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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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“Seeking the Old Path/Way”

Summary of Devotion by Pastor at Wed Prayer Meeting
(10 Aug 2022)

Jeremiah 6:16

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”



Pastor Jack welcomed the 15 attendees, comprising members & regular friends and 5 overseas brethren, namely, Rev. Kim Kah Teck (Taipei), Pastor Tieng Chanthon (1st BPC, Siem Reap, Cambodia), Elder Habakkuk (Gilead Balm Home, Yangon), Benjamin (Myanmar) and Sister Hla Pui (Mercy Church, Nay Pyi Taw). The Prayer Meeting commenced with the Hymn, “*My Faith Has Found A Resting Place*”, followed by opening prayer and the reading from Jer. 6:16. Below are the salient points of the devotion shared by Pastor.

A) Introduction to Jeremiah.

The prophet Jeremiah preached during the reign of the last 5 kings of the Divided Kingdom, namely Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoachin and Zedekiah. (626 -586BC). He started his ministry when he was 20 years old and preached for 50 years till he was 70 years old. He wrote the Books of Jeremiah, Lamentations, and was an important prophet. His life had one of the most difficult tasks and he was tried harshly among the Old Testament prophets. He saw Jerusalem and the temple destroyed, the people taken away as captives by the Babylonians, including himself, so he felt very sad. As a result of what he saw, preached and suffered, he was often referred to as “**the Weeping Prophet**”. At the start of his ministry, God had told him directly that many would reject him and his message of repentance and turning back to God.

B) The 5 Verbs from Jer.6:16 are “Stand, See, Ask, Walk & Find”.

These words were not Jeremiah's. He was just quoting God in verbatim as he had stated “Thus saith the Lord”.

- I. The first word that the Lord said was “**stand** ye in the way” which means “to hold ground and stand firmly, without moving”. In our present daily lives, we tend to be pushed around physically as we commute in buses and trains, so we will be likely to fall if we do not stand our ground firmly. Likewise, as Christians, it is important that we need to hold our ground firmly in our beliefs/doctrines/faith in the old ways/paths of worshipping and obeying God and not to give up in the way that is right with God. In Eph 6:11-13, we are also reminded to “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil” and “take unto ye the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**.” Satan has tried to knock down Christians many times with negative experiences that the hope will cause us to give up our calling on what God has called us to do but we should not.
- II. The 2nd word “**see**”, suggests that you are conscious and focussed, not asleep; for when you stand, you are awake, with the eyes open. When you **see** the way/ road, you are looking at the **right things, people or content** which will affect your life, direction, purpose and ministry. The Old Testament gives us the warning or admonition that in the face of imminent danger, we simply give up on our goals, beliefs, faith and obedience to God. When you stand and see, you are especially conscious of the Word and Will of God. When you see, you only see what is in front of you, so you may not know everything, so then you ask for guidance.
- III. The 3rd word is “**ask**”. What should we ask for? Ask for the old paths, since we do not know the way. The questions asked should not be used to ridicule, shame or insult those who ask them. Hence those who ask questions must have a humble and sincerely inquiring nature to ask relevant and sensible ones relating to the good, old and proven ways of acceptable practices in church worship and doctrines. For doctrines, beliefs and faith, the old paths refer to those from the time of Moses, that are proven and established old and good ways of worshipping, serving and obeying God, and NOT the current “New Age practices that deviate from the old paths.
- IV. The 4th word is “**walk**” which not only means the physical movement of ambulating, but also to follow and lead and dwell in the old paths/ways of worship. It means that for your whole life, you will be following the old path.
- V. The 5th word is “**find**”. We shall find eternal rest, peace and contentment for our soul, not our body.

C) The Contamination of the World, Compromise of the Church & Consecration to Christ

The Contamination of The World.

The Puritans were a group of Christians in the 16th and 17th century who came out from the Church of England. They emphasised a lot on holiness and godliness in their lives and in the church. They were concerned with the purity of doctrine and the faith as well in the English 16th century Reformation Movement and the contamination of the world that came into the Church and affected it. The practices of the State affected the Church,

which to some extent came under the State's control. The doctrines of the Reformation Movement were often contrary to defective teachings of the medieval Church and brought the church back to the teachings of the Bible. They were not totally happy with the English Reformation Movement as it still retained some practices of the medieval Church, so they clamoured to go back to the old paths of Biblical practices. They relied strongly on the Bible (The Word of God) as a plumbline (sole authority for all matters) for resolving all manner of issues that were encountered in their daily life. They strongly sought for the proven and established good "old" ways/paths to live out their lives as prescribed in the Bible.

The Compromise of the Church.

The English Puritans were also strong on experimental devotion and religious practices which are lived out in their lives and based on truth on the Word of God. The Puritans were very covenantal in doctrine and theological in reforms and Calvinistic in their beliefs. Most of them were Presbyterians while a few were reformed Baptists or Independent. They were very covenantal and concerned with the compromise of the Church, especially in the areas of doctrine, church practices, family worship and corporate worship and the sacraments. They emphasised strongly on catechising (teaching) the children through a series of questions and answers with the shorter catechism much later, and also on discipline and holiness in their personal life as well as in their family life and worship, such as in the appropriate atmosphere of holiness and the attire to wear for Sunday worship service and in the expression of their reverence and obedience to God and honouring their parents.

The Consecration to Christ

The Puritans also stressed a lot on the keeping of the OT Laws, especially the moral laws, the 10 Commandments, which are the moral laws of God that showcase God's character and they even regarded them as the gospel. They stressed on keeping the Sabbath holy and on the keeping of the 2 Sacraments in the right manner, such as The Lord's Supper and baptism. The consecration of their hearts to devout religious beliefs, teachings and practices to Christ was fully declared in the verse 16 of Jeremiah 6 that reads "and ye shall find rest for your souls" whereby as Christians, we are exhorted to "seek the old paths" that are good and established by God, as expounded in the Holy Bible, so as to have that eternal rest and peace for our souls found in Christ alone.



May we all be obedient to the Lord's exhortation.
Amen.

Han Kin Hoong

GODLY COUNSEL FOR PILGRIMS & STRANGERS (STUDIES IN 1 PETER)

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR JUL-SEP 2022

JULY

- 3 Our Salvation & Eternal Hope (1 Pet 1:1-12)
- 10* Sojourning in the Fear of God (1 Pet 1:13-25)
- 17 Of Lively Stones & Royal Priesthood (1 Pet 2:1-10)
- 24 Of Pilgrims & Strangers (1 Pet 2:11-25)
- 31 Guide for The Believers Domestic Life (1 Pet 3:1-9)

AUGUST

- 7 Christian Apologetics in Practice (1 Pet 3:10-15)
- 14* Keeping a Good Conscience (1 Pet 3:16-22)
- 21 Godly Demeanour in Afflictions (1 Pet 4:1-8)
- 28 How to be Faithful Stewards of God (1 Pet 4:9-11)

SEPTEMBER

- 4 When We Suffer for Christ (1 Pet 4:12-19)
- 11* Models in Meek Service (1 Pet 5:1-7)
- 18 Sober and Vigilant Stand Against Evil (1 Pet 5:8-14)
- 25 Seeking Reconciliation with God (2 Cor 5:11-21)



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Memory Verse

1 Pet 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Gospel Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on “**How to be Faithful Stewards of God**” (1 Pet 4:9-11), the quarterly series on **Godly Counsel for Pilgrims and Strangers (studies in 1Peter)**.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “**When We Suffer for Christ**” (1 Pet 4:12-19).
4. The **Church Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM)** is held today **28 Aug 2022, 11.45am** after worship service. Church members are required to attend.
5. Sunday School classes will resume next week:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Addressing Objections to the Gospel – Joseph Wee
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a video study on Fundamentals of Theology on alternate Sundays. 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 2 Sep 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
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**
