

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: tloke822@gmail.com

Giving God the Glory for 8 Cs of the Late Dr John MacArthur

Jos 1:1-2 says,

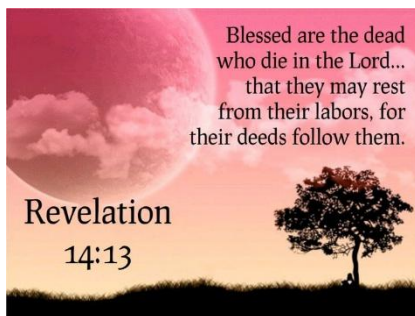
*"Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, **Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.***

When Joshua heard that Moses was dead, he must have been discouraged, but God encouraged him and Israel with a challenge to be courageous and to meditate on the Word. (Jos 1:8,9) This should be our response to the Lord on receiving this news.

On 15 Jul 2025, the evangelical world was informed by the Associate Pastor Tom Patton and leaders of Grace Community Church (GCC) of the homegoing of an indefatigable servant of the Lord, Dr John Macarthur at 86 years of age after having served his Master for more than half a century of 56 years. Christianity Today voted him as one of the most influential preachers of our times.

An author of more than 100 books and numerous articles and sermons, many of his works have been heard and read by many all over the world in different languages and church backgrounds. Many who have heard his sermons or read his books or articles have also either agreed or contended with him. **He was not a fence-sitter; he expounded and propounded the Word of God unashamedly with cogency, discerning precision, keen insight and amazing foresight.** We (and my wife Angie) visited GCC and The Master's Seminary in 2001 when I was doing my doctoral dissertation.

Now with hindsight, I would like to use 8 Cs to describe this man of God.

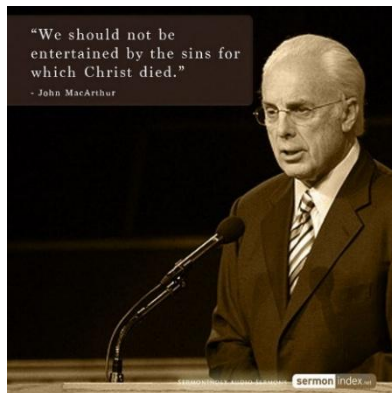


1. Clarity and Cogency

If there is one distinctive feature of Dr MacArthur, it was his powerful expository preaching and teaching with amazing clarity in explaining scripture and bringing it to a certain transparency, tenacity and vibrancy.

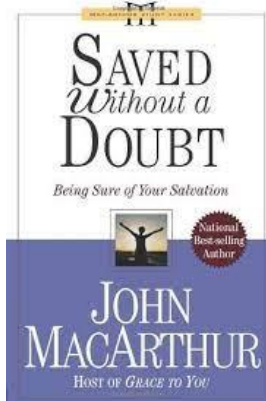
Confusing superfluous words in preaching are unhelpful and undermines the proper comprehension of the Word. His preaching had both depth and breadth; depth in the doctrines of grace which were not superficial with the breadth of examples and anecdotes for effective application. Every student in the homiletics class

should listen to him and pick up a few tips on effective teaching and expository preaching in the true sense of the word. Sometimes we use the word expository preaching loosely to describe others who do not deserve it, but this man has nailed it with theological and practical finesse.



2. Conviction and Consecration

The most important asset of Dr MacArthur was his sound theological conviction based on the Bible. He preached not only clearly but soundly from the text without apology with accurate insights whether it was on predestination, justification, sanctification or the atonement, the doctrine of the church or the Holy Spirit. It was right on the dot and especially on the authority, inerrancy, sufficiency and inspiration of the Bible and the doctrine of supernatural creationism in 6 literal 24-hour days (against theistic evolution and the gap and framework theory), the universal flood, cessation of tongues and sign gifts among others. **These are sound biblical doctrines which are sadly denied or undermined today in different quarters of the Christian constituency.**



3. Communication

Preaching is a gift from God and is the art and science of effective communication of the Word of God. Dr MacArthur has mastered this aspect. There is something about the way he shared the Word; it was Bible-based and convincing, and every preacher needs to learn from him. The gift of preaching needs to be honed and Dr MacArthur did it to his best. There are many preachers who are gifted in their knowledge, but they cannot pass it on orally to their listeners with practical application and implication of the text. Dr MacArthur demonstrated this with skill and tact and power in his preaching to his church and excellent content too in many of his books. **As an author**

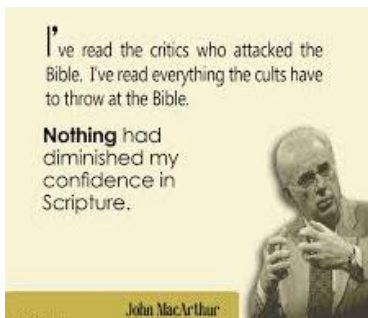
myself, it is very difficult to write a book with sound relevant and yet applicable biblical content and this servant of God has done it to the glory of God and the edifying of the saints.

4. Contention for the Faith (No Compromise)

We live in a men-pleasing compromising world in order to survive. Many pastors will preach and teach the Word but not many pastors today will make it a point to warn, admonish and defend the faith as this is unpopular. Dr MacArthur was not ashamed of doing it even in the face of being misunderstood or even maligned.

He had a conference once on the theme of Strange Fire where he exposed the defective doctrines and practices of the charismatic community that had backlash from some quarters, but he stood firmly on the Word of God without apology. Very few pastors would dare to do this due to the consequences of unpopularity and

even the loss of church members, but Dr MacArthur had his priorities right. **The whole counsel of God must be declared without the fear and favour of man. That was the Vintage John** - he defended biblical creationism, worldwide catastrophism, Lordship salvation and literal interpretation of the Bible among others. We pray to have the courage to do the same in our churches and Bible colleges.



5. Compassion & Care for His People

It has been said that Reformed pastors and churches are often cold, uncaring and lacks compassion. Dr MacArthur and Grace Community Church can debunk this notion. Dr MacArthur appeared to some as harsh and austere in his countenance but there have been many who saw the tender side of him. When he was asked by a 7-year-old boy on why God did not stop Eve from sinning in the first place, his reply was with gentleness and tenderness as a father to a seeking son in the faith. He has led in many outreaches including the jail ministry and others. Though busy with many speaking engagements, he made time for his wife and family and friends. **He was amiable and unassuming at times, but also focused, firm and bold when necessary. Can meekness be used to describe this man? You be the judge.**

6. Companion to His Wife

Dr MacArthur has been married to Patricia for almost 62 years, a record few can boast today. He was an example and epitome of a caring husband and father (though no perfection here) to his 4 children, Matt, Marcy, Melinda and Mark, 15 grandchildren and 9 greatgrandchildren. He faced challenges with one of his sons too. One can be the best preacher in the world but if his marriage or family is messed up, it can be problematic. I know of some God-honouring preachers who suffered from this. **Blessed is the man who has both ministry and**

marriage and family in good order, and it is not easy. But these are vital things in life.

7. Controversy

There is rarely a man's life that is without any controversy. Even Calvin had his brush with Michael Servetus and some still blame him today rightly or wrongly for his execution in Geneva. Dr MacArthur was no stranger to controversy. Sometime back, he made a statement about the eternal Sonship to the extent that Christ became the Son and assumed the role of the Son in His incarnation. He later explained himself clearly what he meant but the harm was already done for some. I do not think that he denied the eternal Sonship of Christ in his statement but that we need to be careful and accurate when we expressed ourselves on key doctrines of the Bible in writing or in our speech. Another was his remarks on slavery may be perceived as insensitive to some in the black community. He has also been accused of authoritarian leadership, but this is subjective. If one is not firm in important decisions, he can also be branded as a softie or weakling. One can get it both ways.

The most recent was the COVID19 restriction in 2020 when he defied the local LA county health authorities in allowing his members to gather for worship which resulted in a court case which his church won by the vindication of God with compensation. Some critics are still not convinced by it. (This is a general observation and not a defence of that stand.)

We can learn a lesson from this, namely,

*Of your **Unspoken** words, you are the **Master**.*

*Of your **Spoken** words, a **Servant**,*

*Of your **Written** words, a **Slave**.*

In an unforgiving world, sometimes one may not get a second chance to explain or correct it and in the eyes of some, may never get it right even if the explanation is soundly done. (But does this matter in eternity?)

8. Continuity In the Ministry

One of the problems that we face in our churches today is succession.

The 16th Century Reformation was able to proceed effectively to the next level in subsequent decades because of faithful men like Andrew Melville, Bullinger, Philip Melancthon, Theodore Beza and others. There is no success without a successor.



When Dr RC Sproul went home to be with the Lord, Stephen Nichols succeeded him as the president of Reformation Bible College and Ligonier Ministries.

Every leader in every generation needs to raise up Tituses, Timothys, Elishas and Joshuas. Dr MacArthur did not name a successor so at Grace Community

Church, but it has a good pastoral team in place including Jim Brown, Jared Jones and Chip Bennet. At Masters Seminary, there are faithful men like Abner Chou, Nathan Busenitz, Austin Duncan, Michael Grisanti and Mark Zhakevich among others in the faculty. For both the church and seminary, even though they have lost their Pastor and Chancellor, the ministry must go on faithfully In his legacy without compromise,

While we relish the past with nostalgia, as believers, we must inhabit the future for this is the will of God. This faithful labourer is now in the presence of the Most High God and awaiting His commendation. We need to continue for the Lord in our generation till our roll is called up yonder. This is life, so let us live.

Act 13:36, ***“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:”***

Jack Sin



apla famas ac turpis egestas. Nunc ac magna massa, mollis vel...

SACRED MEDITATIONS ON CHRIST AND THE COMING OF THE ANTI-CHRIST

LORD'S DAY PROGRAM FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER

JULY

- 6 Followers and Examples of Christ (1 Thes 1:1-10)**
- 13* The Place of Spiritual Caregivers (1 Thes 2:1-12)**
- 20 The Proper Reception of the Word (1 Thes 2:13-20)**
- 27 True Partnership in the Gospel (1 Thes 3:1-13)**

AUGUST

- 3 Sanctification Explained & Practiced (1 Thes 4:1-12)**
- 10* Anticipating Christ's Second Coming (1 Thes 4:13-18)**
- 17 An Important Apocalyptic Warning (1 Thes 5:1-11)**

SHBPC Camp Thanksgiving... from Bangalore, India



I felt very glad when Rev. Jack invited me for the Sovereign Hope Church camp. I thank God for it was my first overseas trip to study the word of God and to have fellowship with God's people. Initially the Immigration officers were not convinced to allow me to travel alone as I looked under aged even though I was 20 years old. During the verification of my documents one of the officers was impressed by the camp theme and said it is something relevant to this generation. Finally, they allowed me to go. The camp speaker Rev Tan Eng Boo along with Rev Jack and elders from SHBPC shared messages that were eye opening.

Before coming to Singapore, I was a bit hesitant but soon after reaching there I became a part of the group, because of the warm fellowship and welcoming nature of the brethren at Sovereign hope BPC. I was overwhelmed by the personal care and love of aunty Kin Kheng and aunty Kin Hoong. They have accompanied me for visiting familiar places and shopping areas. They were kind enough to take some of my pictures at famous locations. Sis Phaw was a good company for me since she is similar to my age group.



The sermons were divided into four parts. From the first sermon I have learned that biblical wisdom is essential to me to lead an obedient life that is pleasing to God. The benefits such as perceiving the gospel, insight, prudence, spiritual discernment, and the foundation of all



wisdom are the various gifts that we receive through wisdom from God. Secondly, I have also learned how human folly breaks a church, and I understood that unity is important to build one another, referring to 'walk its man' from the word. Here I also learned about how wisdom guards our heart from evil.

The third sermon was about how modern gadgets are affecting Christian life. I have learned how gadgets are dictating us and how they shape our belief system. With

reference to John Piper, we must ask ourselves these questions, weather using gadgets is glorifying God and am I addicted to technology?

The final sermon was about the second coming of the Lord; it gave me the insight about weather I am ready to face him when he is here. It is important for us to examine our lives and change ourselves before the ultimate day of His coming.

We also learned about a few scientific and biblical proofs about who created God and why the earth is not flat by Dr Samuel Gan. The group discussions were very helpful since it gave many perspectives over the topics that helped to understand the vastness and how we can fix them. The morning group devotions by Rev Jack and brother Joseph have motivated me to come closer to God. I could understand what God requires from me and how I can work for his glory. Through these morning devotions I have determined to stay closer to God, and to share his love to the people around me.

I am thankful for this opportunity to be a part of this blessed Church camp.

Amulya

27/6/2025



Memory Verse

1Thes 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! 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. Rev Nathan brings us God's Word this morning on ***"The Proper Reception of the Word (1Thes 2:13-20)"***, continuing the new quarterly series on ***"Sacred Meditations on Christ and the Coming of the Anti-Christ (1 & 2 Thess)"***.
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will bring us on God's Word on ***"True Partnership in the Gospel (1Thes 3:1-13)"***.
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walking Through the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Job (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the Psalms. **[Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178]**.
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. **[Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551]**.
7. **SHBPC Family Day Outing** will be held on the **morning of Sat 9 Aug 2025** at **Labrador Nature Park**. Mark that date in your calendar! Details will be available next Sunday.
8. The **All Asia Creation Ministry International Conference "Teaching Genesis 1-11 History & Science" 22 & 23 Aug** at the Salvation Army Hall (Upper Bukit Timah). Keynote speakers: **Dr Don Batten** (CMI), **Rev Dr Jack Sin** (Sovereign Hope BPC), **Dr Andy McIntosh** (University of Leeds), **Dr Mona Bias** (East Asia School of Theology). Other session speakers from Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, South Korea, Taiwan, United Kingdom and USA. Kindly register with Dn Yue Kay or via the website.
9. Pray for:
 - **Lily Almon**: Singapore Citizenship Application
 - **Ministries: Joseph & Rachel** (AMK Gospel Peace Station & Hokkien Ministries), **CMI Conference** (Aug 22 & 23, Singapore), **Brunei Reformed Church & Miri Reformed Baptist Church**.
 - **Travel: John A** [10-22/7, Philippines], **Ps Babu** [22-25/8, Singapore]
 - **Medical: Pit Yuen** [Treatment], **Mrs Philip Heng** [stroke recovery]
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**Kindly indicate **"Church Building Fund"** if you would like to designate towards this cause.