



be ye reconciled to God

2 Corinthians 5:20

the weekly digest of ambassador**baptistchurch**

from the pastor's heart
page 1-2

news highlights
page 7

week at a glance
page 8

sermon materials
page 3-6

from the pastor's heart

THE DETERMINATION OF THE SERVANT OF GOD



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today's program

the news

hymn | *the fight is on*

opening **prayer**

hymn | *to the work*

hymn | *the local church's
foundation*

offertory

hymn | *so little time*

exhortation | *pastor johnny*

invitation and closing

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

The apostle Paul's life is a picture of the determined servant of God. Paul loved the Lord Jesus dearly. The cross of Christ was more important to

him than anything else. He knew he came from the pits of hell as a child of the devil destined for an eternity without Christ. Paul knew that the Lord Jesus saved him and placed him on a higher plane with a higher purpose and he was determined to complete God's purpose for him in his life. How determined was Paul to serve God?

He was determined to serve God even though there were

trials and tribulations that beset him

"afflictions abide me" Acts 20:23b"

Trials in serving God were waiting for Paul; they were his life. Paul said, although knowing that he was to suffer difficulties for Christ, that he would serve God no matter what the trials were and no matter the difficulty was.

continued on page 2

from the pastor's heart

Sickness would not stop him, hunger would not stop him, loneliness would not stop him, unjust offences by others towards him would not stop him, failure would not stop him. He would serve God no matter what the trials and troubles.

He was determined to serve God even if it cost him his life.

"neither count I my life dear unto myself"

What could be more precious to a person than his own life? Yet, Paul said that the ministry of God was more important to him than life itself. He would have gladly surrendered his life as long as God was honoured and His plan accomplished.

He was determined to serve God because he was determined to be loyal and faithful to Christ, bringing glory to His Saviour.

"so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

The completion of the purpose of God in Christ's life was the Lord Jesus' ambition

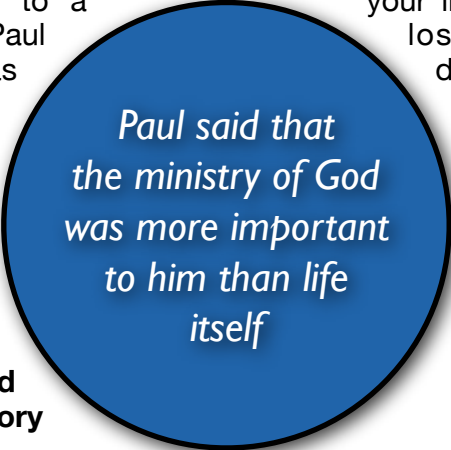
My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me and to finish it

John 4:34.

Paul had the same ambition and determination: to complete the ministry and course that was given to him.

Are you a servant of God, determined to do the will of God? What will it take to stop you from persevering in doing God's will and finish His will? When God's will and what you want conflict, what will be your decision? Will you choose the things of this life or the things of God? Will you aim to glorify God through your life, though you may have suffer loss? Your ambition and your desires may need to be surrendered to perform the will of God in your life, will you allow that? Do you have the determination of a servant of God?

*Evangelist-Pastor Johnny Tan
Ambassador Baptist Church*



*Paul said that
the ministry of God
was more important
to him than life
itself*

thought for the week

It is of no use for any of you to try to be soul-winners if you are not bearing fruit in your own lives. How can you serve the Lord with your lips if you do not serve Him with your lives?

C. H. SPURGEON

memory verse

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. And he said, Go ...

Isaiah 6:8-9A

Sunday Worship Service
9 October 2011

sermon notes: verse list

Sunday Worship Service

9 October 2011

“God’s Idea of His Servant”

Turn to: **Luke 22:21 – 27**

Turn to: **Luke 9:46 – 48**

Turn to: **Matthew 23:10 – 12**

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Turn to: **John 13:4 – 17**

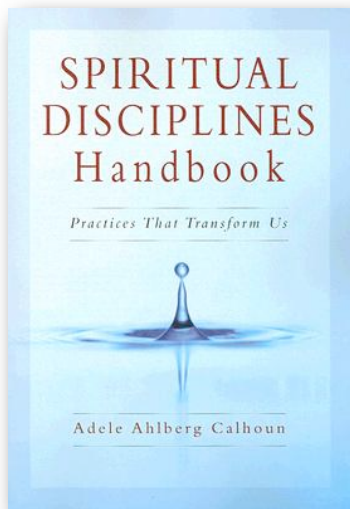
Turn to: **Philippians 2:5 – 8**

Friday Church News Notes



RICK WARREN RECOMMENDS WORDLESS CONTEMPLATION

Saddleback Church recommends a wide range of books on contemplative mysticism at its web site. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* by Adele Calhoun, for example, has been listed under the “Spiritual Growth” section for at least the past two years. Rick Warren, senior pastor at Saddleback, pretends that contemplative prayer is merely getting alone in a quiet place to meditate on God’s Word, but it goes far beyond that. Warren says that contemplative prayer is nothing like yoga, but as a former member of a Hindu meditation society, I can testify that practices such as centering prayer are definitely yoga-like. Adele Calhoun recommends Roman Catholic monastic practices which were, in turn, borrowed from paganism, as we have demonstrated in our book *Contemplative Mysticism*. Calhoun lists



Roman Catholics as “spiritual tutors,” including M. Basil Pennington, Henri Nouwen, Peter Kreeft, William Meninger, Francis de Sales, Richard Rohr, William Johnson, Teresa of Avila, Thomas Keating, John of the Cross, Brother Lawrence, Tilden Edwards, Ignatius Loyola, St. Benedict, Thomas Merton, John Henry Newman, Julian of Norwich. Not only are these deeply misguided individuals laden down with Catholic heresies, but many were led by their mystical

practices to universalism, panentheism, and [saddleback church](http://www.saddlebackchurch.org) even rank idolatry. (For example, Thomas Merton worshipped Buddhist idols.) Calhoun recommends following the Roman Catholic church calendar, seeking spiritual direction from Catholic orders, and visiting Catholic retreat centers. She describes a pilgrimage she took with 30 women in her “covenant group” to visit the sites of Catholic mystics and to study their practices. She recommends a whole slew of unscriptural contemplative practices, including the Jesus prayer (vain repetition), palms up palms down (psychological visualization), *lectio divina*, imagination prayer, centering prayer, breath prayer, practicing the presence, silence, and spiritual direction. She recommends the use of single words as a mantra to drive away conscious thoughts. “Choose a simple word ... Let this word guard your attention. ... When your thoughts wander let them drop to the bottom of your mind. Don’t go after them. ... Imagine your distracting thoughts are part of the debris floating in the current of a river. Don’t try to capture these thoughts; release them and let the river of God’s life carry them away.” In describing her mysticism she quotes Richard Rohr, “Prayer is not primarily saying words or thinking thoughts. It is, rather, a stance. It’s a way of living in the Presence.” This is not biblical contemplation; it is blind mysticism. Even when it comes to devotional reading of the Bible, Calhoun discourages “mentally critiquing or exegeting the text.” Rather, the Bible is to be used as a launching pad for mysticism as the practitioner refuses to “analyze” it but merely “listens and waits.” It is impossible to exaggerate the danger inherent in contemplative mysticism, and it is impossible to warn too loudly and plainly of the spiritual blindness of those “evangelical” leaders who are promoting it.

ISLAMIC NO-GO ZONES

- The following is excerpted from “The Rise of Islamic No-Go Zones,” FrontPageMag.com, Aug. 31, 2011: “Three and a half years ago, one of the Church of England’s most senior bishops, Pakistani-born Michael Nazir-Ali, warned that Islamic extremists had created “no-go” areas across Britain too dangerous for non-Muslims to enter. His politically incorrect concern sparked a firestorm of denial and criticism. The Muslim Council of Britain, for example, dismissed it as the Bishop’s ‘frantic scaremongering’ and ‘intolerance,’ and scoffed, ‘We wouldn’t allow no-go areas to happen. I smell extreme intolerance when people criticise multiculturalism without proper evidence of what has gone wrong.’ Well, the evidence of how multiculturalism ‘has gone wrong’ is in. This week Soeren Kern at the Hudson Institute



ISLAMIC NO-GO ZONEScontinued

documented the proliferation of such no-go zones throughout Europe -- autonomous Islamic 'microstates' under Sharia rule (having rejected their host countries' legal systems), where non-Muslims must either conform to the cultural, legal, and religious norms of fundamentalist Islam or expect to be greeted with violence. As Daniel Pipes puts it, 'a more precise name for these zones would be Dar al-Islam' -- the House of Islam, or the place where Islam rules. England, Sweden, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands -- in every European country with a large Muslim immigrant population, the story is the same: Islamic supremacists refuse to assimilate into the Western melting pot; instead they carve out a foothold in a neighborhood, and then, through intimidation or outright violence, push out the infidels whose failed secular values are no longer acceptable. Even public services such as police, firefighters and ambulances are often driven out of such neighborhoods with stones, bottles or bullets. Lacking the political and cultural will to assert control in areas that in some cases have become urban war zones, the authorities have simply retreated and abandoned them. ... In BRITAIN, WHERE THERE ARE ALREADY AS MANY AS EIGHTY-FIVE SHARIA COURTS IN OPERATION, an Islamist group called Muslims Against the Crusades has launched an ambitious campaign to turn twelve British cities into independent Islamic states,

including Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and what the group calls 'Londonistan.' In the Tower Hamlets in East London -- or as the Muslims there refer to it, 'the Islamic Republic of Tower Hamlets' ... the neighborhood has been littered with leaflets announcing, 'You are entering a Sharia controlled zone. Islamic rules enforced.' ... In France, there are an astonishing 751 so-called Sensitive Urban Zones (ZUS). ... thousands of Muslims make their presence felt by blocking streets and sidewalks for Friday prayers. Some mosques have begun broadcasting sermons and chants of 'Allahu Akbar' via loudspeakers into the streets. Local authorities sit on their hands rather than confront this 'occupation without tanks or soldiers,' because they are afraid of the situation escalating into violence in the streets. The Dutch government has released a list of forty 'no-go' zones. In Brussels, Belgium, which is twenty percent Muslim, police have to patrol with two police cars, to watch each other's back. ... In Sweden, which an imam there has labeled 'the best Islamic state,' whole patches of the city of Malmö -- which is more than twenty-five percent Muslim -- are no-go zones. There and in Gothenburg, Muslim teenagers have been burning cars, attacking emergency services, throwing stones at patrolling officers and temporarily blinding them with green lasers."

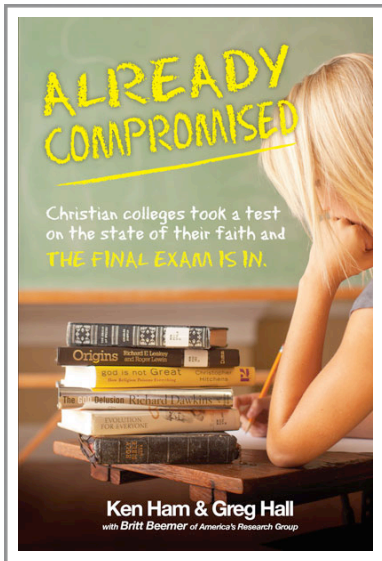
**THEY PAID THEIR DEBTS**

I don't know the Baileys who are the subject of the following report, but I like how they took responsibility for their actions and paid off their debts. I have known members of Bible-believing churches who have filed for bankruptcy and walked away from debts. That is legal but it isn't righteous. There are times when you might not be able to pay a particular debt exactly on time and you have to stretch out payments and there is nothing wrong with trying to renegotiate the terms of a loan in extenuating circumstances, but pay the debt you must because you gave your word of honor when you borrowed it and a Christian must be a person of his or her word. "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another" (Eph. 4:25). The following is excerpted from "Michigan Couple Honored for Paying Off \$92,000 Credit Card Debt," Yahoo Finance, Sept. 22, 2011: "The U.S. government can learn a lot about shedding debt from Jerry and Sue Bailey. The Jackson, Mich., couple paid off \$92,000 in credit card debt in 5-1/2 years. The couple's massive debt reduction earned them the Clients of the Year award from the National Foundation for Credit Counseling ... How did the Baileys end up in such a predicament? From 1992 to 2005, they ran up bills on 17 different credit cards. During that time, they paid for two weddings for their daughters (at a cost of \$5,000 each), replaced the transmission in their car when it blew out, made numerous repairs on their home and replaced the roof when it started to leak. Everything went on a credit card. ...

Jerry [a pastor] handled the family finances but didn't let his wife, a nurse, know how much debt they were amassing. 'My first clue was when the people started calling our house,' Sue Bailey says, describing calls from debt collectors about unpaid bills. ... The couple sought help in May 2005 from their local credit union. A representative suggested



they file for bankruptcy, but the couple dismissed that option. 'We just don't believe in that,' Sue Bailey says. 'We believe in paying what we owe.' The credit union then suggested they contact GreenPath Debt Solutions, a nonprofit credit counseling agency ... GreenPath and other nonprofit credit counseling agencies enroll financially troubled consumers in debt management plans to pay off outstanding debt. ... The agencies have a long track record of negotiating with creditors to reduce interest rates and make affordable monthly payments. The Baileys' road to debt freedom wasn't easy. ... Through budgeting, sacrificing and taking on extra work to earn more income, the Baileys paid off their debt in October 2010. ... Sue Bailey's advice to other couples sharing finances: 'Talk to each other; don't play the blame game. I didn't blame him. We did it together.'"



UNBELIEF AT NAZARENE COLLEGES

The following is from Ken Ham's "Around the World" blog [Answers in Genesis], August 23, 2011: "Over the past couple of years, I have brought to people's attention the rampant compromise with evolution and billions of years that many professors at Nazarene colleges hold to--and teach their students. One of those compromised professors is Dr. Karl

Giberson. Recently, Answers in Genesis produced the book *Already Compromised*. This book detailed research conducted by America's Research Group sadly showing the compromise with evolution and billions of years that exists in the majority of Christian colleges. Another way to find out what is being taught in these schools is to talk to the

students who are attending or have graduated from them. I have heard many 'horror stories' from such people over the years in regard to the damage done to hearts and minds because of the compromise. This week, I received an email from a person who graduated from a Nazarene college and attests to what is going on at the college where Karl Giberson is a professor. Here is what this person wrote. 'I really felt the need to say thank you to Ken and the rest of the team who have been ardently working to bring light to the situation within Christian colleges. I graduated from Eastern Nazarene College [in Massachusetts] and actually sat under Karl Giberson for two classes, one that was required. Everything that you have proclaimed about him is accurate, and I appreciate the fact that you are trying to spread the word. He has lead many Christians astray with his teachings. He has also misquoted Charles Ryrie in a book he (Giberson) wrote to make it sound as though Ryrie was a theistic evolutionist. Thankfully, God had provided the necessary material I needed and I actually owned the book from which he misquoted Ryrie and could see for myself what Ryrie actually stated. I believe that he was among several at ENC who heavily influenced a close relative who is now straying from her faith.'"



WARNING



CHARISMATIC HAS SAME PHILOSOPHY AS INDEPENDENT BAPTIST LEADERS

Recently I received an e-mail from a charismatic who has the same philosophy as many fundamental Baptist preachers. The charismatic wrote: "I came across your website and was very troubled to read the comments on there. Stop trying to bring dissension within the Body of Christ. I can tell you that God is not happy about this. Fortunately you are not God, although you think it is your job to rule and reign all those who come to Christ. That is not your job. If God has truly called you and anointed you, you need to focus on winning the lost to Christ and stop this nonsense. If you spent half as much time trying to win the lost, or using your spiritual gifts as you do spewing this nonsense we would all be much better. God does not need you to police his people. Those of us who know the Lord don't pay any attention to this kind of nonsense that you post on here. Lets move forward as the Body of Christ and try to agree on what we have in common instead of all of this nonsense." COMMENT BY BROTHER CLOUD: Observe that this charismatic fellow reproves me for bringing dissension and for being a



“police,” says I should spend all my time winning the lost, and claims that they don’t pay any attention to my warnings. That is exactly the attitude that many fundamental Baptist preachers have toward my preaching ministry. They refuse to use my materials even though they would be helpful to their people. A fundamental Baptist pastor wrote recently and said that God doesn’t raise up “warning” ministries and that the only warning that churches need is that of their own pastors.

My answer is that 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:15; 1 Peter 4:1; and Jude 3, to mention only a few of the commands to reprove error, are not limited to a pastor preaching in his own church.

What does the Bible say?

I think I recall that there was a pastor in the early churches that refused to allow biblically-sound men of God to minister to his people, and his name was Diotrephes. He was the first strutting poobah on record within the New Testament churches. “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church” (3 John 1:9-10).

CONCLUSION: The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God’s will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord’s coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.

Sunday Worship Service

9 October 2011

"God's Idea of His Servant"

I. The title of this message is

II. The passage of this message is

III. God gives us His idea of His servant:

A. The servant of God

B. The servant of God will be willing to be an a _____ , doing
_____ tasks

C. The servant of God follows the _____ of the
Lord Jesus.

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welcome to ambassador

Welcome to Ambassador Baptist Church!

We thank the Lord Jesus for your presence, and we know God has a plan for you to be here. May your life be touched and changed by the Word of God as it is preached and may you find true meaning in life in Christ.

Ambassador's first anniversary, 2010

NOTICE • MINISTRY NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 16, 2011

In compliance with requirements by the Registry of Societies, Singapore, and in accordance with Ambassador's Constitution, the church will be holding its annual general meeting (AGM) on October 16, 2011. The meeting will be comprised of the following events:

- Reading of the Accounts
- Reading of the Report
- Announcement of changes in Office-bearers

All members are required to be present. More details to be released.

NOTICE • from the heart

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Will you obey the Lord today?

If the Lord has been working on your heart about joining Ambassador, you need to do the following:

- Inform Pastor Johnny Tan of your intention
- Fill in an electronic or paper membership form
- Email or submit the form to Pastor Johnny

After receiving the form, an appointment will be made by Pastor Johnny who will go through the Biblical principles and processes for joining the local church.

COUNTDOWNS

weeks to:

06

Youth Camp
21-25 November
2011

Details to follow

THE VISION AND MISSION OF AMBASSADOR

“To win the north of Singapore for Christ and a thousand souls for Christ in five years.”

THEME FOR THE MONTH:

The Calling of God in the Life of His Servant



the week at a glance

10 - 16 OCTOBER 2011

10 Oct	11 Oct	12 Oct	13 Oct	14 Oct	15 Oct	16 Oct
monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
Faith Bible Institute	Outreach Efforts	Outreach Efforts		Rivers in a Dry Place	Children's Ministry Outing	Worship Service Annual General Meeting

get in touch

We'd love to hear from you, be it feedback about this bulletin, requests for material, or just about any other query you may have about Christ, His Kingdom, and Ambassador. Contact us by:

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(pastor's email)

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ambassador.baptist.church.SG

Twitter: @abc_singapore

timings

Sunday Services

Children's Bible Hour 09:30AM
 Sunday Bible Hour 09:30AM
 Mandarin Service 03:30PM
 English Worship Service 11:00AM

Routine Weekly Activities

Faith Bible Institute
Mondays, 07:45PM
 "Rivers in a Dry Place"
 Fridays, 08:00PM
 Ambassador Youth
Saturdays, 10:30AM

Outreach Efforts -

SEMBAWANG
 Person-in-Charge: Bro. Robert
 Tuesdays, 08:15PM
 YISHUN
 Person-in-Charge: *We need one.*
 Wednesdays, 08:15PM

For more information on our weekly activities, visit our website at www.ambassador-baptist.org

prayer list and thanksgiving

- **The new place**
- The vision of Ambassador: To Win the North for Christ!
- The various ministries
- Growth of Ambassador and its members

church building fund - project tabernacle

Ambassador Baptist Church has been blessed with more people. God has also miraculously provided us with a more permanent place of worship at Woodlands which is due in 2nd quarter 2013 to cater for our expansion.

We will need the Lord to provide us with \$180,000 to be used for renovating the new place; we will need to raise \$25,715 every three months.

If you are a Christian and believe in the Lord's work in Ambassador, you may contribute regularly by enclosing it in an envelope indicating "Church Building Fund" and dropping it into the offering bag during the service.