corinthians and why is he saying it? What does this teach us today?
  - Throughout this passage Paul has taught that we cannot separate what God has done for us from what God wants to do through us now. What exactly does God want to do in us and through us? (5:15, 16, 18-20; and 6:1)
3. **INWARDLY DIGEST**
  - In 6:1 the danger is not so much that the Corinthians will fall away from Christ, but that they will receive the 'grace of God in vain', that is, they will be people THROUGH whom the grace of God does NOT flow to others. They may be so shaped by their culture and the worldly teaching of the 'super apostles' that the power of the gospel has been emptied in them. We live in a city that shares a great deal of the Corinthians' pressures and qualities. What has God been addressing in your life that he wants to change in the light of this passage?
4. **PRAY**
  - Choose one scripture and take a couple of minutes on your own to think about what it is teaching you.
  - Turn something you have learned from this verse into thanksgiving; confession; praise to God and supplication (asking).

## EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Tuesday, November 8

- 1:30pm Bible House Study Group @315 Lisgar (side door)
- 7pm Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

### Wednesday, November 9

- 3:30pm Ryle Seminary chapel service @ 315 Lisgar
- 7pm Church on Wednesday @uOttawa (churchonwednesday.ca)
- 7:30pm Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont

### Thursday, November 10

- 7:15pm Old Ottawa South Home Group @ 267 Sunnyside

### Friday, November 11

The church office will be open from 1 to 4:30pm

- 7pm Adventure613 (youth group) @ École Ste Anne - 235 Beausoleil

### Saturday, November 26

- 5pm Advent Potluck Dinner and Carol Sing @ St Peter and St Paul's Anglican Church (152 Metcalfe St)

### Monday, November 28

- 7pm Messiah serves at Jericho Road Coffeehouse (First Baptist - Elgin and Laurier) Sign up in the lobby!

**Messiah Choir** practices the first, third and fifth Sundays at 9am in the basement of the OLT. New choristers are welcome! Interested? Contact Heather Vos: heathervos72@gmail.com

**Operation Christmas Child** provides an opportunity for you to be involved in a simple, hands-on project that focuses on the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ - God's greatest gift. Each shoebox is filled with hygiene items, school supplies, and toys, and is given to children regardless of gender, race, or religion. **Pick up your Operation Christmas Child boxes today in the lobby. They can be returned ANY Sunday between now and November 13.**

**Ryle Seminary announces the Anglican Studies Institute**, which will begin offering online courses in 2017! Courses will focus on key aspects of the history, theology and ethos of Anglicanism. It is designed specifically for lay people. Its goal is to foster learning about our Christian faith in general and the Anglican Church in particular. Interested? info@ryleseminary.ca