

6 JANUARY 2013!

ambassador|baptistchurch



be ye reconciled to God
2 Corinthians 5:20

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

WHEN WE ARE OFFENDED



today's program

the **news**

hymn | *to God be the glory*

opening **prayer**

hymn | *i will praise Him*


hymn | *the fight is on*


offertory

hymn | *God is working His purpose
out*

exhortation | *pastor johnny*

invitation and closing

 Pastor Johnny Tan (johnny@ambassador-baptist.org)

 Courtesy kenjonbro, Flickr

Recompense to no man evil for evil.

Romans 12:17

This was Paul's admonition for a people oppressed by the Roman nonbelievers. As believers in the Lord Jesus, they received multiple assaults and insults from the citizens of their world. Words uttered and

actions committed in persecution of Christians are significant in the early church. Many died, lost their jobs, had their families torn up and their lives destroyed because of their faith and because of the malicious intent of their persecutors. Yet the Holy Spirit spoke to Paul as the Lord Jesus spake to those who would hear Him, saying, "recompense to no man evil for evil."

But I say unto you, That ye resist

not evil:

Matthew 5:39

As a believer in Christ, when we are insulted, bullied and criticized for our faith in the Lord Jesus, we are not to retaliate. We are not to avenge, requite or recompense (give back) wrong for the wrongs we have experienced.

continued on page 2

This is probably one of the hardest principles of the Christian life, that we do not fight back even though we have been wrongly treated, falsely accused and wickedly criticized. This is against human logic, and definitely unthinkable for some. Yet, the word of the Lord is unchanging: we are not to retaliate when evil is given to us. If we think in the flesh, we will be unable to accept this as the will of the Lord, but when we realize that we are not of this world, and that we live by a different set of logic and reason - heavenly logic and reason - then our perspective and thought will change. God's will is for this world to understand the unconditional love of the Heavenly Father. When we are saved by the power of God, His Spirit and Love is given into our hearts. He then tells us, as His children, to show this love to the people around us. This would be our obedience to the Lord, but how do we overcome the prejudice and thinking in our hearts regarding the oppressive nature of the offender?

According to the Bible, do good to the individual who did wrong to us. (Romans 12:21) This was the approach of Elisha with the armies of Syria when they came to attack Israel; this was the attitude of the Lord Jesus at the cross when He blessed them. This is the response of Christians who would remain true to Christ and His Words and His testimony.

Understand that we are acting as the child of God like our Heavenly Father when we repay good for evil.

But love ye your enemies, and do good,...and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest:

for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Luke 6:35

But it is so hard, you may say, "for the offense is great and the pain is deep." Yet, the command to forgive and not to give back wrong to the offender is Christ's command and if we love Him, we will keep His command.

Commit ourselves to the Lord

Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

1 Peter 4:19

When we suffer according to the will of God as His word has said and when we have done righteously being unable to control the situations that we are in, then we are to submit and surrender to the will of God who is to us a faithful Creator.

As we begin the new year, is there someone with whom we have not forgiven? Is there malice or strife resulting in our hearts because of some sin or some evil that has been committed? Sin is definitely grievous, and some evil can cause damage to a Christian's heart. Yet, where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Romans 5:20). Therefore, if there is, we must stop to obey God at His word, not to recompense evil for evil, but rather to do good to the individual, behaving graciously as a child of God. When we are overwhelmed, we need to go into the presence of God and commit our souls to the keeping of our Great Shepherd who is our Faithful Creator.

thought of the week

What ministry do I have that was given to me of God?

memory verse

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6

*Sunday Worship Service
6 January 2013
"Do you Realize the Treasure of the Gospel?"*

Turn to: **2 Corinthians 4:7 - 12**

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

2 Corinthians 3:18 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.

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death

Turn to: **1 Samuel 2:2 - 9**

Psalms 37:23 - 24 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Sunday Worship Service
6 January 2013
"Do you Realize the Treasure of the Gospel?"

Passage: _____

introduction

- I. What is the most important thing to you in this world? _____

- II. Every Christian has this treasure of the gospel _____

- III. Why is the gospel such a treasure?
 - A. It is the _____ of God unto salvation

 - B. It frees us from _____

 - C. It _____ us to be like our _____

 - D. It _____ us for Heaven

 - E. It helps _____ to others as we share them

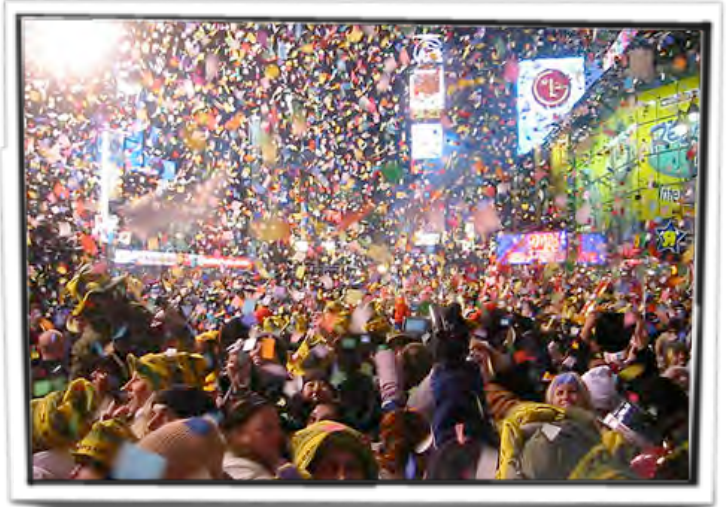
how did knowledge of the Gospel affect Paul's service to God?

- I. It helped him realize that he is _____ an _____, That God Is the _____ in the ministry.

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

WORLD PARTIES ON THE PRECIPICE OF ETERNITY

Willfully blind to the fact that mankind stands on the precipice of facing God, the world ushered in the New Year with a sensual party. A telling report in the Bangkok Post was titled “Revellers Around the World Welcome 2013.” Most capitol cities hosted alcohol- and drug-soaked New Year’s Eve parties, but the “party of parties” was in New York City, where an estimated million people gathered and another billion people watched on television and mobile devices. The Big Apple extravaganza climaxed when “the mayor, aided by a bevy of Rockettes dancers, sent the huge, glittering ball down at one minute to midnight.” The crowd went into a frenzy and partiers wished one another a happy and prosperous new year, but it was empty, meaningless emotional mysticism. All of the New Year Eve partying in the world can’t remove death and judgment or change the exclusiveness of salvation in Christ, and all of the well-wishing in the world can’t change tomorrow’s realities. “It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the



house of mirth. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools. For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 7:2-6).

AMERICA’S MORAL DAM IS BURSTING

The moral dam is bursting in American society, as witnessed by the recent national election. Colorado and Washington became the first states to legalize the possession and sale of marijuana for “recreational use,” thus moving the country toward a 24/7 dope/alcohol stupor. (Rapper Snoop Dogg recently said he smokes 81 joints or “blunts” a week and that other musicians and actors that he knows are also avid “weed” smokers.)

Marijuana is still illegal under federal law, but a major milestone has been passed, and there can be little doubt that enforcement will decrease dramatically, which is what the American people want. A USA Today poll recently found that 70% of Americans age 30 and older, including baby boomers and beyond, oppose enforcement of existing federal laws against marijuana use. Further, three states (Maine, Washington, Maryland) voted to legalize “same-sex marriage.” This is the first time that voters have directly approved a homosexual “marriage” law and it is a major milestone. When homosexuality is considered “moral” there can be no absolute basis for morality. Six other states plus the District of Columbia currently allow homosexual “marriage,” but those laws were not passed by referendum. Thirty-nine states prohibit same-sex “marriage” either by statute or constitution, but it is highly probable that the U.S. Supreme Court will eventually overturn all such laws on the basis of judicial fiat and liberal activism. The moral dam burst is evident in the dramatic change in attitude toward same-sex “marriage” over the past decade. Whereas in 2004, 42% of the citizens approved it, in 2010 that percentage had risen to 53%, and among young people 18-29, a whopping 73% approve (“Attitude Toward Gays Changing Fast,” USA Today, Dec. 6, 2012). In fact, as we have documented in the book *What Is the Emerging Church?* many so-called “evangelicals” are outspoken in their tolerance of homosexuality.

WHY AMERICA'S MORAL DAM IS BURSTING

The moral dam burst that we are witnessing in America has been a long time in developing. At a fundamental level, it began in the 19th century with theological modernism and Darwinian evolution, in fact, but it was at work dramatically even in the 1950s which is often considered the hay-day of morality and biblical Christianity in modern America. I was growing up then and America was anything but biblically moral, even in the deep South where Baptist churches were on every corner. Independent Baptists barely existed then. It was the Southern Baptists who were considered the conservatives of the conservatives, yet they weren't taking the Bible seriously. There was more a form of godliness than the true reality thereof. Kids typically went through the motions of "trusting Jesus" without a genuine conversion experience and without being true disciples of Christ, and then lived as they pleased and drank as deeply of the oncoming pop culture as they wished. It was even expected that church kids would "sow their wild oats." The humanistic philosophy was that parents shouldn't be too "strict or tight-laced." When rock & roll blasted on the scene, there was some resistance by the elders, but it was party time for the church kids and it wasn't long before the parents were rocking, too! When television and Hollywood foisted their wares on society, the U.S. churches pretty much accepted what was offered, except for the most extreme stuff, walking lock step with the world. They fussed about the moral pollution, but they stayed tuned in, nonetheless, which is a major form of soul-deadening hypocrisy. It was a Santa Claus, Easter Bunny, Disney kind of Christianity. A major thing that

was missing from "conservative" American Christianity in the 1950s and 1960s was the obedience to biblical separation. In fact, it was publicly and brashly renounced by major "evangelicals." But when God's people are the "friends of the world" they are the enemies of Christ (James 4:4), and there is no power and blessing in that path. The deep compromise that flowed from the churches effected the entire nation. For a long, long time, America's morals have been leavened by the licentious end-time philosophy (2 Timothy 3-4) promoted through the government school system, the pop-entertainment culture, the mainstream news media, judicial activism, and in many other ways.



CAMPUS CRUSADE FIRES LEADER FOR OBEYING BIBLE

The director of Campus Crusade at the University of Louisville has been fired for obeying the Bible's command that a woman is not allowed to teach men (1 Timothy 2:12). Daniel Harman was removed from his position as Missional Team Leader at the Louisville chapter of Cru (Campus Crusade's cool new name) when he refused to "carry out the ministry's policy that male and female staff share in leadership duties, including teaching the Bible" ("Cru Leader Demoted," Christian Post, Dec. 3, 2012). Harman is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and we hope that he will take a stand for God's Word in every point and honor God more than man. Campus Crusade has not held the Bible as its ultimate authority from its founding by the late Bill Bright, a pragmatist who even changed the gospel presentation in the vain idea that he could do a better job than the apostle Paul. Whereas the gospel in the book of Romans begins with the bad news of man's lost condition before a holy God, Bright wanted to make this more positive, so he began his "Four Spiritual Laws" with "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." All of that is so true, of course, but no man will flee to Christ in a saving manner unless he is first convinced that he is lost and there is no other means of salvation. The love of God cannot be understood properly apart from the holiness of God. We see this emphasis in the Bible as a whole, with a large portion being devoted to the law of God before we get to the New Testament. When I preached at an evangelistic meeting in Nepal in 1979, sponsored by Campus Crusade, I preached directly from Romans and spent a time building a proper foundation for the gospel by showing man's lost condition and his frightful standing under



God's wrath. Paul continues on this theme for nearly three chapters before he mentions the grace of God and the justification that is available in Christ toward the end of Romans 3. After I preached at that underground meeting (gospel preaching was illegal in Nepal in those days), the national head of Campus Crusade told me that my preaching was "too negative" and that they liked a more positive, upbeat approach! I reminded the man that I was preaching directly from Romans and that I didn't write that book! It was the first in a long series of conflicts that I had as a young missionary with compromising, pragmatic New Evangelicals and Charismatics that formed the national "evangelical" church fellowship at that time and that within a year or so led to a complete rupture between us (thank the Lord!), with them condemning me at an

ecclesiastical trial as a "divider of the body of Christ in Nepal." I was condemned in a letter that was sent to all of the churches. The issues between us weren't complicated, nor were they light matters. They pertained to such things as whether the Bible is to be literally interpreted and whether it is to be the absolute and sole authority for faith and practice. They pertained to such things as the gospel itself and how to present it, God's standards for church leaders (one of their pastors was a polygamist who had three wives and another operated a bookstore that sold pornography), the nature of apostolic gifts, the eternal security of a born-again child of God, and the role of women in ministry. The experience provided a great, practical education for me on the character of modern evangelicalism and the importance of biblical separation.

BRINGING BACK THE VULTURES

The Zoroastrians of the Parsi community in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India, are preparing to bring back the vultures to feed on their dead. Their ancient custom has been to reject both burial and cremation and rather to lay their dead outside to be consumed by the buzzards. The vultures disappeared 15 years ago by a combination of factors and after six years of negotiations the government has agreed to fund the restoration of the birds at a cost of \$5 million. In the past, when India had as many as 400 million vultures, the bodies were consumed quickly, but over the past decades they have been disappearing due to the prolific use of the diclofenac painkiller which causes kidney failure in the birds and other causes. The Parsis own a 54-acre sanctuary in the heart of Mumbai where they operate three Towers of Silence for the disposal of the dead, with a separate section each for males, females, and children. The disposal of the body is a spiritual and religious issue, though typically it is no longer thought to be so in secularized Western society. The Bible enjoins the burial of the dead and provides the example of burial from Abraham to Jesus, because the Bible teaches bodily resurrection. The body is "planted" in the likeness of a seed with the faith that Christ will raise that individual from the dead (1 Corinthians 15). Hindus cremate the body because they don't believe in resurrection; they believe in reincarnation and the transmigration of the soul from one body to another. See the report "Cremation: What Does God Think" at the Way of Life web site.



THE CREEPING CULTURE OF DEATH

That euthanasia is a slippery slope is obvious in the following report: "Belgium Looks at Euthanasia for Minors, Alzheimer's Sufferers," AFP, Dec. 18, 2012. Belgium's euthanasia law is only ten years old, and already it is being extended to ages younger than 18 and to Alzheimer's patients. "Belgium is considering a significant change to its decade-old euthanasia law that would allow minors and Alzheimer's sufferers to seek permission to die. The proposed changes to the law were submitted to parliament Tuesday by the Socialist party and are likely to be approved by other parties, although no date has yet been put forward for a parliamentary debate. ... The draft legislation calls for 'the law to be extended to minors if they are capable of discernment or affected by an incurable illness or suffering that we cannot alleviate.' Belgium was the second country in the world after the Netherlands to legalise euthanasia in 2002 but it applies only to people over the age of 18. Socialist Senator Philippe Mahoux, who helped draft the proposed changes, said there had been cases of adolescents who 'had the capacity to decide' their future. He said parliamentarians would also consider extended mercy-killing to people suffering from Alzheimer's-type illnesses. Euthanasia was allowed to an Alzheimer's patient for the first time in the Netherlands last year."



THE RESURRECTION FERN

The resurrection fern is an air plant that is common in the southeastern part of the United States, but grows as far north as New York and as far west as Texas. Typically it attaches itself to the branches of large trees such as live oaks and draws nutrients from the air and from the tree's bark. It gets its name from the fact that God has designed it to survive long periods of drought by appearing nearly dead and then springing to life when a rain comes. In the absence of water, its attractive, bright green leaves wither up and turn brownish. On a visit to the Myrkaa State Park in Florida in December 2012, the resurrection fern was in its "dead mode." I took a photo of it in that condition on a particular tree branch then poured several bottles of water on it. When I returned the next morning, it had resurrected! This fascinating, and exceedingly complicated plant (imagine what is happening at the cellular level to allow this plant to live, survive, and reproduce), is a reminder

that Jesus, the Son of God, rose from the dead the third day after His sacrifice whereby He was punished in the sinner's place to purchase eternal salvation for those who receive Him as Lord and Saviour. God's world is filled to the brim with testimonies of His power and wisdom for those who have eyes to see. When I travel to beautiful places in various parts of the world, which I have the great privilege to do frequently, I can enjoy everything the unbeliever enjoys (sin excluded), such as the scenery and the facilities, but I have so much more enjoyment on so many different levels because of God's enlightenment. I can see and marvel at His handiwork and praise Him for His character, because I know Him personally. I see clearly what is happening today, and I also see the future through God's Word. I understand that this present world is nothing compared to that which is to come. I can meditate upon that world and my place in it!



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.

"Discouragement is dissatisfaction with the past, distaste for the present, and distrust of the future. It is ingratitude for the blessings of yesterday, indifference to the opportunities of today, and insecurity regarding strength for tomorrow. It is unawareness of the presence of beauty, unconcern for the needs of our fellowman, and unbelief in the promises of old. It is impatience with time, immaturity of thought, and impoliteness to God."

William Ward

II. It preserved his heart to _____ Christ though they were severely _____ and _____

III. It ensured that the life of Christ is constantly _____ in him as he _____ to himself.

A. When we would _____ to ourselves for the sake of Christ, it ensures that the _____ of Christ can be made evident, can be seen, and will bring life to others.

B. In order for life to come forth, there must be firstly a _____

C. There _____ be spiritual life coming forth _____ death

personal reflection and application

COMING UP • CHURCH EVENTS

Fasting and Prayer

 Courtesy C Jill Reed, Flickr

"Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance."

Ezra 8:21



Like Ezra, who sought the Lord first as Jerusalem and the Temple were about to be rebuilt, we must also seek God's will and power before we face the year ahead.

Ambassador will be fasting and praying before it embarks on the year's activities. We encourage you to join us!

"Prayer and Fasting"

12 January 2013

10AM-2PM

"If you have a medical condition or are otherwise unsure whether you should participate, please get in touch with Pastor Johnny."

6 more days...

THE VISION AND MISSION OF AMBASSADOR

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

COMING UP • FAMILIES

Parent Support Group

"Leading our children to Faith in Christ"

19 January 2013

3PM-5PM

On the day...

*Prayer
Topic Sharing
General Sharing
Refreshments*

13 more days...

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

11 January 2013

Ambassador has a business meeting scheduled on 11 January 2013.

All members are formally requested to be present as several outstanding issues need to be discussed and decided on. For queries, get in touch with Pastor; contact details may be found on page 8

7-13 JANUARY 2013

ambassador**baptistchurch**



"...we are reconciled to God"
1 Corinthians 5:20

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
Faith Bible Institute	Outreach Efforts (SEM)	Outreach Efforts (YIS)		Rivers in a Dry Place	ABC Youth	Sunday Worship Service Mandarin Service

"FBI remains on term break"

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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Twitter: @abc_singapore

weekly activities

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

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

Outreach Efforts

SEMBAWANG
Person-in-Charge: Bro. Robert
Tuesdays, 08:15PM

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

prayer requests

- **For wisdom as we prepare to move to our new facility**
- The various ministries
- **For God's leadership in the transition of Ambassador Baptist Church to a Discipleship church**
- For direction and unity in the training of Discipleship Group Leaders and other areas of training
- Souls to be saved, baptized and added to the church in 2013
- Bro. Terry's palliative care.
- ABC Biblical doctrines manual

the new testament in 4 months

- 7 JAN** Romans 8-9
- 8 JAN** Romans 10-13
- 9 JAN** Romans 14-16
- 10 JAN** 1 Cor 1-4
- 11 JAN** 1 Cor 5-8
- 12 JAN** 1 Cor 9-11
- 13 JAN** 1 Cor 12-14