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In Memoriam of Dr John Sung **- How to be a Workman** **Pleasing to the Lord -**



Dictated on 24 October 1941 on his sick bed in Peking by John Sung and translated into English by Rev Dr K. C. Quek.

During these 113 days, God has been truly leading me and enabling me to gain deep spiritual insight. In the past, I had attached great importance to the work of preaching. Now, to me, nothing is more important than prayer. The spiritual realm knows no bounds.

A workman pleasing to the LORD should pay attention to the following 12 points:

1. Be thoroughly dead

Dead to the world, dead to the flesh, dead to self: I Live, yet not I, but Christ living in me. For me to die is gain.

2. Receive revelation direct from the LORD (through His Word)

Not only preaching, but also prophesying as a prophet, not only Christ revealed in the heart, but also dwelling in Him and living out our life in Him.

3. Understand the whole Bible

Do not read the Bible simply with man's wisdom, nor study the Bible simply with theological knowledge, but "eat" the book and let it become your own flesh – the flesh becoming the Word; rightly dividing the word of truth.



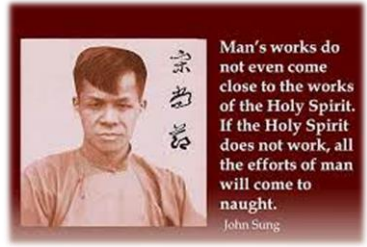
4. In prayer be able to hear that "still small voice".

Be able to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, to keep close to God, have fellowship with Him face to face and obtain power to break the wiles of Satan.

5. Be thoroughly "soaked through" by the Holy Spirit

The legs soaked through to be able to tread the path of obedience; the knees soaked through to be able to pray without ceasing and "enjoy" the LORD; the waist soaked through to be able to witness for truth with courage;

the hands soaked through to be able to witness with power to “prick” the hearts of the hearers; the eyes soaked through to be able to discern all things; the ears soaked through to be able to hear that “still small voice”; the face soaked through to be able to look like angels; the head soaked through to be free from all prejudices; the heart soaked through to be able to be like-minded with Christ; the whole body soaked through to display the beauty of God.



6. Be full of love for the souls of men

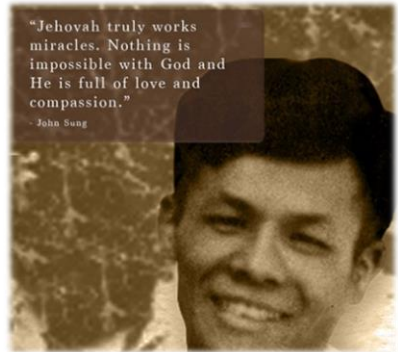
When you see souls perishing, you should be very anxious as if a fire were burning in your heart; follow the LORD dying for His sheep; be prepared to lose all the world for the sake of winning souls. Paul said preaching the Gospel is like paying debts. He said, “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel!”

7. Lift high the Cross of Christ

Do not build a Tower of Babel with rationalism, “elements of the world” (Gal 4:3), the traditions of men or the law.

8. Be fervent in prayer

The great power of God does not come other than from the Upper Room prayers. When believers were watered with the water of life, many gifts flowed out from them naturally – nobody preached church truth, and yet churches were established; nobody promoted evangelism and missions to faraway countries, and yet Philip went to the wilderness and preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch and Paul went on long-distance missionary journeys to Europe; nobody emphasized speaking in tongues; nobody taught them about community living, and yet they could love one another, nobody emphasized social concern, and yet they could provide relief for the orphans and widows; nobody propagated signs and wonders, and yet such gifts followed them. Therefore, I say, all that we have attained in the spiritual realm does not come other than from fervent prayer with one accord in the Upper Room.



9. Bear the Cross cheerfully

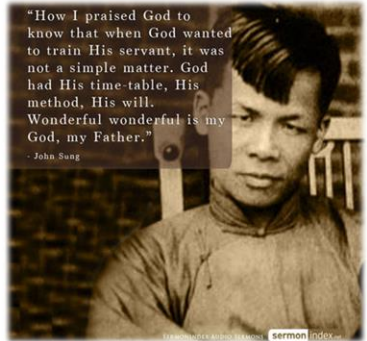
Arm yourself with the word of God cheerfully bearing all afflictions; be not ashamed of the Gospel; learn of the death of Christ; do not seek fame or filthy lucre; hide yourself in Christ.

10. Discern the wiles of Satan

Be able to expose the devil masquerading as an angel and see through the false prophet and the false Christ. Acquire a genuine spirit of discernment. Stand on the watchtower to stop the gap for the Church of Jesus Christ and be a pillar for His Church. Defend the faith unflinchingly, without bias.

11. Cooperate very lovingly with co-workers in the LORD

Do not build a tower of Babel for yourself. Do not strive and form cliques. Whatsoever is generally considered good, do it heartily. Make no difference as long as the Gospel is preached, be happy and contented. Be sure to strive together for the faith of the Gospel in one spirit and with one mind, to the end that more and more souls may be saved and the Name of God glorified.



12. Be vigilant and watch for the coming again of our LORD

Obey the “Word of the LORD’s patience” (Rev 3:10). Have faith, hope and joy in the midst of all trials and tribulations. Be able to “sing” in the night and remain faithful unto death.

Conclusion

Brothers and sisters! I have been praying every day for the Church, both at home and abroad, that God will produce many, many such workmen who, as I have through much prayer these 100 odd days come to understand, will be pleasing to the LORD and need not be ashamed (2 Tim 2:15).

If preachers have opportunities to go to quiet places for personal devotions, they too may see what I have seen, and attain what God wants them to attain.

Verbally dictated by John Sung, now in the bosom of the LORD, on 24 October 1941 and Translated by the late Rev Dr Quek Kiok Chiang, who under the ministry of Dr John Sung in 1935, received Jesus as his personal Saviour and consecrated himself to serve the LORD all the days of his life, together with Rev Dr Timothy Tow and Dr SH Tow besides others.

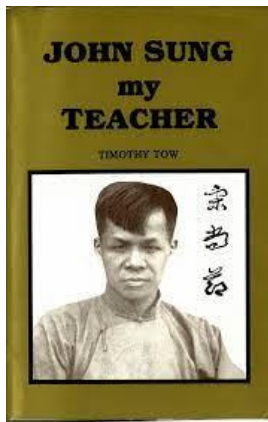
(Editor’s Note. Dr John Sung, was the famed revivalist who was born in Putien, China on 27 Sept 1901 and who impacted the founding fathers of the BP movement in Asia for which we are thankful.

From 1928 to 1939, after getting a PhD in Chemistry from the US, he gave up a promising teaching career and being soundly converted and convicted in his heart about the Christian faith, he travelled to most of China, as well as to the Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya and Sarawak (now

Malaysia), Thailand, Burma (Myanmar), Indonesia, and Vietnam, preaching the gospel of Christ to the awakening of many souls and churches.

At the height of Sung's ministry, his preaching drew thousands three times a day, each session lasting two to three hours. He led numerous Bible study retreats that lasted 10 days to a month.

It was reported that more than 100,000 Chinese were converted to evangelical Christianity through John Sung's ministry. Since Chinese Christians in 1949 numbered less than a million, John Sung's converts were a tenth of the total Christian population in China by the time of his death in 1944. He has impacted Asia and till today many Chinese churches owe a spiritual debt to this man of God. He set a good example for all to emulate and today there is a seminary called Chin Lien started by his interpreter Leona Wu, which is still training Chinese pastors for the wide mission fields.



Read John Sung my Teacher by Timothy Tow and Lim Ka Tong, The Life and Ministry of John Sung and his article in the Salt and Light Magazine, Aug 15, 2018)

SHBPC Reformation Webinar, 9 Oct 2021

“Lessons & Legacies from the English Reformation”



SHBPC Prayer Meeting (13 Oct 2021)

“Adventure of Deacon Philip’s Samaritan Ministry” (Acts 8: 5–24)

Pastor Jack welcomed the 14 attendees (Dn YK, members & regular friends and 5 overseas brethren, namely, Pastor Babu @ New Covenant BPC, India, Pastor Lazarus from Calvary Reformed Church, Preacher Mok @ New Life BPC, London, sister Lapui from Mercy Church, Naypyitaw, Myanmar, and newcomers Fong Choon Chiak, Edmund Leong, Grace Chan from Hong Kong).

We opened the Prayer Meeting with the hymn, “Fill Me Now“, a hymn of our service, worship, praise and self-denial to God, especially in this difficult, trying time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thereafter, Pastor Jack led the opening prayer. We then took turns to read God’s Word from Acts 8:5-24 before Pastor Jack expounded on it.

3 Salient Points to consider:

A) Preaching of the Gospel (v5 - 8)

- The word ‘preach’ was mentioned in v4,5 & 12.
- It has the element of to herald, proclaim, announce – NOT a suggestion, putting out a strong proposition/belief about the gospel.
- True preaching is all about the Word of God. In v5, we learn that preaching must be related to the person of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God, eternal matters, souls of man, salvation and things relating to God’s Kingdom – about faith, justification, sanctification, heaven, hell. (Reference to 1 Cor 1:21 – “the foolishness of preaching save some”)
- True biblical expository preaching forms the main emphasis in a Reformed church service besides the singing of hymns, reading of God’s Word, prayers, Holy Communion and the offering of our substance to God among others. There should be HEARING, UNDERSTANDING and APPLYING of the Word preached.

B) Perversion of the Gospel (v9 - 17)

- Simon used sorcery to bewitch the people. . . like a “shaman” using witchcraft (v9).
- Sorcery is still rife in current times (v11)! There are ‘Christians’ who dabble with stuff like the tarot cards, feng-shui (geomancy), occult practices, pokemon, talisman, magic, just to name a few. But, God clearly forbade such practices (Deuteronomy 18:9-12 and Lev 19:26-31).

There is still occultic practices in our midst in the celebration of Halloween, Harry potter books, Tarot cards, yoga, witchcraft and fengshui practices and others which he need to be vigilant against.

C) Pretender to the Gospel (v18 - 24)

- Simon pretended to believe and was baptised by the evangelist, Philip (v13). They met the 2 apostles, Peter and John, who were asked by Simon

if he could buy their powers of the holy Spirit with money from them which he had witnessed.

- The Bible teaches us that baptism does not save a person from eternal separation from God although it is commanded that those who are truly born again should be baptised.
- There has to be a clear understanding and confirmation of what it means to be baptised. You cannot buy salvation with money! Accepting “gifts” like this for spiritual benefit where they is none is akin to deception and bribery! Simon was eventually exposed by the 2 apostles. He was not truly saved! He was an imposer, a false believer, a so-called Christian like Judas and Lot’s wife. Only God knows who is truly saved and we need to examine our salvation too and not take it for granted.

Conclusion

Matthew 7: 21 – 23 should not be ignored for they are ‘frightening verses’! Not everyone who calls on God and who thinks he / she is a Christian by service in church can enter Heaven but those who do the will of the Father . . . Jesus Christ said, “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

We need to humbly Search ourselves. Am I a truly saved, born again child of God who fears God and keeps all His commandments? (2Cor 13:5)

Amen.

Han Kin Kheng





Thank God for the lovely music accompaniment that sis Janet faithfully provides at our worship service every Sunday.



SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

A Biblical Paradigm for Triumphant Christian Service

Lord's Day Programme
October – December 2021



Memory Verse

Neh 4:6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks today on “***The Elements of Healthy Church Life***” (*Neh 4:1-9, 16-23*), continuing the quarterly theme of “***A Biblical Paradigm for Triumphant Christian Service***”.
3. Joseph Wee speaks next Sunday on “***The Calls & Convictions of the Reformers***” (*Phil 1:12-27*).
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
 - Studies in Numbers – Dn Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. 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.
7. Neighbourhood Bible Class meets monthly on the first Friday of each month in church on the study of 2 Samuel.
8. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. 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**
