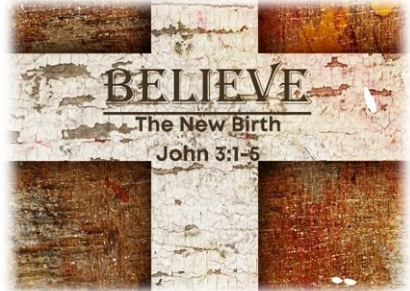


Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: tiloke822@gmail.com

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BIRTH

There are important reasons why we should all seek to understand the new birth, which our Saviour Jesus Christ speaks about to Nicodemus in John's Gospel chapter 3. Jesus makes it clear that unless a person is born again, he cannot be saved (John 3:3). Jesus makes this very clear in these words: "*He cannot enter into the Kingdom of God*" (John 3:5).



Another reason why the subject of the New Birth is very important is this. Many people who are religious have no idea what it means to be born again. Nicodemus was a "master in Israel". He was a very religious person. Yet he did not understand how to be born again: "*How can these things be*" (John 3:9). Clearly we learn from the case of Nicodemus that many people who are very religious have a religion which is dead. They are religious but have never had this extremely important experience which Jesus here talks about: the need for the new birth. Clearly we all need to understand the new birth if we are to be real Christians and go to heaven.

Two Natures

Men and women need two births because we all have two natures. These two natures are the BODY and the SOUL. The first birth gives to us our BODY, but does not give us our soul in a way that is pleasing to God our Creator and Lord. Because we are all born sinners, we all have a SOUL which is sinful and displeasing to the God who made us. This is clear from such texts as this: "I am shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). If we are to be right with God our SOUL needs to be put right.

It is profitable to remind ourselves that God has made different creatures in different ways:

- (1) *animals* have a body but no soul;
- (2) *angels* have a soul but no body. This is why they are to us invisible.
- (3) *Human beings* have both a body and a soul. The body is visible, but the soul is invisible.

Because we are all sinners from our birth our soul is sinful and disobedient to God. This is why all people do what is wrong and sinful. If we were all born as God originally created us, we should all be sinless and morally perfect. But our sin offends God and it shuts us all out of heaven until our soul is born again. So our first birth gives us a soul which is sinful and displeasing to God our Creator.

By the grace of God our soul can be put right – not at our first birth, but when God mercifully later puts our soul right. This putting right of the soul is called the “second birth”. It is to this second birth that our Saviour refers when he tells Nicodemus that he can only enter heaven if he is “*born again*” (John 3:3).

The Soul

Every human being has at his first birth, two natures: the BODY and the SOUL. Because we are sinners our soul needs to be put right by God.

What is the SOUL – how is it made up? There are five parts to the soul: MIND, WILL, EMOTION, MEMORY and CONSCIENCE. Each of these faculties of the soul has wonderful God-given ability:

- (1) **MIND**: This enables a person to think and to reason. Animals do not have a soul and therefore they do not have a mind like ours. We do not send animals to school for this reason. They cannot read, or reason, or argue, or meditate. But human beings do have these important abilities.
- (2) **WILL**: This enables us to say YES and NO when we make a decision. When an honest person is tempted to steal he, in his heart, says “No!” But a dishonest person may say “Yes!” It is the WILL which, in the soul, responds with Yes, or No, to what we may be tempted to do.
- (3) **EMOTION**: Our soul has emotions of love and hate, delight and dislike, joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain. These emotions are from the soul within us.
- (4) **MEMORY**: This is the power to think back in time to things experienced in the past. We can remember our birthday, our first day at school, our childhood friends, our mistakes of the past, our good and bad experiences. The most important of all our memories is the time when we experienced our new birth and came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the most important experience we can have in our life.
- (5) **CONSCIENCE**: This is the alarm-bell of the soul. It warns us when we do, or are tempted to do, what God forbids. It is a very powerful warning sound in man’s soul. The evidence of this is the alarm-bell which Judas Iscariot heard in his own soul when he had betrayed his Master, Jesus Christ, and sold Him for money. His conscience sounded such a loud cry that he committed suicide. He could not bear to live with it (Matthew 27:5).

The Change Made to the Soul

The New Birth changes the soul fundamentally. The soul, before New Birth, is dead to God. The soul after the New Birth is very alive to God. This we can see in the five faculties of the soul and how they profoundly alter after New Birth.

- (1) **The MIND** of the individual alters like this. Before New Birth people do not want to think about God. They seldom talk about the Holy Trinity, the gospel,

the Bible, the doctrines of creation, the depravity of the human heart, the seriousness of man's life after death. The person who has not had New Birth is unwilling to think about God's glorious existence. This all changes after NEW BIRTH.

- (2) **The WILL** of the sinner alters. Before NEW BIRTH the sinner has no delight in the Ten Commandments, which are God's Moral Law. After NEW BIRTH the will prays for God to help him to keep God's Moral Law, which he now loves.
- (3) **The EMOTIONS** are not stirred to love God in the unconverted sinner. He does not delight in God but in sport, money, laughter and worldly mirth. NEW BIRTH leads us to love God.
- (4) **MEMORY** does not make the unconverted person think back to the sinfulness of his past life, or the mercy of God in not punishing his sins more seriously. But the sinner who has experienced NEW BIRTH thinks often of the gracious work of God which altered him from a sinner to a saint.

The re-born sinner cries "Amen!" when he, or she, reads Paul's inspired description of the altered character of our life when God gives us the NEW BIRTH (e.g. Ephesians 2:1-13). No wonder God here says to us: "Remember!" (Ephesians 2:11). There is a world of difference, as Paul here shows us, between what we once were as unborn sinners and what we now are after being blessed with the NEW BIRTH.

- (5) **CONSCIENCE** alters in us all after the NEW BIRTH. As unbelieving sinners, we did not welcome the warning voice of conscience. But as new-born believers we heed the voice of conscience and make it our life-long duty to repent of all our sins. We seek never to repeat our old sins in the future. The regenerated sinner as Christ teaches, cries out: "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

Every professing believer should search his own heart with this very serious question: "Have I truly been born again?" Sadly, many who go to church make it clear that they are not born-again believers. They never had the life-changing experience which makes us genuine Christians. This is all too clear by the worldly interests which they have. They have little love for God, for Christ, for the Bible or for real born-again believers.

Rev Maurice Roberts
Free Church of Scotland Continuing

Faithful Stewards in Action

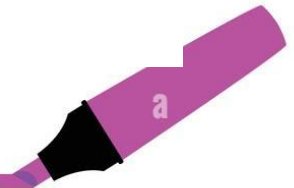
Every sharing or action we take,
Even a prayer or outreach we make,
May go to help someone in their tests,
The Word that may give their souls, timely rest.

Your loving words may impact some lives,
A troubled soul in a state of fear or strife,
Care that may lift a soul depressed,
Or another who could be deeply distressed.

In a house are vessels new and old;
Some are silver, some are gold,
Yet others are made of wood or clay,
That may be used in that needy day.

If any steward is willing and always ready,
God can use them, steadfast and steady,
If we keep up the faithful labour with zeal,
On the judgement day, may be eternal yield.

Jack Sin
11 March 2023



That's a **GOOD** Question

The Question

I am a Board member of a fairly large group of companies and I am struggling whether I can be a leader over men in work context.

The Response

That is a great question.

There is nothing against gifted and capable Christian women appointed to secular positions of leadership from a biblical point of view.

The teaching of women not lording over men only applies to teaching the Word of God in the church over men and the leadership of the home by the man as the head of the house. 1Tim2:11-14 and Eph 5:22-24.

(But perfectly alright for women to teach other women and children and admin work and sacred music and Missions in the life of the church)

The Bible does not hinder nor forbid a Christian female principal, CEO, Professor or SVP or even a General in a secular context, working in leadership positions over men in the company or marketplace according to their ability and expertise.

Use your God given talents and gifts to serve God and work in an exemplary manner to the benefit of the company and society. Thank God for using you in your contribution at that level.

It can be a good testimony for the glory of Lord as we seek to glorify Him in all that we do.

Hope that helps and keep on keeping on.

Jack Sin



PRESENTS

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

7 APRIL 2023, 8:00 PM

THE AGONISING CROSS OF
REDEMPTION AND HOPE

EASTER SERVICE

9 APRIL 2023, 10:00 AM

THE DAY DEATH DIED

BY REV JACK SIN

COME AND FIND OUT THE TRUE MEANING OF
THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIVES TODAY

ALL ARE WELCOME

VENUE :
SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH



MAY DAY SEMINAR

Biblical Perspective of Work and Retirement

BY REV JACK SIN

**AS WE APPROACH AN AGEING WORKFORCE, KNOW
WHAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS TO TEACH US
ABOUT THE NATURE OF WORK AND THE MANNER OF
RETIREMENT FOR THE CHRISTIAN**

01 MAY 2023(MONDAY)

9:30 AM

VENUE :

SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH

160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION

@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)

REGISTER BY 15 APRIL 2023

**WITH DN YUE KAY AT 97450311 AS THERE IS A LIMITED CAPACITY
ALL ARE WELCOME**

Memory Verse

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

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. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "**Rules for Family Relationships (Eph 6:1-9)**", continuing the quarterly series on "*The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action (Book of Ephesians)*".
3. Pastor will preach next Sunday on "**Divine Protection for Spiritual Combat (Eph 6:10-24)**"
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. 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 Parables of Jesus. 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. Special programs: **Good Friday Service on 7 Apr 2023 8pm**, **Resurrection Sunday Service on 9 Apr 2023 10am** and **May Day Seminar on Monday 1 May 2023 9.30am**.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 5 May 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. The **Annual Church Camp** will be held at **Pulai Springs Resort (Johor Bahru, Malaysia)**, **June 7-10, 2023**. Rev Philip Heng is our camp speaker "**Exercise unto Godliness in an Ungodly World**".
10. 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.
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**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.