

The Anchor

A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Anniversary Issue

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

September 2013



From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



How is it that some Christians spend so much time on carnal and fleshly pursuits while other Christians choose to live for spiritual things? Why is it sometimes Christians chase worldly pleasures and leisure while other Christians yearn to be actively engaged in ministry for the Lord? What makes one Christian search for ways to sacrifice more of his time, talents, and financial treasures to the Lord while another Christian opts for more selfish alternative outlets for his God-given blessings? Whether it be for themselves or their children, some Christians resolve to make spiritual things the superior things in their life. They eliminate the lesser valued items and elevate the spiritual. In this quarter's issue, I would like you to consider the challenge, "Acquire A Desire For Spiritual Things."

The Longing

The Apostle Paul wrote the Christians at Colosse and confronted the choices they were making in their lives. He said, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:1-3). He

challenged them to seek spiritual, eternal things and to place their affections there. They were commanded to put to death the wrong affections associated with the old life: "*Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection*" (Colossians 3:5). Paul needed to command this action because the world and our flesh are offered many contrary things to arouse our affections. Since we are risen with Christ, Christians should long for and passionately pursue the things of the new life they have in Christ. The longings associated with the unsaved life are earthly, sensual and temporal.

Christian, long for that which lasts. Invest your life in some things that go up (heavenly) in value! Psalm 107:9 says, "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). One man has said that he that is not hungry for the things of God is full of himself!

The Learning

Learning is a part of life. Of Jesus, Hebrews 5:8 says, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." Paul said, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil.4:11). The Apostle instructed Pastor Titus, "And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses,



that they be not unfruitful" (Titus 3:14). The Christians at Rome (Rom.16:17), Philippi (Phil.4:9), and Ephesus (Eph.4:20) were all reminded of what they had learned and how they were being held accountable for that instruction. Many things in life have to be learned to know their value. Regarding life in general, we learn as we grow from childhood into adulthood. We learn about priorities. We learn about things that have to be avoided and those which should be adhered to. The same is true in the Christian life. Paul wrote, "*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things*" (1 Cor.13:11). The mature, adult Christian puts away childish, wasteful, worldly living and prioritizes his life by seeking "*first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness*" (Matthew 6:33). The Christian learns "the musts" about life from his Lord's example. Jesus said He, "must be about my Father's business" (Luke 2:49) and "*I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work*" (John 9:4).

The spiritually focused Christian is like the heroes of faith spoken of in Hebrews 11:13, "*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth*" (Heb.11:13). This kind of Christian sees the treasures of spiritual things afar off and what he sees persuades him to make earth a motel and heaven his home. The spiritual Christian hears and heeds the command of his Saviour: "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal*" (Matthew 6:19-20). The spiritual Christian sees afar just like Moses and makes the same choices with his life: "*Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward*" (Heb.11:26).

Christian, acquire a desire for spiritual things. Focus on the eternal, not the earthly; the permanent, not the temporary; the spiritual, not the sensual. Like the tribulation saints, the Christian who longs and learns the value of spiritual things and invests his life in such treasures will hear: "*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit,*

that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Rev.14:13). Christian, what follows you to heaven will depend on the price and priority you place on spiritual things.

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

Our God-Given Potential Ephesians 3:20

Marine biologists did an experiment on great white sharks. These sharks, in their natural habitat, have the potential of reaching 3500 pounds and 20 feet in length. There is an interesting thing they discovered during their study. They discovered what happened when a great white shark was raised from a baby in a small aquarium. What they discovered was mind -blowing. They discovered that even though a great white shark has the God-given capacity to grow up to 20 ft in length and weigh up to 3500 lbs. - when confined to a small aquarium, it would only reach 12 to 15 inches in length and only weigh 15-20 lbs. They discovered even though it would have reached full chronological maturity (as far as age is concerned), it would be well short of reaching its full potential otherwise.

Just like the great white shark, we can limit what God can do in our lives. He wants to do a great work through us. How do we limit what God can do in our lives? We think that we cannot do this or that because we are too little, too big, too short, too tall, too dark, too light, not strong enough, not smart enough, not good enough, or simply because we do not deserve it. The Bible says in Philippians 4:13, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*"

We may think that because of our status in life, our situation at home, or the surroundings where we live, that there is nothing we can do about it. And so, even though we have the God-given potential to do what God asks of us, we choose to conform to the situations around us. Psalm 1:1 tells us this, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*"

We must remember where the source of our power comes from. David continues

in Psalm 1:2-3, "*But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*" A strong relationship with our Lord through spending time with Him in devotions and prayer will lead to meeting the potential that God has for us. We will prosper under God's blessing.

We will never meet what God has for us without him. It is amazing to think that we attempt to serve Him in the flesh. Yet we often do. Paul tells us 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.*" If we do the work for the Lord, it will come forth as gold. If we do the work for ourselves, it will be burned up in the fire. We need God's help to do His work. This is how we will meet our God-given potential.

The biggest key to reaching our God-given potential is found in Romans 12:1-2. Paul writes, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*" If we want reach to reach our God-given potential, we must start here.

Alpha and Omega

Blair Cassidy

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8

This Scripture makes known to us one of the great and fantastic claims of our Lord Jesus Christ. This assertion gives us some wonderful insights into the person of Jesus Christ. In heaven revealing Himself to the apostle John, Jesus assigns to Himself these boundless assets. This is not an isolated declaration. God, throughout the scriptures, explicitly declares many of the divine characteristics of our Lord Jesus Christ. For example: "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall*



THE VBC PICTURE



GALLERY





be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Jesus Himself throughout the gospels frequently revealed to His followers and to the world around Him who He was. To get right to the point, Jesus affirmed clearly that He was God. Hitting the hypocritical religious leader's right between the eyes with this truth Jesus said unto them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58.

This infuriated the Jewish leaders because Jesus was unmistakeably identifying Himself as Jehovah God, the self-existing one, who revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush. "And God said unto Moses, *I AM THAT I AM*: and he said, *Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*" Exodus 3:14. God affirms to Moses that - He exists by Himself; He needs nothing other than Himself to exist. The only being, the only individual who can make this claim is God. God is Jehovah; God is Yahweh, the Almighty creator, sustainer, and the being by which all things are held together. The shocking reality of Rev 1:8 is that Jesus claimed to be this very same person. Every being in the universe fully relies on the self-existing God in order to survive. Jesus is this selfsame God. Yahweh requires nothing other than Himself for survival.

Jesus is the beginning and ending of all things. He is in the past, He is in the future, and He is in the present. Jesus Christ, our Saviour, our Friend, our Lord, our Brother is God Almighty. Jesus is eternal and unchanging; He is always the same. He does not realize anything; He is the realization of all things. If you don't know Jesus you know nothing as you ought to know. Jesus the Almighty God is incomprehensible, and immeasurable yet the Bible presents us with the astounding certainty that "*of his fulness have all we received*" John 1:16. The Alpha and Omega has given Himself to us. He which is, and which was, and which is to come has given Himself for us. The beginning and the ending longs to expose Himself in us. Jesus has made us Kings and Priests through His own blood. Jesus is not ashamed to call us brethren; He is our friend and He laid His life down for us. Everything was made by Jesus, everything is held together by Jesus, He is immeasurably powerful. Those who realize that He is everything, that He is unchanging, and that we are nothing; have the everlasting glory of being His saints. We are accepted and loved by the Alpha and Omega.

Nothing about Jesus can be quantified; He is everlasting, infinite, and endless in all respects. The fact remains, nothing about Jesus can be placed in a balance and have a value placed against it. Everything about Him is infinite and unlimited. Let us all partake in the perpetual praise of Jesus Christ – God Almighty – "Saying with a loud voice, *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*" Rev 5:12.

A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

Being An Example To The Believers (1 Timothy 4:12)

In Exodus 33:2-4, God told Moses that in taking the Promised Land, He would be sending an Angel beforehand to go with him and the people he brought out of Egypt. God stated He would not go with them in the midst because the people were stiff-necked (stubborn). God would end up consuming (destroying) them on the way. When the people heard what God thought of them, they mourned. Yikes! Are we stiff-necked like them? Or, do we have a heart like Moses?

Exodus 33:13, Moses says, "*Now, therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee.*" And we find in Psalm 103:7, "*He made known his ways unto Moses...*" Moses was an extremely busy person! He was not too busy however to regularly spend time with God. As we read of Moses' talks with God in the Scriptures, they are personal and intimate. His time with God was not a chore he had to complete so he could mark done on his "to do list." If we get to that place, God help us to change. In fact, Moses' relationship with God provided encouragement for God's people to follow his example.

In Exodus 33:8-10, we read, "*And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle (wilderness church), that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar (God's presence) descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with*

Moses. And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door." Though, their hearts changed frequently and their loyalty and affection for God was often based on feelings and not on God's character, seeing Moses with God that day caused a desire in them to worship.

Think about this as a mother for a moment. If our children, very young or even older, used their hours as we did and followed what we have fondness and passion for, would they want to spend their time before the Lord in worship at church and in prayer and in His Word? Would they use their time serving God? Does this generation behind us have a desire to draw near to God because they can see God in us? Do they see that we depend on Him or that we search the Scriptures for answers? Do they see that we believe His promises, and have faith, and will trust Him, no matter what? Do they see patience and love in us? Do they see joy and peace and humility? Or, do they see us worrying, complaining, doubting God and being unthankful and critical. Do they observe that we take things into our own hands to work out our will? Are they not really interested - because they don't see God very much in our lives? It's something we need to think about. What are we really showing our family and others about God in our every day life?

Moses had a huge impact on Joshua! In Exodus 33:11, we read, "*And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.*" Joshua was right there the whole time God and Moses were conversing, each responding to the other. Joshua wanted what Moses had with God. He stayed behind. He just could not depart from the tabernacle yet. If Moses could have this kind of relationship with God, he longed that he could as well. Well, it must have been so, for in the book of Joshua, chapter 1, we find that upon Moses' death, God passes the torch to Joshua, where he will fill the shoes that Moses left behind.

Foundations In Education

Daniel Bousquet
VBCA Principal

The Importance of a Christian Curriculum



Announcements and Events

VAUGHAN BAPTIST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The school bells started to ring for the first time as the VBCA opened its doors on Tuesday, September 3rd. Our church family has poured a lot of prayer and sacrificial giving into the foundation of this ministry of our church. We are excited for the parents, students and staff and how the Lord will use the school for His glory! New students can still be enrolled. Interested parents should contact the church and ask for Administrator Daniel Bousquet. For more information, you can check the VBCA website at www.vaughanbaptistacademy.org.



Officers Meeting, Lord's Supper and Singspiration – Sunday evening, October 6th

Thanksgiving Service – Sunday, October 13th; luncheon following morning service; no evening service

Missions Conference – Sunday, October 20th; Missionary Terry Sharpe in The Canary Islands



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
<i>We have fully staffed and supervised nurseries at all services.</i>		

MINISTRIES ON WEDNESDAY

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting	7:00 pm
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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://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.

Colossians 2:8: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Evolution, humanism, amorality, love of self, tolerance for sin—these are but a few of the "traditions of men" and "rudiments of the world" prevalent in modern educational curricula. In a Christ-centred curriculum, however, each subject is taught within the framework of Bible truth, purposefully pointing the students to God and deepening their awe and love of Him. For instance, science offers students a glimpse into the creative mind of God. Students enjoy learning about the biblical account of Creation and how to defend this truth against the theory of evolution. Students are trained to observe and appreciate God's handiwork, and they discover how to be good stewards of God's creation.

Language is viewed as God's gift to man, a gift that sets us apart from God's other earthly creations and is essential for personal Bible study and effective evangelism. In history class, students trace God's dealings with man since the beginning of time. It shows man's response to God through the centuries, and the blessings or consequences that resulted. In mathematics, students are able to detect that God is a God of order. As they view the world through the lens of mathematical laws, the possibility of a cosmic coincidence resulting in everything becomes inconceivable—there must be a lawgiver behind the laws.

The importance of a Christian curriculum in the education of a child should not be underestimated—it brings spiritual relevance to each subject and directs students to their amazing God.

