

The Good News

Newsletter - June 2019

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The purpose of University Baptist Church is, through guidance of Holy Spirit, to assemble and worship God, to love and encourage one another, to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to minister to all people, and to live in peace. In a world where difficult issues remain, UBC is committed to its core values of being inclusive, inquisitive, and community minded.

A Blessed Father's Day

When I was a kid, I looked up to my father as if he were Superman. I believed every word that he said, and I believed that he could do anything. As I got older, my parents marriage went astray and my relationship with my father eventually went downhill. He was in and out of my life. No matter what anyone says, everyone needs a father, and everyone longs for a father. We all desire a father as it is written into the very soul of man kinds constitution (PS 63:1-8; 143: 6-12).

I look around me and there's a prison full of young men who have grown up without one and have no clue what being a man is because no one ever taught them (Prov 15: 18-22; 17: 18-21). Jesus has invited everyone through the scriptures to experience the love of the Heavenly Father and it is through him and his death that we are given access to his father's love (John 5:20-24; John 14: 1-4,6; 1 John 3: 1-3). He is a father who is affirming and engaged, strong enough to lead, and whose love for all is passionate and persistent (Isa 64: 8; Matt 5: 16; I Cor 1: 3-4).

The example of our Heavenly Father in scripture is and should be the mirror image of our fathers here on earth (Heb 12: 5-11). I commend the men that stand strong on their responsibilities to their families and their children (Deut: 6: 5-7; PS 78: 1-7; Eph 6: 4; Prov 22:6).

Even though my father has passed, I stand testifying of a truth and nothing but the truth of how amazing my spirit, my soul, and my body feel having an awesome relationship with the Heavenly Father through his son Jesus. There is nothing greater than to walk along every day in his truth and his love. (PS 116: 1-9; Gal 2: 19-20; Col 1: 10-13).

I implore everyone to share the same experience of his love and surrender to his will and his love. If you already have, then share your story with the world and be a beacon of light to someone in the midst of their darkness (Matt 5: 14-16).

God bless all the fathers on "Fathers Day" and every Day. PS 40: 4

A Blessed Father's Day

A father teaches his children to sing and triumph in God's name
And to share his love without scandal or shame

Hear ye children the instruction of a father and attend to understanding.
By God's grace we must cherish each moment to be inspiring, encouraging, and uplifting.

We should boast of the good fathers when the Gospel sways.
The ones whom carry the Lord in their heart and prays.

Hour upon hour a proud father is always praying for his children's soul.
That they may feel the Heavenly Fathers warmth and not be left in the cold.

As we put our trust in Jehovah, our hearts are fully blessed.
And we'll find, as he promised, perfect peace and rest.

Tot be a great father should be a height that all men desire to reach.
Walking, talking, and living in the echoed tones his word speaks.

A blessed "Fathers' Day" to all fathers that protectively watch over their children.
And may you continue to be the Christ-like model of righteousness for all men.

- Justin Underwood

The Opposite of Faith
(Romans 10: 16-17)

The opposite of faith is not disbelief, it's disobedience." I do not remember the first time I heard this but I do remember the conviction that came with it. Regardless of how this may cut to the heart, it is nevertheless true. In Romans 10:16-17 we read, "However they did not all heed the gospel, for Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?' So faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." In verse 16 we see the word "heed" which comes from the Greek word *hoop-ak-oo'-o*; meaning to conform to a command. "Obey"; this is the same word for obeyed in Hebrews 11:8 and also the word "answer" in Acts 12:13. In Romans 10:16, the Word tells us they did not all heed the gospel. Then Isaiah 53:1 is quoted, "Lord, who has believed our report?" This is profound to me. The apostle Paul under the lead of Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:1-13), writes "They did not all heed the gospel then basically repeats himself asking a rhetorical question in quoting Isaiah 53:1 "Lord, who has believed our report?" The question calls for the answer given in the first part of verse 16. "They did not all heed the gospel."

The fact that they did not “heed the gospel” proves they did not “believe the report.” It is interesting, and definitely intentional, that the word “report” used at the end of verse 16 and the word hearing used in verse 17, come from the same Greek word *ok-o-ay*. This word has two meanings. Both we see being used here. The first meaning is (1) message or teaching. This is the context of the word “report” at the end of verse 16, but it is also the context of the second use of the word “hearing” in verse 17, “... hearing by the Word of God.” The second meaning is (2) the receiving of the message or teaching. This is the context of the first use of the word “hearing” verse 17. “So faith comes from hearing...” The first meaning places emphasis on how you hear/ A person must hear with an open heart the truth of God. (Heb. 4:7) As verse 16 illustrates, what determines if the message received is of faith with an open heart, is if the message received produces the very message received, faith/obedience. Either the hearing is by faith in the Word of God producing obedience or it is not. The word “hearing” as we have learned means more than the mere message of hearing. It implies an interaction, or more appropriately, an “inneraction”, with the message, the Word, and a decision is always made.

The gospel is given not merely to be known and believed but to be lived and obeyed. It is not a system of ideas but a rule of practice, of exercise. The beginning (Rom. 10:17a), the progress (Rom. 10:17b 1:17), and strength (2 Thess. 1:11) of faith comes from hearing and ultimately deciding by the very Word being heard is the Word of God. To suggest that one can live by faith in God and not live by the Word of God is foolishness, an impossibility. To be obedient to the Word of God is to believe in God and His Holy Word. There is no other way to show we truly believe in the living God Jesus Christ but by being diligent in obedience, from gospel motives and for gospel purposes (Eph. 2:10) By faith, anything we do is really good, as done in obedience to God and aiming at His acceptance; faith is the root, obedience the fruit it produces, and we must see to it we have both. (Jas. 2:14-24) Living to God, as it is the consequence of faith, which justifies and saves (Rom.10:8-11) invites us with great desire to do nothing against Him but everything for Him and to Him (Heb. 11:6).

In closing I will leave you with this. If faith is obedience to the Word of God, by which we are being transformed into the image of holiness, that is Jesus Christ, then isn't it right to assume that a life lived by faith is evidenced by a life marked by that obedience? What happened to Christians being devout? “...that we may prove ourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom we appear as lights in the world, holding fast the Word of life so that in the day of Christ we may have cause to glory because we did not run in vain nor toil in vain.” Phil 2:15-16, 1 Thess. 2: 8-13; 2 Cor. 1:12 1 Pt. 1:15-16, Matt. 5:14-16; May you let Him lead you just as He desires to keep you, always! God Bless.

Song of the month:
Building 429, “Where I Belong”

Romans 15:13
Kingdom Kid - DP

Dog Pen Church Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We ask that you open the eyes of understanding to all the unconverted people. Please soften their hardened hearts, their natures, and more their will to receive the Savior. We ask that you work in them everything that is necessary for their salvation. We thank you, O Lord, for our conversion as we acknowledge and confess the sovereignty of your grace each day. We ask that you would lift up the light of your countenance upon all the desponding hearts. We ask that you send help to all the ministers of your word who have been laboring in vain and spending their strength for naught.

Give us, oh Lord, a new measure of faith, of obedience, of courage, of strength, of discernment, of compassion, and of humility that we may see the world through your eyes and be more gracious and patient to all whom we encounter. We ask that you lead us all in right paths and let the Holy Spirit speak the words of truth from our every mouth unto every hearing ear.

Lord, I ask that you continue to open our hearts and eyes daily to our great spiritual needs that we may all grow and mature in your word. We thank you for your merciful and gracious hand. In Jesus' name.... Amen!!