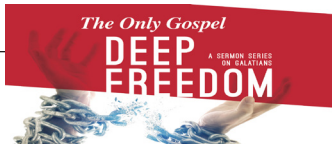


## Being known by God

Reading: Galatians 4: 8 - 20



## GROWING IN GRACE

### I need to develop godly attitudes.

- Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

#### Attitudes.

- All my idols seem powerful, but they are weak and worthless.
- In Jesus Christ, my knowledge of God may be weak but, praise God, He knows me!
- I will choose the truth over flattery.

### 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:

*O God, I make idols and am unaware that I now serve the idol. The idols of the culture ensnare me. I serve the idol, but am unaware that I am serving an idol. Please pour out the Holy Spirit upon me so that Your word comes alive and I am gripped by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and I recognize and renounce all idols. In Jesus' name. Amen!!*

### I need to get God's word in my mind and heart.

*But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? Galatians 4:9*

### 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

In your opinion, what is the most worshipped idol in Canada?

### Getting into the Bible

- Ask the Lord to lead and guide you into all truth.
- Read Galatians 4:8-20
  - Read Galatians 4: 12. Then read 1 Corinthians 9: 1-27.

### Getting Real

What has the Lord pressed home to you? Consider sharing this with another so you can both pray about it.



## WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are glad you are here! 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. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? See the contact info below.

### Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am service. Nursery children meet in the Green Room in the basement (ask a door host). Sunday school kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.



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

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Rev Canon George Sinclair - Rector

Twitter: @messiah\_church

Facebook: Church of the Messiah, Ottawa

iTunes: Messiah Church Ottawa Sermons

messiahchurch.ca

613 235 0596

info@messiahchurch.ca



Today's service:  
[bible.com/  
events/301510](http://bible.com/events/301510)

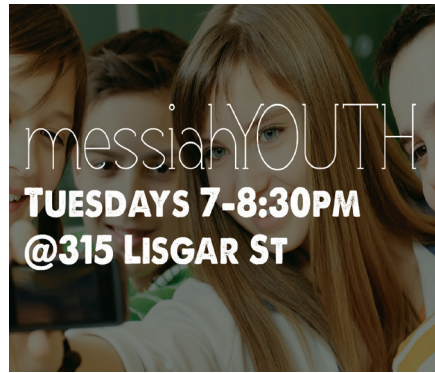
office & mailing address: 315 Lisgar St. Ottawa ON K2P 0E1

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Messiah Home Groups

Wednesdays @7:30pm  
Hintonburg @ 84 Fairmont

Thursdays @ 7pm  
Old Ottawa South @ 267 Sunnyside  
Lowertown @ 110 Nelson



October 29, 2017

### REVELATION FROM AN IMPERSONAL GOD?

Dear friends,

Last week I talked about how Christianity makes a humble and reasonable claim. The Christian faith does not claim that Christians have developed the best symbols and rituals to know the infinite and eternal God. The Christian faith does not claim that we have developed a way to get "outside" of this created order to God. No. The Christian faith says that God has come from "outside" to "inside" the created order to speak truly to human beings. So, a Christian is not a skilled mystic or philosopher; we are one beggar telling another beggar where to go to hear God speak. The Bible is God's word written. To hear the Bible is to hear God speak.

But some may say that Christians have this all wrong. God is not "outside". He is "inside", in everything, or He is "inside" because He is everything. Therefore, we just need a guide to get in touch with the "God" who is already here, all around us, in us.

This sounds very attractive and it is an ancient and widespread belief. It also seems more democratic somehow. But there are several big problems.

The first thing to think about is that this conception of God as "the all" or "the all-in-all" is impersonal. God is not personal, because "everything" is "every thing", not a person. Why is this a problem? What do we think of people who treat us in an impersonal way? We don't like it. It seems wrong. But, if it's wrong to treat a person in an impersonal way, why do we believe the best or highest is impersonal? If you are in a personal relationship with someone - say, a friend or a child or a spouse - is it a good sign if your relationship becomes more and more impersonal? Don't we treat this as a bad thing? Isn't our goal to have a more personal relationship with a person we care about? If so, how can we think that the "highest", the "best", the "God" is impersonal?

If we see someone becoming more and more impersonal, don't we think this is a bad thing? But if this is so, why do we think "becoming one" with the impersonal "God" is a good thing? It would mean our destiny or end is to be impersonal. In fact, in all religions which teach that "the All" or "the All-in-All" is god, the fact that we are persons is the problem we have to "solve" by becoming one with "the All".

The Bible teaches that God is God. He is different from all things - He is transcendent. He is also the sustainer of all things - He is close, He is imminent. He is personal. He speaks. He knows. He loves. He creates. As the personal God He made us as persons in His created order. Christians believe that the Bible is God's word written - that when we read or hear the Bible we are hearing God speak. Because we believe it, does not make it true - but it sounds truer and wiser than saying that God is impersonal.

George +