

## THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD



NOVEMBER 5, 2017

**Living Faith Chapel, Calgary  
(Solution Center)**

### WORD FOR THE WEEK

#### INEVITABILITY OF HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL RELATIONSHIPS

**Text: Exd 33: 8-17**

It is another Sunday in a brand new month and a delight to make it into the penultimate month of the year 2017. Wouldn't it be great to dedicate your short time here this morning to worshipping your Lord and Savior for granting you the grace to yet again witness the dawn of a new month?

The Song "Old rugged Cross" describes the cross as an emblem of suffering and shame. The cross stands for many things, one of which is an emblem of victory for the Christian. The cross is an emblem of the manifold wisdom of God and an emblem of regret & defeat for the devil (*1 Corinthians 2:7-8*). For our purpose today, it is the emblem of the types of relationships that God wants us to have and their connection. A horizontal arm nailed to a vertical part. It underlies the importance of the connection between the "horizontal" relationships that we have with those in our sphere of influence and the "vertical" relationship that we have with God.

**The Vertical Relationship:** This is man's relationship with God - most vital relationship. It is measured by our level of obedience; level of fellowship with Him; how much He is on our mind (how real He is to you); our level of communion with Him; level of access to Him; our level of submission to God. There are different levels - Some have a tight relationship (Moses, Abraham referred to as "friends", Daddy GO); no relationship; some minimal (the people of Israel); growing relationship (Joshua) *Exodus 20:18-21*. We should aspire for higher levels. It produces eternal results. Those with no relationship cannot go to heaven. *Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.* It grants us access into a world not seen with the physical eyes - Opens us up to the supernatural through prayer. We have prayer testimonies on account of it. *Hebrews 1:14; John 1:50*. It brings about an impartation/transformation to man. - Moses face shone. *Exodus 34:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18*. That relationship, like others, requires cultivation. It requires time and sacrifice to cultivate. What was Joshua doing in the text? *James 4:7-8*. The only way to develop our vertical relationship is to spend time alone with God- reading the Word/Praying/ Praise/Thanksgiving/ constantly communing with our Father in our hearts.

**Horizontal Relationships:** Your relationships with the people who matter: your spouse, your friends, your family, your co-workers and fellow Christians. Those are the "horizontal" relationships around you, the people you interact with as you go through your life. No man is an island; more often than not one can never accomplish anything without other people. That is the way God has designed it to be. (*Genesis 2:18-22*). You cannot survive without them. From the text, through Horizontal Relationships: *WE INFLUENCE AND ARE INFLUENCED*. Joshua was inspired to seek God's presence through the relationship with Moses (*verse 11*) Also in *Exodus 24:12-13*, the people influenced Moses to act in anger - breaking of the

tablets and striking the rock with the rod. (*Numbers 20:10-11. WE HELP AND ARE HELPED.* Israel would not have made it to the promised land without relationship with Moses/Joshua. They are also important in order to fulfil destiny/purpose (organisation/individual). We cannot fulfil destiny without the help of others. TEAM Aaron/Hur/Joshua/Moses (*Exd. 17:10-13; Eccl 4:9-12*).

**How can we improve?** Horizontal relationships need work. Constantly examine and be honest with yourself. Be conscious that you represent of God. It cautions you on how you treat people. Be conscious of the fact that all you are and have is by grace (*Romans 12:2-3*). Be respectful, courteous (*Philippians 2:3*). Humble yourself and learn to use phrases such as “thank you”, “I am sorry.” Be ready to invest in the relationship. Focus more on others (*Philippians 2:4*).

**How Vertical and Horizontal Relationships Relate:** (A) God views our vertical relationship with Him and our horizontal relationships with people as extremely important (*Matthew 22:34-40*). The Ten Commandments is about relationships (*Exodus 20:3-17*). The first three commandments concern our vertical relationship to God. The last six deal with our horizontal relationships to each other. The fourth commandment deals with both relationships. Jesus summed up all Ten Commandments in two commandments. (B) Poor horizontal relationships with people will harm our vertical relationship with God (we need to be forgiving, merciful, non-judgmental, loving etc (*Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 18:27-35; Mark 11:25; Luke 6:36-38; 1 Peter 3:7*). (C) A poor vertical relationship with God will harm our horizontal relationship with people (*Romans 1:28-29*) (Case studies: Cain & Abel; sons of Eli; Joseph) (*Genesis 4:3-8; 1 Samuel 2:12-14; Genesis 39:8-9; Genesis 45:4-8*).

## KNOCK KNOCK

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

– MATTHEW 7:7 NIV

NOTE: If you have been blessed by our Word for the Week or inspired in any way by them, please let us know by sending an email to The Pastor at [pastor@rccglfc.org](mailto:pastor@rccglfc.org)