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SPIRITUAL INDIFFERENCE - CAUSES AND CURES



Nonchalance about God and spiritual things can challenge our Commitment to Christ by believers today faced with many obstacles.

The love of God for His people has a price tag to Christ (Matt 1:21). The unconditional agape love of God for men resulted in the vicarious atonement of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as a propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:1,2). Rom 5:1,8 says, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* In response we are to love Him as Christ has loved us (1 Jn 4:19).

The evil one will try to impede and thwart our desire for genuine love and commitment for the Almighty Jehovah. There are certain obstacles to a God-honouring and God loving relationship that one must be careful of.

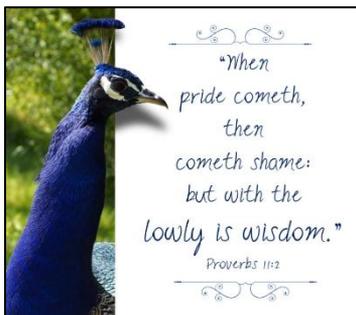
Snare of Sin

One of the greatest problems is our own depravity that robs God and others of the love that is due to our sinful self. The corruption of the flesh results in a lack of love for God but a love of self and the world. The world teaches a self-love and a quest for self-esteem, but our Lord said in Matt 22:37, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."* The biblical principle is love God and follow Him wholly not self. We are to love and fear God first, then to love and others second (Matt 22:37,38). Cultivate and nurture a genuine interest to honour, please and glorify God always. We need to examine ourselves if we are really indulging in self-love or the giving up of oneself in self-denial to truly serve, worship and love God (and then men).

Arrogance and Pride

There is another serious impediment to our efforts to love God and men. It is a crafty foe, which is the sinful pride of men – 1 Pet 5:5,6 says, *"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of*

God, that he may exalt you in due time.” One of the things that God hates is a haughty spirit (Prov 6:16-18).



There is the danger for many who are prone to exalt self above others. We need to consciously humble ourselves before God. Pride had brought King Nebuchadnezzar trouble (2 Sam 24) and Eve in the temptation at the Garden of Eden (in Gen 3:2-7 where Eve ate of the forbidden fruit thinking that it can make one wise).

Solomon in Prov 11:2 says, "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom" and the Psalmist says in Ps 10:12, "Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up

thine hand: forget not the humble." **One of the greater problems between interpersonal relations (ie husband and wife, father and son, employee and employer) is pride. We are to be wary of the great peril of pride that can hurt and destroy our relationships with God and men.**

Affection of the World

An effective ploy of the devil is the love of this world, which draws away our love for God, His will, work and Word. Worldliness is an inordinate love for the world robs us of the time, devotion and commitment to the cause of Christ and the advancement of the gospel. It consumes us, occupies our time and saps our energy and finally has the potential



to depreciate our devotion to God and men. It can come in a form of secular work, family, pets, plants, sports, leisure, and entertainment or even a seemingly harmless interest or hobby.

The world seems to have a seductive hold on Christians but in 1 John 2:15-17 we are told, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." Demas fell for the world in 2 Tim 4:10 and left the Lord and the ministry. Lot's wife was gripped by the powerful diabolical force of this sinful and depraved world of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:26). Beware that this sin does not overcome us subtly. Take heed that we love not Vanity Fair, which Bunyan has rightly portrayed in Pilgrim's Progress as an impediment to the Celestial City.

Emotional & Social Ills

Often, Satan can make use of an inordinate spirit of undue anger or antipathy against God or others will lead even Christians to a disposition of revenge and foolish in fighting instead of caring regard and genuine love for God and the kingdom of God. There are those who are offended easily, or may uncontrollably express their anger in verbal insults, nonchalance, gossip, lies slander, or even physical hurt to others. Paul in Col 3:8-10 warns us, *“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”* Paul said in Rom 12:17, *“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”* We are to remember that God is sovereign, and we are not to engage in personal strife and animosity that undermine the unity and peace of the family or the church. Forgiveness is required of believers who have experienced the forgiveness of Christ in the first place.

Avarice for Material Wealth

There is an avaricious desire by many consumed by the wealth trap, to accumulate more worldly assets. It is not wrong if we have a legitimate work and support a family with contentment. But greed for money will have the effect of being an idol and turning our attention from God to the craze for worldly assets.



Recently the 3-year-old FTX crypto currency empire had collapsed sending shock waves in the marketplace. The price of Bitcoin dropped by more than 70 percent from its glorious heights early this year and Ethereum fell too. The bull can be a bear in disguise and may finally rear its ugly head.

The latest is that BlockFi, a crypto lender files for bankruptcy with its exposure to the FTX exchange. Even a well-run government linked company here wrote off US\$275million besides its impact on other institutional and individual investors.

NFTs and other digital currency may give speculators or investors willing to take high risk possible big windfalls overnight, but it can cut both ways. The author met a local bank manager who lost \$10,000 in 2 minutes and he learned a hefty lesson. MAS, our central bank is poised to tighten regulations here as the total fallout is yet to be felt fully.

Avarice is a tricky game, and it can take you up for a financial ride, but it may be short lived as the insatiable desire to want more presents a basic economic problem of fallen man which is his own nemesis. That goes for betting on the present World Cup matches too.

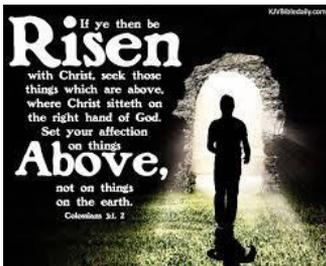
Paul's advice to young Timothy needs to be taken seriously, Godliness with contentment is great gain in 1Tim 6:6 and the opposite is also true with great loss. Many has fallen prey to a greedy streak as Achan and Gehazi of the Old Testament learnt a bitter lesson. Our Lord told the people in Mark 8:36, "For what does it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.
Ecclesiastes 5:10



Do you just want short term pleasure and gains, or you do seek a lasting eternal inheritance? It is your call to pray and think and do our calculations again wisely if we are to end well in life one day.

Jesus in Matt 13:23 warns of the deceitfulness of riches and cares. The world that can choke the seed or rendered it unfaithful. Our lives can be fruitless if we are caught up with just physical accumulation of wealth and the craze for prestige, power and position in this temporal life. It will negate our efforts to love and serve God and advance His kingdom on earth through the gospel. The Bible constantly reminds us to examine ourselves and get our



priorities right. Col 3:1,2 says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Tim 6:6,10). Let us learn to be content and thankful to God for all His provisions and not let this seductive world ensnare us with greed, which is idolatry (Col 3:5).

Conclusion

The Christian life is fraught with dangers. These are serious obstacles to a life of selfless discipleship and devotion to Christ. We must be watchful and focused on Christ lest the evil on seeks to rob us of the joy of salvation. Ps 139:23,24 says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." To address this, let us always confess and repent of our sins and put God first and in prayer, worship and the meditation of the Word despite a demanding worldly work schedule, studies or family burdens and other cares of this life. **Let us consciously strive to fear and to love God in our walk of faith, giving due attention to seek God first in the meditation of his word and to build up ourselves, the church and our families in the nurture and fear of God always.**

Jack Sin



Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

A Puritan Minister and Theologian,
who influenced 17th-century
English Protestantism Assembly



To Value Heaven

*"The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the
heart of the wicked is little worth."*

Proverbs 10:20

A sound belief in things unseen will cause practical estimation of them, and that above all earthly things. A glimpse of the heavenly glory as in a glass will cause the soul to deliberately say, "This is the chief desirable felicity; this is the crown, the pearl, the measure; nothing but this can serve my turn." It will debase the greatest pleasures, or riches, or honors of the world in your esteem. How contemptible will they seem while you see God stand by, and heaven as it were set open to your view; you will see there is little cause to envy the prosperity of the servants of the world; you will pity them in their mirth, and bound in the fetters of their folly and concupiscence, and as strangers to all solid joy and honor. You will be moved with some compassion to them in their misery, when they are braving it among men, and domineering for a little while; and you will think, "Alas! Poor man! Is this all your glory? Do you have no better wealth, no higher honor, no sweeter pleasures than these husks?" With such a practical judgment as you value gold above dirt, and jewels above common stones, you will value heaven above all the riches and pleasures of this world, if you have indeed a living saving faith.

** Extracted from *Day by Day with the English Puritans*, Hendrickson Publishers, 2004.**

BRING A FRIEND!

SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

*When the Heavenly King
Condescended*

COME AND FIND OUT THE TRUE MEANING
OF THE FIRST COMING OF CHRIST AND
ITS LASTING IMPACT IN OUR LIVES TODAY

BY REV JACK SIN

DECEMBER 25,
10:00 AM

VENUE : SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION
@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(405022)

All Are Welcome

THOSE INTERESTED TO INFORM
DN YUE KAY AT 97450311 BY 15 DEC



SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

**Guidelines for End
Times Living**

BY REV JACK SIN

DECEMBER 31
8:00 PM

VENUE :
SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION
@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(405022)

THOSE INTERESTED TO INFORM
DN YUE KAY AT 97450311 BY 20 DEC 2022



Welcoming the Liu family from Vancouver, Canada who visited us last Sunday.



Thank God for the sweet fellowship over the sumptuous refreshments and for all who helped.

HAPPY Birthday!
May God bless you with an abundance of peace, joy, and love this coming year.

December
 Albert
 Devi
 Hnin
 Kim Meng

DECEMBER 4

The Holy Spirit & Worship
 (John 4:20-30)

SOVEREIGNHOPE



Memory Verse

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our 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 "***The Holy Spirit & the Charismatic Movement (1Cor 13:1-13)***", continuing the quarterly series on "The Holy Spirit & The Believer Today".
3. Rev Philip Heng will be preaching next Sunday on "***The Gifts of the Spirit (Rom 12:1-12)***".
4. The following Sunday School classes continue after worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Addressing Objections to the Gospel – Joseph Wee
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
5. A Church Choir is being formed for the 5th Anniversary Thanksgiving Worship Service in Feb 2023 with practices commencing in Jan. Contact Dn Kwong Leen by Dec 18 to register.
6. **Christmas Day Worship Service on Sun morning 25 Dec 2022** will be an evangelistic outreach. Pastor will preach on "***When the Heavenly King Condescended***" and brother Alvin will share his salvation testimony. Bring someone to hear the Christmas message and the gospel of Christ.
7. **Watchnight Service** will be held on **Sat 31 Dec 2022, 8pm**. End the year with worship, thanksgiving and reflection of the past year and heart preparation for the new year 2023.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 6 Jan 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
11. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
12. 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**