



# The Anchor



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

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## From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams

There are many words that could describe our society today. One is instant. There is instant coffee, oatmeal, potatoes, etc. In our fast-paced lifestyles, we take advantage of that which will take less work. Rather than take the time to go inside, we drive-thru for everything from our banking to drugstores to fast food. We seem to search and find a way that beats the clock. But there's one area of life that won't work instantly and won't let you find an alternative. And that is counseling. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, in offering counsel to Moses, gave a succinct summary of what biblical counseling is all about: *"And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do"* (Exodus 18:20).

In this month's column, I want you to see two foundational counseling principles from this verse as I write on: **"No Easy Way."**

### The Way

Jethro feared Moses would suffer burn-out because he was overworked in helping the people with their counseling questions (Exodus 18:14-15,17-18). Moses' first counseling duty was to show them the way. The Hebrew word "way" speaks of a road or course. Moses heard the issues then took his counselees on a road trip through the Scriptures. *"When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws"* (Exodus 18:16). Jethro reminded Moses of his intercessory role in counseling by taking the people's problems to God for His solutions: *"Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto*

*God"* (Exodus 18:19). Moses would show the people the Scriptural passages that applied to their problem and exhorted them to walk that way (Exodus 18:20). They had to be taught that way (v.20). The Hebrew verb "teach" means to gleam. Figuratively, the word is used of enlightening by caution, giving warning or admonition. The same word is used in regards to the Scriptures and is translated "warned" in Psalm 19:11, *"Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."* When a counselee is shown the way, taught it, keeps it, he is rewarded. The Scriptures are our only source of pure and perfect counsel. There is no other reliable way. Truth is not to be mixed with error: *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night"* (Psalm 1:1-2).



What is true of counseling is true regarding salvation. There is only one way to be saved and that is through Christ and Him alone. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* (John 14:6). And like counseling, the unsaved must be taught and shown the way (Acts 8:31; Romans 10:14; 1 Cor.15:34). Whether it be salvation or Christian counseling, without knowledge of the way, people perish in their sin problems: *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"* (Hosea 4:6). Proverbs 14:12 states, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*



## The Work

Jethro next addressed the second foundational principle in counseling: work. There is no instant victory or immediate successful solution to a counseling problem. There is no easy way. The counselor does not have a magic wand, there is no miracle pill, and there are no wonder-working prayers up his sleeve. God's solution is work. He says, *"In all labour there is profit"* (Proverbs 14:23). If a counselee or couple will work hard, God will bless. James 1:25 says, *"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."* Paul adds, *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (Galatians 6:9).

By adhering to these two principles, we will gain God's blessing and put ourselves in the greatest position to prosper and conquer our counseling predicaments. Note that little word "must" in Exodus 18:20. We must go God's way. There are no alternatives or options. We also must do the work. This is not a choice but a command. Both principles must be followed or the counseling puzzle cannot be put together. Jesus spells it out: *"Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it"* (Luke 11:28).

Moses was blessed with a people who sought Scriptural solutions: *"And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God"* (Exodus 18:15). From relationship issues to addiction disorders, from personal struggles with fear to battles with depression, let us go to the mighty Counselor (Jeremiah 32:19) and His counseling manual (Psalms 119:24; Romans 15:4). There is no easy way but there is a way that is sanctified, sure and secure.

## YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

### Who is Your True Friend?

Friendship is one of the relationships that we have in our lives. We have a parent-child relationship. We have grandparents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters. These are just a

few of the family relationships that we have.

Many of us know people who call us friends. Friendship is usually a two way street. It requires two people who have similar interests to spend time with each other. Friends usually care about one another, although not always as much as family cares for you. Friends will come and go in your life. Some you may keep all of your life, and others will just be a passing relationship.

It is a wonderful thing to know that once we have accepted Christ as our Saviour, we have a true friend forever. Proverbs 18:24 says this, *"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."* Christ is that friend that sticks closer than a brother. He truly is our friend. John 15:13 says this about Christ's friendship, *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* This what Christ did to save us, and to show us what a true friend is willing to do for his friends.

Christ continues on in John 15:14 by telling us this, *"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."* Christ wanted the disciples to understand what His expectations of friendship were. He expected them to love one another. This is how we can show our friendship to our Lord. We need to love our Christian brothers and sisters as we would love Christ.

Christ is our true friend, but He does not need to be our only friend. If we treat each other as Christ treats us, we will be true friends to each other. True friendship is displaying the love that Christ has given us to each other. John 15:12 says this, *"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."* Love one another.

## A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

### The God of All Comfort

*"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort"* (2 Corinthians 1:3).

As ladies, in dealing with the difficulties of life, we can be tempted to use things around us for comfort. We, who are often comforters ourselves, can end up seeking comfort in things we can see or feel. Shopping or television or friends or food or books or magazines or the internet, etc., can easily become a comfort to us. However, I guess we all know that these things only "comfort" temporarily, at best. If we find our hearts tending toward earthly comforts, it's time to remember our Heavenly Comforter. Rather than giving up, giving in, or turning to another comforter, let's give God a chance to console us!

Is He the God of all comfort to us? When you are at an impasse with your mate and you're not getting along, is He the God of all comfort? When your teenager is being rebellious, is He the God of all comfort? When you are being treated unfairly at work, is He the God of all comfort? When you find out your car needs a new engine and it's not even paid for yet and you're working so hard just to keep up with the bills you've got, is He the God of all comfort? When your little one is very sick, or if you are dealing with the heartbreak of losing a loved one, is He the God of all comfort? Even when we've failed again in our walk with God and we've sinned in the same area we're trying to overcome, is He the God of all comfort?

We all know that everyday life is peppered with trying circumstances. But, the Scriptures remain true. Let's take God at His Word and go to "the God of all comfort" and surely we shall be comforted.



### "Looking Unto Jesus"

Hebrews 12:2

C. H. Spurgeon

It is ever the Holy Spirit's work to turn our eyes away from self to Jesus; but Satan's work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ. He

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# THE VBC PICTURE GALLERY





**Announcements and Events**

On **Mother's Day**, Sunday, May 9th, we honoured over 40 mothers and presented them with an inspirational book geared especially for mothers.

The weekend of May 30th, found a number of our ladies attending a **Retreat in Ajax** where they were inspired and spiritually encouraged in the things of the Lord.

On Sunday morning, May 30th, we had two adults, **John** and **Michelle**, and one teenager, **Marla**, baptized. It was a glorious day as we celebrated their salvation testimony in the waters of believer's baptism.

**Work Day**  
Saturday, June 5th

**John & Romans Distribution**  
Saturday, June 12th

**Picture Day and BBQ**  
Sunday, June 13th  
(No Evening Service)

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

We have received just under \$30,000 so far toward our 23 month debt reduction goal of \$100,000. Thank you for your sacrificial offerings! We are still 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.,**  
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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insinuates, "Your sins are too great for pardon; you have no faith; you do not repent enough; you will never be able to continue to the end; you have not the joy of his children; you have such a wavering hold of Jesus." All these are thoughts about self, and we shall never find comfort or assurance by looking within. But the Holy Spirit turns our eyes entirely away from self: he tells us that we are nothing, but that "Christ is all in all."

Remember, therefore, it is not thy hold of Christ that saves thee-it is Christ; it is not thy joy in Christ that saves thee-it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument-it is Christ's blood and merits; therefore, look not so much to thy hand with which thou art grasping Christ, as to Christ; look not to thy hope, but to Jesus, the source of thy hope; look not to thy faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of thy faith. We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by "looking unto Jesus."

Keep thine eye simply on him; let his death, his sufferings, his merits, his glories, his intercession, be fresh upon thy mind; when thou wakest in the morning look to him; when thou liest down at night look to him. Oh! let not thy hopes or fears come between thee and Jesus; follow hard after him, and he will never fail thee.

*"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness: I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name."*

