



The Anchor



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“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast...” Hebrews 6:19

May 2008



From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams

This month I would like to make my comments personal. I'd like to write about something you

can do for me as your pastor. **Bring Me Joy!**

YOUR STAND

“For now we live, if ye **stand** fast in the Lord. For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the **joy** wherewith we **joy** for your sakes before our God” (I Thessalonians 3:8-9). Paul informed the brethren at Thessalonica that their stand had brought him happiness. In the context, he knew the battles they were encountering in their Christian walk. First, there were afflictions (3:3). The word literally means something of a pressing nature. These Christians were facing pressures that were challenging their faith. As your pastor, I know many of you face all kinds of pressure today, especially those related to finances. When I hear of your stand, your firm determination to do what's right, it brings me joy! I know you could withhold your tithe, you could work on Sundays, you could be dishonest in business, etc. Secondly, Paul knew they were experiencing tribulation (3:4). This word conveys the thought of troubles and suffering due to the antagonisms of persons. Relationship struggles can wear us down and truly try our faith. Instead of running, when you stand and do what is right, though it be very difficult, it brings joy to my heart. Finally, Paul knew of their battles with the tempter (3:5). Some of the greatest clashes in our lives will be with the devil himself. He will endeavour to deceive, distract, discourage, and defeat you any way he can. Paul exhorted the Ephesian believers in their confrontation with the devil: “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand**

against the wiles (schemes) of the devil...**withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**” (Ephesians 6:11,13). Like the Philippians (4:1), the Thessalonians brought joy to Paul because they stood, firm and fast, against afflictions, tribulations, and the tempter. Had they not stood, Paul feared his labour with them would have been in vain (I Thessalonians 3:5).

YOUR SUBMISSION

Hebrews 13:17 says: “Obey them that have the rule over you, and **submit** yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with **joy**, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Like a shepherd watching over his flock, a pastor has a God-given responsibility to keep guard over the sheep in his sheepfold. At the judgement seat of Christ, I will have to account to God for each of you who choose to make VBC your home. I am held responsible to properly tend to the



nurturing of your soul. Paul understood this charge and so gave himself to it: “Whom we **preach**, warning (the word for counseling) every man, and teaching every man in

all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:28). As your pastor, it will be through preaching, teaching, and counseling that I will endeavour to nurture your souls. And when you submit or yield yourselves to these spiritual and Scriptural promptings, you will bring me joy!

YOUR STEADFASTNESS

The Apostle John said: “I **rejoiced** greatly that I found of thy children **walking** in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father” (II John 4). To his dear friend Gaius, he stated: “I have no greater **joy** than to hear that my children **walk** in truth” (III John 4). The walking here is

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It was a joy to see Missionary Dennis Seely at the Bible Conference in Ajax! It was also a great blessing to hear some good old-fashioned preaching.

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in the present tense indicating a habit, not a periodic manner of life. John was happy because his spiritual children were walking steadfastly not sporadically. It was a walk of truth that rejoiced John's heart. Christ gave pastors to His church to mature the Christian that they: *"be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine"* (Ephesians 4:11-14). God cried out through the prophet: *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"* (Hosea 4:6). I want you to grow and become steadfast in your walk of doctrinal truth. Sporadic devotions, sporadic church attendance and worship, sporadic giving, etc., will destroy a Christian. A steadfast diet of truth will sturdy, secure, and stabilize your walk. Paul wrote the Corinthian church and said: *"For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection"* (II Corinthians 13:9). A strong, steadfast, mature walk made Paul joyful. It has the same effect on me!

In Proverbs 5, Solomon agonized to teach his children wisdom. He warns them that without it, they will mourn at the last (verse 11) and that they will say: *"How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!"* (verses 12-13).

Paul, John, and the writer to the Hebrews all had sheep they were tending. As your pastor, teacher, and instructor, I love you. I don't want you destroyed and I don't want you to mourn at the last. The Lord will be honoured by your stand, your submission, and your steadfastness. God has brought us into a wonderful relationship. Let's work together, each in our roles, to see Him magnified in His church. This will bring me joy!

GOOD TIDINGS

DEBT REDUCTION

Over \$4,000 has come in so far toward December's goal of \$39,000. Let's keep chipping away!

EASTER SUNDAY

On Sunday, March 23rd, we

celebrated our Lord's resurrection with a great crowd. We then snacked and came back for a "Singspiration", singing and giving testimony of the grace and goodness of God!

BAPTISM

On Sunday evening, April 6th, Daniel Baccari was baptized to the glory of God!

BIBLE CONFERENCE

On April 7th—8th, a group of us headed to Ajax and heard some good old-fashioned preaching. We were surprised to be greeted by Missionary Dennis Seely. He was able to stay and preached for us on Wednesday evening.

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

Appearances

I Samuel 16:7 *"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."*

In this passage, we see Samuel looking for a new king. Saul was still the king, but God had decided that he was no longer fit to continue to rule. Samuel went to Jesse's home at God's direction to find the next king of Israel. Jesse's oldest son came before Samuel first. Samuel looked Eliab up and down and said, *"Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him."* Samuel was looking on the outward appearance of Eliab. The Bible does

not describe him, but it could be possible that he was similar to Saul. He may have looked like a leader – tall and handsome – but God tells Samuel that was not where He was looking. God says, *"Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature, because I have refused him."* God is telling Samuel that Eliab was not the right choice just because of his looks and height. God continues, *"For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."* Samuel was looking on the outside of Eliab, he could not see his heart. God could and did. He knew that Eliab was not the right man to be the next king of Israel.

As we continue through the rest of this passage, we see Jesse's sons pass before Samuel. God turns each one away until he comes to Jesse's youngest son, David. By outward appearance, he may have been the most unlikely choice to be the next king. God, however, could see his heart. God saw that David was a man after His own heart. Samuel and the people of Israel had already chosen one king based on outward appearance. Now God would choose a king based on what was in his heart. God wanted a king that would serve Him, love Him, and obey Him with his whole heart.

This same principle applies to us today. Often, we, like Samuel, look at people on the outside. We see the outward appearance. We judge people on what is on the outside. Jesus said in John 7:24, *"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgement."* Jesus wants to ensure that we look at people for what is on the inside. We, as mere mortals, cannot see the heart, but we can focus on more than just the superficial outward looks of a person. We must focus on what kind of a person they

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THE VBC PICTURE GALLERY



We celebrated our Lord's resurrection last Easter with a great crowd. We then snacked and came back for a "Singspiration" and giving testimony of the goodness of God! The children had an exciting program as well.



Daniel Baccari was baptized to the glory of God!

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 11th.

We will have a special potted flower for each mother present.

Brother Roy Pustam

Wednesday Evening, May 28th.

Steve and Seema's pastor from Trinidad will begin a series of special preaching services with us. Pastor Pustam will preach again on Saturday evening and then twice on Sunday.

Picture Day

Sunday, June 1st.

After morning service and right before we eat, we will take a group picture of our entire church family on the stairs to the hill. Please mark this Sunday down—we want everyone to be here for the family portrait! It will be a great day of preaching, picture taking, and appetizing food!



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are. We need to search out what is on the inside, not just what we see on the outside. David was chosen as the next king of Israel, even though he was but a mere shepherd. When we look at others, what will we see?

COUNSELING COLUMN

Pastor Bill Adams

Sin causes man many problems and troubles. They commence at birth (Job 5:7, Psalm 51:5), carry on through youth (Genesis 8:21, Job 13:26, Job 20:11, Psalm 25:7), and continue throughout life (Galatians 5:17).



THE ANCHOR

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Would you like to share your testimony? Do you have a special story, event, prayer request or any other information you would like to share with your church family?

Please contact us at the church office by phone or email.



Our Schedule of Services

MINISTRIES ON SUNDAY

Sunday School
for all ages 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Service 6:00 pm

We have fully staffed and supervised nurseries at all services.

MINISTRIES ON WEDNESDAY

Bible Study and
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

We are an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church, located in the heart of Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada.

The Church is located 10 minutes north of Metropolitan Toronto and 20 minutes from Toronto Pearson International Airport, and only a 40 minute drive from downtown Toronto.

William E. Adams, D.Min.,
Senior Pastor
James Hird, B.Th.,
Youth Pastor

Counseling Column continued...

Because he has no resources outside himself and human means, the unbeliever struggles and strains at surviving the oppressing onslaught of sin. Many times he succumbs to the overwhelming weight of sin. It demoralizes, depresses, and can destroy him and those around them.

The Christian is not impervious from such assaults on our spirits and bodies. He is not immune but he is enabled. The believer has an arsenal of weapons at his summons, enabling him to fight victoriously: God ("great in counsel", Jeremiah 32:19), Jesus Christ (called the "Counselor", Isaiah 9:6), the Holy Spirit (the indwelling counselor, John 16:7-8, 13), and the Scriptures ("my counsellors", Psalm 119:24).

The disciple of Christ needs to trust God's Word (Psalm 119:28, 49-50, 71, 92) and not the word or counsel of ungodly men (Psalm 1:1).

In my next column, I will begin to address the Christian's struggles with addictions. These obsessive, compulsive behaviours range from drugs (illegal and prescription) to diets (gluttony), from gambling to gorging (anorexia, bulimia), from smoking to sinful sexual habits (pornography, fornication).

Yes, true, well-meaning Christians can struggle with these sins. We would not be told to "mortify" (kill, destroy; Colossians 3:5-7) the old life if it wasn't trying to resurrect itself in our lives every day! Read I Corinthians 5:11 and see the addictive behaviours of a brother.

Whether if be a self-help or support group, most counseling approaches today utilize a 12 step program to assist the addicted. In future columns, I'll present 12 Scriptural steps that not only offer hope and help but victorious living.

