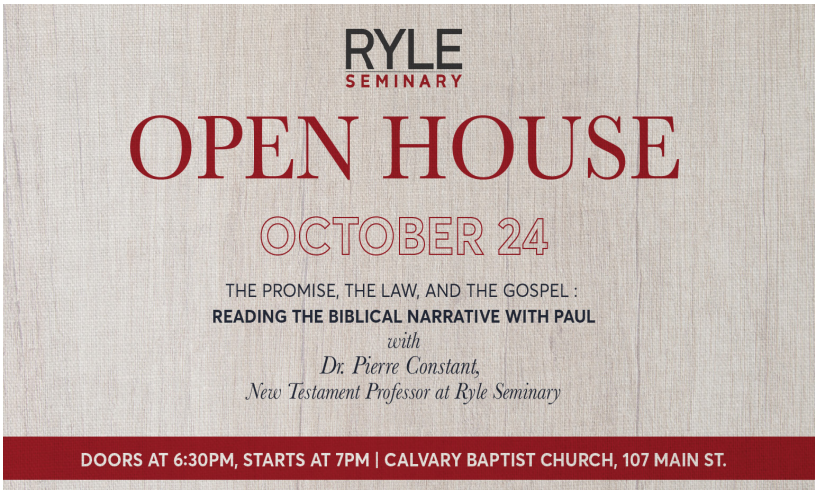


TICKETS ON SALE FOR \$20
IN THE LOBBY AFTER THE 10AM SERVICE



MESSIAH OFFICE | 315 LISGAR ST. OTTAWA ON, K2P0E1

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



CHURCH OF THE
MESSIAH

Welcome!

LETTERS FROM A ROMAN JAIL
Ephesians

OCTOBER 20TH

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

LIVING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT

Dear Friends,

The Federal election is on Monday. One thing this means for sure is that many Canadians, including Canadian Christians, will be disappointed on Tuesday. Many will not get the election results they were hoping and praying for – and if you were actively involved in the election – that you worked hard for. Here are some thoughts on disappointment for Christians.

First, the Bible never promises that you will never be disappointed. One of the “back-handed” ways that we know the Bible is God’s word written is by what is not in the Bible. If the Bible had promised that we would never be disappointed, it would be making a foolish promise. Christians want different outcomes to the same event. When the Leaf’s play the Flame’s, some Christians will have to be disappointed when the game is over. God cannot promise to have both teams win the same game. We North Americans have a deep seated, often unconscious, belief in the power of “techniques” that will produce the outcomes we desire. Much self-help literature is an attempt to share the “techniques” you must follow to achieve what you want. But often this literature only sets you up for disappointment because it makes foolish claims. We cannot all get the outcome we desire by techniques, any more than the Flame’s can play the Leaf’s and both teams win.

Second, it is not unchristian to have wants and to want. The Bible does not tell you to stop wanting. It does not tell you to stop wanting earthly goods or any good thing. Much in our culture celebrates a type of “materialistic Buddhism”.

(Continued on next page)

At the same time that we want more stuff and better relationships, we also somehow think we should practice “mindfulness” and “non-attachment”. It is easy for the prosperous, the powerful and the ambitious to believe they are somehow “mindful” and “un-attached”, but really it is a dodge that allows you to be self-centered and greedy without feeling self-centered and greedy. The Bible is deeply human in the sense that it is clear-eyed about real human experience without being cynical or derogatory. As human beings, we will always have wants. Wanting, in and of itself, is not bad. We will never get everything we want, so disappointment will be part of our experience, even if it will not be the final word about us.

Third, we need to beware of idolatry. Some of our disappointment is proper. We want a baby, but discover infertility, and so we enter a season of disappointment and sorrow. The Bible tells us to weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15). But some of our disappointment flows from idolatry. Idols always promise much and always disappoint. It is always wise to reflect on our disappointments and ask the Lord if He is revealing idols in our life – and if so, to flee idolatry. Note, I am not saying all disappointment reveals our idols – only that some of our disappointments reveal our idols.

Finally, the Lord walks with us in our disappointment. We are not deists. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. He is present in our joys and sorrows, pleasures and pain, rejoicing and weeping, exultation and disappointment. The Lord did not “weigh your successes”, He pardoned your offences and clothed you in His righteousness. When you put your faith in Jesus Christ crucified, you were united with Him in His death and in His resurrection and in His ascension. To be gripped by the Gospel is to humbly know that the final word about you is not “disappointment”, but “come into My presence, partake of My glory, and be filled with My joy.”

George+

For your Prayers

FINANCIAL UPDATE | MONTHLY

MONTH TARGET for Oct | \$34,920
ACTUAL for Oct | \$19,313

FINANCIAL UPDATE | YEARLY

YEAR TARGET to Sept 30th | \$256,080
ACTUAL as of Sept 30th | \$251,219

RECTOR | Rev. Canon George Sinclair







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MINISTRY INTERNS | Matt Usherwood,
 Jason Biggs

ADMINISTRATOR | Jen Murray

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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 closer I am to the Lord the more I become unique in a good way.
2. Lord, help me to be patient with people out of love, not indifference.
3. Lord, grow me into a truth-seeker and truth-speaker for the good of others and Your 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:

Heavenly Father, please help me to be gripped by the Gospel and then live more and more with humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit in peace. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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

"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV)

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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