



The Anchor



A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Christmas Issue

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

December 2013



Merry Christmas!

From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



I hope that this quarter's article will remind you of our Lord's capabilities to meet our every need. I want you to consider this as I write on:

"God Was Ready At Christmas."

At different times surrounding the birth and early life of Jesus, God provided for those around Him. I want to examine four such things that God supplied.

A Stable For Protection

When it was time for the birth of Jesus, God was ready to meet the need of Mary and Joseph. Finding a safe and secure place to give birth must have been a great burden to Mary and Joseph as they prepared for their first child. Luke 2:7 says, "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." It didn't matter that there was no room in the inn – God was ready. The Lord is ready to provide us a stable in our times of need: "The name of the



LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Prov.18:10); "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah" (Ps.62:8); "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb.4:16).

A Star For Direction

Surrounding the birth of Jesus, certain wise men desired to see and to worship Jesus. They needed direction to find Him. God was ready and

provided a star to lead them to the King. Matthew 2:1 says, "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." They were directed to the child Jesus by the star: "Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was" (Matt.2:7-9).

Without a star, they would have been lost. In the same way today, without





Christ, we would easily lose our way in this dark and dying world. Jeremiah 10:23 says, *"It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."* When Abraham sent his servant out to look for a wife for Isaac and he found Rebekah, he said, *"I being in the way, the LORD led me"* (Gen.24:27). Proverbs 3:6 says, *"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* For those who seek Him, God stands ready today to provide a certain and sure way to avoid the potholes and pitfalls on the road of life.

A Scripture For Explanation

With all the wonderment and confusion surrounding the birth of Jesus, God was ready to meet that uncertainty with the certainty of the Word of God. The Scriptures provided the explanation and enlightenment that was needed to clarify the circumstances. In Matthew 1:19-23, the angel of the Lord dispensed to Joseph a Scripture: *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"* (Isaiah 7:14). In Matthew 2:3-6, the priests and scribes dispensed to Herod a Scripture: *"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"* (Micah 5:2).

God is ready today with His word to help us understand the "why's" that come as part of living in this world. Note what we know: *"Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him"* (Ecc.8:12); *"For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed"* (Isa.50:7); *"When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me"* (Psalm 56:9); *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his*



purpose" (Rom.8:28). The Christian knows God and in knowing Him through His word, we have enough of an explanation to rest our faith for the uncertain and unknown things of this life.

A Saviour For Salvation

Not only did God have a stable, a star, a Scripture ready, but most importantly, He had a Saviour ready to redeem sinful mankind. Man's single, most desperate need was a Saviour for his soul's salvation. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* Isaiah 53:10-11 says, *"Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."*

When a soul is ready to repent and believe on Christ for their souls's salvation, God is also ready: *"For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee"* (Psalm 86:5).

At the birth of Jesus, God was ready – everyone, everything was in its place. Today, when you need direction, protection, explanation, or salvation, call upon God – He is ready to meet your every need! Let's say with the heavenly host, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"* (Luke 2:14).



Repent

Blair Cassidy

Mark 6:12

"And they went out, and preached that men should repent."

When Jesus sent forth His 12 apostles two by two He told them to take no earthly resources; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse just a pair of sandals and a staff. When they arrived at a certain place they were to enter into a house and stay there until they left. The host of the house they stayed in would care for their needs. Jesus empowered these 12 to do great miracles He gave them power over unclean spirits... And they cast out



many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them. What was the message of these 12 who were given such power from heaven? What was the word they would preach that some would not receive or hear?

We are clearly told here in Mark 6:12 that their message was clear, concise, convicting, and convincing. Their message was that men should repent. Repentance deals with the true nature of the human problem - that we are opposed to God yet persuaded in our own mind that we are good. This attitude must be dealt with in order for the sinner to come to Christ. There is no value in repentance if it does not bring us to God. Merely feeling bad for something cannot lessen our guilt and condemnation before Jesus. There may be vexation, yet no repentance.

1. Bible repentance is a necessity required by God - Acts 17:30 *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.”*

2. It is connected with a willingness to turn from our ways to Gods ways – Ezekiel 18:30, 31 *“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”*

3. Repentance brings us to God and was also the center of Paul’s preaching. A Gospel which resulted in works -

Acts 26:20 *“But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”*

4. Repentance is synonymous with conversion. It is the only attitude the sinner can adopt in order to receive God’s forgiveness - Acts 3:19 *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”*

5. To remove repentance from the message is to remove salvation from the Gospel - II Cor 7:10 *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”*

6. The gift of Gods Holy Spirit is not given outside of repentance - Acts 2:38 *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

7. Repentance is the catalyst by which there is joy in heaven - Luke 15:10 *“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”*

If we remove repentance from the Gospel message then we either don’t know what God says or we don’t care. Repentance is not an action but rather an attitude that brings about

saving grace by faith. **And they went out, and preached that men should repent.**



A Woman’s Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

Ready to Shine

A Christmas memory that I have is one of my grandmother and then my mother putting little candles in our windows. They would keep this tradition every year without fail. My mother would even put them in our bedrooms when our room faced the front of the house. If she saw that a candle’s light bulb was burnt out, she would replace that little light. It could not go in the window with lights that wouldn’t shine. As a child, I loved having the candles in my window. The tiny lights would chase away the darkness

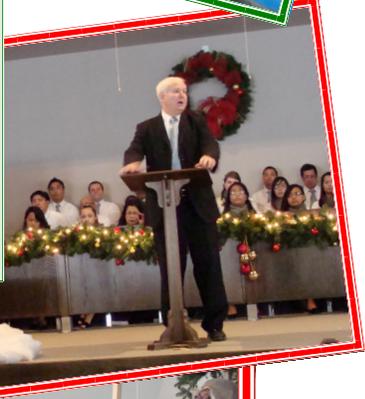
Even now, when ever I see a home with candles in their windows, there is something that it does to my heart. And, really, anytime of the year, I love to see candles in the windows. It is a tradition that I have not personally kept. I have done it a few times over the years, but not faithfully. I have not kept the tradition my grandmother started, even though it is one of my very favorite things. Candles in the windows to me say, “welcome,” “we are here for you,” “come in and be refreshed,” “home”.

(Continued on page 6)





THE VBC PICTURE



GALLERY





(Continued from page 3)

It seems we should be like those candles, glowing, encouraging, giving comfort and dispelling the darkness. We can't help but notice the houses with the little candles that are shining in the windows.

Jesus said in John 8:12, "...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." And in Matthew 5:14-16, we further read where He said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven".

Sometimes, there is so much going on in our life and so much which is expected of us, that we ladies can become more like a burnt out bulb. The candle looks like it works, but when you plug it in... no light. Remember what Jesus said in John 15:4-5: "Abide (remain, continue) 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". When we take Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and we abide in Him, we are at home. And, God makes available to us power when we abide in Christ. If we hope to point our families and others to God, we'll need to plug into our Power Source and then, we are ready to shine!



Foundations In Education

Daniel Bousquet
VBCA Principal

As I reflect on 2013, the inaugural year of Vaughan Baptist Christian Academy, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the work God has done here at VBCA. We have seen both academic progress and spiritual growth; and for these, we give God all the glory. Check out the hallway bulletin board to view pictures of classroom activities and field trips from the 2013 semester.

Please be praying for our school ministry in the upcoming year. The Psalmist proclaims, "Thou [God] crownest the year with thy goodness" in Psalm 65:11. I am excited to experience the goodness of God at VBCA in 2014.

This spring, watch for enrolment packets for the 2014-2015 school year. If you have any questions about enrolment, please contact the school office at (905) 851-7100.



"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7

"Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 2:3-5

"The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge." Proverbs 18:1

"By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew." Proverbs 3:20

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15







SEEK GOD

Seek God when it's early,
When the hour is still new,
When the calm of night still lingers
And God's whisper beckons you.

Seek God in the dawning
When the sun comes off the hill,
And stretches out the shadows
As the day begins to fill.

Seek God in the morning,
Through the dealings of the day-
As life's distractions tend to
Pull you off the other way.

Seek God in the noontime,
When the day is at its peak;
In the midst of daily matter,
To your Saviour, long to speak.

Seek God in the afternoon,
When shadows in a haze
Come out from where they hide
And mimic children's play.

Seek God when the sun
Lowers down behind the hill,
When the flowers bend to slumber
And the air begins to still.

Seek God in the evening,
In the cooling of the air,
In the calming of the hour,
In the peaceful splendour there.

Seek God in the nighttime,
In the hush of stillness, too,
In the dark and mellow quiet - Yes!
Seek God the whole day through.

Seek God this Christmas
In the quiet of your heart,
In the midst of the noise - Then
Seek God the whole year through.

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.

Announcements and Events

The VBCA is completing its first semester and I think everyone, students, teachers, and principal, are looking forward to the Christmas break! Each of the students is progressing well and they have enjoyed two special field trips. The upcoming spring season will provide the opportunity for new students to be preregistered for September, 2014. Semi-annual mortgage payments continue to be made on the future VBCA building which we will take possession of for the start of classes in September, 2015. These semi-annual payments are definitely a challenge and any gifts to help us would be a true blessing. For more information, you can check the VBCA website at: www.vaughanbaptistacademy.org.

Sunday, December 22nd

Sunday school for all ages, 10am;
Morning worship service, 11am.
There is no evening service.

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve service, 6pm –
7pm; no service on Wednesday
evening

Sunday, December 29th

Sunday school for all ages, 10am;
Morning worship service, 11am.
There is no evening service.

Tuesday, December 31st

New Years Eve service, 7pm; no
service on Wednesday evening

Sunday, January 5th

All regularly scheduled service start.

