



The Anchor



A Monthly Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Volume 2009 Issue 11 "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast..." Hebrews 6:19 November 2009



From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams

Looking for bargains, many folks today shop at a thrift store or other used clothing outlet to find reduced prices. These would rather purchase new items but in order to survive in these economic times, they make due with the used. To downplay the concept of a "used" car, many automobile dealerships employ the term "previously owned." If Christians aren't careful, the spiritual life can become cluttered with the "used." In this month's column, I would like to write on the subject: "New Or Used?"

Used

As you can imagine, in my position as a pastor, I come across many Christians. Whether it be on visitation or just soul winning at a bank, gas station, or store, a number of Christians say to me: "I used to go to church; I used to sing in the choir; I used to teach children; I used to read the Bible; I used to go to a mid-week service, I used to be more active in church; my children used to be involved; etc." This is nothing more than "used" Christianity. Something or someone pulled or pushed them away. They bought the lie, that the used was better than the new. They were sold something that is not true. Don't settle for "used to" Christianity. It's a bad bargain. Peter warned his readers that if they didn't add new to their used Christianity (2 Peter 1:5-8), they were without spiritual vision and had forgotten their sins had been forgiven (2 Peter 1:9).

New

Jesus said, "Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5). Paul said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor.5:17). New things ought

to be happening all the time in our spiritual lives: new goals, new godly desires, new ministries, new victories over sin, etc. Paul said to his readers: "we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4) and "serve in newness of spirit" (Romans 7:6). Solomon said of God's mercies, that: "They are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Folks, old and used are usually not better when it comes to the spiritual life. Jesus warned about mixing the old and the new (Luke 5:36-38). Used Christianity is reduced – it is not worth much. Paul didn't say, "in my earlier days, I used to serve the Lord." The Apostle said, at the end of his life, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). Peter says "grow" (2 Peter 3:18); Paul says "grow" (Ephesians 4:15); the writer to the Hebrews says "let us go on unto perfection" (Heb.6:1). Let's keep going, adding new things to our faith and spiritual life. Let's finish strong. It's OK to purchase used articles but

let's live our Christian lives in newness. May our Christianity not be reduced to a bargain, but be brand new!

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

The Suggestion Box

At many places of work, they have a suggestion box. This box was created so that the employees could have a way to put forth their ideas in a constructive manner. This box, however, is often used to put forward the complaints of the employees. They put in their own critique of where the company went wrong and how they would do better.

There were some men in the children of Israel who decided to do the same thing. Korah and his friends went to Moses with the following complaint. "Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?" (Numbers 16:3) These men were "suggesting" that they could do the same job that Moses was. God would ultimately decide that they could not. These men were swallowed up by the earth because of their complaint



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towards Moses and their belligerence towards God.

As Christian young people, it is very easy for you to look at the way things are done in God's House and have a critical spirit. You may have ideas of how things can be better done, and there is nothing wrong with that. Your ideas are always welcome, but must conform to God's Word. You must always keep in mind what Peter says in I Peter 5:5, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." Often young people forget this command. James also tells in chapter five verse nine, "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." Often you can complain about one thing, and you may be doing something that bothers someone else. You must always remember that the words that you speak one to another should be in love. Paul says in Colossians 3:13, "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." You can always have complaints about how others are doing things, but you should always find a way to help those with their issues.

A Woman's Window

Marisa Tavares

Sanctification

It's not where you've been ...but where you're going that matters...it's what you're learning now and how you choose to live your life. You've heard the saying "it's not how you start but how you finish that counts". I confess I've given up much in my life since I've accepted Jesus

Christ as my personal Saviour, all for the better of course. Remember, what we give up is nothing compared to what Jesus gave up for us when He died on the cross to save us. I had to put into practice self-restraint in many situations I've been faced with "be not conformed to the world..." (Rom. 12:2) and "come out from among them..." (II Cor. 6:17). God has transformed my life in amazing ways. I was so far away from God, living a totally different lifestyle than I am today, and God is continuously working on me. He keeps me on that easel, slowly chipping away that old nature within me.

We all begin our journey at different stages in life, and with that being said, the Christian life is indeed a life-long journey of learning and knowing how to respond to tests, trials, and tribulations. I must add it's a difficult one, but a most worthy one, as there are many blessings and eternal benefits attached to it. Sometimes we don't see those blessings right away, but in God's timing they will be manifest. It's about "sanctification". We are indeed made holy, set apart for His purposes. We need to lay down those things that easily beset us - those things that should not be in our lives. As we are growing in Christ, He is conforming, moulding and shaping us, making us in the image of Christ. As we are growing, we become more intimate with our creator, thus it effects more change in our lives.

The three areas that are continuously targeted for change in my life, and these are the same in every believer's life: (1) **Character** – what a person is; (2) **Conversation** – what a person says; and (3) **Conduct** – what a person does. I believe there are three stages of sanctification: 1st stage is **Salvation** – this is a positional change that happens once when we become the children of God; 2nd stage is **Growth** – this is a progression and should remain for the rest of our lives; 3rd stage is **Perfection**

– this is a perfected sanctification that will occur at the resurrection.

There are three means of sanctification: (1) **Prayer** – this is developing a relationship with God. He impresses upon us to develop an intimacy, a friendship, a fellowship with Him.

(2) **The Word of God** – this is His divine relationship. You read God's word and the words jump right out at you and hit you square in the face. God's word reveals and purifies and is sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). In order to "grow" in the Lord you need to study the Word of God, and then of course apply what you have learned, and you will experience the power of God.

(3) **His Church** – you can not be sanctified and ignore the church. I have learned that this is very significant since a lot of emphasis is placed on our faithfulness and our service to the Lord. The church is a primary way we learn, grow, and become sanctified. Praise God for godly preaching and teaching here at Vaughan Baptist Church. It builds up the body for the work of service. It teaches us so that we learn and grow up in the faith. It equips us and builds us up to have knowledge of the truth so we are not thrown off by false doctrine.

One of the ways God uses in our lives to sanctify us is through suffering. You may ask... "why does God use suffering"? It gets our attention! God does not want to leave us in the same condition we were in. He loves us too much to do that. The Christian life is all about sanctification and getting to know our heavenly Father and how we can enjoy our walk with Him. Another part of our sanctification is admitting our short comings and weaknesses. It's confessing those failures, getting back up, and continuing to walk with Him.

Just recently a college student who was here shared this analogy with me of when a toddler begins to walk, and the parent is holding the child by the hand. As the child wobbles and falls to the ground, the

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Missionary Pastor Denis Celestine from Grenada preached a powerful message that challenged our hearts to reach souls for Jesus!

THE VBC PICTURE GALLERY





Announcements and Events

On Sunday, October 18th, Missionary Pastor Denis Celestine from Grenada was the main speaker at our Annual Mission's Conference. With our theme, "Unto The Uttermost," our hearts were challenged to reach souls across the seas and across the street.

On Saturday, October 24th, the fellowship hall was packed with children. We surely thank all the teachers, workers, and parents, who made this is a special time of fun and fellowship for the children.

Monthly Officer's Meeting
Sunday, November 15th 5pm

Annual Christmas Open House at the Adams'
Saturday, November 28th 5-9pm

Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 6th 11am

Missionary to Malta, Anson Van de Kemp
Sunday, December 13th 11am

Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24th 6pm

New Year's Eve Service
Thursday, December 31st 7pm
Food & Fellowship to follow

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

We have received almost \$18,000 toward our 23 month debt reduction goal of \$100,000. Thank you for your sacrificial offerings! We are praying for a mortgage burning service in December 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.,
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James Hird, B.Th.,
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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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parent gently picks him up and helps him to continue to walk once again... this time only holding the child by his fingers and then the next few times only holding the child by his fingertips. Both the child and the parent never give up, both working together...what teamwork! With each instance, both being more and more determined and diligent to achieve the task, this continues on until the child has learned to walk on his own. So this is the same with our heavenly Father... He too gently picks us up when we fall, and He encourages us to continue again and again. Through my personal experiences, during times of difficulty and great sorrow, I have learned to cling to God's many promises. One of His promises that I hold dear to my heart is... "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:5). I claim it each time, and I truly believe it in my heart and God always follows through with what He says. His faithfulness toward us never fails.

It is the victory over one's trials that brings spiritual growth and maturity in our lives. I have heard this numerous times that those Christians whom God can use the most are those whom God has bruised the most. In the meantime, God is preparing us for better things He has planned for us. No one is perfect nor shall we ever be till we reach eternity. However, our goal while here on this earth should be to make every effort for that perfection in Christ. It's about reflecting the life of Jesus Christ in us. God wants His life mirrored in us so that anyone who meets us meets the Son of our Father, Jesus Christ. God is faithful and in control and always working for our ultimate good. It's our countenance that matters. Let me leave you with these two questions. Can people see that tranquility, contentment, joy, love in your life? Can people see Jesus in you?

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; I pray God your whole spirit, and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 5:23).

