# TEN COMMANDMENTS: AN OUTLINE OF SANITY Keep the Sabbath

Reading: Deuteronomy 5: 1-6 and 12 - 15
Psalm 71
\*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Second reading: 1 Peter 3: 8-18
Psalm 71

\*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

Wednesday, July 26

• 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont

Sunday, July 30

9:30am: Worship @ École Ste Anne (235 Beausoleil)

The church office is closed on Monday and Tuesday. It will reopen on Wednesday, July 26.

**Worship location change**: The OLT is undergoing a major renovation and the auditorium will not be available for our use for up to eight Sundays (July 30 - September 17 inclusive). *We will worship at 9:30am* at École Ste Anne (235 Beausoleil) on July 30, August 6, 13, 20 and 27. Please pray that we can find a location for September 3, 10 and 17 soon!





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

July 23, 2017

messiahchurch.ca / 613.235.0596 / info@messiahchurch.ca office & mailing address: 315 Lisgar St. Ottawa ON K2P 0E1

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## 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 the Welcome Centre in the lobby or 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 Green Room (basement) before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Canon George Sinclair

Rector

Jonathan Camiré

Ministry Intern - Evangelism and Discipleship

**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:

Earl Maynard Andrew Moore Ede Shannon Ripley Karl Ruban

Dana Scherf

#### 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 "Contact" 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

Not as Boring as it Sounds

Dear Friends,

Should we read the Ten Commandments in a "normative" way or in a "regulative" way? In fact, should we generally read the Bible in a normative or in a regulative way? Boring? Not really; it is an important and useful thing to think about.

One simple example will help you to understand. If you go to spend a couple of hours at the regulative park, it would look like this. You come to the entrance. A sign tells you to walk 50 yards ahead, then sit on the bench for 10 minutes. Another sign at the bench tells you to take the path that branches to the left; go to the swings; swing for 15 minutes. At the swings there is another sign which tells you to take the path to the right; walk till you come to the ice cream truck; buy any type of ice cream you want. I'll stop there. I think you get the idea about how the regulative park works.

How is the normative park different? When you come to the normative park entrance there is a big sign. It says, "All animals must be on a leash. Pick up your pet's poop. No unauthorized motor vehicles allowed. No loud music." That's it. You can play ultimate; sit and read; sunbathe; have a barbecue - it's up to you. Don't break the norms; everywhere else there is freedom.

One other aspect about the regulative way. Generally speaking, if the Bible is silent on the matter, in other words there is no regulation, then you do not do it.

I believe the proper way to read the Bible, *generally* speaking, is in the normative way, *not* the regulative way. I am not going to use this brief blog to argue for the normative way, but I will take a few moments to illustrate what it means for our life.

People complain about the Ten Commandments as if they are restrictive. But they are not. They are a testimony to dynamic freedom. Take a simple example. "You shall not bear false witness." First of all, how is it important to human flourishing to bear false witness against your neighbour? The truth frees. Lies darken and blind and damage. Second of all, one type of speech is forbidden - bearing false witness. But everything else is open! Poetry, songs, slogans, haiku, jokes. Fantasy, fiction, history, scientific hypotheses. Third, we can go further. The commandment applies to every language and dialect, but it does not restrict language. The commandment does not say, "Only speak 15th century BC Hebrew." It says, "Do not bear false witness against your neighbour." This is freedom from God for true, godly, human flourishing.

George +