



The Anchor



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Canada Day Issue

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

July 2011

From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



In this quarter's column, I want to write on a theme that transcends Paul's letters to his two sons in the faith. The Apostle, both by example and by exhortation, charges these

two pastors to make judgments on matters crucial to their pastoral ministry. I've titled my article: **"Paul's Pastoral Epistles: Passing Judgment."**

We live in a day when far too many Christians have been led to believe that it is unchristian, sacrilegious, even mean-spirited to identify spiritual error or enemies to the cause of Christ. Paul, in many of his letters to churches, pointedly and purposely employed strong words to alert and activate believers: "avoid," "mark" (Rom.16:17); "separate" (2 Cor.6:17); "not to keep company" (1 Cor.5:11); "withdraw" (2 Thes.3:6); "note," "no company," "admonish" (2 Thes.3:14-15); etc. I want to note three obsessions Paul had which he addresses with these two pastors as it relates to passing judgment.

AUTHENTICITY

Paul was a Christian of authentic faith. There was no doubt or deliberation where he stood on doctrinal issues. His personal spiritual life was one marked by its genuineness (2 Tim.3:10). Because of the Apostle's passion for valid, verifiable spirituality, he complemented Timothy and Titus on their commitment to such living and called upon them to exercise discretion and judgment in the ministry. Paul judged Timothy, his mother and grandmother to have unfeigned (not fake) faith (2 Tim.1:5). Having judged

others as not having such authentic faith, Paul warned Timothy of them (1 Tim.1:5-7). Concerning ministry decisions, Paul instructed both Timothy and Titus to make judgments even among the brethren. These pastors were to judge whether a woman was a widow indeed and thus worthy of financial support from the church (1 Timothy 5:5-6,16). Paul even went on to make personal judgments on younger widows saying that they had turned after Satan (1 Tim.5:15).

These pastors were to make judgments whether the ruling elders (pastors) were doing their job well and thus worthy of double pay (1 Tim.5:17). Titus was directed by Paul to judge whether some men met the qualifications of a pastor and were ordainable (Titus 1:5-9). So the matter of authentic faith, widows, and elders was important to Paul. To make those determinations, judgments had to be made. When it came to witnessing to the unsaved, Paul told Titus to make judgments concerning them so as to know when to reject them (Titus 3:10). Thus, it is incumbent upon the Christian and the

Lord's churches today to carefully and cautiously make Scripturally-based judgments that impact the work and worker of the Lord.

PERPETUALITY

To ensure the Christian faith continued without interruption and was thus able to be perpetuated to future generations, Paul stressed to Timothy and Titus that they would need to pass judgment on others. The Apostle instructed Timothy to only pass on truth to faithful and committed Christians (2 Tim.2:2). Thus, Timothy would have to judge whether a Christian was faithful or not. Paul judged two (Hymenaeus and Alexander - 1 Tim.1:19-20) who were not continuing on but had shipwrecked their faith. Their actions were so destructive that Paul delivered them over to Satan. He warned Timothy of those who would not perpetuate but depart from the faith (1 Tim.4:1-3).

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul judged Phygellus and Hermogenes as ones not continuing but turning away (2 Tim.1:15). The Apostle judged Demas, a former faithful co-worker (Col.4:14; Philemon 24) as now unfaithful, having fallen in love with the world (2 Tim.4:10). On the contrary, Paul judged John Mark, once unfaithful (Acts 15:36-39), as now faithful (2 Tim.4:11). Paul's great burden was that the Christian faith be perpetuated



from generation to generation. That would only be possible as judgments were made to identify those truly committed to the cause of Christ.

CERTAINTY

Of all that Paul was passionate about, there must have been nothing more precious to him than truth. Paul was confident, convinced and assured of the Scriptures. As the only source of divine revelation, the Apostle was committed to its defence and dissemination (Tit.1:1). To guard its sacredness, Paul fervently passed judgments on others who diminished or diluted it. He warned both Pastors Timothy and Titus of giving heed to anything but doctrinal truth. He charged Timothy to ensure no other doctrines were taught (1 Tim.1:3). There was an unwavering warning against fables, endless genealogies, commandments of men, and unprofitable words (1 Tim.1:4; 4:7; 2 Tim.2:14, 23; Tit.1:14; 3:9). Those who followed such error were judged and identified as enemies and overthrowers of faith (Hymenaeus and Philetus – 2 Tim.2:16-18; Jannes and Jambres – 2 Tim.3:7-9). These kind were judged and to be turned away from (1 Tim.6:5).

Remember that these two letters to Pastors Timothy and Titus, though maybe intended for private instruction, have become part of the public record as decreed and preserved by God. Whether it was put on paper on in the public, Paul deemed it necessary to pass judgment in order to protect and preserve sacred things.

Beloved brethren, though judgment is not the only action a Christian/church does and though it is not even the primary work that is conducted, because of the dangers and perils in the world today, it is a necessary duty for every Christian and church. Without it, error and enemies can go undetected. The adversaries and opponents need to be exposed and uncovered so that the work of the Lord can be defended. When we judge, it must be conducted according to the Scriptures (John 7:24; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim.2:15). The Lord needs fearless men, women, and teenagers like the Apostle Paul who will stand alert today for righteousness being willing to pass judgments when it is necessary.

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

Prove All Things

As we live our lives, we are presented with different situations, different ideas, different activities, and different realities by the world that is around us. We can easily soak all of these things in and try not to participate in any of it, but I think that we know that this is impossible. Often we are offered choices. These choices can sometimes be made easily. It is obvious what is right and what is wrong. Many times, however, these choices are not as clear. For instance, when presented with different kinds of music, what is the right choice? The Bible does not give a definitive answer. We only have different Biblical principles to guide us. This same question about music can be extended into other areas of our lives. Things such as television shows, movies, dress, internet, and music all present what the world may classify as “grey areas”.

When make the decision as to what is right or wrong for each of us, we often make the statement, “Show me what is wrong with it.” I think that instead of looking at each situation in this way, perhaps we should look at these choices in a Biblical way. Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 5:21, “*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*” When Paul uses this word, “prove”, he is using a word in Greek language that describes the trying of metal by fire. It is as test. Paul is challenging us to show what is good about the music we listen to. He is challenging us to show what is true about the things that we write. He asking us to prove the honesty of our conversations with others. He also wants us to prove the purity and holiness of what we watch and listen to.

He is challenging us to put all areas of our lives through the test of Philippians 4:8, which says, “*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be*

any praise, think on these things.” Instead of asking what is wrong with it, ask what is right with it.

The truth is, God will test all that we do at the Judgement Seat of Christ. Paul tells the Corinthians in I Corinthians 3:13, “*Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*” God will try our actions and we will know if the choices that we make hold up to His fire. We should try now to hold up every situation in our lives to that fire now.

Paul completes this verse by commanding us to hold onto that which is good. This, along with his statement in the next verse, “*Abstain from all appearances of evil*”, help give us a better understanding of what we should be doing with our lives. We need to test what we do against the Bible. When we do this, we know that we will stand right before God.



A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

Ladies Retreat

Once again, some of the ladies of our church were able to go to the Ladies Retreat at FaithWay Baptist Church in Ajax. The theme was “Following My Sheppard.” Everyone who attended had a refreshing time. We appreciated all that the FaithWay ladies did to host this weekend. All were challenged spiritually and we enjoyed our time together very much. Old friends were there also. The following are some observations from the ladies who went.

 **Vickie Seely:** I want to thank Vaughan Baptist Church for the awesome opportunity given to me to be able to attend the Ladies Retreat at FaithWay Baptist Church in May. It certainly was an unexpected but appreciated gesture of kindness and love that I truly hold dear in my heart. I enjoyed the fellowship in the van, at the dinner table and the teachings from the speakers. It's always good to hear of others who have the same struggles as your self and to hear how God's faithfulness and love to His children is eternal and so often undeserving because of our sin and un-loveliness.



Praise the Lord for those who are willing to share God's love to others. Thank you for being a blessing to me.

 **Maggie Normand:** God knows that I am searching for His guidance for my personal trial and my concern for my family and friends' spiritual and health needs. He showed me His way through the speakers' testimonies. The lady speakers witnessed about their personal trials from giving up personal desires and yielding to God's will, to taking care of their families to walking through a spiritual dark valley, to serving God faithfully, etc. Again and again, each lady speaker showed me/us that the trial might not be easy, but that with faith, God's unfolding plan and rewards would be far better than one would foresee. Other than that, I had a little surprise from God. While I was hanging out in the bookstore, I asked God to help me to get a book I needed. About two seconds after, I opened my eyes; the right book popped out from no where right in front of my eyes! Isn't it a great Saturday?

 **Sandra Campanella:** An experience that opens the eyes and heart to the strength found, fought for and used with God's grace in the lives of ladies who have surrendered themselves to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is encouraging, uplifting and simply spiritually inspiring.

 **Cara Hird:** Tina Badger, who is a pastor's wife in Burbank, California, shared her testimony of coming from total rebellion as a teen involved in drinking and drugs to becoming married with two girls and then being saved at the age of twenty-seven. Her story once again confirms that God can and will do what we think is the impossible. Also, mothers, please never stop praying for your unsaved children. God does hear your prayers. From Debbie Adams: A few things that stood out for me are a few quotes from some of the speakers: Donna Bragg, who had ministered in Africa as a missionary, mentioned, "God will always speak the truth to me because He is Truth." Did you get that? "ALWAYS" and "He is Truth". There is a verse to back this up too, (John14:6). Then, at another session, Jan Wall, the Pastor's wife of FaithWay said, "Focus on God when we have our personal devotions, not on me." Hummmmm, how often do I get out my prayer requests list and start right off asking for the things I've listed, as if

God is a genie in a bottle, instead of focusing on His glory and worshipping Him in the way He deserves?

TESTIMONY

A Personal Testament
Calvert & Deanna Campbell

Calvert's Story

I was living a life that I thought was good. A secure career in the corporate world, a new family, and a new home. That life started to change for the worse. Based on my social state my values had changed., although deep in my heart I wanted things to be different. My addiction to drugs and alcohol got the best of with me which destroyed my marriage.

I was a terrible husband to Deanna and I caused our home to be more of an argumentative state than anything, it was not a healthy place for Natalie and Lindsay. There were attempts made through counseling to strengthen my failing marriage. I tried drug rehabilitation for a year and relapsed early in the program without informing them. My mental state was weary. Six years into our marriage Deanna could not take it any longer and I found myself separated from my family.

Now, six years legally separated, I found myself wanting to be around Deanna and our two beautiful daughters Natalie and Lindsay, who were at this time 9 and 10 years old, more often than just on special occasions. I was not too cooperative at most times which disappointed Deanna, but I noticed that something good had taken place in Deanna's life. She had become close to my mother who was strong in her faith and her witness and counseling from God's word helped Deanna to make the decision to accept Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour. With her new-found faith in the Lord I noticed she had more patience towards me.

I have always known about Jesus but never cared to change because to me it was boring. Well did that ever change. I found myself eliminating people from the social life I now hated and found myself happier being home alone. I was now saving instead of squandering and my ways

were more prudent. Being with my family at those eventful and non-eventful times were becoming so important in my heart. I remember how my mother during these positive times asked me if I had committed my life to Jesus which surprised me since I was not aware of the change in my character. When I called Deanna to speak to the girls it was usually a short "hello" and the phone would be passed to the girls but in these changing times she shared how she heard a different person and by the grace of God our conversations were extended with her sharing the gospel which brought me to be inquisitive about the bible, asking questions. Knowing that there was something missing in my life and with Deanna, my mother and her friends at church praying for me I was able to see that the reason for the changes in me was that I was moving closer to God.

Christmas of 2001 came, and my wife and two girls came to visit. It was a marvellous time. There were situations that emotionally affected Deanna which caused me to hold her in my arms for the first time in seven years. Over the next month we spoke almost every day over the phone, mostly about God's love and salvation.

Then finally I reached out to God. On the night of January 23rd, 2002 I said the sinner's prayer and asked Jesus to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. It was such a wonderful feeling to say those words. I remember waking up the next morning knowing I was born again and with excitement saying I don't want to do this and that and this and that...going through all the problems and addictions I was to throw away. What rehabs and secular counseling could not do, God's grace, mercy and love removed. Praise God! Over the next few days in conversation with Deanna by phone, I shared with her my commitment to Jesus Christ and what a wonderful feeling that was. By the weekend we all went together to purchase my first bible and from that day on we knew through God that we would all be together forever.

My new found faith and the road of reconciliation was not easy with the hurts I caused Deanna and the girls and the adjustment to living with my family again, but as we dealt with all the trials through Christ, in time it caused the four of us to mature and to grow stronger in our Lord.

(Continued on page 7)

THE VBC PICTURE



GALLERY





(Continued from page 3)

Nine years being born again and reconciled with Deanna, Natalie and Lindsay there is not a day that goes by when I don't thank God for his blessings upon me. There is so much more for me to learn in my walk with Christ and I am grateful for the change in where we now worship, at Vaughan Baptist Church, because when you are convicted over and over by the truth God has for us through His Word the Bible, I find as it's written, only the truth shall set you free. Praise God!

"My brethren count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations. Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." James 1:2-3

Deanna's Story

I grew up in a non-christian home with my parents and 2 older brothers. The bible teaching I received was when I was about 8 or 9 years old and I attended a United church for 2 years for their Sunday school program with my girl friend. I don't recall ever being in a Sunday church service. We said grace at the dinner table at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We were taught to be obedient, respectful to our parents & others and to always work hard. I remember my dad saying a couple of times that he never wanted to try doing drugs because he may have liked it. That was all I needed to hear to stay away from trying it and never was I tempted even though my friends did. Alcohol was accepted in our home and at the age of 14 I had my first drink. I drank with my friends and thought it was great fun. I didn't like a lot of their ideas for fun such as rock concerts, overnight partying and hanging around other people's homes who I didn't know. I believed that I was a weak person for not wanting to associate in these things and it wasn't until much later in my life did I realize that I was wise not weak. At times people would say what a nice girl I was or something of that nature and there would be times when I would think "you really don't know me, I'm not that nice of a person, because of the way I would think or act" I really didn't like who I was but had no idea how to change. I never wanted to be in a church and if I did go I felt uncomfortable being there with no regard for God. I did not understand anything about who Jesus was, nor did I really care.

When Calvert and I married I looked forward to being a wife and mother. During the 1st 5 years of our marriage we had very serious relational problems. When Natalie was 1 ½ years and Lindsay only 4 months old I thought it was necessary for us to separate due to the nature of what was taking place in our home. About 2 ½ years later in 1994 I did leave our home with the girls and lived at my parents for a few weeks only to feel obligated to go back for Christmas. Less than two months of returning home I went to see a lawyer to proceed with a legal separation. I had Calvert forced out of our home and new that something had to change in my life. I could not change Calvert and I did not want to see the girls grow up in a home without stability and love and for me to do this I needed to make a drastic change in my life. I did not know how but thankfully I had a wonderful mother-in-law who had been praying for me. She knew our marriage was in deep trouble and knew what damage could come of me being a single unsaved parent. She prayed like a warrior for us. She once asked me on the phone if I knew that I was a sinner and I said "I am not a sinner" I didn't even really know what that meant. I had heard of having shortcomings but never a sinner. She then proceeded to ask me questions and these two I will never forget. She asked "have you ever cheated" and although I had in school on tests I said "no" then she asked "if I have ever lied" and I could only answer that one truthfully because I thought everyone has lied and I just lied about never cheating! So I answered "yes". She did not say another word. I was convicted right there on the phone that I was a sinner. I started to read my bible which Calvert's mom had given us on our wedding day. I had never opened that bible but here I was trying to read it but getting frustrated because it wasn't making any sense to me. I would lie on my bed at night reading but it just seemed like empty words to me. She asked me one time if I was reading my bible and I explained that I was but it was not making any sense to me. She told me to keep reading and I'm sure she was still praying fervently. She suggested I get in touch with a couple who had 3 daughters and attend church with them. I was open to this

and called them and attended their church. I heard the pastor speak and knew I was hearing something I had never heard before. This pastor was talking about sin and he gave an example of himself and how he was not being a good neighbour and how he needed to change his attitude if he was going to witness to his neighbour. For the first time in my life I was drawn to God and attending church not because I had to but because I wanted to. This couple invested time with me, cared for me, shared their own struggles, invited me to their home even though I felt unworthy to have someone care for me as they did. I continued to go to church but was unable to continue to attend because our house sold after a few short weeks. I moved to my parents and decided that it was too far to drive to their church so I went to a local church in Nobleton. There was something exciting happening inside of me because I knew I was going to be faithful in attending and serving in the church. Less than 1 month later in my bedroom I surrendered my life over to Jesus Christ. I had been so afraid to admit my sins because I would not be loved, but I took that step of faith and once my confessions were made I realized that God still loved me! I was now born again!! I thought differently, acted differently, looked forward to growing by reading God's word which now was coming alive to me. Another thing I noticed is that due to it being the month of July I saw colours like I had never seen before. I started reading my bible more, going to bible study when I could, going to every activity that would involve me and the girls, served at the church and stopped hanging out with my friends because I did not want Natalie and Lindsay to be exposed to drinking and ungodly conversations.

For seven years I was a single parent in the true sense of the word. Only by God's grace, love and mercy did I get through those years. Once during those 7 years I sought out legal counsel to file for a divorce but I just couldn't go through with it. I would read scripture looking for God to tell me to get a divorce but it never was clear for me to do it. I knew God did not want us to divorce but I also thought he would want us to be working on our marriage to reconcile but that was not happening. I also could not see anyone else in my life as I took my marriage vows seriously and I most

Announcements and Events

Since our last issue, the Lord has blessed us with some folks saved and a good number baptized. We had some of our own missionaries return on furlough and give report of the Lord's work in their midst. We were blessed by the preaching of Pastor Hird, while Pastor Adams was away, and Blair Cassidy who preached an excellent six part prophetic series on Sunday evenings. The most significant event was the Revival Services with Evangelist Max Alderman from Friday, June 3rd through Sunday evening, June 5th. I have never been a member of a church where I so evidenced the stirring of the Holy Spirit. The crowds at each service were great. The altar was overflowing every service with folks having to pray in the front pews for lack of room. The preaching was powerful, the congregational music was enthusiastic and the special music was inspirational. It was truly a momentous event where all we can say is, to God be the glory!

Sunday, July 3rd – Baptisms
following the evening service

Friday, July 8th – Work night

Sunday, July 10th – Friend
Day and BBQ, no evening
service

Sunday, July 24 – S.N.A.C.

Sunday, August 7th –
Missionary to China Eddie Ray:
10am, 11am

Sunday, August 21st – Friend
Day and BBQ, no evening
service

Sunday, September 18th –
20th Anniversary Service

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.*

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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.

definitely could not see anyone else in Natalie or Lindsay's life. One night after 6 ½ years in our separation, Lindsay asked me if she will have her daddy back again. I told her I didn't know what God had in mind but if he wants to bring her daddy back then He will and daddy will be a Godly man. I prayed with her asking God to show us if he will bring him back in to our lives. Shortly after, Calvert started showing signs of his heart softening. By Oct of 2001 Calvert & I were talking more because he started to ask questions about God's word. I was more than willing to share with him what God's word was saying and by Christmas of that year I knew God was really working in both of our hearts. In January of 2002 I prayed and told God that I didn't understand how, or when but I felt like He was going to put us back together which meant that Calvert would be born again. To me it seemed impossible but I knew I didn't have to know how, or when but I did pray asking God to not make it very long because I was so confused and amazed that this could be happening. That night I was on my knees praying and only 2 weeks later Calvert asked Jesus to be his Lord & Saviour and only days later we knew we would be back together forever. We have now been reunited as a family for 9 years and although we all love the Lord we have been through many trials but these trials have only made me a stronger & more mature Christian. For 11 years James 1:1-13 was the scripture that I hung onto. I now thank God for all the trials I have been through because I know that he wanted to change me and have me trust him whole heartedly. I have come to realize in a profound way that in all the difficulties I have faced God had a much greater purpose than I could have ever hoped, dreamed or imagined! If you haven't trusted Jesus as your Saviour I pray you will know that "He is the way the truth and the life" and that God loves you. Blessings ~ Deanna Campbell.

