

Prayer of Thanksgiving: that Jesus gives His peace to all who love him in obedience. **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”** (Joh 14:27 ESV)

Please do not forget to pray for all the shut-ins and isolated brothers and sisters in our congregations Mrs. Jack and C. Campbell (Fredericton) and J. Steffes (Caribou, Me), Mr. Ross Bathurst, P. Ward (Saint John) and others.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2019 (Please note some changes for Saint John)

Times of worship services: Moncton – 10:30 AM every Sunday.

Time of services in Saint John – 2:30 PM September 8 and 29, which is the 5th Sunday of the month.

Communion- on the second and fifth Sunday of the month in Saint John and on the 1st and 3rd and 5th Sunday in Moncton.

Address: Moncton—70 King St. —Sage building;

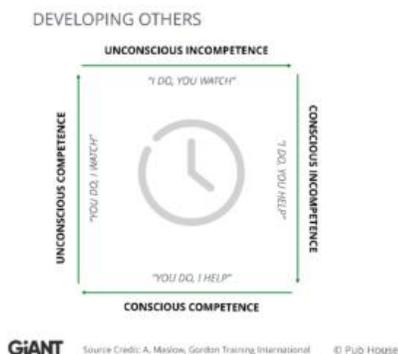
Saint John—50 Newport Cres., Portland United church.

Discipleship group in Moncton will resume in September

From the President [Church Health: Lessons from Timothy and Titus](#) (August 21, 2019)

Dear GCI Family and Friends,

Have you ever noticed the relationship the apostle Paul had with his younger proteges? In his first letter to Timothy, Paul wrote like a father figure, calling Timothy, “my true son in the faith” ([1 Timothy 1:2](#)). In his second letter to Timothy, Paul writes more like a professor to a student: “Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my suffering...” ([2 Timothy 3:10-11](#)). Timothy has journeyed around the *Developing Others* square with Paul, knowing what he teaches, and how he conducts himself in a range of circumstances related to church life. The relationship blossomed to the place that Paul calls Timothy “my fellow worker” ([Romans 16:21](#)). He was a colleague, or as Paul was famous for saying, “a yoke-fellow.”



Paul also had a close relationship with Titus, a Greek Christian whom Paul calls, “my loyal child in the faith” ([Titus 1:4](#)). Unlike Timothy, who had grown up in the faith through his mother and grandmother, Titus was a testimony to a changed life in Jesus and how Gentiles were being grafted into the church. Titus, who spent 15 years in missionary trips with Paul, was the one who carried the second letter to the church at Corinth (“the severe letter”). Paul identifies Titus as his partner and fellow worker ([2 Corinthians 8:23](#)). Paul knew that Titus would handle matters in Corinth in the same spirit and style as himself.

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There was a lot of physical movement in Paul’s role as the apostle to the Gentiles, so frequently Paul sent Timothy as his ambassador. [1 Corinthians 4:17](#) tells us Timothy was sent to Corinth to remind the people there of Paul’s ways and teachings. Paul told the believers in Thessalonica he was sending Timothy to strengthen and encourage

them in their faith ([1 Thessalonians 3:2](#)). Correcting false teaching and establishing sound doctrine was always a priority (the young New Testament church had to be disciplined). We also see Timothy appointing elders and establishing church administration. (Paul's letters tell us Titus did similar work.)

In Ephesus, Paul left Timothy behind to oversee the church. Paul had given three years of attention to the church in Ephesus, and it is known as one of the healthiest of the New Testament churches.

Paul also empowered Titus, sending him to straighten out Crete. Crete was the wild frontier where the gospel had only recently arrived. Paul describes the Cretans as, "rebellious people, idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision; they must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for sordid gain what it is not right to teach. It was one of them, their very own prophet, who said, 'Cretans are always liars, vicious brutes, lazy gluttons'" ([Titus 1:10-12](#)).

Paul gave Titus a ministry action plan, "**I left you behind in Crete for this reason, that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you...**" ([Titus 1:5](#)). In other words, "be a living example of what a Christian should be. Don't just go there and teach what a Christian should be like, but show them what they can be, just as you were transformed in Christ."

What a great compliment to both Timothy and Titus that they could be trusted lieutenants who could be assigned to a church and a region that allowed them to be the second generation of leaders in the New Testament church.

Summary

What do we learn about church health from the parallel stories of Timothy and Titus? Pastors/leaders have different backgrounds and different personalities. Timothy appears to be more tender-hearted and prone to melancholy, and yet an able teacher for furthering and defending the gospel. Titus seems competent and trustworthy to carry out his assignments – even if he is working with brutes and liars. Paul invested heavily in both young men.

Churches are in different stages of development and can differ in the challenges they face. Even mature churches will face challenges when the glory isn't channeled back to God. We have no other choice than to work out of our present reality.

Discipleship is the ongoing work of the church. Sound teaching is great, but it is only impactful when the fruit of the Spirit is evident in the lives of the leaders, and they are living their lives in community with the church and neighborhood.

Development of future leaders will always be the ongoing work of the church. True mentoring is a lot of work and takes a lot of time – Titus traveled with Paul for 15 years. Because of Paul's skillful, intentional development of Timothy and Titus, I am certain these men took to heart the charge from [2 Timothy 2:1-2](#) to purposefully pass along the faith and ministry skills they learned to other reliable men and women. Timothy and Titus could mentor well because they had been mentored well.

Titus' successor, Andreas Cretensis, eulogized him in the following way: "*The first foundation-stone of the Cretan church; the pillar of the truth; the stay of the faith; the never silent trumpet of the evangelical message; the exalted echo of Paul's own voice*" (Philip Hughes, *Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians*).

Titus and Timothy were excellent proteges who faithfully followed Paul as Paul walked in the footprints of Jesus. Brothers and sisters, isn't this the same echo we want to resound in the young proteges who are under our care? May the faith go forward with the future Timothys and Tituses to come.

Dedicated to developing others, Greg Williams

Calgary's Second Anniversary

The relaunched Grace Communion Church in Calgary, Alberta celebrated its second anniversary on July 21, 2019. There were over 30 in attendance including the President of State of the Heart Ministries, Dr. Ross Jutsum and 18 adults and children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, now living in our city. This added much joy to our worship of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior who died for all.

The congregation, meeting in the Upper Room of a local community center was reminded by pastor David Sheridan of the major changes



Ross Jutsum led worship including musical pieces from two recent CDs – *In Christ Alone* and *Music from the Heart*. A heart-warming segment was having all the children come to the front and use percussion musical instruments to accompany Ross. Members enthusiastically responded to God’s love for them with a rousing rendering of How Great Thou Art!



The service ended with the cutting of an anniversary cake and a potluck meal – with a grateful heart that Jesus will come again in glory as King of kings over all nations for a worldwide celebration of joy!
David A Sheridan
Pastor, Calgary Congregation

Please pray for the many Christians living in very troubled areas such as India, Kazakhstan, Burma (Myanmar) and others where Christians have to deal with persecution, corruption in high places, lack of food, high inflation, high unemployment, etc. Please pray that they be strengthened by God the Father, in our Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit. For more information, please see <https://www.vomcanada.com/News-Articles/>

Monthly GCI prayer guide is now posted in Featured Articles on our www.worshipim.ca website.

Should you have forgotten the password to enter “For members only” on the www.worshipim.ca website, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Vautour.

GOD IS...

(from <https://www.gci.org/articles/god-is/>)

If you could ask God one question, what would it be? Maybe you would ask a big question: What is God’s purpose for you? Or, what’s going to happen to you after you die? Or perhaps, why does God let people suffer?

On the other hand, you might ask a question that seems minor but still perplexes you: Where did your puppy go after it ran away when you were 10? What would your life be like if you had married a lost sweetheart? Why did God make the sky blue?

But perhaps you might want to ask God about himself: Who are you? Or, what are you? Or, what do you want?

God’s answer to such basic questions would go a long way toward answering other questions. Who and what God is, what God wants—these are aspects of God’s nature. And the nature of God underlies everything else—why the universe is the way it is, who we are as humans, why our lives are the way they are, and what we should be doing with our time. Has anyone ever lived who didn’t puzzle—at least a little—over such profound questions?

We humans can begin to grasp the answers. We can begin to understand the nature of God. Believe it or not, we can even come to share in that divine nature.

That is the subject of this series of articles—what we can know about God, at least a little bit. Thinkers throughout history have viewed God in different ways. But God reveals himself to us—through his creation, through his Word, and most especially through his Son, Jesus Christ. God shows us who and what he is, what he does, and even a lot about why he does what he does. He also tells us how we should relate to him now—and how we will relate to him in eternity.

Philosophers discuss the nature of God, but this series of articles is not based on philosophy. It is based on the Bible, which God uses to reveal himself to us. We accept the Scriptures as an authoritative source of information about who and what God is. This is written for people who want to know what the Bible says about God. Those who want a more philosophical approach, or those who are more skeptical of biblical authority, will need to turn elsewhere, although they may find these articles of interest, as well.

The book of Isaiah tells us that God reveals himself to people who are humble and repentant, to those who respect God's Word (**Isaiah 66:2**).

Jesus said, **"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him"** (**John 14:23**). God wants to make his home with us. When God does, our questions will begin to be more fully answered.

IN SEARCH OF THE ETERNAL

(<https://www.gci.org/articles/in-search-of-the-eternal/>)

Humans have always wrestled with questions like "How did we get here?" and "What should we be doing?" and "Where are we going?" Their pursuit of answers often led them back to fundamental issues such as whether God exists and what God is like. They framed in different ways the ideas they came up with.

Twisted paths back to Eden

Throughout history, people built their religious concepts on their desires to understand human origins and the purpose of life. In their own ways, they wanted to make contact with and relate to the Source of human life—and, presumably, the Authority over human destiny. Unfortunately, the human inability to understand spiritual reality perfectly gave rise to disagreement and more questions:

- "Pantheism (Greek pan, 'all,' and theos, 'God') A term coined by John Toland (1670–1722), literally meaning 'everything God.' The view is that God is all and all is God. It differs from 'panentheism,' which views God as in all" (*Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, 1996, p. 199). Pantheists saw God as being all that is, including all the forces and laws behind the universe. They depersonalized God and interpreted both good and evil as divine.
- Polytheists believed in many gods. Each of these gods could help or hurt, but none held absolute power. Polytheism was the basis of many Middle Eastern and Greco-Roman forms of worship, and of the spirit and ancestor worship found in many tribal cultures.
- "Theism (From Greek theos, 'God') Belief in a god. Also belief in one God (monotheism) in contrast to belief in many gods (polytheism)" (*Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, p. 279).
- Monotheists embraced a personal deity as the source, sustainer and goal of everything. Three of the world's most influential religions are monotheistic—Judaism, Christianity and Islam. All three claim their descent from Abraham.

Does God exist?

Historically, every culture has had a sense that God exists. Atheism does not provide satisfactory answers to humanity's questions about who we are and why we exist. Atheism cannot explain purpose, or distinguish between good and evil. Atheism has no authority, no proof of its philosophical assumptions.

We see nature all around us, and science equips us to investigate the natural world. But science cannot explore the supernatural world. We cannot search for God with microscopes or deep space probes. If we are to know God, God must reveal himself to us. We want to know what the Creator is like, what his purpose is, and what must happen for us to come into harmony with him. So how does God reveal himself to us?

GCI principle website and Moncton Websites—www.gci.org, www.worshiphim.ca, www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton; 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—evautour47@outlook.com*