



## Why Does God Have to Beg Us? by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

**Ezekiel 33:10-20 (NLT)** <sup>10</sup>“Son of man, give the people of Israel this message: You are saying, ‘Our sins are heavy upon us; we are wasting away! How can we survive?’ <sup>11</sup>As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die? <sup>12</sup>“Son of man, give your people this message: The righteous behavior of righteous people will not save them if they turn to sin, nor will the wicked behavior of wicked people destroy them if they repent and turn from their sins. <sup>13</sup>When I tell

righteous people that they will live, but then they sin, expecting their past righteousness to save them, then none of their righteous acts will be remembered. I will destroy them for their sins. <sup>14</sup>And suppose I tell some wicked people that they will surely die, but then they turn from their sins and do what is just and right. <sup>15</sup>For instance, they might give back a debtor’s security, return what they have stolen, and obey my life-giving laws, no longer doing what is evil. If they do this, then they will surely live and not die. <sup>16</sup>None of their past sins will be brought up again, for they have done what is just and right, and they will surely live. <sup>17</sup>“Your people are saying, ‘The Lord isn’t doing what’s right,’ but it is they who are not doing what’s right. <sup>18</sup>For again I say, when righteous people turn away from their righteous behavior and turn to evil, they will die. <sup>19</sup>But if wicked people turn from their wickedness and do what is just and right, they will live. <sup>20</sup>O people of Israel, you are saying, ‘The Lord isn’t doing what’s right.’ But I judge each of you according to your deeds.”

I believe verse 11 shows us more clearly than any other verse in scripture, God’s heart for all of mankind. This verse shows God’s love and concern for all of us. However, verse 9 of this same

chapter shows God’s equally important righteousness and justice. **Ezekiel 33:9 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup>But if you warn them to repent and they don’t repent, they will die in their sins, but you will have saved yourself.

God has shown and proven His undying love for us time and time again. Therefore I want to ask, “Why does the God of this Universe have to plead and beg us to turn from our wicked ways?” Why is it that we hold so tightly to our own ways instead of clinging to His ways?

In verse 1, this message is meant for the “people of Israel.” We can therefore, equate Israel with today’s Christians. This message was not written to the lost, godless world. It was written to the chosen people and likewise to we who claim to be Christians today. The Lord is saying to all of us to turn from our wicked ways and to turn back to Him. Listen as the Lord shares and reveals His heart. <sup>11</sup>“As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?” Can you

see God’s broken heart as He pleads and begs for His people to turn from their wicked ways?

The people of Israel were involved in much wickedness and it was all due to the fact that they left their first love and their love for the Lord took a back seat to their own desires. Once people lose their love for the Lord, they begin to slip into all kinds of wickedness. Wickedness is sin and sin is anything that breaks the heart of God. The remedy for this is to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, and

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### Valley Isle Fellowship

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# Why Does God Have to Beg Us?

*By Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro (continued)*

soul. This means returning to Him. This is why the Lord is begging us to turn, turn, turn from wickedness and to return to Him.

Any form of wickedness breaks the heart of God. Whether that wickedness is so great that it gains one notoriety or whether it is so subtle that it can be hidden from the majority, it still breaks God's heart. Once we begin to accept a subtle form of sin and/or wickedness, we will begin to move to more and more gross wickedness. These sins begin to separate us from the Lord and we will begin to justify wickedness. This is exactly what happened with the children of Israel and this is what is happening currently in Hawaii and the U.S. We are justifying all kinds of wickedness in our own minds and these sins are also being legalized and justified in our legislative and court bodies. Many Christians have agreed and voted for this kind of legislation.

This slip in loving Jesus with all of our heart, mind, and soul is also beginning to become evident in the church. Loving commitment to the Lord is becoming more and more absent in many churches across our country. Churches are becoming consumer oriented as many come to churches seeking what they can get from the church rather than what they can give in loving obedience to the Lord. This attitude reveals itself in several ways. Being entertained with moving music and eloquent preaching seems to have dominated the Christian scene. This "attractational" concept will bring in many based on how the church appeals to their sense of music and how



effectively the preaching tunes into what appeals to the masses.

The church used to shine like a lighthouse in a violent storm showing the mariners of life where the dangerous rocks of life where that could wreck their lives. Appealing to the whims and desires of the masses did not play a part in what was presented to the masses. Searching the heart of the Lord and delivering His message to the masses was the focus of the church. Communicating the heart and message of the Lord to the masses consumed the life of the church. This was also the heart and soul of the prophets of the Old Testament who were intent on communicating all that the Lord had revealed to them, no matter what the consequences may be. They were ridiculed, persecuted, and martyred. If they were to measure themselves by the evaluation standards in most churches today, they would have adjusted their message to what would be more appealing to the masses. However, this would have made them

disobedient to the Lord.

The people of Israel were going in the wrong direction and they had to know exactly how the Lord evaluated their lives. The prophets confronted the sins in their lives and offered them God's solution for redemption. This same kind of voice is needed today. While many are saying that everything is going well, some are saying "no!" They are saying that we are moving away from the Lord and things are in critical shape. In fact some are saying that the church is in such critical shape that the church is in a state of decay.

Dear people of VIF. I believe that VIF is in critical shape. The evidence for this is that the Lord is begging VIF to become the people that He desires. However, our wickedness leaves us more concerned about our own desires and comforts and less concerned with the desires of the Lord. This becomes evident because less and less people are participating in ministries and are saying that others can do it, I just have

# Why Does God Have to Beg Us?

*By Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro (continued)*

too much on my plate. We tend to fill our plate with so much that there is no room for the Lord.

People's commitment to regularly be a part of the body is also waning. Many are less and less faithful in their attendance. Some are also visiting other churches. They are probably trying to find that church that would be perfect for them. This is OK because we are not in competition with other churches. We are actually partners with all other Christian churches that are filled with the spirit of God. However, if people are leaving VIF in order to find a more comfortable place where they can continue to hide from the Lord but

appear to be faithful to the Lord, this is not good. These other Christian churches that are filled with the Holy Spirit will also be challenging you to a full commitment of your lives to Jesus Christ.

However, the most important factor is found in **Revelation 3:20 (NLT)**: *"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.* This passage matches with Ezekiel 33 where the Lord is pleading and begging you to open the door and turn back to Him. It is so ironic that the King of kings and the Creator of the Universe, lowers Himself to begging us

to return to Him. We really should be the ones begging Him to forgive and restore us. God's love for us causes Him to do all that He can, except to force us, to return to Him.

Dear people of VIF, let's turn from our evil ways and return to our Lord who is ready to forgive us, to restore us, and to fill us with His Holy Spirit in order to do His will. Please read Ezekiel 33:10-20 and listen to the Lord as He speaks to you. The Lord really desires to love and bless us. He does not want to turn His back on us. May the Lord bless you as you come into His presence and as you love Him with all of your heart, mind, and soul.



**How Can You Serve?**

**Sign up today to be a part of our special event on**

**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**

Sign-up sheets are on the back table of our Sunday AM Services. See page 6 for the tentative schedule. We are in great need of help with the "Moving Chairs" Ministry. So far, no one has signed up to help in this ministry.

Please keep in mind that Thanksgiving Service is next Sunday. Mahalo!

# *I Am Pleased with You, Son*

*by Keith Brauneis*

*Pastor Jeremy found this article to share at: Liberate.org*



And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, **with whom I am well pleased.**” (Matthew 3:16-17 ESV)

“I am pleased with you, son.”

Are those not sweet words to hear from your dad? I was recently coaching a high school football game and my dad made the thirty minute drive over to support me. After the game we were chatting by the concession stand and I realized I had not eaten in hours and felt famished. When I realized that I had no money in my pockets, my dad just smiled and handed me some cash. He said “I love that I still get to be your dad.” He then proceeded to say, “I’m so pleased with you son, I love you.”

As a 27-year-old man (complete with a beard!) I was not quite ready for such powerful words; they pierced me. I was an adult; I felt like I ought to be prepared for anything. I can handle arguments and mistakes, embarrassments and joy. Somehow, though, I wasn’t prepared for these words. I could hardly respond with my heart swelling into my throat. My dad he was able to give me something that no other man could: a father’s approval.

In this life, our imperfect dads are unfortunately often proud of us according to the things we have done or have not done. We behave ourselves; we get an approving pat on the back. We misbehave; we get a proverbial (or perhaps

literal) spanking. This world is exhausting because we try so desperately to “measure up” in order to please our dads and the other significant judges in our lives. We measure up by what we do and prove ourselves by how we live our lives. Think of the ends of the earth to which you would go and the crazy things you would do to hear someone say, “I am pleased with you, son.” The world has taught us that the stamp of approval is secured by the actions of our lives.

Jesus and his message are refreshing because it is unlike anything of this world. His love and grace is otherworldly; straight from heaven. The world gives you its demands and tells you to go meet them. Jesus gives us God’s demands, and then fulfills those demands for us.

Christ gives us freely what we can’t earn or secure on our own: the ability to please our Heavenly Father. God’s standard of behavior is higher than any earthly father’s; if we were judged on our own merits we’d never earn that chased-after pat on the back. In Christ, though, God is pleased with us. When he regards us, he sees only his perfect son. How could he be anything less than ecstatic? God is so pleased with us—again, on account of his son—that he gives the eternal reward that Jesus deserves.

Let this grace refresh you daily. This grace is for the fatherless, the abandoned, the spoiled, the blessed, and the poor in spirit. You will not always please the judges in your life but remember God is pleased with those who are clothed in Jesus Christ. Let this love abide in your heart and it will swell into your throat and leave you speechless every time you hear God say “I’m pleased with you, son.”

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This blog post was found on Liberate.org, posted on November 6, 2014 by Keith Brauneis.

Find the original blog post at:  
<http://liberate.org/2014/11/06/i-am-pleased-with-you-son/>

[www.liberate.org](http://www.liberate.org)

Liberate is the resource ministry of Tullian Tchividjian, Sr. Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, connecting the inexhaustible grace of God to a wounded and weary world.

*Blog post used with permission.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**PLEASE TURN IN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKED SHOEBOXES TODAY!**

## **SURF MINISTRY - TODAY!**

Join the surf ministry *Today, November 16th* at Cove Beach in Kihei from 12pm-4pm. All levels from beginner to advanced welcome! Don't have a board? We have extras! For more information contact: Daryl Quenga at 808-357-4694 or dqbeachboy@gmail.com



## **VIF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - SUNDAY, NOV 30TH - 6:00 PM**

Thank you all VIF Members who attended the Listening Session last Sunday. If you were not able to attend, but do plan on attending the Annual Business Meeting, please contact a pastor or trustee to inform you of the topics that were discussed and what we will be voting on so that you can come to the meeting prepared and informed. The *Annual Business Meeting will be held in the VIF Sanctuary on Sunday, November 30th*. VIF members, please make every effort to be at this important meeting. Thank you and God Bless.

## **BASKETBALL MAUI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Aloha BasketballMAUI family. Calling all 16 and over basketball fans. We are looking for people willing to volunteer their time during the Maui Invitational, *November 24th-26th* (training session on Nov 22). We have many shifts to fill, both in the civic center and in the parking lot. Volunteers receive a free meal, t-shirt, and entrance to game, off shift. For more info call [808-866-6996](tel:808-866-6996) or email [info@basketballmaui.com](mailto:info@basketballmaui.com). Work one shift, one day or all three days. This is a great way to support the work of basketballMAUI and see some of the nation's top basketball teams compete here on Maui.

## **THANKSGIVING @ WAIKAPU**

*(Times are tentative)*

### **Saturday, Nov 22nd**

- 7:30 am Tent Set-up\*
- 9:00 am Moving Chairs\*
- 4:00 pm Imu Prep\*
- 10:00 pm Start Imu\*

### **Sunday, Nov 23rd**

- 6:30 am Uncover & Clear Out Imu\*
- 7:00 am Shred & Pack Imu Meat
- 9:00 am Thanksgiving Worship Service**
- 10:30 am Potluck Fellowship Luncheon
- 12:00 pm Break down, Tent, Chairs, etc.\*

\*VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED

Please see the back table for sign-up sheets. Mahalo!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MAHALO FROM VANESSA

Dear VIF Ohana - I want to thank you all so much for allowing me to serve you as your secretary here at VIF. It has been such a blessing. I have grown so much in my walk with Christ through this position and I am truly grateful. My husband, Jeff, says that he can see a big difference in me and I know that it is because I have come to not only know the Lord, but love Him dearly. The Lord providing me with this secretary position was definitely His way of drawing me closer to Him and by doing so, I have also witnessed change in my husband, as he grows in His love for the Lord as well.

I am writing to inform you that Jeff recently recieved a job offer as a Lead Cook from the Westin in Bellevue, Washington. We believe that God has presented my husband with this opportunity so we will be leaving for Washington on Dec 8th and Jeff will start His new position on Dec 15th. I am very sad to say that my last day as your secretary at VIF will be Nov 26th, the day before Thanksgiving. I will miss working here and miss you all very much. Please keep us in your prayers as we have very little time to prepare for this move as we continue to pray for VIF to be all that God desires. We praise the Lord as He is continuing to reveal to us that this is the right move for us and that we will need to trust Him and lean on Him completely. May our Heavenly Father have all the Glory and may He bless you all.

## Seniors Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 4, 2014  
Kahili Restaurant (Waikapu)  
10:30 am - 2:00 pm

**Menu to be circulated:** select dish prior to event

**Note:** No grab bag gift exchange. In place of grab bag gift, a \$5 cash donation is requested. Amount collected will be donated to a VIF family in need.

**Seats are limited. Please RSVP as soon as possible.**

**Contact:**  
Cecile Hashimoto (878-3739)



International  
Mission Study 2014

What is Happening  
in IVORY COAST?

December 6, 2014

Saturday

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Venue: Kahului Baptist Church

Lunch will be served.

World Craft items available for sale.

Find the sign-up sheet on the back  
table of our Sunday AM Services.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of people to volunteer to clean our church facilities on High Street. Tasks include:

### Sanctuary/3 bathrooms:

1. Vacuum floors
2. Empty rubbish containers
3. Straighten room/dust as needed



**Please call or email the church office if you'd like to help.** We ask that you choose one day of the following: Thursday, Friday, OR Saturday of the week that you are able to volunteer to do the work.

If three people were to volunteer each week, it would take only about an hour or so to complete. By joining together in this task, we can have fellowship, fun, and bring glory and honor to the Lord. Please pray about this need.

***\*We are in great need of help for the 3rd and 4th weeks of December.***

child  
care 

## Schedule

**Today**

**November 16, 2014**

Team 4

Karen Fontanilla

Kolbe Fontanilla

Alysha Fontanilla

Judy Giron

Jaydee Giron

Jules Giron

**Next Week**

**November 23, 2014**

Thanksgiving Service

No Childcare

**November 30, 2014**

Team 5

Donna Nozaki

Chavelle Moniz

Sheldon Moniz

Seth Yamada

Wayne Sniffen



## High Street Cleaning Schedule

**Week of Nov 20-22**

Tappan

**Week of Nov 27-29**

Mattos

**Week of Dec 4-6**

Blando



Today's Worship Songs

Everlasting God

This is Amazing Grace

At the Cross... Love Ran Red

# Valley Isle Fellowship 2014 Calendar

## November 2014

- 16 AM - *Pastor Jeremy* - What Makes A Good Missionary?  
Surf Ministry - Cove Beach, Kihei  
PM - TBA
- 23 **Thanksgiving Service @ Waikapu - 9:00 AM (One Service ONLY)**
- 27-28 VIF Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 30 AM - *Pastor Stephen* - Appreciation(Thankfulness): More Than Words  
PM - **VIF Annual Business Meeting**

## December 2014

- 4 Seniors Luncheon
- 3 Set-up: Christmas Decorations @ WES
- 5 Worship Team Annual Meeting
- 6 TTWN Fun Run  
International Mission Study @ Kahului Baptist

## December 2014 (continued)

- 7 AM - *Pastor Jeremy* - Christmas: A Fulfillment of Scripture  
PM - TBA
- 10 G-Force Christmas Party @ The Drayson's
- 14 AM - *Pastor Stephen* - Christmas: An Inconvenient Time  
PM - TBA
- 20 Surf Ministry - Launiupoko, Lahaina
- 21 AM - *Pastor Darren* - Christmas: A Time of Great Opportunity  
PM - TBA
- 24 Christmas Eve Service - 6:30 pm
- 28 AM - *Pastor Stephen* - A New Beginning  
AM - Tear-Down: Christmas Decorations @ WES  
PM - TBA

For by grace you have been saved through faith.  
Ephesians 2:8

## Valley Isle Fellowship

ph: (808) 244-0865  
www.vifmaui.com

### SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria  
355 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

1st Service - 8:00 am

\*Child care available at High Street property\*

2nd Service - 9:45 am

\*Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property\*

**Assistant Pastor**  
*Darren Sarmiento*

Cell: (808) 757-1651

Email: [darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com)

**Senior Pastor**

*Stephen Kaneshiro*

Cell: (808) 419-8100

Email: [icastephen@gmail.com](mailto:icastephen@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

VIF Church Sanctuary  
473 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

6:00 pm



"Valley Isle Fellowship Church"

**Assistant Pastor**

*Jeremy Kaneshiro*

Cell: (808) 280-2780

Email: [vifjeremy@gmail.com](mailto:vifjeremy@gmail.com)

# What Makes A Good Missionary?

## Matthew 5:1-6 (ESV)

*Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro*

1. Knowing you're bad and need rescue.
2. Brokenness over your sin.
3. Realizing you don't need earthly victories.
4. Remembering and hungering after Jesus' righteousness not my own.
5. *"Christianity is beggars telling other beggars where the bread is..."*

### NOTES: