



# Ebenezer Baptist Church

## KEY LESSONS OF 2008

### CARRYING A 'LOAD' (Exodus 17:4)

1. EXPOSES WEAKNESSES
2. REVEALS LIMITATIONS
3. CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

### GOD SAYS (Exodus 19:1-4, Deuteronomy 30:19)

- YOU HAVE SEEN (what I have done for YOU)
- I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU (death and life)
- NOW CHOOSE ('have it your way')

the STORY of THOMAS (John 20:19-31) reveals the difference between SEEING JESUS and KNOWING JESUS

#### those who SEE JESUS

are CHRISTIAN  
are REACTIVE  
are motivated EXTERNALLY  
go to CHURCH  
admire the PRODUCT  
SPECTATE  
require a SIGN  
see the WAGES  
seek what they WANT  
need an INTERPRETER  
see the MESSENGER

#### those who KNOW JESUS

are SPIRITUAL  
are PROACTIVE  
are prompted INTERNALLY  
come to WORSHIP  
praise the PROCESS  
PARTICIPATE  
seek GOD'S LEADING  
rejoice in the BENEFITS  
get what they NEED  
know the LANGUAGE  
hear the MESSAGE

A DILEMMA occurs when you are given TWO OPTIONS, and NEITHER OPTION looks good (Psalm 137:4, 1Sam 26:7-12)

### THE OBAMA/WRIGHT DILEMMA EXPOSES HOW WE CAN RECONCILE (Jer 37:17, 38:15)

- 'YES WE CAN' with 'LEST WE FORGET'
- 'HOPE' with 'PROPHECY'
- 'LOVE' with 'TRUTH'
- A 'HOUSE' OF GOOD with a 'FOUNDATION' OF EVIL

### HOW DO WE DEAL WITH A DILEMMA (Psalm 137)

- REMEMBER 'home' (look back)
- RETURN to GOD (go back)
- REJOICE in HIM (come back)

THE SAUL DILEMMA (1 Samuel 26:7-12) reveals that there are those who are

- APPOINTED but are not ANOINTED (e.g. PRETENDERS)
- ANOINTED but not yet APPOINTED (e.g. DAVID)
- ANOINTED and APPOINTED (e.g. SAUL)
- neither APPOINTED nor ANOINTED (e.g. ABISHAI)

### THE 'X' FACTOR.....(Exodus 17:8-12)

- IS the UNEXPECTED doing the UNEXPECTED, when it is UNEXPECTED
- TEACHES that the SUCCESS of the SEEN, requires the SUPPORT of the UNSEEN
- REJOICES in what can happen when you 'TURN IT OVER' to JESUS

IT'S ALL IN THE ATTITUDE, for it reveals (Phil 4:8-13)

- APTITUDE (CAN I FLY?)
- ALTITUDE (HOW HIGH CAN I FLY?)
- LATITUDE (HOW 'GOOD' CAN I FLY?)
- FORTITUDE (HOW LONG CAN I FLY?)

TODAY'S DILEMMA is the desire for MAN'S COMPASSION (Mark 9:22) over GOD'S POWER (Mark 9:23)

when you LIVE ON LEFTOVERS (Mark 9:21-24)

- you are HELPED, but not HEALED
- you are FED, but not NURTURED
- you are COMFORTED, but not CHALLENGED

GOD says.....

- I want to HEAL you, not just HELP you
- I want to NURTURE you, not just FEED you
- I want to CHALLENGE you, not just COMFORT you

the BREATH of GOD is (Ezekiel 37:8-10)

- commanded by GOD (to the prophet)
- called by the PROPHET (to the four 'winds')
- comes on the PEOPLE (by the four 'winds')
- brings LIFE and MIGHT (to the 'people')

TALES FROM THE CRYPT (Ezekiel 37:11-14) reveal

- the TALE (our 'bones', our 'hope, our 'parts')
- The TRUTH (I AM, YOU ARE, I KNOW, I WILL)
- The TRIUMPH (I shall PUT/PLACE, you shall LIVE/KNOW)

THE POWER OF 'NOTHING' (Isaiah 58:6-8)

- looses YOU (frees from CONTROL/RESTRAINT)
- lifts YOU (frees from CONSTRAINT/WEIGHT)
- lets YOU (frees from CONFINEMENT/SPACE)

THE PROCESS OF ASKING (Matthew 7:7)

- ASK (THE DEMAND) 'makes the noise'
- SEEK (THE JOURNEY) 'moves the feet'
- KNOCK (THE CONFLICT) 'fights the battle'

when you are in GOOD HANDS (Nehemiah 2:18-20) you know the

- SEASON (of rebuilding)
- STRUGGLE (keeping the 'hands' strong)
- SOVEREIGN (He is the GOD of 'Heaven')

in a SEASON of DREAMS (Genesis 41:14-16) you must

- LIFT your DREAM (make noise - gets attention)
- LEARN your DREAM (your 'setbacks' are GOD'S 'setups')
- LIVE your DREAM (I will, because GOD will)

when 'MONEY FAILS' (Genesis 47:13-15) FAMINE reveals our tendency of 'FEEDING OUR APPETITE' (habits and want) and not 'SATISFYING OUR HUNGER' (purpose and need)