

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrate With Us!

TODAY

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!!

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

TUESDAYS | 12:12PM | THE BIBLE HOUSE - BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 24

THURSDAYS | 7-9PM | 267 SUNNYSIDE AVE

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, K2POE1

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



CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

Welcome!

LETTERS FROM A ROMAN JAIL
Ephesians

SEPTEMBER 15TH

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

GOD IS GROWING HIS CHILDREN NOT HIS CARROTS

Dear Friends,

One of the wonderful things about Messiah is that some people come to the church, and then come to the faith, from very different cultures and backgrounds than my own. They often challenge me, about some of my blind spots in what I preach. One example of this is how I used to preach about money. After a sermon, one person challenged me in a way that touched my heart. He came from a background where religion was used to keep people in their place; to have them accept being poor and powerless; to see poverty and powerlessness as a blessing; and to discourage ambition. So my friend, when he heard me talk about dying to the idol of money; being financially generous; to trust the Lord for provision; and tithing, he said that it was hard for him not to hear me encouraging him to be poor and have no ambition to make more money and thereby provide for his family. I realized that I had not made certain matters clear. I should have made clear that the Bible was not given by God to justify a powerful elite staying in power while others are kept under their thumb. I should have made clear that there is a proper place for ambition and growth. I should have made clear that God is growing His children, not His carrots.

Let me come at this another way. I am preaching through Ephesians. One of the wonderful truths of Ephesians 1 is that God is sovereign over all that happens. He is only working on "Plan A". He does not need a "Plan B". This fits with a line in that wonderful hymn "all I have needed thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord onto me." This is a powerful truth in good times, but even more so in bad times when life is hard and maybe even painful. The Lord is faithful. He knows my deepest needs. He is meeting my deepest needs even now. I am to look at my situation confident that the Lord is Sovereign and that He is my Good Shepherd, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me". He is with me in this hard place, working for my good; the furtherance of His Kingdom; and the praise of His glorious grace.

(Continued on next page)

But we should never teach these great truths in such a way that a person will never seek to walk away from abuse, or take the steps to no longer live in poverty; or seek a promotion; or start and grow a business. We need to remember what God created human beings to do, and what redemption in Christ will begin to restore. He created us (see Genesis 1 and 2) to tend to His garden; to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth; to have dominion in His creation. He created us to trust His provision and His goodness while we exercise dominion to His glory and the good of the earth. He created us to be His children, not His carrots. Carrots just stay where they are. Stuck. Not moving. We were created to be His, and redemption is restoring us to what the Lord created us to be. As His children, it is "natural" to multiply and be fruitful and exercise creativity and care, growing the garden, His Garden.

So, work hard and well. Be generous, giving ten percent and maybe even more. Trust His provision and His goodness, in good times and in bad. Always remember the Lord Jesus Christ crucified and risen. "All things come of You, and of Your own, have we given to You."

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. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and I am His.
2. The more the Gospel is real to my heart the more the eye of my heart is enlightened.
3. The closer I am to Jesus the more superstition dies in me.

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:

HFather of glory, Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, three persons one God; please grow wisdom in me as I know Christ more, and enlighten my heart with the hope that Jesus has called me to in this age and in the new Heaven and Earth. Amen.

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

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20

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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