

Events and Announcements



Learners Exchange

A series of TedTalk-style talks between services on Sunday mornings meant to equip confident disciples of Jesus! Join us in the lobby at 9:15am:

- March 10 "Mindfulness, the Gospel, and the Medical community"
- March 17 "Jesus and Horror Flicks"
- March 24 "Basics of Christian Discipleship"



Women's Art Event

March 30th at the Bible House

This time we will be working with chalk pastel!

Space is limited to 15 spots and the cost is \$15/person

Register at info@messiahchurch.ca



Rapid Response Training Day

A one-day seminar led by the BGEA that will train people from your congregation in rapid response to disasters. Brought to you by Love Ottawa and the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team.

Saturday, March 23rd | 9AM - 4PM
Arlington Woods Free Methodist Church
225 McClellan Rd

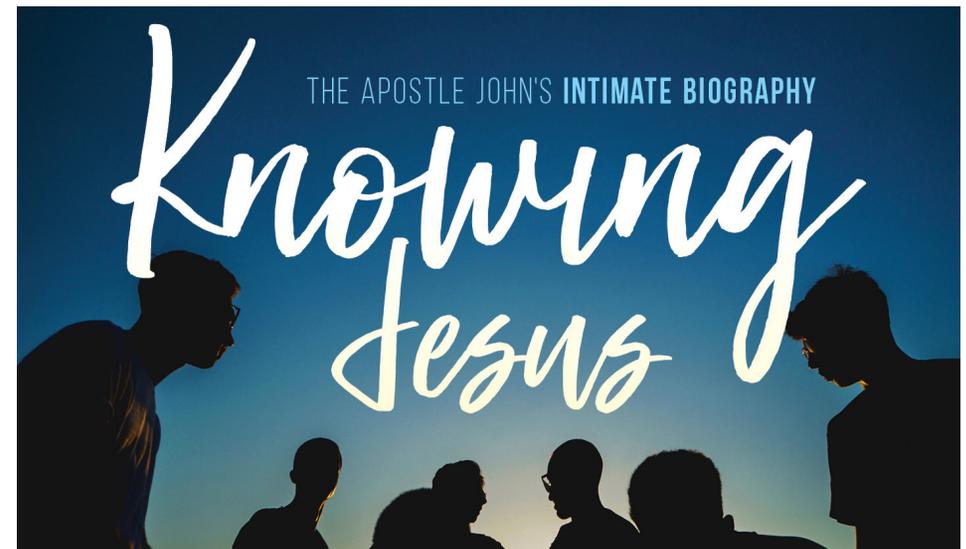


church of the messiah

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

Sunday, March 17th, 2019

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



John 18:1-27

Rev. George Sinclair - Rector



@messiah_church



Church of the Messiah, Ottawa



messiahchurch.ca



Today's service:
bible.com/events/579159



Messiah Church Ottawa Sermons



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Donate online: givings@messiahchurch.ca

Knowing Jesus - John 18:1-27

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. The sword does not advance the Gospel
2. Since the Lord keeps His word, I shall read His word.
3. Jesus knows how it feels to be betrayed, abandoned, surrounded and attacked.

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:

Righteous Father, please lead me in the path of righteousness for the glory of Your name. I thank You Lord that even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for You are with me. Your grace, received by faith, means I am Yours, and Your Gospel comforts me. Please keep me in step with the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

Psalms 23:4

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 _____."

The Power of Failure

Dear Friends,

There can be great value in failure. This is especially true for Christians. There can be great value in failure. I share this in light of a recent failure.

I spoke recently at a local university. After the event was over, I was approached by two charming, friendly and articulate young women. One was muslim and one said she was a Christian. In my talk I had argued for how the death and resurrection of Jesus changes everything. Because of this and other reasons, you should believe the Gospel and trust and read the Bible as authoritative and trustworthy - even in the face of strong objections made by postmodern theory, religious pluralism, atheism, and Islam. The two young women came to try and convince me that we should strive to keep our religious commitments while we gather together to celebrate our common, but diverse humanity. In other words, from the position of modern Canada's most strongly held values, they wanted me to substantially change what I said.

If people had been watching us; we stood still, all smiling. In reality, the conversation was a dance. I affirmed the value of civility, conversation and an open public square. They kept pressing for a deeper commitment - one that would involve me rejecting one of my central claims - the real, true uniqueness of the person of Jesus and His finished work and the need for all to come to Him to be made right with God.

I largely failed in this conversation. I did not give up what is true, but I was unable to figure out how to turn the conversation from me playing defence to me engaging them to consider the weakness of their position and therefore, their need of a saviour.

It was not a bad thing that I failed. It has led me to think about the conversation and their beliefs. I have learned important truths about myself. It will have to be the topic of another blog, but I think I will handle the next conversation far better. I appreciate the wisdom and necessity of the Gospel and the whole counsel of God more for being challenged. It has also led me to pray for the young women.

Too many Christians live as if failure is not an option. But this is not true. We will fail. Our hope is not to be based upon our success, but our Saviour. If we believe that failure is not an option, we will "stay safe" and not reach out; not bear witness to the Gospel. We will live in a ghetto. We will not teach in light of what people actually think and actually say. We will not learn and we will not grow. We will learn how to fit into our sub-culture when we are in our sub-culture, and we will learn to say nothing and fit in with the dominant culture when we live outside of our sub-culture.

Sometimes failure just leads to more and more failure and despair. But "success" is also based on failure - on trying and learning. The Gospel provides the strongest place to stand as we fail and fail and learn and try and fail and learn and grow. The Gospel shapes me to find my identity, my justification, my righteousness, in the Gospel and not in my accomplishments. The Gospel shapes me to know the final word that God will say about me - and know that that final word depends on Christ and His finished work, not my accomplishments.

The Gospel pushes me to bear witness to the Gospel as it reminds me that only God can pierce our blinded eyes and shine in a heart to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (see 2 Corinthians 4:1-6). I bear witness, He does all the hard work. The Gospel pushes me to know that my failure is not final and that I can step out in faith and share, for the Gospel is not the power of my arguments, but the power of God for salvation for all who believe.

George+