



Living and Sharing the Gospel

**Weekly bulletin
January 3, 2021**

Worship services are being cancelled until further notice because of Covid-19. However, we will have worship services through the Internet Zoom platform every Sunday at 10:30 AM in NB, NS and PEI. The Zoom link for this service will be sent to you by email. The telephone numbers for Zoom always remains the same but the Meeting ID and password number change every week.. Please let Mr. Vautour know if you would like to be added to the weekly email list. See the bottom of the bulletin for the contact information

If you have friends or acquaintances who want to join in the worship service, please do not hesitate to share with them the Zoom links to join with us in the worship our great God.

May you all have a blessed New Year 2021 as we are lead by Jesus!

Please note that audio and video sermons are available at www.gcine Brunswick.org .

On Christmas Day, those who desire can join the Montreal English church worship services at 11:30 a.m. Atlantic time. The Zoom link will be send to you prior. If you are reading this bulletin and you are not on the email list and you wish to attend, please feel free to contact Mr. Vautour at the email address below.

Bible Study: Our next Bible Study will be in January 13, 2021 when we begin to study the Epistle of James.

The 8th session of the study of the book of Acts is now available on our local website under “Members Only”.

To see specific prayer requests from the church, please go to www.gcine Brunswick.org – under “Members Only” and type the password.

- Let us pray for the Church to put first things first which is **to love God with all of our heart, with all of our soul and with all of our mind.** The secondary commandment and flowing from the first is **to love our neighbour as ourselves.**
- Let us pray according to God’s will as per his instructions: **“1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1Ti 2:1-4 ESV)**
- **Let us pray that God will strengthen his people with faith, perseverance and love during this difficult pandemic period and that the good news of the Gospel will be spread widely.**
- Covid-19 is causing more and more pain and ravages. For example in Ontario, over 2,000 people living in nursing care home have died because of Covid 19. Other illnesses do not stop. Our hospitals are filled to capacity in Canada. Some are reaching the breaking point. Let us pray for all those helping others living in dire health circumstances. Let us pray for all the caregivers some who are Christians and some who are not.
- Let us pray for God’s merciful intervention as millions all over the world are suffering as result of this pandemic. Let us pray, **“Our Father n heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”** as we read in Matthew 6.
- Let us pray that God will give us to wisdom to know how he is working and how he wants us to humbly participate in his work of salvation. **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph 2:10 ESV)**

- Let us pray to be active participants with Jesus as members of his body. Let us pray that God will call more and more people to himself during this time and that we will have the privilege of receiving and discipling some of them.

Offerings: (Paraphrase of some information given by Mr. Hall, GCI Canadian Director): Just a reminder that any donations we receive via either Credit Card or Canada Helps are subject to about a 3-3.5% fee which means any donations we receive for your congregation, are reduced by that amount. Direct Debit (Pre-authorized Payment) or E-Transfers have much lower transaction fees, that we don't back charge to the local congregation. (Cheques do not have a transaction fee). A person can send E-transfers to khorwood@gcicanada.ca if their bank uses INTERACT. In the subject line put your name and address, and church area and member number. If you do not know your member number, please write to Mr. Vautour at the email address below.

You can send your offering directly to the following address: **Grace Communion International- Canada, Suite 203A, 2121 Airport Dr., Saskatoon, SK 7SL 6W5.** If you prefer, you can also call **1-306-653-2705.**

You can also donate via phone using a credit card, or via Canada Helps using **the donate button** on our website at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/7735>. We will credit all donations received via Canada Helps to a member's local congregation, if we can identify where they attend."

How can a loving God be a God of wrath?

By [Ted Johnston](#) - [November 21, 2010](#) [Updated 6/6/2020] [How can a loving God be a God of wrath? \(gci.org\)](#)

In [Romans 1:18](#), Paul declares that, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness." But how can a loving God be a God of wrath? The answer is that God's wrath, like all his attributes, is an expression of his being, which is love ([1 John 4:8](#)). This post explains.

Because God is love, he loves us. And God finds the evil that hurts his children to be intolerable, and so, in wrath, he judges that evil. What Paul is telling us in Romans is that God has *already* accomplished this judgment through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of his incarnate Son, Jesus Christ. In and through Jesus, God poured out his wrath on all sin, all evil. Through Jesus, God's wrath is ended - the enmity humanity created between itself and God through sin, is ended. Indeed, God has reconciled all humanity to himself in and through Jesus ([2 Cor. 5:16-19](#)). This is the *objective* sense of universal reconciliation.

However, there is also a *subjective* sense to this reconciliation. In love, God continues to extend to all people the freedom to choose to accept or to reject God's love for them - to live into, or refuse to live into that reconciliation. To accept his love means accepting God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ, and to admit that we have been sinful creatures in hateful opposition to God. That's what it means to "accept Christ." We accept our sinfulness and estrangement from God and acknowledge that in and through Christ and his redemptive work we have been given reconciliation, transformation and eternal life in God as a free gift – and that we are free from wrath.

[Ephesians 2:1-10](#) describes the human journey from being the objects of God's wrath to receiving salvation by his grace. God's purpose from the beginning is to express his love toward humans in the forgiveness of the world's sin through the work of Jesus. [Ephesians 1:3-8](#) is instructive about mankind's situation in relationship to God. It shows that there is an essential and, we might say, "built in" wrath by God against sinfulness in man that he purposed to eliminate through a real reconciliation he initiates and brings to fruition in Christ ([Ephesians 2:15-18](#); [Colossians 1:19-23](#)).

To say that this reconciliation is real is to acknowledge that repentance and reconciliation come about not through human words, emotion or even our desire to do God's will, but through the actual Person of and saving work in Christ by God on our behalf. That saving work was carried out as wrath against sinfulness and evil, and love for us as persons. Because all humanity has been included in Christ, no person is the object of God's wrath - God has reconciled us all to himself.

Salvation is God's rescue program in Christ – "who rescues us from the coming wrath" ([1 Thessalonians 1:9-10](#)). To repeat, human beings by nature are God's enemies and this animosity causes a necessary and spontaneous countermeasure from a holy and loving God – his wrath. But from the beginning, God has purposed out

of his love to end the human-caused wrath through sin by the saving work of Christ. It is through God's love that we are reconciled to him in his own saving work in the death and life of his Son ([Romans 5:9-10](#); [John 3:16](#)).

In summary, when speaking of God's wrath, it is important to consider how it is that God purposed to eliminate it. We thank God that God's wrath disappears when sin is conquered and destroyed. We have assurance in the promise of his peace toward us because he has once and for all dealt with sin in Christ. God has reconciled us to himself in the saving work of his Son, thus ending his wrath through reconciliation, as it were.

God's wrath against sin and sinfulness is presupposed in his sending Jesus Christ to personally win the final victory over this enemy of God. If God did not war against all forms of sinfulness – if he had no wrath against it – he would have seen no need to send his Son in human form as Jesus ([John 1:1, 14](#)) to destroy this enemy of his very Being and his purpose in humankind.

When we read the New Testament statement that God so loved the world that he sent his Son – and that whoever believes in him will not perish ([John 3:16](#)) – we are to understand from this very act that God is wrathful against sin. But in his war against sinfulness, God does not condemn sinful man, but saves him from it for reconciliation and eternal life. God's wrath is not intended to “condemn the world,” ([John 3:17](#)) but to condemn and destroy the power of sin in all its forms so that humans may have an eternal relationship of love with the triune God.

Freedom in 2021???

December 31, 2020 [Day by Day | Growing Together in Life and Faith](#) (GCI)



Freedom calls. Freedom by Easter, freedom by the summer, freedom maybe by the end of 2021, depending on what news you read or listen to.

The vaccine means freedom, they report, but freedom to do what? To jump back into normal, to return to how things were?

Jesus Christ was someone who declared freedom for all of humanity. He was talking about our physical as well as our spiritual future. His take on freedom was never one about returning to the past. His view was that our past did not have to dictate our future. Don't go back, but rather leap

ahead with him into a new tomorrow.

Why not go with him?

Let Jesus lead you into 2021.

Faith Forward (from GCI equiper featured article – Dec. 31, 2020)



Rick
Shallenberger
Editor

Jesus, having returned from the 40 days of temptation in the desert and beginning his public ministry, enters a synagogue and is handed a scroll of the prophecies of Isaiah. He unrolls the scroll and reads these powerful words, which is part of Isaiah's prophecy about himself.

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. ([Luke 4:18-19](#), quoted from [Isaiah 61:1-2](#))

What are the chances of Jesus just happening to turn to that passage? We can surmise that

Jesus was intentional about reading that passage on that day to introduce his ministry. He was the one who inspired Isaiah to write it, and he knew what the passage meant

I have long referred to this passage as Jesus' mission statement. Here Jesus makes a resounding proclamation of the shape and form of his ministry. Throughout his ministry Jesus befriended the poor, healed the sick, touched the unclean, defended the lowly, forgave sinners, controlled the weather, exorcised demons, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, and proclaimed the kingdom. The apostle John referred to these as “signs” that Jesus was who he claimed to be. In particular, John focused on seven signs or epiphanies that help us understand that Jesus is divine; he is the Son of God. This is what Epiphany is all about—Jesus is the light of the world. Through this season, Epiphany keeps us focused on him, which reminds us that we are not the light of the world in and of ourselves. We are the light of Christ. When Jesus calls us the light of the world, it is because he is in us through the Spirit. We are messengers of the true light. We proclaim

Jesus; we are messengers of the light. Because we know the light, we share his love and his life with others so that they can see him as the light. This is sharing our faith; this is moving faith forward; this is discipleship.

In his book, *Living the Christian Year*, Bobby Gross suggests that one of the best ways for “inhabiting Epiphany” is to “immerse yourself once more in the story of Jesus.” Read about how he fulfilled Isaiah 61. Read through the seven signs that John shares. Think about the impact Jesus had in a world full of darkness—bringing light and joy into people’s lives. And then ask, how do we participate with Jesus? How do we bring our faith forward? How do we help others be disciples (followers) of Jesus? Here are some ideas:

- First, ask God to help you see others as he sees them. See their true value; see their true identity.
- Ask God to give you his compassion for those who are hurting, or who seem so far removed from a relationship with God.
- Take the next few weeks and pray for your leaders, asking God to help them see the need to disciple others.
- Read a book about starting a small group, or about sharing your faith. Check with your Regional Director for some ideas.
- Gather your church leaders and start a small group discussing discipleship and how your group or congregation can be lights to those around your church location.
- Ask God to help you see his invitations to enter conversations with others. Look for divine appointments. Expect them.
- This year’s theme for *Equipper* is Faith Forward—developing healthy Faith Avenues for our congregations and Fellowship Groups. Included in the Faith Forward theme is a deeper dive into the Christian Calendar. The Faith Avenue, along with last years’ theme of the Hope Avenue, is one of the three key elements of ministry focus. The other is the Love Avenue, which we will focus on in 2022. This is part of our effort to join Jesus in his ongoing ministry, and our desire to be healthiest expression of church we can be.

May God bless you as the light of Jesus shines through you and your congregation.

GCI principle website and Moncton Websites—a) www.gci.org , b) gcinewbrunswick.org , c) <https://www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton> ; d) *Grace Communion International-Moncton* <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgKazyWhmKmDZy69vJcFPg>
For a wealth of helpful articles about God, grace and his plan for salvation, who we are, etc., please see the GCI.org website. Contact Information: Pastor’s contact information: email— evatour47@outlook.com