



# ◆ The Anchor ◆



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Volume 2009 Issue 10 "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast..." Hebrews 6:19 October 2009



## From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams

I believe a good number of unbelievers attend their church believing it to be a good work that will help them get to heaven. Sadly, there are a number of Christians who also view church wrongly. Some minimize its importance and go occasionally out of obligation or guilt. Still more go but choose a church based on convenience rather than on Scriptural reasons. Others want a church so they can have someone to marry, bury, or baptize them. Church attendance becomes a checkmark so that I can sooth my conscience in fulfilling a duty. In this month's column, I would like to have you consider two points on the subject: **"Church Is Not Just A Checkmark."**

### The Foundation

In choosing a church, the Lord gave the Christian the Bible to guide them. You should seek a church that is founded upon the truth of God's Word: "...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). Jesus demanded to be worshipped in truth: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). The right kind of church is one where all the truth is believed and practiced. It allows for no doctrinal error. Jesus condemned the church at Pergamos for permitting false doctrines to be taught: "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam... So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate" (Rev.2:14-15). Truth is not truth if it is mixed with error. Don't choose a church with 90% truth. Truth is not an option but a dictate. You don't want a church where you invite someone out and have to hope that they don't hear some doctrinal deviation that day.

### The Family

The church is not a building, it is people. It is a family – a family of believers. It is called a "household" (Gal.6:10). It is likened to a physical body where every part is integrally related to the other (1 Cor.12:12,18). Dysfunctional families are those where members of that family do their own thing independent of the family. Christ has established His church to function together. There are over 35 distinct "one another" passages in the New Testament calling upon the church family to edify, exhort, comfort, pray, serve, use hospitality, etc., to one another. Occasional attendance limits and restricts a Christian's ability to function in the church as Christ designed it. Faithful attendance enables one to be the church family member Christ requires: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day

approaching" Heb.10:25). The first church at Jerusalem set the standard: "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And all that believed were together, and had all things common...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:42-47). How can I get to know new members of the church family that the Lord adds if I am not there?

Christ's church is not a club or social event where I go on special occasions. I just don't go to any church. I scrutinize it's Scriptural foundation. I choose a church not because it is the closest but because it fits the criteria. I place a high value on the church because Christ did: "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph.5:25).

One man once said: "People do not forsake the house of the Lord because of distance from the church house but because of their distance from God." Don't be one of those Christians who come to church only on holy days and holidays. True, committed disciples are faithful to their Lord's church. To them, church is not a checkmark but the regular meeting house of Christ's disciples.



## YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

### Leaving God's Side

When I was growing up, I was presented with many opportunities to sit under the preaching of God's Word. I had the privilege of attending a Christian school. I was not alone. There were many others who grew up beside me who had these same opportunities. Many of them attended the same Christian school that I did. Many then were at the same summer camps serving along side me. Many of them went to the same preaching conferences that I did. They all heard the same things that I did.

Today, fourteen years after I graduated from high school and went to college, many of these "friends" have left God behind. In the last two months I have heard of three specific cases of people that I grew up with who are no longer in church. These are young people who served God along side me as teenagers. This fact saddens my heart greatly. I know that parents are never perfect, but I firmly believe that their parents did as they were commanded in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I still firmly believe this verse is true. I know that these people heard God's Word, and we are promised God's Word will not return void (Isaiah 55:11).

Only one thing remains with the actions of these people who have left God. James describes these people in James 1:22-24, when he says this, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and

goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." These verses perfectly describe the actions of my friends. They heard the Word of God, saw how they should act, but did not act on what they saw. They did not correct any of the issues with their lives as pointed out by God's Word.

The question that I am putting to you as young people today is this, will you be a hearer of God's Word only, or will you be a doer? James finished this passage with verse twenty-five, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." I challenge you all to maintain your faith in Christ, and continue to grow in this same faith. Continue to walk in God's ways. Just like your parents, God loves you no matter what you do. The question for you is, what will you do for God?

I titled this article "Leaving God's Side". Joshua challenged the children of Israel to choose a side. Frances Havergal wrote these words, "Who is on the Lord's side? Who will serve the King? Who will be His helpers, other lives to bring? Who will leave the world's side? Who will face the foe? Who is on the Lord's side? Who for Him will go? By Thy call of mercy, by Thy grace divine, We are on the Lord's side—Saviour, we are Thine!" I challenge you, as young people, whose side will you choose?

## A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

### Those Victorious Ones

Psalm 46:1-3 says: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present

help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." My study Bible says about these 3 verses, "that God is a place of security when all else is insecure." YES, He is our security. No matter what happens, He is there for us. Remember that verse in the Bible from Rom. 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." I was thinking about some of those who trusted God and followed Him, even though things were not making sense or going well. Why is it that we think we ought to have it easy, that we can't take difficulties or that if we go through rough trials, God must not love us any more? I am guilty of such thoughts at times.

As I thought about person after person in the Bible who we learn about and teach to the kids in Sunday school, most of them didn't have it so easy. Hebrews 11 talks about a life of faith amidst difficult circumstances. Some are mentioned who lived out God's plan and though they had victories because of their faith and trust in God, still the process was anything but easy. The process was HARD. Heb. 11:33 talks about *Those Victorious Ones* who "through faith subdued kingdoms." The process of subduing was probably not a piece of cake! As women, conquering our own emotions can be like subduing a kingdom because we aren't to be ruled by our feelings but have trust in what God tells us! And when our children would like to have their own way we must not give into them but subdue "the little kingdoms," teaching them obedience.

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On Sunday, September 20th, with a record attendance of 288, we celebrated our 18th Anniversary! To God be the glory and praise!

# THE VBC PICTURE GALLERY



## Announcements and Events

"To God Be The Glory"! On Sunday, September 20th, with a record attendance of 288, we celebrated our 18th Anniversary by underscoring God's undeserved goodness to us. Woodbridge, Maple, and Kleinburg were saturated the week before with 3,000 John and Romans. Thanks to many hands, the church was prepared inside and out. Seema hosted a hungry crowd as 80 pizzas were devoured and the dessert tables emptied. Five hands were raised for salvation at the invitation. Praise the Lord! The special and congregational music was encouraging and uplifting. It was a humbling and happy day with our Holy God!

**Missions Conference with  
Missionary Pastor Denis  
Celestine from Grenada**  
Sunday, October 18th

**Children's Harvest Party**  
Saturday, October 24th

**Men's and Women's Bible  
Study**  
Wednesday, October 28th

**Annual Christmas Open  
House at the Adams'**  
Saturday, November 28th

**Christmas Cantata**  
Sunday, December 6th

Keep fasting and praying for open doors in our new property search!

We have received almost \$17,000 toward our 23 month debt reduction goal of \$100,000. Thank you for your sacrificial offerings! We are praying for a mortgage burning service Dec 2010.

## 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 5 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

## 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.

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Next, faith "wrought righteousness," and this is done by choosing daily to live a life that is morally upright and without sin and, as mothers, bringing our kids up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Then, faith "obtained promises" and isn't this what we need to do, like Jacob in Genesis 32:26. Imagine with me what part Those Victorious Ones must have had in that they... "Stopped the mouths of lions... Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight... Turned to flight the armies of the aliens." Oh, that we would follow such marvelous examples! We women are the weaker vessel according to 1 Peter 3:7. However, God, whom we believe in and serve, is not weak. And when we need help to do what God calls us to do, remember, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13). Hebrews 11:35 says, "women received their dead raised to life again." Miracles do happen today and, as a church, even now, we are seeking God for a miracle for one of the families that come to our church. This verse goes on to say, "others were tortured, not accepting deliverance." Verses 36-37 mention more beloved Christians who didn't have it easy. They went through trails of cruel mockings, scourgings, bonds, imprisonment; they were stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, slain with the sword, destitute, afflicted, and tormented. Verse 39 says, "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith..." They were faithful to the end, believing and trusting God. Those Victorious Ones, are our examples, and like them, ladies, we must trust and believe God to be our "refuge and strength." And as Psalm 46 reminds us, though our earth be removed and our mountains be carried into the midst of the sea, we women can also be numbered with Those Victorious Ones.

