

14 AUGUST 2011

WEB EDITION

ambassador|baptistchurch



be ye reconciled to God

2 Corinthians 5:20

the weekly digest of ambassador|baptistchurch

find.it

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from the pastor's heart

SERVING ONLY ONE MASTER



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...ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

There were, in the days of Christ, some that yearned after the Lord, but desired or loved money and the things of this world secretly (as in the case of Judas Iscariot) or openly (as in the rich young ruler who walked away from Christ because of his riches.) This involved covetousness

and greed. Satan wanted the worship of man more than ever before and therefore was willing to give the things of this world and its riches to anyone who would follow him. The Lord Jesus made it clear: ye cannot serve God and mammon. Mammon was an idol God of riches in the days of Christ, and the Lord used this as an illustration of worship: the God of Heaven or the God of this world:

NOTICE FIRSTLY, THIS STATEMENT OF CHRIST MEANS THERE MUST BE A DECISION MADE.

The Lord Jesus says it is impossible to serve both the Lord Jesus and to acquire the riches of this world. There must be a giving up of one. The world has its idols, Gods and pleasures. It feeds the

continued on page 2

today's program

the news

hymn | *the banner of the cross*

opening **prayer**

hymn | *heaven came down*

hymn | *who is on the Lord's side?*

offertory

hymn | *i'd rather have Jesus*

exhortation | *pastor johnny*

invitation and closing

from the pastor's heart

flesh, numbs the spiritual senses towards the Lord and deceives the heart that the Christian is alright. The Bible teaches us that the love of money is the root of all evil and that many have pierced themselves through with many sorrows. The kingdom of God, however, is filled with the need for sacrifice, obedience, self-denial and service. It demands commitment but it gives blessings. There must be a decision to serve Christ or the world.

NOTICE SECONDLY, THE WRONG CHOICE WILL LEAD US ASTRAY AND AWAY FROM GOD.

It led Achan to disobey God and to take of the Babylonish garment, it caused Balaam to compromise for the sake of money to curse the people of God. It led Judas Iscariot to commit the wicked deed of betraying Christ for thirty pieces of silver and condemned him to an eternity in hell. It caused Demas to forsake Paul. When we entertain the world and her ways, it will always lead us away from God.

NOTICE THIRDLY, THAT WHEN WE PUT SERVING GOD FIRST, GOD SEES TO THE PROVISION OF OUR NEEDS OF LIFE.

When we choose Christ, He never abandons us to our needs: He provides for them. God

has commanded us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Are you concerned that there will be not enough for the family? We need to learn to trust the Lord, put Him first and He will provide for us who are His people.

Are you serving God or mammon? The choice is clear! Let us choose and serve only Christ!

*Evangelist-Pastor Johnny Tan
Ambassador Baptist Church*

*Are you
concerned that
there will not be
enough for your
family?*

thought for the week

Where is your heart?

Is it positioned for God or for
this world?

memory verse

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Philippians 2:15

Sunday Worship Service
14 August 2011
"Be True to God"

I. **The title** for today's message is _____

II. **The passage** for today's message is _____

III. How do we stay true to our God?

A. They had _____ in their hearts (El in all their names)

B. They made a _____ not to _____ themselves with a _____ of the king's meat.

1. Any act, no matter how _____ that leads to the _____ of God's law leads to _____

a) How does it lead to defilement?

(1) By _____

(2) By _____

(3) By _____

b) Notice first it is a _____

c) Notice the purpose is in His _____

C. They actively made a _____

1. He went to the r_____ p_____

2. He r_____ the person in c_____

3. He t_____ God

D. They were h_____ for staying true to GOD:

1. They were honoured by _____

2. They were honoured by _____

Sunday Worship Service
14 August 2011
"Be True to God"

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psalms 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins;

Deuteronomy 17:12 And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin

1 Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Daniel 1:17 ¶ As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams

Daniel 1:19 - 20 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Friday Church News Notes

Osteen Preaches The Shack God to America

Friday Church News Notes, August 12, 2011 www.wayoflife.org

Even while America is experiencing divine retribution for her rejection of the holy God in the form of bankruptcy and self-serving leaders and heaps of multi-billion dollar natural disasters and a thousand other curses, a slew of apostate preachers continue to tickle the ears of the nation with a false god. Joel Osteen, pastor of America's largest church, is a prime example. His recent "Night of Hope" in Chicago drew 37,000 souls. Did they hear that they are sinners and need to repent? Did they hear that America is a morally vile nation before Almighty God? Did they hear a warning about impending judgment and eternal hellfire? No! They heard a syrupy sweet, cotton candy proclamation of unconditional love and positive thinking. The *Chicago Sun-Times* quoted a participant who summarized Osteen's message as so "warm and positive" that "you can't help smiling when he starts talking." James would have had a different message. He would have said that there is indeed hope, but that hope is only through true repentance and biblical faith. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. ... Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." (James 4:4, 8-10).



ATHEISTS WIN APPROVAL FOR ROCK CONCERT AT U.S. ARMY BASE

The following is excerpted from "Atheists Win Fort Bragg's Consent," *Christian Post*, August 7, 2011: "A group of military atheists has announced that 'Rock Beyond Belief,' an event initially planned for April, will now be held next spring as the Fort Bragg military base in North Carolina has finally agreed to host the festival featuring music, speeches and 'godless' literature. Modeled after and a reaction to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's 'Rock the Fort' evangelistic event last year, the atheist festival will be held on March 31, 2012, 'with the full support of' the military post, the event's website says. Sgt. Justin Griffith, (shown

left) the man behind the festival, says Fort Bragg commander Col. Stephen J. Sicinski has allowed the use of a centrally located parade field. 'We're extremely grateful to him for this opportunity,' he says. 'This just might be the turning point in the foxhole atheist community's struggle for acceptance, tolerance and respect,' Griffith adds. 'It's an amazing time to be a nonbeliever in the U.S. military on the cusp of a major breakthrough.'"

EVOLUTION NOT SCIENTIFICALLY VALIDATED

The following is by Edward Boudreaux, Ph.D. in chemistry from Tulane University, professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of New Orleans: "... the geological, biological, and cosmological sciences have been established as *ivory towers*, from which so-called proofs of evolution emanate, while the scientist practitioners within these disciplines are the gurus who promote, preach, and publish what is regarded as scientific data supporting evolution. But there is not one single instance whereby all the tests essential to the establishment of the scientific validity of evolution have been satisfied. There are hypotheses, grandiose models, suppositions, and inferences, all of which are formulated and reinforced within the collective and self-serving collaborations of the evolutionist gurus. However, none of this amounts to true scientific evidence for evolution. It was in the 1970s that, to my great surprise, bewilderment, and disgust, I became enlightened to this. Up until that time I had not given the evolution matter very much thought. On the contrary, I presumed that researchers committed to the study of evolution possessed the same integrity as that expected of any credible scientist. ... Subsequently, the greatest embarrassment of all was for me to find that there simply was no valid science whatever, in any of these numerous publications touting evolution" (*In Six Days*, edited by John Ashton, pp. 205, 206).

WOE UNTO COWARDLY, COMPROMISED BAPTIST PREACHERS

The following is typical of many e-mails I receive: "I just wanted to thank you for taking a stand and proclaiming what the Bible teaches. I attend an independent fundamental Baptist church that is slowly allowing CCM music to creep in. The dress is ridiculous. The church may soon find itself without another member. The pastor keeps saying that once people become saved, the Holy Spirit will tell them what kind of music to listen to and how to dress and how to act. Yes, He surely does--but it certainly helps to have Bible preaching on it!! I am grieved for my church and wish it were different. But as a young lady, I can only do so much. I pray often and lead a girl's Bible study. I just wish the pastor would take a stand. All that to say--thank you. May the Lord richly bless you as you continue to serve Him."

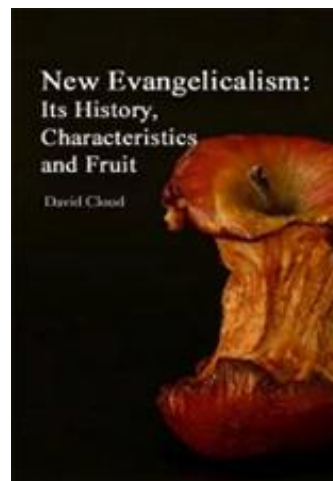
COMMENT FROM BROTHER CLOUD: This is the type of pastor that complains about my writings when some

of his people read the truth and then get discouraged at the weakness of their own would-be spiritual leader. Well, I have no apology to offer to such men. If a pastor isn't preaching plainly against the wicked pop culture that is destroying so many souls and requiring that church workers live separated lives, I have no sympathy for him. He needs to get out of the ministry and make an honest living. May God raise up an army of true men of the Spirit in these apostate days to lift a voice against all of the devil's devices so that believing people can find a safe haven and a place of genuine biblical discipleship. "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).

THE INSUFFICIENCY AND ERROR OF THE FUNDAMENTALIST MOVEMENT

The following is excerpted from our book *New Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit*, which was first published in 1995. "Let me emphasize my own conviction that old-line evangelicalism and fundamentalism at their best were biblically deficient. I am a fundamentalist insofar as I believe in biblical dogmatism and militancy for the truth and separation from error, but I am more than a fundamentalist. The goal of my Christian life and ministry is not to be a good fundamentalist (or even to be a good Baptist). My goal is to be faithful to God's Word in all particulars. Following are two weaknesses in fundamentalism as a movement: **The first weakness is the trans-denominational character that has characterized fundamentalism.** I do not accept the philosophy that limits the basis of fellowship to a narrow list of "cardinal" doctrines, such as the infallibility of Scripture and the deity of Christ. While the Bible does indicate that some doctrines are more important than others (e.g., Matthew 23:23), all teaching of the Bible is important and is to be taken seriously. Timothy was instructed not to allow any other doctrine than that which Paul had delivered to him (1 Tim. 1:3; 6:13, 20; 2 Tim. 2:2). Paul was concerned with the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). This position on doctrine does not allow me to overlook denominational differences such as the mode of baptism, the manner of the Lord's Supper, eternal security, the woman's role in the ministry, or the interpretation of prophecy. I can accept as true Christians those who differ with me on such things, because these are not issues of "damnable heresy" (2 Pet. 2:1), but I cannot have joint ministry with them, because I do not believe the Bible allows it. **A second error of historic fundamentalism is the "universal church" mentality.** It is common among to view "the church" as composed of all professing Christians in all denominations. To call all of the denominations the "church" naturally

produces an ecumenical mentality and makes the purifying of the churches impossible. Harold J. Ockenga used the many divisions of evangelicalism and fundamentalism as an excuse for the non-separatist mentality and warned about the "shibboleth of having a pure church" (Ockenga, "From Fundamentalism, Through New Evangelicalism, to Evangelicalism," *Evangelical Roots*, edited by Kenneth Kantzer, p. 42). This is dangerous and unscriptural thinking. God's Word does call for a pure church, but it is not a universal church that we are to purify; it is the New Testament assembly (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). To attempt to purify a universal church is something the New Testament never envisions or requires. God has given His people clear instruction about discipline of sin and heresy, and those instructions are in the context of the assembly (i.e., 1 Corinthians 5; Titus 3). Regardless of what one believes about the New Testament definition of the church, it is a fact that in any sort of practical sense biblical church truth can be applied properly only to the assembly."



UNIVERSAL PRE-SCHOOL

The following is excerpted from *The War on Children* by Karen Gushta (2009, Coral Ridge Ministries): “Consistent with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan’s proclamation that, ‘We are all part of one system of learning that begins at birth and never stops,’ the drive is on to get federally funded and controlled universal pre-school for three and four-year-olds. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, otherwise known as the ‘stimulus bill,’ included \$5 billion in funding for early childhood education. President Obama is also pushing for an ‘Early Learning Challenge Grant’ program that would give states

funds ‘to implement universal preschool for all three and four-year-old children in the country, regardless of family income.’ ... The stakes are enormous, however. As the authors of the Lexington Institute article, *Federalizing Pre-K Could Do More Harm than Good*, point out, ‘Any push by federal and state officials for preschool uniformity could have major implications for the well-being of children, the choices available to families, and even the nature of parenting.’”

RICK WARREN TEAMS UP WITH ALPHA INTERNATIONAL

Southern Baptist pastor Rick Warren, of Saddleback Church in California, teamed up with Alpha International and the Billy Graham Association in the My Hope India project. The *Alpha International Newsletter*, published December 4, 2006, contains Warren’s high recommendation of Alpha. He calls it “one of the most effective evangelism tools for the 21st century” and says that you can use it to win the lost and “revitalize your church.” He says his 40 Days of Purpose and Alpha “fit together like hand in glove.” He claims both programs are “inspired by the Holy Spirit to deepen and develop the Church.” He concludes, “I, Rick Warren, want to tell you that Alpha has my 100% endorsement.” This exposes the radical nature of Warren’s ecumenical philosophy. The Alpha program was birthed out of the charismatic Laughing Revival that broke out in the Holy Trinity Brompton Anglican parish in London in the early 1990s. I visited a service at Holy Trinity in March 1997 and witnessed their charismatic nonsense firsthand. Though they didn’t “get going” too much that particular service, there was “spirit slaying” and “holy shaking.” The Alpha program consists of 15 sessions and runs for ten weeks, covering some of the basic teachings of the Gospel and Christian living. Its broad denominational appeal is the product of its doctrinal shallowness and charismatic experience orientation. It refers to salvation, the cross, the death of Christ, etc., in such a general way that false doctrine is not refuted. It says salvation is by grace, for instance, but it does not say that salvation is by grace ALONE by faith ALONE through the blood of Christ ALONE without works or sacraments. It refers to the Bible as God’s Word in a general sense, but it does not explain that the Bible is God’s inerrant, infallible, supernatural Word that must be revered and obeyed in every detail and that the Bible is the SOLE authority for faith and practice. And of course it supports the multiplicity of modern versions. It refers to Christ’s death on the cross, but does not plainly explain the vicarious atonement that was required for man’s salvation. It refers to man’s need, but it

does not describe man as a depraved sinner by nature. If Alpha were that specific, it is certain it would not be ecumenically popular in this apostate hour. The reason Rick Warren recommends this shallow approach 100% is because it is the same approach that he uses, which a quick reading of *The Purpose Driven Life* will prove. About half-way through the 10-week Alpha program, the leaders conduct “Holy Spirit Day” or even have a “Holy Spirit Weekend Away.” The purpose is to bring the participants into a charismatic experience. The leader “takes them through the experience of receiving the Holy Spirit.” Those who take the courses are urged to open themselves to the “slaying in the spirit” and other unscriptural experiences. The participants are taught that “tongues speaking” can be learned. They are taught to expect extra-biblical revelations from God through dreams and “words of knowledge.” THE ALPHA PROGRAM HAS BEEN USED WIDELY IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SINCE THE 1990s. There is even a Roman Catholic division of Alpha. In the edition of the *Alpha International Newsletter* that contains Warren’s 100% endorsement, Catholic priests praise Alpha after the same fashion as the “evangelical” pastor. There is a report on the activities of “Alpha for Catholics” in various parts of Asia and South America. Alpha founder Nicky Gumbel, who Warren calls his “friend,” spoke in Rome in May 2006 at the Catholic Charismatic Renewal’s 40th anniversary. Rick Warren is called “America’s pastor” for good reason. He is so shallow in his teaching, so positive in his approach, so slighting of repentance, so neglecting of unpopular doctrines such as hell and judgment, so accepting and tolerant of heresies, so soft-spoken on that nasty subject of worldliness, that apostate America can’t help but love him.

GOD BELIEVES IN “SECOND DEGREE” SEPARATION

Countless times over the years I have heard “second degree” separation mocked as unscriptural and extremist. For example, to separate from Billy Graham because he associates with modernists and Roman Catholics or to separate from Jerry Falwell or Ed Stetzer or whoever for similar associations is labeled “second degree separation.” As long as a man holds sound doctrine himself, we are not supposed to reprove him on the basis of his associations, but this is not what we see in Scripture. A prophet of God was sent to reprove the godly king Jehoshaphat solely on the basis of his wrong associations. Jehoshaphat followed the true and living God and even had enough zeal for the truth to destroy some idols, but because he joined hands with an enemy of the truth, Ahab, he was reproved sharply and judged. “And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD. Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God” (2 Chronicles 19:2-3). If Jehu the son of Hanani were to exercise his ministry of godly reproof today, he would be labeled a dangerous extremist, a trouble maker, perhaps even a “fruitless blogger.” He would be told to “take off the gloves and pick up a towel.” The “Jehoshaphat camp” would say, “Doesn’t Jehu know that Jehoshaphat is a good man who loves the Lord and does many wonderful works? Who does he think he is, a prophet of some sort?

And how many souls has this Jehu led to Christ? He’s probably jealous of the king’s good ministry.” And if Jehoshaphat were a big-name Independent Baptist leader, he would just ignore “the criticism,” stay above the fray, treat it like bubble gum, perhaps pray for Jehu to get rid of the “critical eye,” and keep his focus on God’s work.

Conclusion

Friends in Christ, do not be discouraged by any of this. 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. These things remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ day by day? “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 list. To SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/fbis/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org. David Cloud is the director of Way of Life Literature and author of the Friday Church News Notes.

IN PICTURES

CAPTAIN'S BALL FRIENDLY: AMBASSADOR VS. MARANATHA

August 6; Images courtesy Desmond Lim

We thank the LORD for another successful friendly captain's ball match against Maranatha Baptist Church. Our team of youth did an outstanding job in defending the title after a good time of the Word.

The final score: 6-5 in favour of Ambassador.



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 Christian and His Culture

IN PICTURES

BAPTISM OF SARAH JAVIER

August 7; Images courtesy Desmond Lim



Ambassador rejoices as Sis. Sarah Javier was baptized last week at Sembawang Park after her testimony of salvation was accepted by the members of ABC.

Be in prayer for Sis. Sarah as she has returned to the Philippines.

MORE TO SEE

There is more news online this week
Go to: www.ambassador-baptist.org

COUNTDOWNS

51 DAY TO
NEW SEMESTER
OF FAITH BIBLE
INSTITUTE
15 AUGUST 2011
8-10PM
PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMINGS
AND EVENT LOCATION

COMING UP • RECAP

PRAYER RETREAT

A welcome spiritual reprieve in the busy life of Singapore

PRAYER RETREAT
Dates: 7 - 9 September 2011
Venue: 38 Pasir Ris Avenue; Singapore 519705



the week at a glance

15 - 21 AUGUST 2011

15 Aug	16 Aug	17 Aug	18 Aug	19 Aug	20 Aug	21 Aug
monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
Faith Bible Institute	Outreach Efforts (Visitation Only)	Outreach Efforts (Visitation Only)		Rivers In a Dry Place	ABC Youth	Worship Service

timings

Sunday Services

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

Routine Weekly Activities

Faith Bible Institute - RESTARTING
 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

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:

Post:

P.O. Box 26
 Woodlands Post Centre
 Singapore 917340

Email:

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johnny@ambassador-baptist.org
 (pastor's email)

Facebook:

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

Twitter: @abc_singapore

prayer list

- **The new place**
- The vision of Ambassador: To Win the North for Christ!
- The various ministries
- Growth of Ambassador and its members
- Plan and Budget 2011
- Pastors for Chinese and Filipino Ministries
- More to be committed to the ministry of the Lord
- Outreach efforts
- Salvation of our families and loved ones

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.