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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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“Christian Assurance in Danger & Death” (Psalm 49)

- *summary of the devotion by Pastor
at the prayer meeting on 29 Nov 2023 -*

Pastor Jack welcomed the 16 attendees comprising a Deacon, regular members and friends, and 6 overseas brethren, namely: Ps Lazarus (Calvary Reformed Church, Bangalore), Ps Babu (New Covenant BPCI, Bangalore), Eld Habakkuk (Gilead Balm Children's Home, Yangon), Pr Benjamin (Biblical Reformed Seminary, Yangon), Pr Myitta (New Vision Evangelical Church, Yangon) and sister Hla Pui (Mercy Church, Nay Pyi Taw).

We opened the Prayer Meeting with the hymn, “In the Sweet By and By”, to duly remind ourselves of the brevity of our earthly life and to apply our hearts unto wisdom, especially in the wake of the many recent homegoing of our brethren and friends. Thereafter, Pastor Jack led us in opening prayer. Next, we took turns to read out God's Word from Psa 49:1 –20 before Pastor Jack expounded on that text with the theme of “**Christian Assurance in Danger & Death**”.

This Psalm 49 is a serious psalm about life and also end up talking about death. The salient points are:

I) **Summon to Hear the Words of Wisdom (v.1—3)**

Psalm 49 highlights the tough times and struggles in the psalmist's life, so that he wants to give us some advice on how to mitigate these difficulties in living a godly life, from the perspective of biblical wisdom, as the Psalms are considered a part of “wisdom literature”.

The Psalms address different aspects of the Christian life or race and sometimes we may miss certain parts of it, owing to the various distractions in our lives or our personal busy-ness, so the psalmist called for everyone to



But God will
redeem my soul
from the power
of the grave,
**For He shall
receive me.**

-Psalm 49:15

PsalmsQuotes.com

hear carefully an important and profound message from God that required his explanation to enable them to understand that message.

v.1-3 “**HEAR THIS, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world**” “Both **low** and **high, rich** and **poor, together**”. “My mouth shall **speak** of **wisdom**; and the meditation of my **heart** shall be of **understanding**.”

The psalmist's advice is still relevant to ALL people in the present time as well as to those living in their last days or in danger of imminent death.

So, WHAT did the psalmist want all the people to hear? The Word from the Lord.

II) Sober Challenge to Trust in God (v.4—13)

In this section of Psa.49, the psalmist gave us a very sober challenge on how we ought to live our lives on earth.

v.4 “I will incline my ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp”.

During the good times in our lives, we usually have no time or interest to focus on what God wants to communicate to us, so **God will allow certain circumstances to afflict us, thus getting our overdue attention to God's prompting and advice** and then **we begin to seriously listen to His message**.

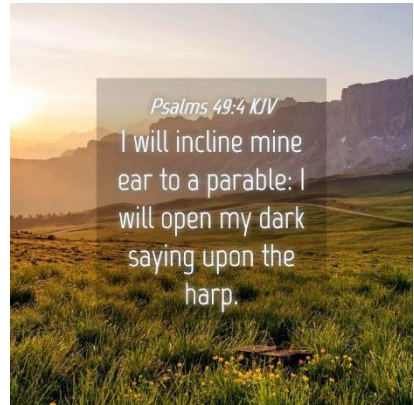
v.5 “Wherefore should I **fear** in the days of **evil**, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?”

The psalmist apparently had some kind of **fear**, as seen in **v.5**, as most people generally also have. He apparently felt that some very **powerful, rich** and **evil** people, described in **v.6**, were **plotting** and **waiting** to **ensnare** him.

v.6 “They that **trust** in their **wealth**, and **boast** themselves in the **multitude** of their **riches**”.

Many people in this worldly life, perceive wealth (money) as a very useful and “powerful” resource that they can use to effectively execute any evil plan against any other rival, family member or relative and friend, but in certain instances, according to the psalmist, that wealth is sometimes not totally useful, as he exposes the truth in v.7 & v.8

v.7 “**None** of them can by any means **redeem** his brother, nor **give** to God a **ransom** for him”.



v.8 “(For the **redemption** of their **soul** is **precious**, and it **ceaseth** for ever:)”

Sometimes God will allow some unfortunate circumstances to disrupt our lives, so as to awaken us up, to repent and return to worship Him, to read His Word, to pray and praise Him and to do His will.

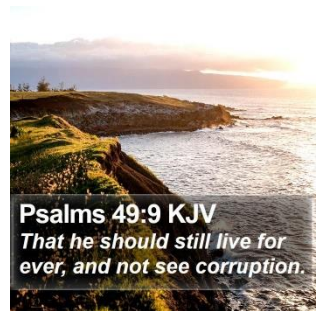
The main reason for most people's backsliding is their neglect of God and the things that ought to draw us to Him.

So, what is the use of all these wealth if it cannot buy you anything more than what God can do to save you from God's eternal damnation because the redemption of the soul is precious, and it ceases forever?

Nobody will sell you his soul for any staggering sum of money simply because he will not have the life or time to spend or enjoy that fortune, as emphasised in v.8.

v.9 “That he should still **live forever**, and not see **corruption**.”

Even if the psalmist's enemies are rich and powerful, with the power to persecute him and together with the evil one, seem to have an “upper financial and political hand” in this worldly life, he is mindful of v.9 above that was actually referring to Christ's death on the cross that his body will not corrupt as normal human beings do, as **He is a Perfect Being and God Himself. His power over death gave Him the victory to come forth as the Resurrected Saviour.**



v.10-11 “For he seeth that **wise** men **die**, likewise the **fool** and the **brutish** person **perish** and leave their **wealth** to **others**.” “Their **inward** thought is, that their **houses** shall continue **for ever**, and their **dwelling places** to **all** generations; they **call** their lands after their own **names**.”

The psalmist said in v.10 that even wise men will die naturally (as in physical death), but if they were in Christ, their physical death will not stop them who now the Lord from attaining eternal life.

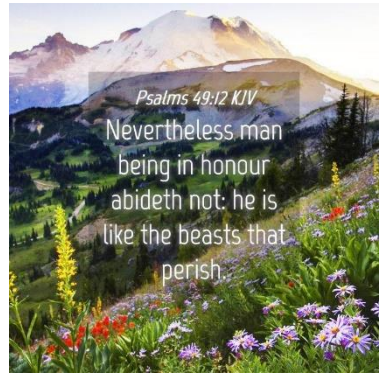
However, the foolish and the brutish will perish or die into eternity of hellfire, danger, suffering and pain, and all their accumulated wealth and assets will be left to others in the next generations.

That was ironical for those rich and powerful people to work so hard to amass their assets which they thought they could enjoy forever, but before they could enjoy them, they died without Christ in their lives, so all their diligence in successful financial and social status achievements had all been in vain, (v.11) for they perished just like the beasts as shown in v.12.

v.12 “Nevertheless **man** being in honour **abideth not**: he is **like the beasts** that **perish**.”

v.13 “This their **way** is their **folly**: yet their **posterity approve** their **sayings**.
Selah.”

According to the psalmist, if you live your current life in the way you want to, with whatever things you have acquired, in a very superficial way, without Christ, you will live just like the beasts do.



III) Serious Eternity in Death (v.14—19)

Finally, we come to the last part of Psa.49 where we face the serious eternity in death.

v.14 “Like **sheep** they are laid in the **grave**; **death** shall **feed** on them;and the **upright** shall have **dominion** over them in the morning; and their **beauty** shall **consume** them in the **grave** from their **dwelling**.”

The psalmist mentioned the word “grave” thrice in Psa. 49;(twice in v.14 and once in v.15.), the word “die” twice (in v.10 & v.14) and “death” once (in v. 17)

Now this Psa.49 is moving onto the issues of death and the grave which is a very real place. The grave refers to the place where dead people are buried. How should we respond to it?

Is it a “taboo” subject to be feared, avoided or neglected?

Different people react diversely to visits at the cemetery(graveyard). Some may feel eerie or uncomfortable to go there while others may enjoy its peace and comfort because they have a certain hope, assurance and confidence in their life.



v.15 “But **God** will **redeem** my **soul** from the power of the **grave**: for he shall **receive** me. Selah.”

So, what will happen to those people who have died?

Verse 15 is the most important verse that under-girds **Psa. 49**.

It is also a comforting and encouraging verse for those experiencing bereavement.

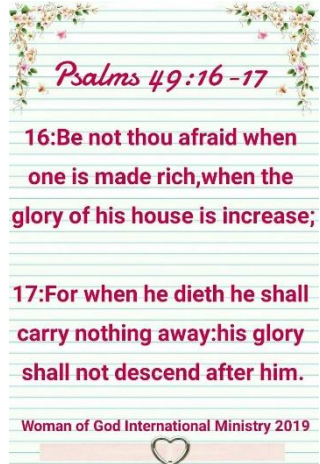
All people, be they Christians or unbelievers, like the beasts, will one day die a physical death, but God will redeem the souls of those who were in Christ.

Nobody is able to take any physical possessions or any memory of their past earthly accolades of glory and fame along with them after physical death. (v.16 & v17.)

v. 16 -17 “Be **not** thou **afraid** when one is **made** rich, when the **glory** of his house is **increased**; For when he **dieth** he shall carry **nothing away**: his **glory** shall **not descend** after him.”

v.18-20 “Though while he **lived** he **blessed** his soul: and **men** will **praise** thee, when thou doest well to thyself.”“He shall **go** to the **generation** of his **fathers**; they shall **never see** light.” “Man that is in **honour**, and **understandeth not**, is **like** the **beasts** that **perish**.”

For the evildoers and unbelievers who rejected Christ and pit themselves against God and His Word during their earthly life, they will also be judged and will join their ancestors to “never see light” (v.19) and never receive eternal salvation. (v.20)



Conclusion:

How should we live our lives for the Lord and eternity today?

What does God want me to do with my life?

Our Creator God has highlighted His advice on the Christian assurance in danger and death from Psa.49 for us to emulate.

We ought to lead our lives in such a way to make it count for the Lord in eternity.

Thus, we should number our days and apply our hearts unto wisdom as we do not know when our earthly life will be taken away and we are to be ready all the time.

For those people who have believed, trusted and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, they will be receive the gift of eternal salvation and endless hope.

Han Kin Hoong.



SOVEREIGN HOPE
bible presbyterian church

PRESENTS

*Appreciating the Titles of the
New born King*

**WHO IS THE PERSON WHO WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY?
COME AND FIND OUT AND BE BLESSED BY THE TRUTH
CONCERNING JESUS.**

BY REV JACK SIN

DECEMBER 24, SUNDAY 10:00 AM

**VENUE : SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION
@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)**

All Are Welcome



**THOSE WHO ARE COMING, KINDLY INFORM DN YUE KAY AT 97450311
BY 15 DEC 2023, AS LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**

SOVEREIGNHOPE

bible presbyterian church

Watchnight Service
Sun 31 Dec, 8pm

WHAT WILL
HAPPEN
WHEN
I DIE?

LUKE 16:19-31

Rev Dr Jack Sin

**A seat for YOU.
Come and spend the final hours of
2023 meditating on God's Word.**

From the Principal of Myanmar Theological Seminary

Thank you, Dr. Jack Sin. I will pass this to the graduands.

We will miss you when we have the graduation. We were talking about inviting you for the graduation speaker, but we know that you are so busy, and it might not be possible for you to join the service.



We will remember you as we conduct the graduation. Thank you for all the works that you have offered to the students. May the Lord bless you!

***Rev David Khobal
Principal, MTS Yangon, Myanmar***

(NB Thank God that the first batch of 4 M. Min students who will graduate on 16 Dec in MTS since it started in 2019 where Pastor is an adjunct lecturer. This program will allow deeper theological training of pastors in their own country without having them to travel overseas to get their Master's degree. This will be a great blessing to the spiritual development of pastors in Myanmar and do pray for the faculty and the student body)

With Grateful Thanks from Miriyalaguda, Telangana, India.

Dear Pastor,

Greetings in Jesus Matchless name.

Wanted to share this with you.

Today there was a short power failure that occurred twice at the church, **BUT** we were not disturbed as the service went on as normal. (as we have the inverter from SHBPC). I don't think that anyone was able to observe the power failures as it was so smooth because of the inverter. Thank you very much.



We have just returned from Nalgonda Government Hospital Maternity Ward after distributing some newborn clothes as Christmas present to some 20 moms.

***Ps John Caleb
CALM Church, Miriyalaguda, Telangana, India.***

Memory Verse

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

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 on ***The Body of Christ & Spiritual Warfare (Eph 6:10-21)***", the quarterly series on "***The Nature and Duties of the Body of Christ***".
3. Next Sunday at the Christmas Eve Worship Service, Pastor will preach on "***Appreciating the Titles of the Newborn King (Isa 9:1-7)***". There will be a special **Fellowship Lunch. Kindly inform Dn Yue Kay by TODAY.**
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are as follows:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith - Pastor
 - Studies in 2 Chronicles - Dr Kwong Leen
5. **Sovereign Hope Worshipers Christmas Lunch Fellowship** is hosted by Albert and Janet at their home on **Sat 23 Dec 11am (max capacity of 20 persons).** **Register with Dn Yue Kay by TODAY.**
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. Pray for our brethren in their travels: Dn Paul (28/11- 18/12).
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:218178]
9. 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.
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.
