



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 2014



Happy 23rd Anniversary!

From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



We've just started our second year at the Vaughan Baptist Christian Academy. I preached chapel the second day of this new year. The students seemed to be excited about

getting back to school and seeing their friends. There was a time when I remember toward the end of summer counting the days before school started. When I was young, those days seemed to go slow; as I grew older, the countdown seemed to go way too fast! Though I've been married for 37 years, I still remember excitingly counting the days till I would become a husband. We all count days until a vacation starts. I remember when I was younger traveling to Florida and watching a space launch with my parents and hearing the countdown on the radio until blast-off.

In this quarter's edition, I would like to write to you about another countdown. This is not the number of days until your birthday but the number of days until your death-day. This is the day you will blast off from this earth. From Psalm 90, I'd like you to consider: **"Countdown: Number Your Days."**

The Number To Count

Psalm 90:10 says, *"The days of our years*

are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Thus, the normal life is 70 years or 25,550 days. There is an asterisk: by God's grace, you may get additional days. At the end of your days, there is a blast-off: heaven or hell. Note the phrase "soon cut off." Our days go by quickly!

This psalm is usually attributed to Moses as his prayer. As he considers his days, he may be thinking of his own life and where he was allowed to be born (slave's home), the time period (when Pharaoh was ordering all male babies to be killed), and

of his miraculous delivery (in a basket along the bull rushes of the Nile River). He was assured of God's presence behind the incidents occurring in his days. Job, as well, considered the Lord's hand in the events in his days, *"Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind"* (Job 12:9-10). Christian, no matter the number of your days, your heavenly Father is present and watches over every event and nothing happens by accident but by design. There is a purpose for your days: *"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die"* (Ecc.3:1-2). As the psalmist said, *"LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily*



every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah" (Psalm 39:4-5). Measure out your days. Know there is an end!

The Need To Count

We need to count them because of the admonition of Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Knowing we only have so many days to live, we are challenged to make the most of them by using them wisely. Consider the following three reasons to do so. First, we cannot add to them. Jesus said in Matthew 6:27, "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" Three times in the New Testament this word "stature" is translated "age." Jesus is saying to us that it is useless to worry. It will not add one day to your life! That is why our Lord says that instead of worrying about our days and what we will eat and put on, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). Secondly, you CAN take away from them. Sin will take away your days! Paul emphatically declared that "many" in the church at Corinth had been put to "sleep" (died) because of their lack of spiritual attention to the Lord's Supper (1 Cor.11:30). The Apostle John said, "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it" (1 John 5:16). Thirdly, you can make them count. Make them count by the following:

Embrace them. Gladly waken every day the Lord gives you knowing He has given it to you as a gift. No matter what you face, you will not be alone. His presence and power will sustain you. Remember Deuteronomy 33:25, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be."

Enjoy them. Say with the psalmist, "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps.118:24); "O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil" (Ps.90:14-15); "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever" (Ps.23:6). Remember, Lamentations 3:22-23, "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (Lam.3:22-23). George Muller, famous for establishing orphanages

in England a century ago said, "The first part of every day I spend in making myself happy in Jesus."

Employ them. Live every day for the Lord and use the days He gives you for His glory. Proverbs 18:9 says, "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster." Don't waste your days but be wise with them in fulfilling God's will for your life. This is what Paul exhorted the believers in Ephesus to do: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15-17). Don't die with any unused days! In England, the tombstone of a pastor reads: "Here rests a man who never rested here." Susanna Wesley, mother of Charles and John, wrote in their Bibles: "Lord, don't let my sons have a life of going to do and die with nothing done."

If you're not a Christian, be saved today, now! Paul said in 2 Corinthians 6:2, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Death is when your number is up. No more days. Because of the grace and mercy of God, the saved will spend eternal days in the presence of the Lord. Because of the righteousness and holiness of God, the unsaved will spend eternal days in darkness and pain (2 Thes. 1:8-9).

I believe Jesus understood this countdown. May we follow His example as He said in John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." No matter who you are or how old you are, tomorrow, you will have one less day to live! The countdown is on. So may we heed the teaching of the Lord and be wise with every day He graciously entrusts to us.

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

Pinpoint Focus - Christ

"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the

right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." Proverbs 4:25-27

In the past two newsletters, I have been writing a series where our focus should be in our Christian lives. It is very difficult for Christians in this world to keep their focus where it should be. We need to pursue a sincere purpose, the purpose of our Lord and Saviour.

We have focused on the cross. We should glory in the cross. We need to obey the commands of the cross. We have focused on the cause. Our cause is the same as our Saviour's. We should desire to see souls saved. The final part of this series is the most important. Our pinpoint should be on Christ.

Christ should be our all. He did so much for us at Calvary. Paul reminds us in II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Because of Christ's sacrifice, we are new creatures. Paul says in Ephesians 1:7, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Because of Christ's sacrifice, we have forgiveness of sin. Jesus says in John 14:2, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." Because of Christ's sacrifice, we have a home in Heaven. What Christ did for me, and you, and every person that was ever alive or will be alive, was so great a sacrifice for all the world. We owe Him our all. All that we think and do should be with a focus to Christ.

Why should we not want to do as much as we can for Him? Yet we leave so many things undone for Him. He paid our great sin debt, and yet, we do so little for Him. He has commanded us to be the light of world and salt of the earth. All He wants us to do is show others Him. We are to live our lives as a reflection of His love. We are to live our lives as if He is physically walking by our sides and we want everyone to know who He is to us.

For us to really to have our focus on Christ, we must look again at the two past points. Focus on Christ requires the cross and the cause. These are both of Christ and we must focus on these in order to keep our focus on Christ alone. This will require great sacrifice. Paul tells us in Romans 12:1-2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable

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THE VBC PICTURE



GALLERY





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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." Pinpoint focus requires sacrifice. Christ sacrificed for you and me. Will we sacrifice for Him?

A Prayer to be Effective

Blair Cassidy

Lord please help me to share your love and truth with individuals that you bring into my life. Dear Jesus; enable me to see each soul as you see them. Help me to understand appreciate and see clearly what you have wrought for each person. Bring a realization to my mind that you have accomplished salvation for each and every soul upon the cross of Calvary; please allow this to transform the way I look upon the people in my busy life.

Forgive me Jesus for allowing myself to get so wrapped up with this world that I let so many souls slip in and out of my life without sharing the Gospel with them. Lord make me your ambassador, make me your representative. Please enable me to lay out the Good News of Jesus Christ in a manner that would please you, not in a manner that would please me or in a manner that would please others. Let my presentation of the Gospel bring pleasure to you dear God. Please Lord, take control of my words, actions and behaviour. Jesus do this so that I can share truth as you shared truth.

Father please forgive me for decisions I have made that hinder your truth. Forgive me for not letting your message go forth from my lips with pure motives. Lord often I can be a stumbling block to the cause of Christ. I must abide in you so that you can bear fruit through me – please make this a reality in my life. Lord Jesus you lived to please the father in all things; Lord Jesus you came not to be ministered unto but to minister; you came with an unstoppable passion to see souls forgiven and eternally saved.

Help me Lord to follow your perfect selfless example of servitude. I must order my life so that I can be used by you at any time. Whenever the Spirit impresses upon my heart to act may I do so. May I learn to do your will. Help me not to quench your Spirit. Please make me new in Christ so that I can be used by You and for You - in Jesus name – Amen.

A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

Change

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Thinking through my own life and the seasons I have gone through, I can see how my roles and responsibilities have varied. Things such as marriage, employment changes, child rearing, sickness and trials, household moves, friendships, finances and debt, sending our children off to college and them getting married, and relatives and elderly parent concerns have all been a part of my seasons.

New phrases in life through the years have caused me to make adjustments and changes. I've had to adjust my attitude at times. I've had to surrender to God's will and His plan. I've had to be humble and give up my wishes and just trust God. Sometimes the changes were not so good. There have been tears and sorrows, joys, and quiet times. From day to day, week to week, month to month, and from year to year, you never know what is in store for you. It seems as though thousands of things have been adjusted and changed to help get acclimated to the different phases of life over the years.

I am reminded that through all this, even though my life will continue to go through seasons of change and I will have to adjust, there is one thing which remains a constant comfort. He changes not! "For I am the LORD, I change not" (Malachi 3:6).

Foundations In Education

Daniel Bousquet
VBCA Principal

As we saw in the last two Anchor editions, Ephesians 6 outlines the pieces of spiritual armour necessary for the effective Christian. We last examined the second aspect of this armour: the breastplate of righteousness. The next piece of spiritual armour is feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace (Eph. 6:15). Let's examine what this means and how it applies to our students at VBCA.

"Feet shod," in the context of the Roman soldier, refers to the footwear that "underbound the feet." These sandals were often designed with spikes or nails on the bottom to provide traction. They also included protection for the ankle and shin in the form of "greaves"—leather straps usually connected to a plate of brass that covered the shin. With their feet properly shod, Roman soldiers were able to be firm in their tread and were protected from rough terrain and strikes against their feet and ankles. In a way, this protective footwear was a foundation for their armour. Without the proper footwear, the soldier could not pursue or flee—in essence, he could not perform his duties as a soldier.

Spiritually, our feet are to be "shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace," according to Ephesians 6:15. This piece of armour could be considered the foundation of our spiritual armour. As Christians we know the wonderful peace that comes from forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ: "And, having made peace through the blood of his [Jesus'] cross, by him [Jesus] to reconcile all things unto himself [God the Father]" (Colossians 1:20). Romans 5:1 also explains the gospel of peace: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." This peace inspires us and propels us to share the glorious gospel message with others, so that they too can know the overwhelming peace that God offers. The Scriptures speak highly of those whose feet deliver the good news of the gospel: "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15).

The Roman soldiers did have effective footwear to aid them in battle, but the Christian's footwear of the preparation of the gospel of peace is superior. With it, we have the traction to remain firm in our stance and the fortitude to withstand enemy attacks. We have the privilege of sharing the message that brings man peace with God. At VBCA, we desire to equip our students with this piece of armour by providing spiritual training so that they may continue to share the gospel long after they leave school.





Announcements and Events

**VAUGHAN BAPTIST
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

The second year of the VBCA has now begun with an increase in enrolment. In speaking with Principal Bousquet, I learned that new students can be enrolled even after the school year has begun. He informed me that it happened quite often in Florida where he served previously. So, it's never too late to prayerfully consider if this is the right choice for you and your children. We know that this ministry of our church is not possible for all families. So we want you to know that whether your children are in the school or not, we love kids and will do everything we possibly can at VBC to encourage your children to nurture a growing relationship with the Lord! For more information, you can check the VBCA website at www.vaughanbaptistacademy.org.

Men's Fellowship
Saturday, September 27th

**Men's and Women's Monthly
Separate Bible Studies start up 7pm**
Wednesday, October 1st

**Church Family Fellowship and
Game Night – Friday, October 3rd**

Thanksgiving Worship Service,
11am; no evening service
Sunday, October 12th



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.



Among the things fall means to us are cooler temperatures, students back in school, the end of daylight savings time, leaves changing colors, and Thanksgiving. Here are some trivia questions to test how much you know about things associated with autumn.

1. During which month does summer end and autumn begin?
2. During which month does autumn end and winter begin?
3. When does fall begin in the Southern Hemisphere?
4. What is the first day of fall called?
5. In autumn do you turn your clocks ahead or back?
6. How long does autumn last in the Northern hemisphere?
7. What is a harvest moon?
8. What weed pollen causes the most common fall allergies?
9. What is an Indian summer?
10. Why do the leaves change colour in autumn?
11. Although some varieties are available year round, what fruit is freshest in the fall?
12. What large vegetable is traditionally harvested in the autumn?
13. What vegetables are traditionally planted in the fall?
14. When do Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving?
15. When do Americans celebrate Thanksgiving?
16. What language does the word autumn come from?
17. Name three sports traditionally played in the fall.
18. Name some birds that migrate in fall.
19. Name some birds that do not migrate in autumn.
20. Name some animals that hibernate in autumn.

