



## **THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY**

### **East Cape Bible College**

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 18H00 – 19H00

### **Topic 7: - The Restoration of Christianity**

This is the last of the 7-part series. We are very grateful to Johan for preparing and presenting these weekly studies.

### **VISITORS**

A very warm welcome to all our visitors. We hope to see you again – and again! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.

Blessings to everyone present this morning. May we feel the presence of the Lord as we worship Him.

**Song Leader:** Braam Le Roux **Scripture Reading:** Thando Ntozakhe  
**Opening Prayer:** Rudi Le Roux **Lord's Table:** Jan Roberts  
**Closing Prayer:** Ray Calder **Attendance last Sunday:** 41  
**Servers:** Rudi, Thando, Ray, Jan

## **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE DADS OUT THERE!**

We also know that it is not flesh and blood, but heart which makes us fathers. Whether you're a biological father, stepdad, grandpa or a father figure in someone's life, we hope you enjoy your special day. Wishing you a day filled with love, laughter and relaxation.

(By the way, what's the difference between a man's wallet before and after kids? There are pictures where the money used to be!)

### **Build Me a Father, Oh Lord!**

Build me a father, oh Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a father whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a father who will know You and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge. Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenges. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a father whose heart will be clean, whose goal will be high; a father who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humour, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of greatness, the open mind of true wisdom and the meekness of true strength.

**Luke 15: 20:** "So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

**Psalms 103:13:** "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him."

**Proverbs 23:24:** "The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him."

"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it,"  
*Clarence Budington Kelland, author.*

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## **SUNDAY TIMES:**

**BIBLE STUDIES: 09H00**

**WORSHIP: 10H00 TO 11H00**

**15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025**

**Preacher:** Mike Baisley

**Sermon Topic:** Giving God deserved praise.

**Scripture reading:** Mark 12: 28 - 30

## **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9 am.**

The book of Romans is still being studied with Johan facilitating the class. We are encouraged to join in this time of learning from and discussing God's Word.

## **SUNDAY CHILDREN'S CLASS – 9 am**

If you have any questions about this class, please speak to Shana. The lessons are exciting and interactive.

## **LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June - 10 AM**

All ladies are invited and encouraged to join in this time of study. Erika will be sharing a lesson on Hannah, the mother of Samuel, this coming Wednesday.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

James 5: 16 states: "Confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." We thank God for prayers answered daily. Let us continue to pray for those in need of God's intervention, comfort and help. We think especially of Thelma as well as her family as they support and encourage her at this time.

## **KEAM RD MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE OUTREACH PROJECT**

Thank you to those who have responded to the request for grocery items needed. There are still several that need donors. Please speak to Petro if you would like to contribute or have any questions.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

When people talk about God's love, it can feel a bit elusive. Yet, when Christian fathers live it out, we understand our Heavenly Father's heart more deeply. Through words and actions, God's divine nature is exemplified through our dads - and the lessons we learn are powerful.

## **Romans Chapter 7 – Johan Smulders**

All commentators agree on one thing about this chapter and that is, it is one of the most difficult to understand in the Bible. No wonder Peter writes that some of the things Paul says are difficult to understand (2 Peter 3:16). This also touches on a basic principle of Biblical Interpretation. Interpret difficult passages in the light of easier passages on the same subject. Keeping this in mind, several important facts come out of this chapter:

1. In the last chapter, Paul stated clearly that eternal life is a gift from God (6: 23). He also stated that the wages of sin is death. He was writing to a congregation in his time where the influence of the Law was still very strong. Many of the Hebrew believers, like Paul himself, had grown up with a great respect for the Old Testament Law and even the interpretations of the law as made by the rabbinic teachers. Religious celebrations, circumcision, temple worship, animal sacrifices and other regular rituals were ingrained in their thinking. How could they now be convinced that all that was no longer necessary? So he used the example of the marriage law of that time, showing that if someone died, a relationship that had previously existed no longer did.
2. This is then followed by the statement that Christians had died to sin, a point he made in the previous chapter, where he stated that we died to sin when buried with Christ in the waters of baptism (6: 3, 4). He can then hear the argument that many would make: “Of what value was the law then?” He answers that with an example of the fact that where there is no law people would not know about sin. Adam and Eve were given a law and then were tempted to break it. The idea of forbidden fruit being more tasty, comes to mind.
3. Paul then uses one of the Old Testament Ten Commandments, covetousness, as an example. Perhaps something that everyone had battled with in their lives. “Thou shall not covet”. A temptation that moves in the lives of many a Christian. James says “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members”? (James 4: 1 NKJV). John writes: “Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2: 16, 17). Satan even tempted Jesus with this in the wilderness. What Paul seems to be saying is that in every person there is a war going on between the mind and the body, between the spirit and the flesh. One draws us one way and the other in a different direction. Paul here describes it as a battle/war taking place in his being (7: 23 cp. Galatians 5: 17). A battle that can only be won with the help of the Holy Spirit, as Paul will explain in the next chapter.
4. This passage can be referred to as a demonstration of inadequacies. 1) The inadequacy of human knowledge. Knowing what is right and what is wrong is not enough, but acting on that knowledge is important. 3) The inadequacy of a solution on the basis of human will. We all need help to get right with God, and he took the initiative to provide the remedy in Christ Jesus. This is because we could not do it by human effort, no matter how hard we try.
5. As we now live the Christian life. God has sent the Holy Spirit to help us to achieve what we need to do.