

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

John 12:13 ESV



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Worship Service

Sunday, 5 April, 2020

www.bereanbarbados.org

Morning Worship Live Stream - 10:40am

<https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

Midweek Bible Study (Wednesday)

bit.ly/BereanSmallGroupA **(12:00 pm)**

bit.ly/BereanSmallGroupB **(7:30 pm)**

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ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saviour and King

What is Love?

No one will ever be mistreated as unfairly as was our Lord.

He was stricken, smitten and afflicted. He was despised and rejected by men—his own creatures. He was a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering, like one from whom we hide their faces. He was despised and we esteemed him not. When reviled, Jesus did not revile in return. He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities. When he rode in on that donkey on Palm Sunday, he did so knowing that he would bear the punishment to bring us peace and that by his wounds we would be healed.

In other words, he showed his great love for us in this: that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

So we will not know what love is like unless we know Jesus.

The world will not know what love is truly like until it sees it in Christ. Everything else is a pale imitation, maybe even a deceptive imitation. Christ is our substitute and our example. And with Christ as our example, our command is this: we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. This is why love is so much more difficult than the bumper stickers make it out to be. It requires so much more than a general sentiment of good will. It is so much deeper and better than unconditional affirmation.

What does unconditional affirmation require of you by way of sacrifice? Nothing. All it requires is a wave of the hand—“Whatever you do, I’m fine. However you live, that’s fine.” The problem with unconditional affirmation is not that it is too lavishly loving, but that it is not nearly loving enough. When God tells us to love our brothers he means more than saying, “I’m okay. You’re okay. Whatever you do is fine and I don’t judge.” To really love your brother is to lay down your life for him. It requires you to die to yourself, which may mean a sacrifice of your time, a sacrifice of your reputation, and a sacrifice of your comfort. Unconditional affirmation only asks that you sacrifice your principles.

Love is harder than we think. Of course we love our kids and grandkids and those who treat us well. We love nice people. But Jesus says even the pagans do this. That’s not hard. People love people who love them. But will we keep on loving when it means bearing burdens we would rather not be bothered with? Will we love when the people we love do not love us in return? Will we lay down our lives for those who are unlovely, undeserving, ungrateful?

Isn’t that what Christ did for us? When we were unlovely and undeserving and ungrateful, Christ died for us. He loved us not because we were holy, but so that we might be holy. His love was self-sacrificing, sin-atoning, and life-transforming.

He loves us with a love that the world does not understand. And it is so much better than unconditional affirmation.

Kevin DeYoung (PhD, University of Leicester) is senior pastor of Christ Covenant Church in Matthews, North Carolina, board chairman of The Gospel Coalition, and assistant professor of systematic theology at Reformed Theological Seminary (Charlotte). He has authored numerous books, including *Just Do Something*. Kevin and his wife, Trisha, have eight children: Ian, Jacob, Elizabeth, Paul, Mary, Benjamin, Tabitha, and Andrew.

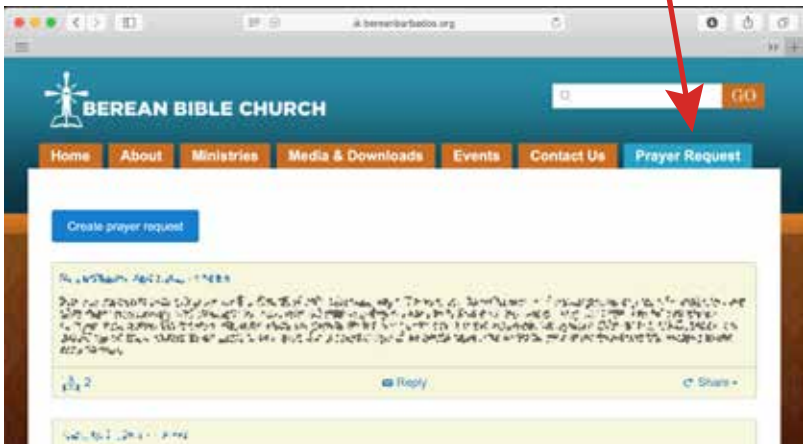


PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- Give God thanks for His grace and continual goodness
- Continue to pray for our sick members, friends and relatives.
- For continued good health and prevention of the spread of COVID-19
- For our members impacted by loss of income and provision for the needy
- Pray for the ministry of Pastor Paul Garnes, as well as for his family
- Pray for the care of our elderly and shut-ins
- Pray for those who are in grief over the loss of relatives
- Pray for the healing of the Prime Minister and for the guidance of the Acting Prime Minister and the Government as they navigate this crisis.
- For the economic recovery of our country Barbados
- For the peace of Jerusalem

Your can add your **PRAYER REQUEST** by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.bereanbarbados.org/prayer-request/>



April Birthdays

4th - Anita Eastmond

8th - Signe Watson

12th - Patricia Scott

15th - Kenny St. Cyr

17th - Charmaine Brathwaite

22nd- Joy-Ann Beckles

- Tanya Lowe

23rd - Chirlene Black

- Dazil Blackman

- Wendy Jones

24th - Susan Greenidge

27th - Marlene Skinner

29th - Kevin Gaskin

Anniversaries

18th - Ricardo & Julia Licorish