

10 MARCH 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

from the pastor's heart

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from the pastor's heart

FAILING OF THE GRACE OF GOD



today's program

the **news**

hymn | *verily, verily*

opening **prayer**

hymn | *heaven came down*

hymn | *the haven of rest*

offertory

hymn | *this is my Father's world*

exhortation | *pastor Johnny*

invitation and closing

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

 Courtesy Jefferson Edrio, Flickr

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Hebrews 12:15

There are many disgruntled, hurt, bitter, disillusioned and

angry people in this world. Many have gone through situations where a remark was made, an action misplaced or a misunderstanding occurred that led to the problem. Sadly, many Christians are also in this category of being disgruntled, hurt, bitter, disillusioned and angry. For the unbeliever without the part of Christ in his life, he is

doomed to this condemnation of what such feelings can do to an individual. Many are depressed, antisocial, drunkards, or abusers of their families. However, God provides a Christian the remedy for these spiritual ailments - His grace. Paul highlights the reason why

continued on page 2

some believers are no longer walking with God.

They fail of the grace of God. God's grace is given to us in every situation to meet every need. There is no need for God to do so because we are sinners, and unwilling to submit to Him, but He still provides the grace, help, resources and abilities that we need to get through each trial and test. Yet, many believers fail and fall short of fully allowing God's grace to intervene and assist them to overcome the stress and weakness in their lives. A tragedy happens and their hearts lament and ask the Lord, "Why it must happen to me?" This is normal. However, they begin to be angry at God, and they ask themselves now, "Why?" There is a choice in this situation: believe the Lord has a plan and continue in the faith, or be bitter in the tragedy. It may be during this time of thinking and decision that a message comes through a struggling Christian's mobile phone to encourage him to trust in the Lord; a friend, who after listening, tells him to trust in the Lord and to pray; when he reaches home, his daughter shouts "Dada!" and throws herself into his arms. God would have provided three avenues for this Christian to experience His grace, but if he is unable to see this, he has failed of the grace of God.

A root of bitterness will spring up within you.

When a trial surfaces that forces us to decide against God's will and word, we will (at that moment) fail to realize God's provision for assisting our escape. A root of bitterness can grow within you. This root of bitterness manifests itself in rejecting people, being irritable and unfriendly, or it can lead to hypocrisy as we know what is right but we are adamant to go the opposite way of truth. It is rooted in selfishness, pride, unforgiveness and a failure to trust the Heavenly Father.

Many will be defiled.

The saddest and most glaring part of these verses speaks of a time when we are unable to control ourselves in submission to the grace of the Lord and we become bitter. This bitterness springing out of us will defile many people. The word "defile" means "to contaminated a life." Though unintentional, our carrying of our bitterness will ultimately affect someone else in our families, our lives, the place we work in and everyone will meet.

Believer, do realize God's grace is available every moment of the day for us? May we learn to depend on Him and pay attention to the grace He offers.

thought of the week

If we will only think, we shall begin to thank.

Spurgeon

memory verse

When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Ezekiel 3:18

Sunday Worship Service

10 March 2013

"The Responsibility of the Recipient of God's Grace"

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

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.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

Turn to: **Luke 17:11 - 19**

Turn to: **Ephesians 4:25 - 32**

Turn to: **Galatians 5:19 - 21**

Turn to: **Ephesians 2:2 - 3**

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Daniel 5:20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:

Acts 12:23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

Matt 18:34 - 35 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Sunday Worship Service

10 March 2013

"The Responsibility of the Recipient of God's Grace"

Passage: _____

introduction

- I. God's _____
- II. God's _____
- III. God _____ us from glory to glory
- IV. God's promise of _____ after service in this world
- V. God's promise of _____
- VI. God's promise of _____ us as we separate from the sins of this world and this world
- VII. It is not just enough to receive God's grace, there must be a _____, a _____ of _____, a response of _____

what is the proper response and responsibility of a recipient of God's grace?

- I. We are to _____ ourselves from _____ of the _____
 - A. Filthiness of the flesh is _____
- II. We are to _____ ourselves from _____ of the _____

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES



spoke frequently in church contexts; but she rejects the “negatives” of the biblical faith such as the fall of man and redemption only through Calvary. She uses biblical terms but defines them according to the New Age dictionary. On a show with Shirley MacLaine, Oprah said that being born again is the same as being “connected to the higher Self” and that “ask and it shall be given” is the same as seeking answers from your “intuitive Self” (“The Gospel according to Oprah,” *Vantage Point*, July 1998). Oprah’s 2005 book *Live Your Best Life* promotes her philosophy that everything is one, man is divine, and man can create his own reality. Her gospel is that man is *not* a sinner, God is *not* a judge, all is well with the universe, and I just need to surrender to the *flow*. She encourages people to meditate and pray, but it doesn’t matter to what or whom you pray: “to God or to *Glorious Future* or to *All that is Divine* or to *All that is Love*,” or whatever. She says that gurus are here “not to teach us about their divinity but to teach us about our own” (Wendy Kaminer, “Why We Love Gurus,” *Newsweek*, Oct. 20, 1997). On a *Lifeclass* program in April 2012, Oprah said, “There is a force energy consciousness divine thread, I believe, that connects spiritually to all of us, to something greater than ourselves” (“Oprah,” *Christian Post*, Oct. 16, 2012). Oprah has paraded a steady stream of New Age gurus before her gullible audience, including Della Reese, Shirley MacLaine, John Edward, Wayne Dyer, Shakti Gawain, Raymond Moody, Marilyn Ferguson, Betty Eadie, Sarah Breathnach, Debbie Ford, M. Scott Peck, Esther Hicks, Jack Canfield, John Gray, Eric Butterworth, Caroline Myss, Maya Angelou, Marianne Williamson, Eckhart Tolle, and Deepak Chopra. Rick Warren, of course, did not say anything in reproof of Oprah’s gross heresies and blasphemies, and that is unconscionable.

On February 24, Rick Warren appeared for the second time on Oprah Winfrey’s *Lifeclass* to discuss life’s purpose. As he did in his appearance on Ted Talks, Warren did not mention sin, repentance, the cross, or the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Instead, he dished out a big helping of the power of positive thinking, which is not surprising since this is Oprah’s main theme and she wouldn’t have invited him had she thought that he would preach a clear gospel message. Winfrey is one of the most influential promoters of New Age heresy in the world today, and yet she also claims to be a Christian, a Baptist nonetheless. She often talks about her upbringing and how the church shaped her life, but she blends Christian faith with pagan spirituality. She was raised in a Baptist church in Mississippi, the daughter of a deacon. After a rebellious youth she “repented” and joined a Baptist church in Nashville and

53 CHRISTIANS ARRESTED BY SAUDI RELIGIOUS POLICE

The following is excerpted from “Saudi Arabia,” AsiaNews.it, Feb. 20, 2013: “Saudi Arabia has arrested 53 Ethiopian Christians--46 women and six men--for holding a prayer meeting in a private home. Police officials have sealed the house and taken the faithful away, accusing the three religious leaders present of attempting to convert Muslims to Christianity. The incident occurred at Dammam, the capital of the Eastern Province of the Kingdom, and dates to February 8, but local sources linked to the *World Evangelical Alliance's Religious Liberty Commission* (WEA-RLC) recently reported the news. ... Saudi Arabia does not recognize, or protect, any religious expression other than Islam. The religious police (muttawa) carries out controls to eliminate the presence of Bibles, rosaries, Crosses and Christian assemblies. And even if the royal family allows religious practices other than Islam, at least in private, muttawa agents tend not to differentiate.”

INTERNET EDGES TELEVISION NETWORKS AS PUBLIC SOURCE FOR NEWS

The following is excerpted from *The Washington Examiner*, Feb. 28, 2013: “A new Rasmussen Reports poll finds that traditional network news continues to fall as the nation’s source for news. The internet now is a bigger source of news for Americans than network TV, by a point, 25 percent to 24 percent. Cable TV is still king, with 32 percent of the 1,000 likely voters Rasmussen polled getting their news from that

source. Newspapers barely register a 10 percent, and radio is the source of news for 7 percent of the country. The poll gauged how well the public trusted the media and if they see a bias. On both fronts, it is bad news. Just 6 percent of the nation considers the national media ‘very trustworthy,’ and nearly half believe reporters are more liberal than they are, said Rasmussen.”



OBAMA JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ARGUES THAT CHILDREN DO NOT NEED MOTHERS AND FATHERS

The following is excerpted from CNSNews.com, March 3, 2013: "The Obama Justice Department is arguing in the United States Supreme Court that children do not need mothers. The Justice Department's argument on the superfluity of motherhood is presented in a brief the Obama administration filed in the case of *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, which challenges the constitutionality of Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative that amended California's Constitution to say that marriage involves only one man and one woman. The Justice Department presented its conclusions about parenthood in rebutting an argument made by proponents of Proposition 8 that the traditional two-parent family, led by both a mother and a father, was the ideal place, determined even by nature itself, to raise a child. The Obama administration argues this is not true. It argues that children need neither a father nor a mother and that having two fathers or two mothers is just as good as having one of each. ... To support this argument, one of the documents the administration cites is a 'policy statement' by the American Psychological Association. This statement claims that some studies indicate same-sex parents might be 'superior' to mother-and-father families, but then concedes there is little actual data on the results of raising children in two-father households."



CONCLUDING REMARKS BY D. CLOUD: The Declaration of Independence says that men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." The Creator that the founding fathers and the fledgling nation believed in is the Creator that "made them male and female" and that established marriage on the basis of one man and one woman. He is the Creator that established natural law which requires a male and a female to produce a child. Homosexuals cannot overthrow God's established order; they can only rebel against it and and rail at the God who designed it and persecute those who believe in Him. Yet this is the very God that loves them and would save them if they would repent of their sin, but there is no salvation without repentance, as Jesus said, "... but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). This is true for all sinners. Before the thrice holy God, "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) and all need salvation.

APPLE, INTEL, OTHER COMPANIES ARGUE FOR "SAME SEX MARRIAGE"

More than 60 large corporations have filed a "friend of the court" brief asking the Supreme Court to overturn state-level bans to "same sex marriage" in America. These include Apple, Morgan Stanley, Intel, Facebook, Alcoa, eBay, NCR, Nike, Oracle, Office Depot, Panasonic, Qualcomm, Xerox, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Barnes & Noble ("Apple's Backing Puts Gay-Marriage Focus," *Bloomberg*, Feb. 27, 2013). The brief was filed in lieu of the Supreme Court's March 26 review of California's Proposition 8, a ballot initiative that halted "gay marriage" in that state. In Luke 17:28-32, Jesus likened the end of the church age to the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, which is a reference to brash and aggressive homosexuality (Genesis 19:4-7). In addition to Christ's mention of Sodom in Luke 17, it is mentioned three other times in the New Testament in reference to the end times (2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7; Revelation 11:8). It is therefore a major sign of the times that the spirit of "homosexual pride" has swept across the world like wildfire in the past 25 years. "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they

did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:28-30).



MASSACHUSETTS ALLOWS BOYS TO USE GIRLS RESTROOMS



The Massachusetts Department of Education has issued a directive stating that public schools “must allow boys and girls who identify as the opposite sex to utilize whichever restroom and/or locker room they feel most comfortable using, and they don’t need a doctor’s note to do so” (“Boys Allowed in Girls’ Restrooms,” Baptist Press, March 1, 2013). When homosexuals are given their rights, everyone else loses theirs. The Massachusetts Department of Education supports confused young people who don’t know what sex they are, but they care nothing about the girls and young women who will be offended by having someone of the opposite sex gawking at them and exposing themselves to them with the full backing of the state. We would say to the Massachusetts Department of Education that there is an Almighty God who “made them male and female” and to whom they are accountable and who cares not a whit about the views of this foolish pop culture. “The wise *men* are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom *is* in them?” (Jeremiah 8:9).

THE INTERNET AND SHALLOW THINKING



the Internet are great, but much is also being given up. Lawrence Weschler, director of the New York Institute for the Humanities at New York University, puts it like this: “As a writer of articles and books, I go to great pains to pace my argument, choosing my words exactly and layering the progression of my argument, feathering in subtle rhymes and the like. And I don’t appreciate it when somebody comes divebombing in from out of the cloud for a few choice phrases and, whiz-bang, is already gone. And nor should you, as a reader of articles and books, imagine that you are engaging anywhere near the full force of my or anyone else’s argument when you come careering in and out like that” (Lawrence Weschler, “And Yet ... And Yet,” *Popular Science*, Nov. 4, 2011). One of the reasons why the average independent Baptist church is weak and is a prime candidate for being overcome by the emerging church within a generation or two is that so few of the members are serious readers. This has resulted in great ignorance pertaining to issues that should be well understood but are not understood due to laziness and neglect of reading and study. It has been said that the man who doesn’t read is no better off than the man who can’t read. Of course, it is just as important to read the right material as it is to read at all.

One of the many dangers of the Internet is that it encourages surfing, dabbling, and shallowness, both of research and thinking, reading in bits and pieces without depth and a solid sense of context. All of this is in contrast to the “book learning” approach. While you can do “bits and pieces” type of study with books, they lend themselves more to deeper reading and contemplation. The benefits of

THE SHEPHERD GOVERNMENT

The following is excerpted from *Democracy in America* by Alex de Tocqueville, 1835. It is an amazing prophecy of the U.S. government and every other western “democratic” government in the early 21st century:

“Above this race of men stands an immense and tutelary power, which takes upon itself alone to secure their gratifications and to watch over their fate. That power is absolute, minute, regular, provident, and mild. It would be like the authority of a parent if, like that authority, its object was to prepare men for manhood; but it seeks, on the



contrary, to keep them in perpetual childhood: it is well content that the people should rejoice, provided they think of nothing but rejoicing. For their happiness such a government willingly labors, but it chooses to be the sole agent and the only arbiter of that happiness; it provides for their security, foresees and supplies their necessities, facilitates their pleasures, manages their principal concerns, directs their industry, regulates the descent of property, and subdivides their inheritances: what remains, but to spare them all the care of thinking and all the

trouble of living? Thus it every day renders the exercise of the free agency of man less useful and less frequent; it circumscribes the will within a narrower range and gradually robs a man of all the uses of himself. The principle of equality has prepared men for these things; it has predisposed men to endure them and often to look on them as benefits. After having thus successively taken each member of the community in its powerful grasp and fashioned him at will, the supreme power then extends its arm over the whole community. IT COVERS THE SURFACE OF SOCIETY WITH A NETWORK OF SMALL COMPLICATED RULES, MINUTE AND UNIFORM, THROUGH WHICH THE MOST ORIGINAL MINDS AND THE MOST ENERGETIC

CHARACTERS CANNOT PENETRATE, TO RISE ABOVE THE CROWD. THE WILL OF MAN IS NOT SHATTERED, BUT SOFTENED, BENT, AND GUIDED; MEN ARE SELDOM FORCED BY IT TO ACT, BUT THEY ARE CONSTANTLY RESTRAINED FROM ACTING. Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents existence; it does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes, and stupefies a people, TILL EACH NATION IS REDUCED TO NOTHING BETTER THAN A FLOCK OF TIMID AND INDUSTRIOUS ANIMALS, OF WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS THE SHEPHERD” (Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*).

LIFTING THE CURSE

“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1). “For six thousand years the earth has been under the original curse. The earth is a deep and fruitful matrix. It is filled with seed. It is ever in travail, ever it seeks to bring to the birth. Were it not restrained and hindered and held in check it would bring forth in such abundance that neither ache of back nor sweat of brow would be required to reap and eat and drink of all the wealth of bounty it could bestow. But God ordained its fruitfulness should be limited. The sin of man brought the seed of woe and filled earth’s flanks with evil and with poisonous things. Henceforth there should be weeds and briars and thorns and trailing vines to strangle and choke the good seed, to dwarf and kill the fruit. No care is needed for these hindering things. Weeds and thorns and poisonous vines will come up in the night. They will grow in the desert and flourish in the flinty rock; but if you would have the good seed grow, you must toil and labor and water it with your sweat and encourage its tardy growth with your painful care. Rain or drought, chill winds and frost will little hinder the worthless thorns and weeds; but the good seed must be shielded from burning sun, from torrential rain, from mildew, from blast, from east winds that blow unwelcome storms and from insects which like heartless marauders, like the enemy in the dark, go forth to spoil with bite and sting the hoped-for, toiled-for yield. But in the new day when Christ comes the ban will, indeed, be lifted, and then will the desert blossom as the rose, the orchards will bend low with freighted fruit, the vines will hang their purple clusters in the sun, the earth shall be as the Paradise of God, and man its happy keeper” (I.M. Haldeman, *Ten Sermons on the Second Coming*, 1916, p. 191).



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.

A. What is the filthiness of the Spirit? It has the principle of any _____ and _____ within an individual.

B. Stains in your Spirit:

1. W _____

2. P _____

3. U _____

4. B _____

5. C _____

III. We are to _____ in the _____ of God

A. Our lives need to be daily lived by God's _____, by His _____ and for His _____ so that our lives will continually be like the _____

personal application and reflection

COMING UP • CHURCH EVENTS

March Evangelistic Outreach

While we don't know when exactly Christ was crucified, buried and risen again, Ambassador uses the holiday season to reach lost souls for Christ.

This year, we walk through the course of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ with a series of services that are designed to reach out to those who need to hear the important Gospel message the most.

Join us and invite your family and friends!



The Life of Christ

29 March 2013 (Good Friday)

Filipino Outreach

30 March 2013

The Death of Death

31 March 2013 (Easter Sunday)

11AM - 1PM

19 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."

IN BRIEF

Books for the library



A library system has been created for church books to be used responsibly. If you would like to give your Christian books to this collection, please deposit them into the box outside the children's room. Your contribution will help others learn and grow in their Christian lives.

New facility

Be in prayer for the new facility as the church works to satisfy the Urban Redevelopment Authority's requirements. The church is currently exploring several options of tenants to lease the facility from as prescribed by the Authority.



11 - 17 MARCH 2013

ambassador**baptist**church



"Be 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

"All activities running normally"

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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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

- MAR 11** Mark 9
- MAR 12** Mark 10-11
- MAR 13** Mark 12-13
- MAR 14** Mark 14
- MAR 15** Mark 15-16
- MAR 16** Luke 1
- MAR 17** Luke 2-3