

JARS OF CLAY: BEING HUMAN IN CHRIST
THE NEED FOR A CHRISTIAN MIND

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 10

*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

Gospel: John 2: 1-11

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

January 15, 2017

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

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Questions and/or comments about the sermon or scripture text? Email george@messiahchurch.ca

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

Yasmine Alli-Smith
Ministry Intern

Deborah Reid **Shirley Allan**
Worship Leader 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 Jeremiah Hadwen
Earl Maynard 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

YET MORE ON MISSION FIELDS

Dear Friends,

Sometimes the Christian life is hard. Sometimes God calls us to a "long obedience in the same direction." The belief that the church or Christ-follower will always be "successful" is not a biblical idea. Remember, we follow Jesus, the crucified One!

This is the third week that we are thinking about Jesus' command to His people and His church to "pray earnestly". Listen again to Matthew 9: 26 - 38, *When Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.*

Jesus' words are clear and bracing. The problem comes when our cultural categories shape the way we understand Jesus' words. In particular, our culture shapes our expectations around this Bible text.

A few years ago I was invited to a remote fishing camp. The "host", who was a member of the private camp, invited several Ottawa pastors up for a couple of days of fellowship and fishing. The "camp" was pretty remote and the facilities were pretty basic. I confess that I had low expectations for the food. To my surprise, the food was really good! Now, if I had gone to the camp and the host had boasted about how great the food was, I might have thought it was only "all right". You see, expectations have a great effect on how we experience and interpret things.

So, we have this powerful Bible text where Jesus calls us to "pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers out into His harvest." Our culture can subtly shape us to think this means that: our prayer will be easy to do, "labourers" will find "harvesting" easy; that the "harvest" will be large; that the harvest will be steady. So our culture, not the Bible, creates expectations about prayer and harvesting and the harvest. Then, when we actually pray and actually try to act on what Jesus has said and our experience does not match our expectations we can become disheartened and discouraged. We can be filled with doubts and accusations and recrimination.

But Jesus does not tell us that this will always be easy for us! Sometimes, the Lord calls us to do hard things for Him. Ottawa is a very rich mission field. The Lord does have a "harvest" here of people who will respond to the Gospel with saving faith. We are called to pray earnestly. We are called to make ourselves available to Him as His labourer in "our" sphere of influence. But, sometimes the Lord calls us to do hard things for him, to practice a "long obedience in the same direction."

Please pray!

George+

GROWING IN GRACE

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) Comparing myself to others shows that I am not wise.
- 2) The Lord calls me to be meek and gentle, not timid and weak.
- 3) Since I am a jar of clay, I need God to work in and through me for His glory.

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:

Dear Lord, please be the Lord of my mind and the Lord of my thinking. Please tear down what needs to be torn down as You humble, heal, free and grow my mind. Please help me to grow in my knowledge of You and of Your creation. In Jesus' name, Amen!!

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

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ... 2 Corinthians 10:5

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

Read

- 2 Corinthians 10

Learn

- How is this passage connected to what Paul has written earlier?
- What do you think Paul is saying to the Corinthians and why is he saying it?
- What does this teach us today?

Inwardly Digest

- What strongholds (v3) of thinking against God do you still live with?
- What weapons of God and His Gospel do you use to take them captive?

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 it into thanksgiving, confession, praise and supplication (asking).
- *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.*

EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, January 17

- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, January 18

- 7pm: Church on Wednesday resumes at uOttawa churchonwednesday.ca
- 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont

Thursday, January 19

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

Friday, January 20

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

Saturday, January 21

- Messiah Women Movie Night - 7pm at Deane Ronayne's (14 Ashdale Ave). Please sign up at the coffee station or shirley@messiahchurch.ca

Sunday, January 29

- Potluck brunch following 10am worship service - Please bring food to share.

The Marriage Preparation Course is coming to Messiah! Do you know a couple who are planning to marry in 2017 or who are thinking about marriage?

The Marriage Preparation Course is for any couple who wants to give their marriage the best possible start. It doesn't matter how long they have been engaged; if they've been married before or even if they are just contemplating marriage.

- five Sunday evenings (7-9pm) beginning February 26
- dessert and coffee served in a romantic setting
- no group work
- no sharing with anyone other than your partner
- 315 Lisgar St
- it's free!
- for info / to register: shirley@messiahchurch.ca

Please stay for coffee and fellowship after the service. There is a matinee today at the theatre so we need to be out of the building by 12:30pm.