19 MAY 2013



## be ye **reconciled** to God

the weekly digest of ambassador baptistchurch

from the pastor's heart

## UNITED IN MIND IN CHRIST, **UNITED TO PRAISE OUR GOD**





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



Courtesy Tobias Wolter

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5 - 6

In the midst of human relationships, there will be conflicts and disagreements. In our response to such conflicts and disagreements, we need the patience of God in our lives to respond in a way that will glorify Him. Proper response to human conflicts need supernatural help. When we fail to realize this, we fail in

## find.it

from the pastor's heart

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sermon materials

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Bible-reading schedule

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## today'sprogram

the news

**hymn** | o worship the King

opening prayer

**hymn** | leaning on the everlasting

**hymn** | surely goodness and mercy

offertory

**hymn** | all i ever need is found in

Thee

**exhortation** | pastor Johnny

invitation and closing

our human relationships. Paul's prayer for the church at Rome and the Christian assembly there is three-fold.

Strive to have the same mind

Like-mindedness require effort and God's patience, does it not? Yet, it is the meaning of

continued on page 2

## from the pastor's heart

the inspired word of God, that we exercise to be likeminded. Because of the sinfulness of our natures, our understanding is darkened, we are unable to fully understand all aspects of a situation, we are unable to fully understand the viewpoint of the other, and we are unable to therefore think of an appropriate response. We need to exercise humility and a heart to seek the Lord for the same opinion so that the church of God can be united for His glory.

This sameness of mind must be according to Christ Jesus. Human unity and likemindedness does not produce the desired fruit of godly unity. There must be an agreement on the fundamentals for the Biblical faith: that the Bible is the final authority on all matters of faith and practice (2) Timothy 3:16), that the Lord Jesus is God (John 1:1,14), we are His church and assembly, and therefore we are to do His bidding (Acts 20:28). We are all members of the same body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:28) and are to help and to hold, to live for and to lighten the load (Galatians 6:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:18). We are all brethren and, therefore, if there are any conflicts, our minds should be to immediately reconcile (Colossians 3:13) and forgiveness. Personal opinion and fleshly wisdom only bring division and strife. Heavenly wisdom is easy to be entreated and, therefore, the oneness of mind is quickly formed.

The oneness of mind, produces corporate unity in worship. Unity in an assembly's worship is one of the many things that bring glory to Christ and our Heavenly Father. It shows His control and rule in the congregation, that all the members are in subjection to Him. The heart of every Christian is tender and sensitive to the Holy Spirit and plays the tunes of life and unity by the wand of the Holy influence of Christ. Just as a wave of the an orchestral conductor's hand causes the different musical instruments to play a harmonious tune, our Godly unity is pleasing to His ears and acceptable to Him. This glorifies God because it also honours His name among the Gentiles - nonbelievers - that the people of God should love one another much. By this shall all men know that we are His disciples.

Lord, we pray as an assembly of God, in the North of Singapore, as Ambassadors of Your light and love of the Gospel, that we will be of one mind and one heart and with one mouth glorify You among non-believers. Let it be so, Lord, for your glory.

thought of the week

memory verse

We've been blessed to be a blessing

We've been loved to give His love

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered

Proverbs 28:26

Sunday Worship Service 19 May 2013 "The Blessing of Giving"

Turn to: 2 Corinthians 9: 9 - 15

**Matthew 10:8** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

**Luke 12:33** Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

**1 Corinthians 16:2** Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

**Acts 20:35** I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.)

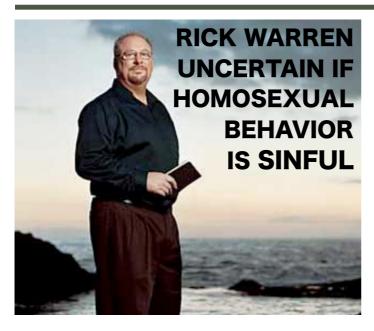
**2 Corinthians 9:6** But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

## sermon notes: personal notes

Sunday Worship Service

|      | May 2013<br>e Blessing of Giving"  |
|------|--|
| Pas  | sage:  |
|      |  |
| int  | croduction   |
| l.   | It is a from God to  |
| II.  | But God wants us to be to this instruction                                 |
| III. | It is also a give  |
| IV.  | Giving can involve   |
| ٧.   | There are two types of giving  |
|      | A. Obligatory giving: because you to                                       |
|      | B. Willing giving: because we to   |
|      |  |
| wh   | at is the blessing of giving?  |
| l.   | The blessing of giving is that your act of giving will always be (verse 9) |
|      |  |
| II.  | The blessing of giving is that as you give, you needs will be (verse 10)   |
|      |  |
| III. | The blessing of giving is as we sow, the seed sown will be (verse          |
|      | 10b)   |

## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES



The following is excerpted from "Rick Warren Says 'Gays' Go to Heaven," *Christian News*, Nov. 29, 2012: "Controversy is stirring over recent comments made by Rick Warren, author of the best-selling book *The Purpose-Driven Life* and megachurch leader of Saddleback Church in California, who stated that homosexual behavior 'might be' sinful, and that he believes homosexuals go to Heaven. ... During an interview this week with the *Huffington Post*, Warren was asked by Marc Lamont Hill if having romantic feelings for a member of the same sex is a sin. ... 'No, it's not a sin to love somebody,' Warren said. 'It might be a sin to have sex with them,' he added. 'It

might be.' ... Later during the interview, when Hill asked Warren if he believes homosexuals will go to Hell, he replied that they will not. 'No, not because they're gay,' he said. 'We go to Hell because we choose to reject the grace of God.' When Hill asked what happens to a homosexual that accepts Jesus, Warren responded enthusiastically. 'He's going to Heaven!' he declared. 'Without a doubt.' ... Peter LaBarbera, the president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality ... stated that he was shocked at Rick Warren's comments. 'You don't want to give the impression that it's fine and dandy to live the homosexual lifestyle and as long as I believe in Jesus, I can still go to Heaven,' he said. 'It's one thing to have attractions and [fight] that, [and another to embrace homosexual behavior].' ... 'When you accept Christ, your behavior changes,' LaBarbera said. 'And the attitude is [people like Warren] don't want to talk about changes. ... We know that God changes homosexuals, so why isn't Rick Warren saying that?' ... What part of Romans 1 doesn't Rick Warren understand? It's so clear,' he said. 'When you make statements like these, you end up losing the Biblical sense, and the Biblical sense is that this is an abomination.' ... LaBarbera said that Warren should not only have called homosexual behavior sin, but should have gone deeper to the root issue. 'It's also sinful to lust after another man,' LaBarbera said. 'We can't advocate sin as believers, and we have to think about how that the person that's struggling with homosexuality is going to hear this."

# PENTAGON MAY COURT MARTIAL SOLDIERS WHO SHARE CHRISTIAN FAITH

The following is excerpted from "Pentagon Confirms May Court Martial," Breitbart, May 1, 2013: "The Pentagon has released a statement confirming that soldiers could be prosecuted for promoting their faith: 'Religious proselytization is not permitted within the Department of Defense ... Court martials and non-judicial punishments are decided on a case-by-case basis...' The statement, released to Fox News, follows a Breitbart News report on Obama administration Pentagon appointees meeting with anti-Christian extremist Mikey Weinstein to develop court-martial procedures to punish Christians in the military who



# PENTAGON MAY COURT MARTIAL SOLDIERS WHO SHARE CHRISTIAN FAITH

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express or share their faith. (From our earlier report: Weinstein is the head of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, and says Christians--including chaplains-sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in the military are guilty of 'treason,' and of committing an act of 'spiritual rape' as serious a crime as 'sexual assault.' He also asserted that Christians sharing their faith in the military are 'enemies of the Constitution.') Being convicted in a court martial means that a soldier has committed a crime under federal military law. Punishment for a court martial can include imprisonment and being dishonorably discharged from the military. So President Barack Obama's civilian appointees who lead the Pentagon are confirming that the military will make it a crime--possibly resulting in imprisonment--for those in uniform to share their faith. This would include chaplains—military officers who are ordained clergymen of their faith (mostly Christian pastors or priests, or Jewish rabbis)--whose duty since the founding of the U.S. military under George Washington is to teach their faith and minister to the spiritual needs of troops who come to them for counsel, instruction, or comfort."

# THREE MILLION YEAR-OLD CAMEL TISSUE FOUND



More soft tissue has been discovered among creatures that are supposedly millions of years old. This time it is an ancient camel that was found in Canada's high Arctic. The Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa claims that it is 3.5 million years old, but the remains are mummified, not fossilized, and fragments of collagen are preserved ("Ancient Arctic camel a curious conundrum," Fox News, March 5, 2013). In 2008, a "2million-year-old" fossil ape was discovered in Malapa, South Africa, with skin attached. That same year BBC News reported on fossil feathers that have retained their biological pigment colors. In 2009, researchers reconstituted dried ink from a "150 million-year-old" fossil squid's ink sac. That was also the year of the discovery of Darwinius masillae, an alleged 47million-year-old missing link with preserved soft tissue. A mosasaur fossil (a 40-foot-long marine reptile) at the Dinosaur Institute of the National History Museum of Los Angeles County, supposedly millions of years old, has retina pigment, dried blood residue, and "preservation of skin structures from all parts of the body." In 2011 PLoS ONE reported a "34-million-year" old cuttlefish fossil with organic chitin remaining in the cuttlebone. Other researchers found chitin in a scorpion that is supposedly hundreds of millions of years old. Scientists studying these discoveries admit they don't know how it is possible for biomaterial to last millions of years. Professor Mike Benton of the University of Bristol asks, "How do you square that with the wellknown FACT that the majority of organic molecules decay in thousands of years?" ("Fossil Feathers Reveal

Their Hues," *BBC News*, July 8, 2008). The only answer they have is that since they KNOW that the fossils are millions of years old, it must therefore be possible for biomaterial to last millions of years, even though this goes against known FACTS! This isn't science; it's circular reasoning; it's myth making. In fact, the soft tissue is evidence *against* the evolutionary dating scheme and supports a young earth position, because laboratory studies have consistently shown that even well-preserved collagen should turn to dust in 30,000 years.

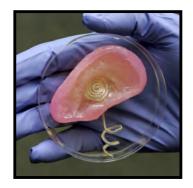
## **KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE**

About 2,500 years ago, during the Persian Empire, an angel told the prophet Daniel, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). We are seeing a dramatic fulfillment of this in our day. Recent inventions include the following: (1)



Research into graphene is increasing dramatically with large potential for commercial applications. Though the material was only identified in 2004, more than 7,000 patents have been filed. Graphene, a

single layer of carbon atoms, is the thinnest material ever made by man. Said to be stronger than diamond, more conductive than copper, and as flexible as rubber, graphene holds huge promise for a host of applications from IT to energy to medicine ("Graphene," BBC News, Jan. 15, 2013).



(2)A replacement living ear is about three years away from reality. The bioengineered ear is made by printing a 3D mold of an ear and then filling it with living cow ear cells and collagen ("3D-printed Ear Created in Lab," Fox News, Feb.

21, 2003). Jason Spector, with Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, says the process takes less than two days and it could be

possible to implant one in a human in as few as three years. (3) Nano body parts can be reproduced the same way using a newly announced microscopic 3D printer. Produced by the German company Nanoscribe GmbH, the printer can make three-dimensional objects smaller than the width of a human hair quickly with maximum resolution ("The world's fastest microscopic 3D printer," Fox News, Feb. 20, 2013). "Printing three-dimensional objects in such incredibly fine detail opens up many areas in which it could be useful, ranging from defense to medicine. For biomedical technology or nanotechnology, the 3D printer could be used to create tailor-made construction parts."

**(4)** Brain scans can tell what a person is thinking. Brain imagining technology (functional magnetic resonance imaging) is making great strides and can now identify what number people have just seen, what memory they are recalling, and can even reconstruct videos of what a person has watched ("Your Brain Scans," *Business Insider*, March 13, 2013).



## THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

"Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off" (Romans 11:22). (The word "goodness" is elsewhere translated "gentleness" Gal. 5:22 and "kindness" 2 Cor. 6:6; Col. 3:12; Titus 3:4.) The phrase "the goodness and severity of God" summarizes the two aspects of God's character that seem, to fallen man, to be contradictory and confusing. How can God be good and yet severe?

How can He be good when He allows suffering to exist in this world? How can He be a God of love and yet consign men to eternal hellfire? These are questions that men have wrestled with for millennia. The answer is at once simple and complex; the answer lies in God's character. We have to deal with the God that exists rather than the god we would create after our own thinking, which is an idol. We have to trust the revelation God has given us, for we have no other way to know about God's character. We

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THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD continued from previous page.

can learn of God's power and wisdom through the light of creation, but we cannot know His character apart from a higher revelation, which God has graciously given us in Scripture. There we find that the God that exists is good; He is compassionate and loving beyond comprehension; but He is also holy and just; He is a righteous lawgiver and a judge of rebellion. Both aspects of God's character are clearly evident in the Cross, the central event in history. There we see the severity of God, the awfulness of His justice, the depth of his holiness whereby He would require His own Son to suffer so; but there we see, too, the amazing goodness of God in taking the

just punishment of His own creatures upon Himself. What severity; what goodness! In truth, the severity of God is part of and perfectly compatible with His goodness. It is good that God is righteous, holy, and just. This is the foundation of law and order in the created universe. If God did not make righteous laws for His creatures and if He did not enforce those laws, there would be chaos and anarchy, as we see in this present world. While the scofflaw might see laws and police and courts as severe, society understands that these are good. "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God."

## **FOSSIL DRIVES EVOLUTIONISTS BATTY**

The following is from *Creation Moments*, April 4, 2013: "I'm sure everyone has noticed that whenever one of those interesting nature programs on television show an especially clever design in nature, the program is always quick to explain how this came about by evolution. One good example is the unusual hearing ability of the moth. Night flying moths have hearing organs that are able to hear the ultrasonic signals used by bats. The bats use these signals to navigate and to find food, which includes the moths. However, evolutionists never want anyone to think about a Creator Who might have given the moths the ability to hear one of their main predators. So they quickly explained that as moths evolved, they developed the ability to hear the bats in response to bat attacks. Several years ago, a fossilized egg from

a night flying moth was discovered. Evolutionists said that the egg was half again as old as any evidence of the first bat. Yet the egg clearly belongs to a moth species that can hear bats. Evolutionary scientists said that this discovery was most puzzling. They said that evolution would have no reason to evolve this species of moth before bats existed. Those of us who believe the Word of our Creator in the Bible realize that all living things were made within a few days of each other. We see around us how each was designed in a way that keeps in mind the design found in other creatures. Moths have always been moths, and bats have always been bats. There's nothing puzzling about it at all."



#### **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 <a href="http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html">http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html</a>. 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.

## sermon notes: personal notes

| IV.   | The blessing of giving is that the giving will be (verse 10c)  |
|-------|--|
| V.    | The blessing is that God will riches to us to keep us (verse 11)   |
| VI.   | The blessing is that you become a to others that they may in your testimony                                      |
| ,     | A. The people will be thankful for your faith (verse 13)   |
| VII.  | Real faith in Christ   |
| VIII. | The people will be thankful for your (verse 13)  |
| IX.   | The people will also be praying for a greater to be work done in our lives with God's grace (2 Corinthians 9:14) |
| Χ.    | The blessing will be that you bring to the of God, the Lord Jesus.   |
| pe    | rsonal reflection and application  |

#### IN BRIEF

#### **Faith Bible Institute**

Students of Faith Bible Institute are reminded that the Old Testament (The Beginning & The Hebrew Fathers) test will be held on May 27. Please make due diligence in preparation.

Faith Bible Institute • Highlights

## **Early Enrollment Discount**

Faith Bible Institute is a three-year intensive Bible study program that examines every verse of Scripture, one verse at a time. It is an extremely useful tool in a Christian's spiritual growth.

Such a treasure is now available to you as a new term approaches. Sign up before 31 May and enjoy special early bird discounts! For more information, view our website or get in touch with our FBI directors.



## FAITH BIBLE INSTITUTE Semester 2, 2013

- Begins 19 August 2013
- Includes studies of Exodus and the Life of Christ
- Every Monday, 7:45-10:45PM

Contact FBI directors for more information: Lau Song Leng - 81881071 Huong Shiow Lin - 91254586



Why do I behave the way I do?
How do I **overcome** bad behaviour?

What does the Bible say?

Find out in Sunday Bible Hour

# THE VISION AND MISSION OF AMBASSADOR

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

## ambassador baptistchurch



#### 20 - 26 MAY 2013

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

Phone: +65 91000305

#### Post:

1096 Sembawang Road Singapore 758518

#### **Email:**

<u>info@ambassador-baptist.org</u> <u>johnny@ambassador-baptist.org</u> (pastor's email)

#### Facebook:

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

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

#### **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 <a href="https://www.ambassador-baptist.org">www.ambassador-baptist.org</a>

### 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
- Souls to be saved, baptized and added to the church in 2013
- Bro. Terry's palliative care.
- Sis Kym's parents
- Sis Lydia's parents

#### the new testament in 4 months

**MAY 20** Gal 5-6; Eph 1-2

MAY 21 Ephesians 3-6

MAY 22 Philippians

MAY 23 Colossians

**MAY 24** 1 Thess; 2 Thess 1

MAY 25 2 Thess 2-3; 1 Tim 1-4

**MAY 26** 1 Tim 5-6; 2 Tim 1-2