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The Gospel of Christ, The Cross & I

Rom 5:1 ,2 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

There is a Person we all need to address as He affects our Destiny forever. There is no greater sacrifice in the world than that of Christ on the cruel and contemptible Cross, dying in the place of sinners He called, yet this is the very heart of the true Gospel. We are to preach this truth as the pure Gospel—no matter what others may say today. It is the substitutionary and particular sacrifice of Christ on the Cross that is the central message of the New Testament. No matter what other people proclaim, we need to be faithful to stick to the old-fashioned Gospel of 1 Cor 15. Today, there are some who may doubt or deny the efficacy of the cross and who reject Christ as God in their foolishness and to their detriment. Be warned by Psalm 53:1 which says, *‘The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.’*



The cross of Christ is at the center and the very bedrock of historic Christianity. If we take away the particular atoning death of Christ from the gospel message, then we have nothing left. Matthew 1:21 says, *‘And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.’* If there is no hope and no forgiveness of our sins through the blood of Christ, then it is a different kind of Christianity from the true Christianity of the New Testament.

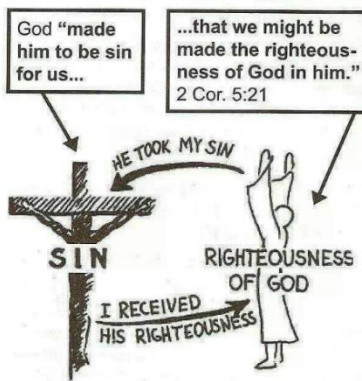
The Apostle Paul said, *“God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Galatians 6:14). “Christ died for our sins.” That was the main theme of Paul’s preaching and should be ours too today. He said firmly, *“I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified”* (1 Corinthians 2:2) and this became Martin Lloyd Jones’ life verse which is the epitaph found on his tombstone. If it is the Christianity of the Bible, it has to be the Christianity of the cross. Charles Spurgeon, “the prince of

preachers," said, "The heart of the Gospel is redemption, and the essence of redemption is the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ on the cross."

Does the Cross have Saving Power?

2Cor 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

It was Christ, "who knew no sin." But for our sake, He became sin for us and died on our behalf. This is an important doctrine, the sinless perfection of the life of Christ. Throughout His whole life on earth Jesus knew no sin (passive obedience). When He said, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" they could not answer Him (John 8:46). Even the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, recognized this. When they said, "Let him be crucified," Pilate said, "Why, what evil hath he done?" (Matthew 27:23). They could find *no sin in Him*, and so they had to falsely accuse and twist what He said in order to frame charges against Him, as they could not have found any fault with Him at all. Can you find fault with Jesus?



In 1 Peter 2:20-25, we are reminded that He **bore our sins in His own body on the tree**: The suffering of Jesus is clearly an example for us; but it is far more than an example. He also **bore our sins** as a sin-bearing substitute and provided for the spiritual healing of our soul. Peter mentions that he died on a tree, both to constantly remind Christians of the great work of Jesus on the wooden cross, *and* to show them that the suffering of Jesus accomplished much for us, in the will of God.

The Benefits of Salvation

Rom 5:10 *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Therefore we, having died to sins, might live unto righteousness. Paul and Peter remind us that when Jesus died on the cross, *we should also have died to sins and be at peace with Him*. Our lives are permanently changed by our identification with Jesus on the cross (Romans 6). We have **died to sins** in the sense that our debt of sin and guilt was paid by Jesus' perfect sacrifice on the cross. For He paid all our debts, and I am reconciled with God and we are free to live for Christ and to worship and serve Christ as my God and Saviour.

In response, we are to be dead to the many pleasures and allurements of this world; and also to the love of self, world and money. So all true believers should by faith be dead to sin but alive to Jesus. The provision for our healing

(spiritually) is made by the sufferings (**stripes**) of Jesus. **The healing of our souls is received by and will be complete with our resurrection in Christ one day when He comes.**

Who is Jesus Christ?

Our Lord Jesus said, “*I am the light of the world,*” **It is an unmistakable declaration of His full deity, as God veiled in human flesh. “Christ our God is the light of the world.” He drives away the darkness of sin and depravity and gives us new hope and light.** The unbelieving Jews said, “*Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true*” (John 8:13). Will you also doubt God? Let us cast aside all worldly doubts and fears and trust in him, Jesus is God in human flesh! As 1 Timothy 3:16 says,

*‘And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:
God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit,
seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles,
believed on in the world, received up into glory.’*

We need to understand and be converted in our minds and turn to the Lord Jesus of the Bible today as God convicts our hearts of sin. Some may go through some persecution and suffering to trust the Jesus of Christianity. Acts 14:22 says, ‘*Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*’ Why do they suffer, even going through tortures, to trust our Jesus? The world tells us to do good, and to obey the rules, but it does not tell us how to be saved and to be forgiven and be accepted as a child of God. Some may suffer great persecution in order to believe in our Lord Jesus. He alone gives them eternal peace with God for He is the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6) and the only Mediator between us and God the father, “*Having made peace through the blood of his cross*” (Colossians 1:20). May our sins be pardoned and cleansed by the Christ of the cross.



What has it got to do with me?

What should we do in response to all this? Will you humble yourself and acknowledge that you are a sinner and believe and receive Christ as your Saviour and Lord? Will you trust Him now, this very hour? **Will you renounce your all and turn to the Christ of the cross, who died to save us from our sins to cleanse us and make us whole again.** Would you repent of your sins and believe in Christ as Saviour and Lord and be able to say from your heart that **Jesus died for you and mean it?**

What is it that is keeping you from seeking and trusting in Him? What besetting sin do you hide that keeps you from repenting and trusting Him? Paul says in

Rom 10:9 ,10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*



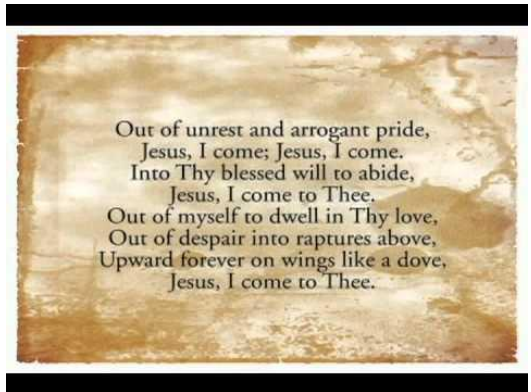
What are the reasons that may keep you from believing and accepting the Saviour? What is the unfounded fear or reason that stops you from believing? What is the hidden cause that keeps you from trusting the Christ who bore the wrath of God to save you from judgment? Discard them and trust only in *“the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29). He is the only deserving King of kings and He

is waiting for us to return and before God, repent of our sins and seek Him with our whole heart. Delay no longer and do it now before it is too late. Seek the Lord while He may be found (Isaiah 55:6-7).

Conclusion

Rom 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

There is good news today for all as anyone can be saved through Christ alone with genuine faith and repentance of sins and be joint heirs with Him and be set apart for Him who sanctifies us. **Let us strive to be part of the kingdom of God and be separated from sin and the world unto everlasting life as we remember and appropriate Christ and trust in His glorious death and His resurrection in our lives today.**



Jack Sin

Rejoicing in Heaven over a Redeemed Soul

Lk 15:10 says that *“Heaven rejoice over one soul that repent.”*

Thank God that 2 Sundays ago, there was a cause for heavenly rejoicing as Bee Leng heard the gospel preached and during the follow up with Angie who explained the gospel further, she believed in the Lord and accepted Christ as her Saviour.

She is a fruit of accidental or should I say providential evangelism by the will of God when the Sunday before we met her in PLQ and providentially I asked if we could sit at her table, and she said “ok”.

Joseph and Rachel started a conversation with her which led to the sharing of the Gospel and we gave her our church gospel tract.



With follow up, she came again last Sunday and heard the word preached and is growing in her newfound faith. She also received a Bible from our church.

Angie has started follow-up Bible study with Bee Leng during the SS hour for two Sundays already and she says she will be coming again next Sunday.

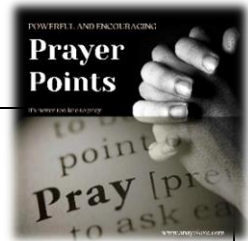
You never know what the Holy Spirit will do when you sow the gospel seed and God will save in his Sovereign will and time as we did last Sunday at Macpherson HDB flats and once has already responded.

Our Lord in Mark 5:19 says *Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*

Jack Sin



Pray for the contacts made at Evangelism@ Macpherson Estate last Sunday afternoon where the gospel tracts were given to residents, and we also invited them to our Worship Service.



- Weekly Sunday worship services on the new Oct – Dec 2023 series on **“The Nature and Duties of the Body of Christ”** and Sunday School classes.
- Our worshippers away at Gideons Conference (21-25 Sep): Dn Yue Kay, John Wong, Albert & Janet.
- Batam Mission Trip (30 Sep-1 Oct): Pastor, John Wong, Paul Kong.
- Yangon Mission Trip (2-7 Oct): Pastor & Angie, Kin Kheng & Phaw.
- Bangalore/Hyderabad Mission Trip (31 Oct – 10 Nov): Pastor, Angie. Eld Jeffrey, Dn Paul Tan, Peng Ha.
- Bee Leng’s spiritual growth in Christ.
- John Almon’s job search and application for Long-Term Visitor’s Pass.
- Health & recovery for our brethren with medical conditions.
- Missions:
 - Pastor Babu (New Covenant BPCI, Bangalore)
 - Pastor Lazarus (Calvary Reformed Church, Bangalore)
 - Elder Habakkuk (Gilead Balm Home, Yangon)
 - Pr Benjamin (Biblical Reformed Seminary, Yangon) & family
 - Pr Myitta (Children’s outreach, Yangon) & family
 - Sister Lapuii (Mercy Church Widows Ministry, Nay Pyi Taw) and delivery of baby in Oct.

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023

THE NATURE AND DUTIES OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

What constitutes the Body of Christ? (Eph 1:1-13)

Oct 1

The Body of Christ & Sabbath Worship (Acts 2:37-47, 20:7)

Oct 8*

The Body of Christ & the Sacraments (1 Cor 11:23-30, Acts 2: 39-41)

Oct 15

The Body of Christ & Stewardship (Matt 25:14-30)

Oct 22

REFORMATION SUNDAY
The Cause & Case for a Zealous Reformation Spirit (Jude 1-13)

Oct 29

The Body of Christ & Fellowship (Heb 10:19-25)

Nov 5

The Body of Christ & Discipleship (Luke 9:18-27)

Nov 12*

The Body of Christ & the World (Romans 12:1-13)

Nov 26

The Body of Christ & Missions (Acts 13:1-16)

Nov 19

The Body of Christ & its Future (Heb 12:22-29)

Christmas Eve Service:
Appreciating the Titles of the Newborn King (Isa 9:1-7)

Dec 24

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
What will Happen When I Die? (Luke 16:19-31)

Dec 31

The Body of Christ & Its Doctrinal Stand (1 Tim 4:6-16)

Dec 3

The Body of Christ & Effectual Evangelism (Matt 28:1-10)

Dec 10*

The Body of Christ & Spiritual Warfare (Eph 6:10-21)

Dec 17



SOVEREIGNHOPE
TRUST IN THE LORD

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Memory Verse

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday 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, being Gospel Sunday, on "***In Search of Peace with God (Rom 5:1-8)***".
3. Next Sunday, Rev Matthew Yong will preach on "***What Constitutes the Body of Christ (Eph 1:1-13)***", commencing a new quarterly series on "***The Nature and Duties of the Body of Christ***".
4. Pray for our worshippers who are at the Gideons Conference today (21-15 Sep): Dn Yue Kay, John Wong, Albert & Janet.
5. Sunday School classes after the worship service are as follows:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith]
 - Studies in 2 Chronicles] Combined Class (Dr Kwong Leen
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Kingdoms, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551]
7. 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:218178]
8. 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.
9. 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.
