



Tuesday
PRAYER MEETING!
TUESDAYS | 12:12PM | THE BIBLE HOUSE



Thursday
PRAYER
THURSDAYS | 7-9PM | 267 SUNNYSIDE AVE



ST. JOE'S
SUPPER TABLE
Donations
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD, TOILETRIES, PAPER TOWELS, KLEENEX & DIAPERS
LAST DAY TO BRING ITEMS IS **OCTOBER 13**



Memorial Names
If you would like to remeber a loved one in our
Thanksgiving bulletin, please submit their name to Jen at
JEN@MESSIAHCHURCH.CA by **OCTOBER 9TH**

MESSIAH OFFICE | 315 LISGAR ST. OTTAWA ON, K2POE1
SUNDAY SERVICE | OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE, 400 KING EDWARD AVE. OTTAWA, ON



CHURCH OF THE
MESSIAH

Welcome!

LETTERS FROM A ROMAN JAIL
Ephesians

SEPTEMBER 29TH

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

A CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Friends,

The world, the flesh and the devil each work in human beings in two opposite directions at the same time. Quick refresher. In this case "the world" refers to the ways that human groups, societies, and institutions act to keep the true and living God far away; the "flesh" refers to that part of every human being that acts to keep the true and living God far away; and the "devil" refers to a real spiritual being (and by implication, all other similar spiritual beings) in rebellion to the true and living God and hostile to human beings. Each individually, and together with the others, work in human beings in two equal, but opposite directions: centrifugal and sameness. Let me explain.

Sameness. Sin acts to remove the distinctiveness and uniqueness of human beings. Think for a moment of several people very drunk, or several people in the grip of watching pornography. When not in the depths of the sin, they are different, and in meeting them you can notice and appreciate their uniqueness. But as the alcohol takes over, or the porn takes over, the person's uniqueness vanishes. The true and living God creates uniqueness; the world, the flesh and the devil seek to remove uniqueness and create sameness.

But they also have a centrifugal function – in other words, the world, the flesh, and the devil act to drive us apart – hostility, prejudice, words-that-wound, unforgiveness. Tragically, these three act to create a world where no one wants the living God close, everyone thinks alike, yet we are hostile and suspicious of each other. Now to be clear, this is not a full description of human life. God through His common grace restrains evil, but that is a topic for another blog.

In light of the world, the flesh, and the devil, it is good to think of a phrase in the Apostles creed that often bothers us. This phrase should instead be our prayer and rallying cry. The creed ends with the phrase, "I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church." Catholic? Huh? Why is that there? The word "catholic" is the God given good that the world, the flesh, and the devil seek to bend, break, and corrupt. "Catholic" is a one word summary of Ephesians 2:11-22 and John 17 and the glorious end of the book of Revelation. It is unity and difference as opposed to the sameness which destroys uniqueness and the centrifugal power which separates.

(Continued on next page)

The biblical church is "catholic" in the sense that it is universal. More than universal, the church also spans time. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. When we put our faith in Christ, we are born again, made a new creation, made a new "man". Each person in Christ is now a "son" in God's household, an equal citizen in Christ's Kingdom; a living stone in the temple that God indwells. This one kingdom has citizens converted through Patrick in Ireland in the fifth century, citizens converted in London, England in the 70's through Billy Graham, and citizens converted by underground evangelists in Iran and China today. We are one, without sin-crushing sameness.

But catholic also means varied. To have a catholic taste in books does not mean you like reading Graham Greene and Flannery O'Connor – it means you read and enjoy many different genres. So it is with the biblical church, where Christ rules, variety grows. Formal liturgies, charismatic spontaneity, or simple order and flow. Cathedral choirs, Gospel-music choirs, praise bands, psalm singing, or a single pianist. Solemn quiet, demonstrative exuberance, and everything in between. Pastors in robes, in suits, in Hawaiian shirts, in jeans and t-shirts. The world, the flesh and the devil act to kill uniqueness and drive us apart. The Gospel brings a catholic church, one in Him yet unique and varied.

George+

RECTOR | Rev. Canon George Sinclair

CHURCH PLANTER | Daniel Avitan

MINISTRY INTERNS | Matt Usherwood,
Jason Biggs

ADMINISTRATOR | Jen Murray

GRAPHICS | Amy Usherwood


WARDENS | Shannon Hoops-Ripley,
Ross Allan, Matt Solheim, Elvira Lavigne
Jeremiah Hadwen, Andrew Moore Ede

 COMOTTAWA

 OTTAWAMESSIAHCHURCH

 MESSIAH CHURCH SERMONS

 INFO@MESSIAHCHURCH.CA

 613-235-0596

 MESSIAHCHURCH.CA

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. In the new heaven and earth there will be people from every race and people group, but no racism or prejudice.
2. I come to Christ on my own, but I only grow in Christ with others.
3. When Jesus Christ is truly Lord, racism truly withers and dies.

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, thank You that Christ Jesus reconciled us to You by His death upon the cross, and that by the Holy Spirit we have peace with You and access to Your full presence. Help us to grow as citizens of Your kingdom, children in Your household, and living stones in the holy temple where You dwell. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Ephesians 2:13 ESV

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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