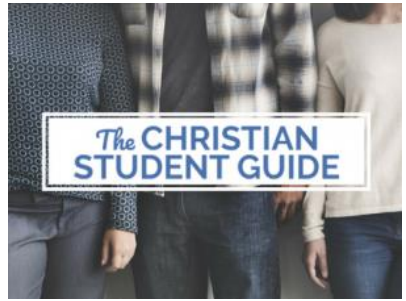


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Practical Tips for Improving in My Studies

In life we form habits over time and then they form (or influence) us back in return. It is important to have the right objectives in life. Do I want to excel in my studies to glorify God or myself? Let us seek God first and He will bless us in due time. He will help us nurture some basic educational habits, either in us or in our children to be better students



for the Lord and we need the godly discipline and diligence of the Lord. Consider prayerfully the following pragmatic tips:

1. **Listen with your ears and eyes and pay attention during class.**



The student needs to listen to what the teacher says in class and pay attention to what is being taught with their eyes. We need to help our children or students to

improve and practice their listening skills by reading short passages to them and then asking questions. A good beginning in proper attentive listening is half the battle won and it should become our habit over time. Do not be distracted by handphone games, Whatsapp, Youtube videos, TV, Facebook, your friends talking to you, or even sleeping. A key to improving study skills is to be quiet and not be distracted, but to be really focused and listen attentively to the lesson, lecture, or message, and you will gain much from it.

2. **Try to also understand the content that is taught.**

Students just want to get through a lesson quickly, so they do not take the time and energy during the lesson to digest and clarify information in their minds. Take responsibility for yourselves to make sure you understand the previous lesson before moving on to the next topic. Chew and ponder over it and discuss any problems or questions with the teacher. It is not impossible to learn effectively if we make it a point to practice it diligently.

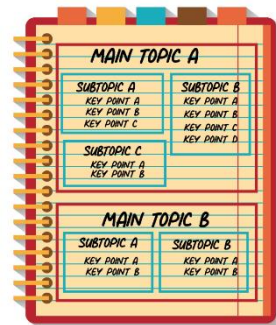
3. **Learn to read quickly but carefully and browse through the chapter title, subtitles, or section titles in a book.**

Look at charts or graphs used, if any, and understand the first few sentences of each paragraph in order to get an idea of the most important information from the lesson. If you can keep the main idea(s) in your mind, it is easier to identify the key points of the lesson that are important to remember. Part of a good studying habit is identifying and narrowing down to what is important to remember as opposed to that which is not important. Note the important points the teacher emphasises in class. I do that all the time with my highlighter, red or black pen. Teachers do give hints for exams, so take note of them carefully in your book or notes.



4. **Taking good and clear notes is another good principle and good practice.**

Be responsible for writing your own study notes. Students should go through the process of writing down lesson notes and make their own study notes. Make it your own. Learn to rewrite or paraphrase things in order to remember and to learn them. Writing is necessary for student to learn and remember the information, reading it aloud allows the student to hear the information and internalize it. It is a great study habit! Practice makes perfect especially when it comes to writing, doing Math problems, Science, and even economics and understanding the bible. Additionally, remember that short notes are better than long memories.



5. **Make a plan or schedule for the day or the week and follow it.**

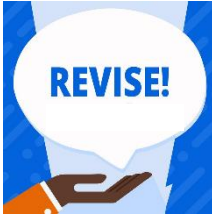
When I was a student in NUS and in PTS in Pensacola, Florida, if I had a quiz, assignment, test, exam, or paper coming up, I would work on it early before the due date and through the night if necessary to get it done well in advance. Try to get homework done as soon as possible when your mind is still fresh on the subject (DIN or Do It Now or Delay It Not) and not do it only at the last minute. This is helpful and necessary for us to teach our children or when we give tuition to others (I learnt much when I was an English relief teacher in 2 secondary schools in the mid-1980s during my tertiary vacation and spent many years teaching in 2 local bible colleges from the 1990s to 2018). Draw up a study schedule and set aside specific days and times for studying (and time for leisure, rest, bible reading, and games too), we are more likely to study daily ahead of time instead of waiting till the last moment before the exam where we get stressed, panicky and worried, and do badly in our exams.

6. **Give yourself a test or quiz** from time to time to reflect and review the information and write or type the information out in a manner that you can remember. Try to use acrostics or acronyms to help you to remember information. For example, to remember the lakes of Canada, you can use HOMES which stands for Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior. Why do we remember the doctrines of



Calvinism easily? It is by using TULIP (those studying in Emmanuel Reformed Bible Lectures have many acrostics too i.e. prison epistles is recalled using the acronym ECPP). Study the textbook or notes repeatedly while making your own notes, after which take the test to review the information and repeat this process across different subjects. Make sacrifices for serious studying by turning off the TV, computer, or iPad, and putting the handphone on silent mode if necessary.

7. **Revise and reread information often!**



Even if there isn't a test or exam coming up soon, encourage yourself to read over each day's lesson and the information from previous lessons frequently. We are to dutifully read our class notes and pay close attention to details. Read other related books and articles as well to broaden your knowledge of that subject. When I was

studying in the bible college, I used to reread my lecture notes repeatedly and try to memorise my Greek words and declensions/conjugations on small note cards that I wrote on, in the toilet or during the MRT ride. Attempt to recall the information from time to time. Then, when a test or exam comes up, you have already started and know and remember some of the facts! **The three Rs - Remember, Review, and Revise! There is no elevator to success, you have to use the stairs of diligence.**

8. **Ask good questions** (and discuss with other students better than you and learn from one another) and persist in getting the answers and writing them down. I share this with my Church History or Theology classes: do not be afraid to ask good questions, for it is a good way to ensure that you understand and have grasped the content correctly (but it does not mean that the lecturer has all the answers as he is to find them out if he does not have the answers). Write down the notes and the answers and I always believe that **short notes are better than long memories.**



We are all forgetful people and we need help to remember things like prayer items and names (e.g., I cannot remember all the names of the Chinese workers unless I write them down). **To err is human, to forgive, divine, and I would like to add: To forget is human, to remind, divine.** Thank God for divine reminders such as in the Lord's Supper to help us in our remembrance of Christ and his atoning death for us till He comes.

Conclusion

2 Timothy 2:15 says,

'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'

Studying, reading, writing and learning is a great joy from the Lord, not a chore, and we can enjoy our studies as it is the will of the Lord.

Laziness is a curse but industry is a blessing from the Lord.

These are just a few tips on how to develop effective studying skills. Learning is for life and I make it a point to read a few Christian books a month. Above all, **do not neglect**

Sabbath worship, prayer, and daily devotion to the word of God.

I hope that you are able to use this information to help yourself or others nurture good studying habits and skills for the Lord as the final year exams draw near!



Press on and do not give up. Pray to God for wisdom and diligence and do your part and glorify God in your studies. This is our sacred duty and privilege: grow in your knowledge and be a useful person for God one day with it. Do your part prayerfully and I hope this will help you with greater diligence and the use of better strategy in your studies to the glory of God.

Jack Sin

Sermon Summary – 6 Sep 2020
Overcoming Temptation by Christ
– Rev Jack Sin
(Matt 4: 1 – 11)



EXAMINING THE MINISTRY
AND TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

*Overcoming
Temptation
by Christ*

Matthew 4:1-13



**1. The Arena of the temptation by the Spirit
(vs 1-2)**

- The baptism of Jesus was a high point. Immediately the temptation of Satan followed. Similarly, when at the highest point, frequently temptation is just at the door. Pride comes before a fall. Be careful and be humble.
- Sometimes, God allows us to go thru difficult situations; the shadow of death; a wilderness; different seasons etc. It is not pleasant or easy but He has a divine plan and purpose. What is your wilderness journey? is it failure, sickness, death of a loved one or loss of job?
- Instead of running away from it, see Who is going thru it with you.
- We do have a real enemy - the Devil. He is the diabolos, the accuser of the brethren.
Rev 12:9 - "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."
- As Christian, we must not be unaware of our enemy. He is the Father of lies (Deception). And he has his fallen angels with him. (The Bible says 1/3 of "stars" was cast down with him. Could it be that 1/3 of the created angels followed Satan? We do not know how many that is, but it is a huge number of demons.) They are described here Jude 1:6 - "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

2. The Adversary and his Diabolical Lures (vs 3-9)

a. Hedonism

- There is a physical dimension to temptations; it is pleasure-seeking such as the Epicureans
- Gen 3:6 - “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”
- Compare this to 1Jn 2:15-17 in three corresponding aspects:
 - ☐ lust of the flesh – “good for food”
 - ☐ lust of the eye – “pleasant to the eyes”
 - ☐ pride of life- “able to make one wise”

b. Egoism

- Satan is a very sly enemy and he plays up our selfishness and builds up our pride.
- He quoted from Psalm 91:11,12 but incompletely; he intentionally left out some words in verse 11 - “to keep thee in all thy ways.”
- Beware if everything is all about myself, my rights and not about God.
- It can be your rights, but don't always insist on your rights or else you have nothing left one day
- “God resist the proud, but give grace to the humble” Jas 4:6

c. Materialism

- “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee...”
- It is not true that Satan owns all the kingdoms of the world even though he is the god of this fallen world in a certain sense. Satan tempts us with wealth and power and glory and many have fallen into the trap and suffered. Beware of greed that will cause us to fall
- It is a half-truth by Satan and it is a lie too
- We need to pray for discernment as when it is “grey”, we can be deceived because it is less easy to tell the half-truth & half-lies.

3. The Account of Christ's Victory over the foe (vs 10-11)

- Jesus quoted from the Bible in Deut 8:3, 6;16 to refute all the 3 temptations. He relied on the written word and He knows the Word as He is God. Do we know the Word of God in our hearts?
- Your ability to handle temptation is directly related to your ability to apply the Word of God.

Conclusion

We will all be tempted. Will we triumph over the evil one and his fiery darts when it comes to that day? Christ is our supreme example. He did not succumb to temptation; His secret was that He knew and used the weapon of the Word of God. Be ready and equipped and vigilant at all time for we are at war with the evil one and self too.

Kim Meng

Memory Verse

John 6:50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! We commemorate the Lord's Supper at our worship this morning. For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Jack Sin speaks today on "Christ as the Bread of Life"
3. (John 6: 48-69), continuing the Jul to Sep 2020 theme of "Examining the Ministry & Teachings of Christ".
4. Rev Jack Sin speaks next Sunday on "Abiding in the True Vine" (John 15: 1-16).
5. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
 - Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - Studies in James – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Exodus – Dr Kwong Leen
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. Do collect your Sep prayer list from Dn Choo Siang.
8. Those who would like to help with the cleaning or safe management procedures of the church, please see Dn Yue Kay.
9. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
10. Pastor is still available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
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**

Examining the Ministry and Teachings of Christ

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FROM JULY-SEP 2020

JULY

5

The 3 Fold Focus of Christ's Ministry (Matthew 9:35-38)

12

The First Miracle at a Wedding (John 2:1-13)

19

The Beatitudes Explained (Matthew 5:1-12)

26

The Divine Cure of the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)

AUGUST

2

The Healing of the Impotent Man (John 5:1-15)

9

The Demonstration of Faith (Luke 7:1-11)

16

The Eternal Profit of a Soul (Mark 8:27-38)

23

Blind Man Sees Again (John 9:1-32)

30

Feeding 5000 Hungry Men (John 6:1-15)

SEPTEMBER

6

Overcoming Temptation by Christ (Matthew 4:1-13)

13

Christ as the Bread of Life (John 6:48-69)

20

Abiding in the True Vine (John 15:1-16)

GOSPEL SUNDAY

The Light of the World (John 8:12-36)

REACH US!

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