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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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**WISE COUNSEL
FROM PROPHET
JEREMIAH
(Lam 3:19 –33)**

*Summary of Prayer
Meeting Devotion by
Pastor on 28 Dec 2022*



Pastor Jack welcomed the 14 attendees, comprising members & regular friends, a new participant, Mr. Foo Kong Jiang (Samuel's friend) and 4 overseas brethren - Pastor Babu (New Covenant BPCI, Bangalore), Pastor Lazarus (Calvary Reformed church, Bangalore), Myitta (Yangon, Myanmar) and Hla Pui (Mercy Church, Nay Pyi Taw).

We opened the Prayer Meeting with the Hymn, "Take Time to be Holy". Thereafter, Pastor Jack led us in opening prayer and then 5 selected attendees each read out 3 verses from the text taken from Lam.3:19 – 33.

Here are the salient points of the devotion:

A) Remembering God Humbly in our Afflictions. (v.19 – 21)

Jeremiah had a very difficult message. He was sent to tell the Israelites to repent and to turn to the Lord, as the Assyrians were coming into Israel and the Babylonians to Judah. In the Book of Jeremiah, the prophet was being imprisoned by the king of Israel, who did not like his preaching on the message of judgement, and the call for repentance and coming back to the Lord. Jeremiah suffered a lot in his life, so the Book of Lamentations was written to verbally express his **wailing** or **crying out** or **lamentations** from his sufferings, symbolised by the words, "**wormwood**" and "**gall**" in **verse 19**, and the word "**affliction**" that also implied his struggles, misery, pain and despair.

What should Christians do when they go through afflictions such as sickness, agony and pain?

Afflictions need not necessarily just be illnesses as they can also be in the form of work or family problems, spiritual, mental or personal struggles or stress and distress. Christians should be willing and ready to accept afflictions from the Lord. As Christians, we must not develop the mindset

that we are free from pain, suffering and agony just because we have Christ as our Saviour.

Some charismatic leaders give people the false impression that falling sick is not the will of God and there for they will and should be healed, therefore they should seek all ways and means to get rid of it, instead of turning to God.

In **verse 20**, Jeremiah used the words **“remembrance”** and **“humbled”** to remind us that God allows afflictions in the lives of Christians to keep us humble and remind us that we need God in all aspects of our lives as he could **“recall”** (in **verse 21**) such instances from the past when God humbled the believers/ Christians.

Do I seek God in my life for His pardoning grace and mercy whenever I encountered afflictions and problems, or do I depend on man or my own resources to mitigate them? Something to think about.

B) Trusting God for His Covenant Faithfulness & Mercies. (v.22 – 24)

Verse 22 & 23 says: *“It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness”.*

These words are in the title of a song/ hymn called “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”.

3. attributes of God are mentioned here - mercies, compassion and faithfulness.

All of us here, who are Christians and are saved, have been transformed though not yet perfectly. It is hoped that some part of the communicable attributes of God, such as mercy, compassion and faithfulness, must be found in us, as they are in our God. These attributes are perfect in God but not perfect in man.

God has allowed us to experience His sovereign grace as we go through a crisis. Grace is something unmerited, as in we get what we don't deserve. Mercy is something we do not get, even though we deserve it. Thus we must remember to give the correct response or attitude to rectify our sins as we seek God for His mercies. When we think of God's mercies to us, we should cry out to God to forgive us of our wrongdoings. Because of God's mercies, we are thus not “consumed”, meaning “to be put to death by fire.”

Compassion is an emotion from which a positive, caring and loving action should emerge from. It is important for us as Christians, to develop compassion for others, just as the Lord has shown compassion to us. Sadly, this attribute is sometimes missing even among Christians. Hence it is good to develop both mercy, compassion and faithfulness.

The Lord is looking for dependable, reliable and faithful people who can stand the test of time, even in the midst of duress and distress. Faithfulness is the ability to stick to something and not give up even amidst duress.

Faithfulness to God requires us to be committed to obey, to serve and to glorify God in all that we do. It requires a certain humble submission or willingness to stand the test of time. Can God forsake us? Will God give up on us?

Until the day you die, some say that you do not know if your salvation is sure or not. It depends on how God treats you. They believe that there is no preservation of the saints which is not true. From the doctrines of grace, we believe that God is faithful to the very end and in Philippians 1:5, God will complete whatever He purposed to do till the end of time. He will not fail in His promises and covenants with a certain people whom He has chosen.

We need to trust in the faithfulness of the Lord and His mercy. The word trust means to depend on. **We should trust in the God who is sovereign to decide what to do with and for us. It is not for us to throw in the towel or give up despite our struggles in our families or our jobs. While man fails, God will not and cannot fail. This is a strong biblical principle of God's character.** That is why it makes a difference for Christians when we are saved, and we have an absolutely reliable God whom we worship, and we know that His Word is dependable, and He is a faithful God who keeps His promises.

C) Waiting & Hoping In God Patiently. (v.25 – 33)

The word “hope” was used in verses 21,24,26 &29. Is it an important word as it was used so many times? The end of year 2022 provides a kind of a breather for many people, even for China who has given up her “zero- Covid” policy. Now people have hope, and we can see God's sovereignty in it. Their hope is so real now that they should give glory to God, who has answered their prayers.

The waiting and hoping must be based on God, the person whom you trust, as reflected in verse 26: “It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.” Our hope is in God, in His salvation which needs our patience.

We should start and end the year with patient waiting and hoping.

While we are waiting for the second coming of our Lord, we can do so in a productive and engaging way such as worshipping God and evangelising to unbelievers with the gospel.

We need to be engaging, enduring, persevering and patient in continuing our waiting and hoping in the Lord into the new year.

Conclusion:

The chosen text from Lam 3:19- 33 holds much wise counsel and lessons for present day Christians to apply them in their lives, to remember and trust in God's **mercy, grace and faithfulness during afflictions and to wait patiently with hope, to attain victory in our salvation through Christ our Redeemer and Lord.**

Han Kin Hoong

Dedication of Stewards in the New Year



Rom 12:10 -12 *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.”*

Thank God for 43 worshippers who came for the first service of the year and also witnessed the dedication of the teaching staff and serving stewards of the church as we commit them in their service to the Lord by prayer and the Word.



Pray for our Session members, Sun School teachers, musicians, worship chairmen, ushers, PA crew, Chinese evening fellowship and ministry, missions, NBC, church camp, and those helping with the food and logistic ministry and evangelism and discipleship and other personal ministry.



The first new Sunday school class under Dn Yue Kay and Bro Paul Kong started last Sunday on practical reflections from the book of Ephesians, besides the adult class by Dr Tan on 1Chronicles and the Westminster Confession class taken by Pastor. Let us make an effort to stay back for any of the 3 Sunday school

classes and benefit from the instruction of the Word as we deepen our knowledge of the Word of God in the new year.



As Paul says in 1Th 5:12-13, *“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”*

Let us appreciate and pray for wisdom for them as they serve the Lord in our midst and for ourselves that we be committed to spiritual growth and vitality in Christ. Let us also consider how we may serve Christ in the new year with our God given gifts and talents.



2Tim 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*



Jack Sin

Lord's Day Programme for January - March 2023

The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action

(Book of Ephesians)



JANUARY

- 1 Divine Calling of a Believer (1:1-12)
- 8* Character of the Church (1:13-23)
- 15 Changed from Darkness to Light (2:1-10)
- 22 Progress of the Church (2:11-22)
- 29 Fullness of the Church (3:1-12)

FEBRUARY

- 5 **5th Anniversary Thanksgiving**
The Witness of the Church in Dangerous Times (Acts 5:29-42)
- 12* Functions of the Church (3:13-21)
- 19 Conduct of the Church (4:1-16)
- 26 Steps for Effective Witness in our Lives (4:17-32)

MARCH

- 5 Divinely Transformed Living (5:1-21)
- 12* Guidelines for Healthy Marital Relations (5:22-33)
- 19 Rules for Family Relationships (6:1-9)
- 26 Divine Protection for Spiritual Combat (6:10-24)

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Bible-based Christian Church

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An Invitation to rejoice with us!
5th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, 5 Feb 2023, 10am

*The Witness of the Church
in Dangerous Times*

(Acts 5:29-42)

*Guest Speaker:
Rev Philip Heng*

Kindly inform Dn Yue Kay (+65 97450311) by 25 Jan 2023
if you are attending as lunch will be provided.

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Memory Verse

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! We are so glad you are here to worship with us. If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on "**Character of the Church (Eph 1:13-23)**", the start of a new quarterly series on "**The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action (Book of Ephesians)**".
3. Preacher Mok is our Lord's messenger next Sunday on "**Changed from Darkness to Light (Eph 2:1-10)**".
4. Come and learn at our weekly Sunday School classes after the worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Practical Reflections from Ephesians – Dn Yue Kay & Paul Kong
5. We are commemorating 5 years of blessed ministry of Sovereign Hope BP Church as follows:
 - **Thanksgiving Lunch Fellowship on Saturday 4 Feb 2023** at Changi Beach Club. All church members and regular worshippers are invited but you **MUST REGISTER with Dn Yue Kay by 8 Jan.**
 - **Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday 5 Feb 2023**, 10am at our church premise.
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Basic Theology, and the book of Joshua. Join us for a time of profitable learning
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 3 Mar 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. We need willing hands and hearts to assist in the weekly cleaning of the premises. Do let Dn Yue Kay if you are available to serve in this area.
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**