

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
Eld Tan Yue Kay: 97450311 (hp) / tanyuekay@gmail.com

The Case for Sovereign Grace in the Chinese New Year

As we enter the Chinese New Year in 2 days' time, the oriental world is obsessed with the Chinese zodiac sign of the horse with predictions for the year from astrology (which is forbidden in the Bible in Isa 47:12&13).

But as a Christian, we are made in the image of God and sustained and supported by the grace of God revealed to us in His inspired Word that can impact our lives for Him.



Here are at least **8 Ss** where we need the Sovereign Grace of God in 2026:

Saved by Grace.

Paul in Eph 2:8,9 says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."*

We are all Saved by Grace Alone and not by works or our good behaviour. This is a foundational doctrinal concept of the 16th century Reformation teaching that salvation is not earned from our good works but a free gift from God as we are justified by faith and redeemed by grace, not something that we can achieve through a moral life or personal effort or good works at all.

Speaking with Grace.

We live in a world of multilevel of interpersonal communication, both personal and electronic and non-verbal means too. We are to learn to communicate with a blend of goodness and kindness, wisdom, that will encourage or exhort others. **We need to develop spiritual depth in our interpersonal social skills and learn to grow in grace in speech and share more from the heart than from the head with others.**

Let us consciously craft our words and prayerfully choose to speak to one another with humility and kindness and encouragement, even during disagreements.

Avoid unedifying words, uncouth speech or false or half-truth statements and negative communication that do not build up or exhort one another.

Paul in Col 4:6 advises us to *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."*

This suggests that our conversation should be meaningful and glorifying to God. In the new year, we should "season" our conversation with spiritual salt to preserve sound morals and to render constructive conversation, rather than letting it degenerate into malicious gossip or unedifying negativity. Let us watch our lips in the new year.



Standing before God in Grace

On what basis do we as sinners stand before a thrice holy God? Based on Romans 5:1-10, as believers we have been brought from a state of divine wrath and punishment to a personal relationship with God as a loving Father because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. That is the basis of our standing before a just and holy God.

In these last days, the fact that we are able to stand before God in trying times despite the wiles of the evil one is because of the enabling grace and protection of the Holy Spirit and putting on our full armour of God too.

Staying Strong by Grace



Our ability to stay strong amid trial and testing involves a conscious relying on divine strength beyond one's own. It is the divine assistance of an omnipotent God with patience, and a focus on the Lord in this present world and the future world to come. It is the spiritual wisdom and understanding that while God gives the endurance to remain in it and we survive by His strength. That is the only way to make it through the year for without Christ we can do nothing.

Suffering with Grace

The Apostle Peter tells us in 1Pet 4:16, *"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."*

In an increasing hostile world to the Christian faith, there are many Pastors who are behind bars now in some countries for the crime of preaching the Gospel or conducting Christian services. The Christian is to be prepared to suffer for our faith in Christ If it is His will for us. This involves us transforming our trying experiences into God-given opportunities for spiritual growth, character development and developing a deeper empathy for others who may be suffering too, fixing our eyes on the Lord and the glory to be revealed. Rom 8:18 says, "For

I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” **Our victory in hard times is rooted in faith that involves surrendering to God in the situation with a humble and teachable heart to learn from the lesson of our trial and testing as from the Lord.**

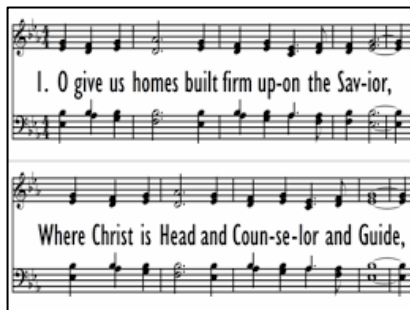
Sustaining Marriage & the Family by Grace

Even Christians are facing mounting challenges in preserving a marriage and raising a godly family these days amid much worldly distractions. A strong personal relationship with God provides the spiritual strength and guidance needed to extend grace to your spouse and children and in-laws too.

Let 2026 be one of one of regular prayer and family devotion with your spouse and family and praying together as a couple and with the children or grandchildren. Let us seek God's guidance in our decisions in marriage, strengthening your spiritual bond with Christ and your family too.

Grace-based marriage and parenting acknowledges that spouses and

Christian parents are also redeemed sinners in need of grace, which hopefully will not lead to a harsh attitude toward the children. It transforms the Christian home into a caring and warm place where there is no bitter provoking, favouritism or hatred or anger but gentle and firm correction if needed and all would need to seek Christ and grow in the knowledge and fear of God, and each learning to recover from our pitfalls by the mercy of God.



Studying the Word with Grace

This applies to children who are still in school and to all of us too. One of the privileges and duties of the child of God is the joy to meditate and study the inspired and sufficient Word of God. We need to be diligent to approach to read and meditate on Scripture with a humble mindset that we are receiving God's Word with divine favour rather than a legalistic obligation. Let the inerrant Word transform the mind and heart through prayerful meditation. **This requires regular and disciplined feeding on the Word for spiritual nourishment and growth; to be still and know that He is truly Lord of our lives amidst an exacting schedule in the new year.**

Serving God & Growing & Glowing through Grace

We are all called to be stewards of the manifold grace of God (1Cor 4:1,2). What can I do for Jesus in my church this year? Let the new year of 2026 be one that is of humble and faithful service in His church. Let us be rooted in faith and diligence for Christ and not in indolence and unbelief. Let us dare to rely on God's favour rather than our own efforts as we seek to do His Holy Will. **It is one of responsible**

stewardship and restful trust in His promises and not self-seeking, to grow and glow in divine wisdom, character and in the fear of God.

Conclusion

The new year may bring with it much unseen challenges and we cannot do without sovereign grace and much prayer. Let us prayerfully go through this new year in the sovereign grace and strength of our Lord. Christian living by the grace of God is trusting in God's unmerited favour that saves, empowers and guides us in our daily demeanour. **It is living by faith and resting fully in what Christ has already done for us at the cross and moving forward in the mercy and grace of the Lord. That is the only way to live out the victorious Christian life in this CNY and always; there is no other way!**

Jack Sin

God's Abundant Blessings - The Beatitudes 八福 -

馬太福音 Matthew 5:3-11

虛心的人有福了，因為天國是他們的
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

哀慟的人有福了，因為他們必得安慰
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

溫柔的人有福了，因為他們必承受地土
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth

飢渴慕義的人有福了，因為他們必得飽足
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied

憐恤人的人有福了，因為他們必蒙憐恤
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy

清心的人有福了，因為他們必得見神
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God

使人和睦的人有福了，因為他們必稱為神的兒子
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God

為義受逼迫的人有福了，因為天國是他們的
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

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Pastoral Chat

- Don't neglect our Seniors in the CNY-

On Monday 9 Feb, Pr Mok and I visited 96-year-old Eld Joshua Lim who had wanted to come for our church 8th Anniversary but could not as he had a fall last year. We had an edifying conversation and prayer together remembering the goodness of God. Eld Lim has been supportive of SHBPC from the very beginning. He was one of the pioneers of the BP movement and helped to draft



the BP constitution as a trained lawyer and has faithfully defended the faith. Do uphold him in much prayer.

On 4 Feb, Eld YK and I visited Mr Low who was baptised during Christmas Eve.

He is in good spirits as we shared the word from Matt 5 on the Sermon of the mount and celebrated his 82nd birthday.



On Friday 6 Feb, we visited Bernard de Castro who came back to our church and we had a Bible Study at the food court and reading from Phil 4 followed by prayer together .Pray for wisdom in

his work and walk with the Lord and the salvation of his son-in-law, and

for his wife and daughter to come back to church.



A notable 78-year-old Christian calligrapher sister Tai Yin who loves the Lord came to our home on Tue 10 Feb and gave us this calligraphy which she wrote. She had organised exhibitions where she also sold her calligraphy works. In the background of the photo are two other calligraphies which were also written by her.



For calendar 2026 she used the ancient script which dates to about 4500 years ago and that is the word for prosperity. She used this gift that God has given to her to share the gospel with her friends and relatives as Chinese pictographic language had its origins in the book of Genesis.

She has attended our Chinese service on Sunday nights. I gave her two Chinese books that we wrote as exchange and pray for her good health and strength in the new year.

On Thursday 12 Feb, we visited 95-year-old Mrs Lim Siew Yong who has been faithfully supporting our church by her prayers and substance. She is the last of the Tows in her generation being the younger sister of Rev Timothy Tow and Dr Tow Siang Hwa.

During our morning walks, we had the opportunity to reach out to some foreign workers in Simei with a gospel tract. Acts 20:21 reminds us, *“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”* “The necessity of faith in Christ and repentance of life is one of the great foundations of true redemption. Pray for the salvation of these foreign workers who received a Milo drink together with a gospel tract in different languages.

Is there someone you should visit this CNY especially a lonely senior person?

Be mindful of others who may not be getting on well in life in one way or another to encourage, comfort and exhort them in the word and grace of God.



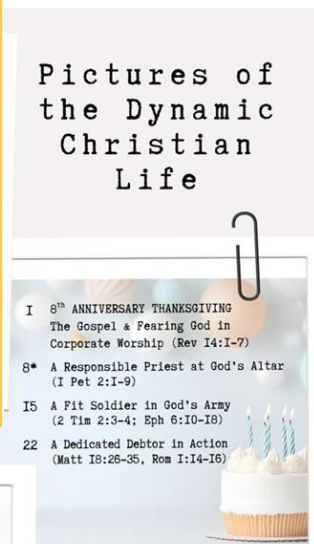
Chinese New Year gospel tracts in different languages are available to our worshippers this Sunday as this is an opportune time to stock up on tracts for CNY visitations. Let us visit our relatives with the truth of everlasting life during this festive season.

A time of learning, sharing and bonding in
Christian Fellowship

**Register by
31 March 2026**

Register with
Dr Paul Tan 97314733
Bro Joseph Chan 90587005

Camp fees inclusive
of meals & ferry rides



February

Lord's Day
Program for
Jan-Mar 2026

948 | SOVEREIGNHOPEBPC@GMAIL.COM
LEBAR ROAD, ORION@PAYA LEBAR #04-06 SINGAPORE 409022

Memory Verse

2Tim 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

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. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on **"A Fit Soldier in God's Army (2Tim 2:3-4; Eph 6:10-18)"**. the quarterly series on **"Pictures of the Dynamic Christian Life"**.
3. Next Sun, Pastor will preach on **"A Dedicated Debtor in Action (Matt 18:26-35; Rom 1:14-16)"**.
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walk Thru the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Job (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship that meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178].
6. There will be a **Mission Outreach to Cameron Highlands on Mar 12** at the **Christian School ministry for Myanmar children** living in Malaysia run by **Bro Benjamin**. The mission team of Pastor, Angie, Joseph & Lilian Chan will also bring educational books and toys to support the school ministry. **Kindly contact Joseph (hp:90587005) or Lilian if you would like to contribute in kind or love gifts.**
7. **SHBPC Church Camp** will be **9-12 June 2026** on the theme **"The Biblical Perspective of the Christian & Church in a Digital Age"**. The camp speaker is **Dr Scott Hollander** from Tacoma, USA. The camp venue is at **Yello Hotel, Harbor Bay, Batam**. See details on page 7.
8. 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].
9. Pray for:
 - **Travels: Dr Sam** [Returning to Wenzhou on 23 Feb]
 - **Joseph & Rachel GPS CNY Outreach:** Sat 21 Feb & Thu 26 Feb.
 - **Monthly Bible Study Outreach @All Saints Home (Tampines):** Thu 26 Feb.
 - **Medical: Geok Pin** (post-op recovery), **Bernard** (medical conditions), **Mrs Philip Heng** [stroke recovery], **Bro Low Chin Chye** [health & spiritual growth], **Agnes' Parents** [health & salvation],
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.