



The Anchor



A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Anniversary Issue

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

September 2011



Happy 20th Anniversary!!

From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



In this quarter's column, I want to write on a subject that relates to our 20th Anniversary here at Vaughan Baptist Church.

I've entitled my article: **"Pastoral Reflections: 20 Years Of Church Ministry."**

There are so many things that I have learned and am learning that it is very difficult in just a few lines to communicate all those to you. So I will share with you three subjects. These three are neither exclusive or exhaustive nor necessarily the most significant but they are very crucial to local church ministry. Maybe next time, I'll write on three others.

PROPOSALS

Through all my dating days, I only proposed marriage to one girl – she accepted, only by the grace of God, and became my wife. But, in ministry, I have made many proposals to God. Some aspects of ministry are clear. For example, doctrine is well defined and is not subject to debate or alternative proposals. But some of local church ministry is not specifically addressed in Scripture and proposals must be made

to the Founder of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ. Man was given a mind and a will with which to exercise. In 20 years of ministry, I have had to make many proposals to the Lord, for example: location to rent a building to hold services; how many services to start with; should we buy a building or continue to rent; when and what ministries should be started; when should we change locations and how far away do we move; do we purchase a low grade carpet or spend the money for a better one; do we buy pews and should they be padded; if we had the financial ability, what ministry personnel would most further this ministry; etc. How does a pastor handle such matters!

I have learned that he proposes and that he proposes in a Scriptural way. He prays, fasts, studies the Scripture to ensure the proposal does not violate a Bible passage or principle, seeks the Holy Spirit's intervention (Romans 8:26-27), asks for godly counsel (Proverbs 15:22), takes business matters before the church (Acts 6:5; 1 Cor.5:4-5), and then makes his best Scripturally-based and Spirit-led proposal to the Lord for His will. Paul cautioned Pastor Titus not to make proposals being "selfwilled" (Titus 1:7). Proverbs 16:33 sums it up: "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD." Based on this proverb, the Puritans said, "man proposes; God disposes." I like that. The pastor or the church proposes something to God that would, in their limited human insight, advance the ministry and further glorify the Lord. They then leave that proposal with the Lord and await His disposal of



those plans.

I believe this works as well for us as individual Christians and for our families. Whether it be related to relationships (dating, marrying), purchases, moves, etc., propose to God, following the above mentioned principles, and in patience and faith, trust the Lord to dispose of the matter in such a way that it will honour and please Him.

PRINCIPLES

Like you, I have always viewed Christian men and women of principle as heroes. They are highly esteemed because of their commitment to Scriptural convictions and local church ministry (Philippians 2:25-30). They are not for sale and cannot be bought for any price. Whether they were martyrs from the past or present-day faithful Christians, they stand out because they stand up. As a pastor, I, like you, want to stand for principles. I want our church to stand for principles. After 20 years now, I have seen some churches who have wanted to grow so bad that they have compromised in areas such as church music and doctrine. Standards have been lowered and lessened to attract and to accommodate man instead of striving to please the Lord and submitting to the absolutes of His word. Our sole desire should be that we aspire to be Scripturally founded not culturally acceptable or attractive to man. It is not a crowd that we should appeal to but an audience of One.

I pledge to you that as long as I am pastor, by the grace of God, I will endeavour to lead our church in adhering to nonnegotiable principles that will cause us: to seek the salvation, baptism, and discipleship of souls; to grow spiritually in Christ likeness; to cultivate holy and spiritual relationships within our congregation; to equip a congregation passionate of servant hood; to preach the expectancy of Christ's imminent return; to contend and defend the inerrant and infallible word of God as preserved for us in English in the King James Bible; to exhort Spirit-filled lifestyles; and to please and to glorify our gracious God through man and ministry. With shifting going on among some churches, it is our belief that faithful, principled living will enable us to stand unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

It is Scripturally based principles that

will also assist you and your family in living lives that will honour the Lord. Principles act as barricades that keep us within the bounds of His blessings. Deviate from these, and one travels life's road alone and becomes alienated from the abundant life with God.

POSTIVES

I'm an optimist by nature which means I am usually a very positive guy. I see the glass half full. But this does not mean that there are only positives in ministry. As anyone who has pastored for 20 years knows, being in the valleys is a familiar trail. Though I like to accentuate the positive, the ministry is full of negatives. And by this, I mean there are a lot of "thou shalt not's." When you read Paul's pastoral letters to Timothy and Titus, they are saturated with apostolic warnings of "not's" for them and their congregations. For example, there are "not's" concerning: blasphemy (1 Tim.1:20); modesty (1 Tim.2:9); women leadership (1 Tim.2:12); drinking wine (1 Tim.3:3); leadership at home (1 Tim.3:5); doubletongued (1 Tim.3:8); slandering (1 Tim.3:11); serving (1 Tim.4:14); rebuking (1 Tim.5:1); supporting family (1 Tim.5:8); idlers (1 Tim.5:13); trusting money (1 Tim.6:17); ashamed to witness (2 Tim.1:8); being rewarded (2 Tim.2:5); believing (2 Tim.2:13); argumentative (2 Tim.2:24); enduring sound doctrine (2 Tim.4:3); unruly children (Titus 1:6); stealing (Titus 2:10); unfruitfulness (Titus 3:14).

I've learned that ministry preaching, teaching, counselling, discipling, etc. includes the negatives! Far too many media preachers (personalities is probably a better word) speak only of positives and avoid speaking of the "thou shalt not's." Their message (I'll not call it a sermon) is a feel-good one which is warm and fuzzy and makes one feel good. Thank God for all the truly positives that are there to preach from the Bible like heaven, forgiveness, salvation, grace, etc. But, in reality, I've learned that the negatives are really positives! It is by the "thou shalt not's" that one is warned about erroneous living. I've learned that the negatives actually help keep the church pure and holy.

In your personal walk with God and with your family, employ the negatives for a positive walk with

God.

Let me encourage you to compose proper proposals to God, cling to unchanging principles, and comprehend what the positives really are. I have learned more than these three subjects in 20 years, but if you and I can just adopt and apply these to our lives and ministries, I believe they will keep us and our church on the right track for the next 20 years.

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

Who Do You See in the Mirror?

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

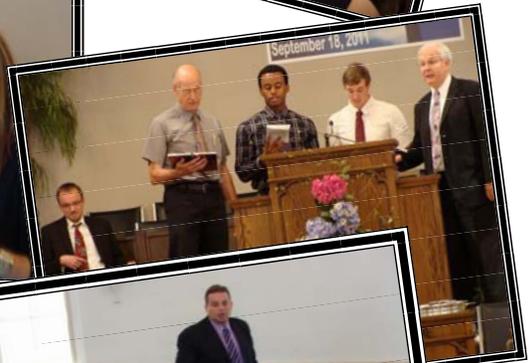
II Corinthians 3:18

How many times a day do you look in the mirror? I know that I look in the mirror at least three times a day. I look at it when I brush my teeth. I look at it when I comb my hair and I look at the mirror before I go to bed. I know some of you must think I spend hours in front of the mirror to take care of my immaculate good looks, but I do not – it comes naturally.

The real question I have for you is this. Who do you see when you look in the mirror? Usually we only see ourselves. When Paul writes this verse to the Corinthian church, he is trying to help them understand the relationship that they have with Christ. Paul is explaining to the Corinthians how the Jews still do not fully understand the writings of Moses. Paul then continues to explain that the "vail" which seemed to cover Moses is removed when we accept Christ as our Saviour.

To help us understand this, Paul uses the illustration of looking in the mirror. At the time that Paul was writing this, mirrors were made of highly polished metals. If a strong light were thrown on them, the rays would be cast by reflection on the face of him who looked on the mirror, and it would be strongly illuminated. Paul is telling us that the glory of God shone on the Gospel, and that glory should be reflected in those who accept the Gospel. The idea is that by placing

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THE VBC PICTURE



GALLERY





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ourselves within the light of the gospel--by contemplating the glory that shines there--we become changed into the likeness of the same glory, and conformed to that which shines there with so much splendour.

By placing ourselves in the light of the Gospel, we should take ourselves out of the darkness of this world. Paul tells us in II Corinthians 6:14c, “. . . and what communion hath light with darkness?” This is a difficult task for us to do. God’s Word makes it clear that we are affected by the people and things that are around us. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15:33, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” If we truly want to reflect the light of the Gospel, or let our light shine, we must keep the glass clean. Paul tells us in Philippians 2:15, “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.” We are to be lights of the Gospel wherever we find ourselves.

Who do you see in the mirror? You may seem a person who is trying to do all he can to blend in with the world around them. If you are such a person, ask yourself if you are truly saved. If you are, ask yourself why you want to have fellowship with darkness rather than the Light of the Gospel. When I look in the mirror, I hope to see a man whose life reflects the Gospel message. The only way to do that is to spend time in God’s things rather than the world’s things. The image in the mirror will tell all.

Judge, Lawgiver, King, Saviour

Blair Cassidy

“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.”
Isaiah 33:22

Throughout the Scriptures the LORD uses many terms that express His person, power, authority, eternity, etc. Here God inspires Isaiah to identify Him as Judge, Lawgiver, King and He who will save us, ie: our Saviour. Now here are some pertinent thoughts we need to consider about these

designations of our LORD.

He is our Judge. The self existing one does not only judge according to peripheral evidence but also according to the thoughts, intents, and motives of our hearts which no man can see. God sees through our deceitful veneers. *“All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Hebrews”* 4:13. Unlike many earthly judges Jehovah always evaluates righteously and justly. *“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. Deuteronomy”* 32:4. Every man and woman in every tribe and tongue will be judged by the LORD. *“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* Hebrews 9:27.

He is our Lawgiver. We live in a world where individuals feel adequate to make their own laws. They are their own self appointed lawgiver. Every man does that which is right in his own eyes. In our present society, evil is good and good is evil. Before I came to trust Christ 12 years ago, I only had a few qualifiers to measure if something was good or bad, right or wrong: Does it feel good, do I like it, and does it benefit me? Many today make the same deluded mistake of measuring right and wrong with these same self-serving criteria. However, the Creator of all is still, always has been, and forever will be the lawgiver. Jehovah decides what is right, wrong; good, bad, and what is evil. God decides this and not sinful mankind. *“There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? James”* 4:12.

He is our King. All of my childhood and teen years, I lived in my pride and refused to bow my knee willingly to the King of Israel, to the King of the universe. At 20 years of age, through the powerful testimony of God’s word and the convicting influence of the Holy Ghost, I bent my knee to the King of heaven and earth, and I was graciously redeemed. Sadly, it will not be until the next world when most will realize Jehovah as King. Their eternal consequence for this will be endless torment. It will then tragically be too late. *“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that*

every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” Philippians 2:10, 11.

The Lord saves. Throughout the Old Testament, Jehovah is known as King, Lawgiver, and Judge. It is by no consequence that Jesus Christ in the New Testament is given the same designations: Judge - John 5:22, 30, John 8:16; Lawgiver - Galatians 6:2, John 13:34, John 1:1; King - Matthew 2:2, Matthew 21:5, Revelation 17:4. We can therefore conclude with utmost certainty that Jehovah/Jesus Christ will save us if we trust in Him as Judge, Lawgiver, and King. *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* Acts 4:12.

A Woman’s Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

A Fruitful Fall Season

There’s a verse in Isaiah that I recently read and though I’ve read this portion in the past, I did not remember it. Isaiah 37:31 says: *“And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward.”* It talks about how God’s people would once again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. So, they were in a place in life where they were not bearing fruit. Their lives were empty. Many times God uses every day things we see to teach us. I found myself thinking about the importance of what exactly is going on deep in the depths of a life, whether it be the life of a human or a living tree or plant. The foundation or the roots need to be well cared for. The result of a good root system with the correct nutrients will produce lovely, wonderful, pleasing fruits.

The last several weeks, the grocery stores have been filled with the fruits of the season in plenty: baskets of peaches, blue berries, tomatoes, potatoes, pears, and many different things for our families to enjoy. The fruits were abundant upward, on the branches, mainly because of what was taking place downward, underneath the part we could not see. Then they were sent out to market that all might have the benefit thereof.

It is the same with people. I heard a sermon by a pastor who stated: “Jesus



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 including Dennis Seely (Newfoundland), Frank Maietta (Italy) and Eddie Ray (China). We've enjoyed several Friend Days, two men's BBQ's at Pastor Hird's home and the women had a spiritually refreshing time at a Ladies Retreat.

Ladies Luncheon
 Saturday, September 24th
 10:30am—2:00pm

Open House at the Adams'
 Saturday, October 1st
 5:00pm—9:00pm

Youth Activity
 Saturday, October 15th

Harvest Party
 Saturday, October 22nd

Evangelist Max Alderman
 Sunday, November 20th

Christmas Cantata
 Sunday, December 4th

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



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

A Ministry of
 Vaughan Baptist Church
 8274 Islington Avenue
 Woodbridge, ON L4L 1W8
 (905) 851-7100

Web:
[http://](http://www.vaughanbaptistchurch.org)

www.vaughanbaptistchurch.org

E-mail:

info@vaughanbaptistchurch.org

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.

walked after the will of God. He was poor and suffered, but He was never empty." When I heard this, I thought to myself that there have been times when I have felt empty inside. The pastor went on to say, "We are empty when we are following after emptiness – those things that don't bring nutrients to the soul." A number of television programs and movies would definitely not bring nutrients to our soul, as well as some books, magazines, people, activities, and places we go. Sometimes, at the end of a day, we realize we have wasted our time on such activities and did not have time for the Lord. We can get to feeling empty inside. "If we want to bring nutrients to our soul," the pastor said, "we must spend time with the Lord." This would happen when we spend time in prayer, time in the Scriptures, time in church really listening so that we might apply the message to our lives, seeking to become more like our Saviour, helping, serving, ministering, encouraging.

Remember that push from Christ to those who desire to follow Him in John 15? "I am the true vine... Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered." This reminds me of emptiness. If we are attached to our Foundation (Christ), the result will be a good root system with the correct nutrients that will produce lovely, wonderful, pleasing fruits for God. John 15:8 says, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

