



The Anchor



A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Easter Issue

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

April 2016



Happy Easter!!

From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



The Apostle Paul says it most succinctly: *"But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your*

faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Corinthians 15:13-19).

If there be no Easter, no resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, we are not only men most miserable but we are men most hopeless, facing an eternity in Hell! Paul put it this way to another church: *"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world"* (Ephesians 2:12).

But even in this desperate condition, man did not seek a Saviour. Paul expressed this to the Christians at Rome: *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God"* (Romans 3:10-11).

It was Jesus who came looking for lost man: *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost"* (Luke 19:10). The prophet Isaiah put it this way: *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee..."* (Isaiah 64:6-7).

This quarter I want to write about this contrarian quest, a Saviour seeking those who are not seeking Him. I've titled this writing: **"The Saviour No One Sought"** and would like you to consider two facts about His coming.

HIS MISERY

Think of the misery and anguish Jesus experienced in coming to this unholy world. First, there would be **SIN**. To satisfy God's holy standard of righteousness, a perfect sacrifice would have to be offered for man's sins. Jesus did that for us. *"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"* (2 Cor.5:21). Jesus left the absolute purity of heaven and entered into this sin-infested world. How miserable it must have been to leave a sacred place – where there is no sin, no death, no sorrow, no pain, no devil, nor anything that defileth – and enter into a filthy world.



Secondly, there would be **SUFFERING**. Jesus never experienced suffering, pain, or heartache before. Now in this world, He would experience torment, torture, and persecution. The prophet Isaiah described His shameful condition: "When we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted" (Isaiah 53:2-4). To His disciples Jesus said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18). The writer to the Hebrews sums it up: "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (Hebrews 2:10).

Thirdly, to momentarily endure **SEPARATION** from the Father must have been a most devastating event. Matthew records this agony: "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46). For the first time in eternity – because of our sin He bore, Jesus is separated from the Father. The misery of sin, suffering, and separation that Christ experienced was solely and solemnly submitted to because He was motivated.

HIS MOTIVATION

So why would Jesus enter this kind of world? Let me offer two explanations of His motivation. First, **LOVE** caused our Lord to come. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world

through him might be saved." John states further, "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). The Apostle Paul added, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8). We were vile, wicked, and evil. There was nothing lovely in us; nothing good; none were seeking God – but Jesus came seeking us out of His love for us!

Secondly, Jesus came to offer **LIFE** to man. The Apostle John records Jesus' words, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:9-10). The word "abundant" means "more than necessary; a surplus; an exceeding amount." In this world of chaos and confusion, disappointments and disasters, pollutions and corruptions, addictions and afflictions, with Jesus, man can have an abundant, overflowing, exceeding life in the here and now. David put it this way, "My cup runneth over" (Psalm 23:5). Much better than this abundant life now is everlasting life in heaven! That, too, far exceeds our hopes and expectations (John 14:1-2; 2 Cor. 12:4; Eph. 3:20-21).

On Sunday, March 27th we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was the Saviour no one was seeking. Mercifully, He loved us and provided us the gift of life, earthly and eternal, as He would become the perfect sacrifice for our sins and appease God's wrath. He would endure the sin, the suffering, and the separation. Today, receive this unspeakable gift and until He calls you home to heaven, heed the words of the Apostle Paul that he gave his people after addressing the

resurrection of Christ: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor.15:58).

Our faith is NOT in vain! He is alive! As the apostle Paul proclaimed, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). As Puritan Richard Sibbes said, "This is a life of faith, for God will try the truth of our faith, so that the world may see that God has such servants as will depend upon His bare word."

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

Chipping Away

"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." Psalm 17:15

There is a story told about a man who had a huge boulder in his front yard. He grew weary of this big, unattractive stone in the center of his lawn, so he decided to take advantage of it and turn it into an object of art. He went to work on it with hammer and chisel, and chipped away at the huge boulder until it became a beautiful stone elephant. When he finished, it was gorgeous, breath-taking. A neighbor asked, "How did you ever carve such a marvelous likeness of an elephant?" The man answered, "I just chipped away everything that didn't look like an elephant!"

This story also illustrates how God creates men in His likeness. God said in Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." God's desire when He created man was for him to be in His likeness. But man destroyed that when he sinned against God. So God provided another solution. God's

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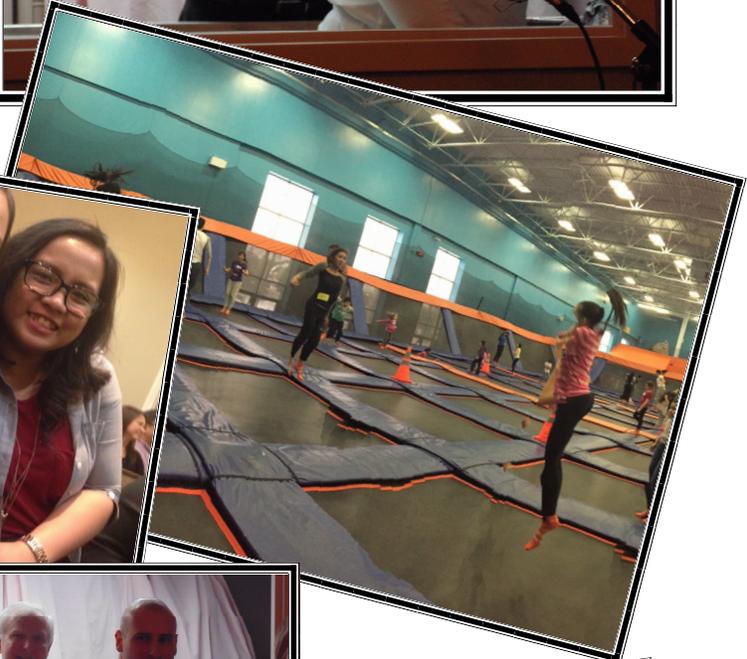
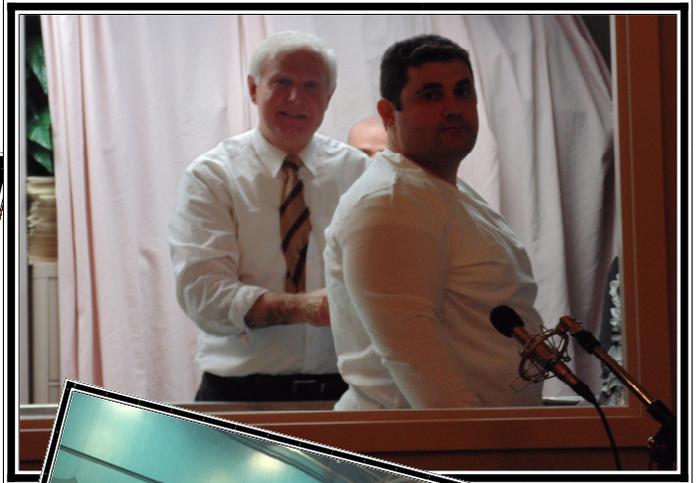


MEMORIES OF



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desire was that we would always be in His likeness, but sin destroyed that plan. God provided the way for us to be renewed again in His likeness. Paul writes in Colossians 3:10, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." Salvation provides the renewal that is the necessary first step for us to return to the likeness of God.

It takes time and God constantly working in our lives for us to have any hope of returning to that likeness. Look at how Jesus dealt with men like Peter. Who would have looked at Peter -- the loud mouth who was always saying things he would later regret -- and seen the disciple he would become? Who would have looked at James and John -- nicknamed "Sons of Thunder" because of their temper -- and considered them to be ideal candidates? But Jesus had a way of looking into the hearts of men and women, seeing not only what they were, but what they had the potential to become. Then He set about the task of "chipping away" to uncover the beauty that lay beneath the surface. He wants to bring His image in each of us. II Corinthians 3:18 says this, "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." Christ wants us to change and become more like Him in every part of our lives.

As Christ works in our lives, He is working the same as the man in the story. He starts with nothing much more than a boulder, but like a great artist, He sees the potential for what lies within and chips away until we are shaped in His image.

A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

Under His Wings

Recently I was thinking about when we first came to Canada. All of our

children were very small. We all had gone to the city to take care of some paper work in a government building. We were finally done and pushed the elevator button to go down. I looked all around trying to gather our "little chicks" so we could get on. All of the sudden, our five year old son jumped on and instantly the elevator doors closed! I gasped and heard Jonathan say, "Mooooomeeeeeee!" as the elevator was dropping. I turned to my husband. "Oh, Bill, we have to do something!" He quickly turned to the receptionist and she pointed to the staircase. He told us to stay there in case Jonathan ended up coming back. Down he ran to catch the elevator doors as they opened on the ground floor! Of course we were all praying!

As the doors opened, there he found our little boy with tear-stained cheeks. A nice lady was holding his hand and trying to comfort him. Needless to say, the rest of us were elated to see him walk off the elevator with his dad to join us. This is just one of many situations we experienced with our children which again comforted and assured me of God's unfailing protection.

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shalt be thy shield and buckler." (Psalm 91:4)

Foundations In Education

Daniel Bousquet
VBCA Principal

Enrolment for the 2016-2017 school year is now open! As we ponder Christian education, let's consider these words from Pastor Paul Chappell (president of West Coast Baptist College): "Each child is a gift—specially created by God with great value and a special purpose....With the incredible privilege of raising a child comes a weighty responsibility—to train the child for the Lord (Prov. 22:6). The input and influences during the

formative years of a child's life are vital."

At VBCA, we agree that each child is special and that God has a plan for each life. We do not take lightly the responsibility of partnering together with the parents to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. As Pastor Chappell points out, "Both [parents and the church] work together to reinforce the other. It's a tremendous blessing for the child to be part of a Christian home, a godly church, and a Christian school where each of these entities are reinforcing the basic principles needed for life development...Galatians 4:2 speaks of the 'tutors and governors' that first-century parents hired to teach their children. Apparently, Christian homes in the first century employed teachers and mentors whom they asked to help in the process of educating their children."

In our present day, parents can choose to employ the help of the Christian school ministry in the education of their children, just as first-century Christians employed tutors to aid in their children's learning. Through this opportunity, they will learn not only academic lessons, but also spiritual truths. Please pray that the Lord would add the students He knows we can best minister to. If you have any questions about enrolment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Inspiring Teenagers

David Kapauan

The Greatness of Salvation

Hebrews 2:3 "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him"

Teenagers today may consider different things as being "precious" in their lives. Some may think their girlfriend or boyfriend is the most precious, others video games or sports, maybe clothes or the way they look, their physique and physical fitness; music,

money, popularity or education. Whatever they consider precious, however temporary or fleeting these things may be, they focus on, nurture and don't neglect.

Christian Teenager, I challenge you to reflect on what is truly precious to you. Are they the same things that the world considers as precious? If you do, then you are probably neglecting the greatest gift that has ever been given to you – forgiveness of sin and eternal life through Jesus Christ! If something else is more precious to you – consider this question – how great is that thing? Name five things that make it great. On the other hand – ask yourself – how great is your salvation? Think on these five things about salvation and consider the magnitude of difference to anything else you might have in this world.

(1) The Sinfulness of Sin — Genesis 3:2-3
“And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:



Announcements and Events

VAUGHAN BAPTIST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Five of our older students participated in the annual Christian school convention in Ajax, Ontario, attended by ten different schools. We also had one home-schooler from our church attend. To God's glory, all won various awards for their performances. With March break, our four teachers are enjoying a spring vacation probably more than the students! Enrollment season has now started for the Fall, 2016 semester. For more information, you can check the VBCA website at:

www.vaughanbaptistacademy.org

Monday-Tuesday, April 4 -5
 Bible Conference, Ajax, ON

Friday-Saturday, April 15-16
 Men's Retreat, St. Thomas, ON

Sunday-Tuesday, May 1-3
 Evangelist Max Alderman

Sunday, June 19
 Missionaries to Bolivia
 Jake and Sharon Wiebe



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.

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”

(2) The Penalty for Sin — Romans 6:23
“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Revelation 20:14 “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

(3) The Suffering of Christ — Isaiah 53:1-6
“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

(4) The Scope of our Deliverance — II Corinthians 1:10
“Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;”

(5) The Destination of the Saved — John 14:1-3
“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” I Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

During this Easter Season, let us reflect on the suffering, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and consider the **Greatness of Salvation!**

