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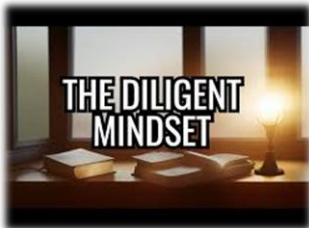
THE BIBLICAL STRATEGY FOR CHURCH GROWTH (Neh 4:1- 9)



On 19 April 2026, we commemorated and remembered the faithfulness of God to our online Chinese fellowship ministry which was started on the 3rd Sunday of April in

2020 that has a blessing to many Chinese speaking brethren from country X, Malaysia, Australia and Singapore. This message was shared to encourage the hearts of all by considering the sound strategy of Nehemiah in building the walls of Jerusalem despite oppositions.

As the work of God progresses, there will be discouragements and hindrances from the evil one from all angles to undermine the work of God. The foes in Sanballat and Tobiah angry and greatly incensed, ridiculed the Jewish workers under Nehemiah and stir up people to oppose the spiritual building project. Operation mockery is quite devastating to a small land of committed believers often and some may even give up. Nehemiah was up against a formidable foe of avalanche of ridicule and discouragements. Anyone who wants to serve God must be prepared for attacks of the evil one and oppositions if you are serving God faithfully. Saul of Tarsus who became Apostle Paul understood the principle as he suffered much for the Lord in the advancement of the gospel and so did the rest of the apostles. **Yet however, strong the opposition, the believer is not without heavenly resources, and they are to be resilient and dependent on prayer on God with hard work for success in the ministry that we can learn today.**



A Diligent Mind to Work

One of the elements of church growth is that he workers have a mental capacity for honest hard work. Wise king Solomon directs us to the ant in Prov 6:6-11 *"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt*

thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man." They worked tirelessly from day to night and continued on the next day without fail.

There must be a willingness to labour industriously in the Lord's vineyard. Slothfulness and idleness is a curse to God's people but diligence and discipline is a blessing and asset. An idle mind is a devil's workshop. The people had a capacity for hard labour in removing debris and carrying physical construction materials to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Rom 12:11 *"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."* We are called to labour as servants for the Lord till He comes. We are accountable to Him.

"So build we the wall" in verse 6 shows determination and perseverance. We need spiritual gumption in these end times and to press on for the Lord with accountability to Him one day. And nothing is impossible with God (2 Cor 5:10).

A Fervent Heart of Prayer

Secondly, not just a mind to work but it is important that the leaders and members and visitors that the works be totally dependent upon fervent prayer for God's blessings alone. *Ps 127:1 "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."*



Prayer is the breath of godliness and the lifeline to heaven for every believer and the source of all spiritual strength. Nehemiah knows that and he prays and consults God first before making every move. Paul in Rom 15:30 *"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me"* and 2 Cor 1:11 *"Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf."*

In Col 4:12, there is an amazing prayer warrior called Epaphras. He has been interceding fervently for the church.

Ps 5:2 says, "Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray" and *Dan 6:10 says, "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."*

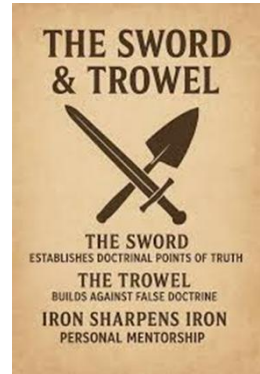
We need to recognise our utter dependence on our God also for godly success and spiritual prosperity, For "without Christ, we can do nothing."

A Vigilant Eye to Watch

Finally, there have to be constant vigilance and alertness against the attack on the workers, so they carry with both the sword and a trowel. That there is instant danger and construction may be met by obstruction as well. The enemies threatened the people and Nehemiah, but the alert leader was ready to warn them

and blow the bugle, and they are rallied into action all the time. The recent wars in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza and Ukraine drew a response of heightened alertness all over the US and their allies including Israel. Security in all is beefed up in important military and strategic installations as they were poised for retaliatory action.

The people did not even change their clothes when necessary. This was the level of combat and destruction. The Christian is no different. **Are you virtually watching and working in your wait for the Lord's return? Satan is a roaring lion seeking any that he may devour. Do not be caught off-guard by the devil (1 Pet 5:8). But on the full armour of God, be ready to withstand the wiles of the evil one (Eph 6:10-12). Do not be caught off suddenly or let the devil bring you into the enslavement of sin.**



Conclusion & Application

What about your personal spiritual life, family and ministry today? Are you a diligent and disciplined worker? Do you pray and seek the Lord daily and do you watch and be vigilant against the many temptation and deception of the evil one? No one is spared and we need to be careful.

So must we vigilantly stand well for the Lord as we continue with this Chinese ministry. There will be diabolical attacks against Christians and the church in these last hazardous days. So let us be alert and industrious as the workers of Nehemiah and be equipped ready for every good work. There will always be fresh challenges to every good work for the Lord. The work of the Word will always be found with obstacles as we witness times in the mission work but with prayer and resilience we press on In the Lord.

Let us be faithful and fervent and persevere with the humble Chinese work; for our labour is not in vain if we faint not. Remember that the wall was finally completed after 52 days if we press on and not give up by the grace of God.

Jack Sin



“Why We Need Not Fear Death (1 Cor 15:1-18, 42-58)

Sermon by Pastor Jack
- A Summary-

1. Proofs & Protests to the Truth of the Resurrection vs 1-18

- “I declare unto you the gospel” v1
 - the word “gospel” is “*evangelion*” in Greek which means pronouncement of good news in general, but word subsequently became exclusive to Christianity to mean the good news of salvation through Christ.
- **The Gospel in a Nutshell** is given in vs 3&4 and it is only about 1 person, Jesus Christ which covers:
 - His Death & Burial - “Christ died for our sins” and “he was buried”
 - His Resurrection - “he rose again the third day according to the scriptures
 - His Appearance – He was seen of Cephas....the twelve.... above five hundred brethren....James....the Apostles....and Paul.

- The Proofs

Internal Evidence

- That hope of the risen Christ is the word of comfort for believers scattered all over the Roman empire. People who were alive then could have easily challenged or verified the claims of the resurrection. Nobody was able to produce the physical body of Jesus which would have easily disproved the resurrection
- James was mentioned because like Thomas, he was also a skeptic, yet he saw Christ personally after the resurrection and his life was changed.
- John and the others also wrote in their canonical gospels of the resurrection of Christ.
- Peter also mentioned the resurrection of Christ in 1Pet 1:3, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*”
- The prophet Daniel mentioned in Dan 12:2, “*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*” Daniel wrote this under inspiration in 520 BC although he did not live to see it nor may have known exactly what he was writing.
- Job spoke of the promise of resurrection in Job 19:25-26, “*For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.*”



- All the disciples were willing to die for their belief of Christ's resurrection (people will not die for a lie if they know it is not the truth) authenticates that the event is true.

External Evidence

- there are also records from Josephus (a Jewish historian), Tacitus (a non-Christian Roman historian), Clement of Rome, etc who recorded the matter of the resurrection in the historical documents.

- The Protests/Skeptics

- Doubting Thomas: when he saw Jesus, his doubt was finally removed.
- Paul, who was Saul of Tarsus, whose life was completely changed after his encounter with the Lord along the road to Damascus
- Lee Strobel, a modern-day famous skeptic who was converted and wrote *"The Case for Christ"*.
- Many others who started on their journey to challenge the resurrection became believers such as Josh McDowell, who wrote *"Evidence that Demands a Verdict"*, CS Lewis, Frank Morrison who wrote *"Who Moved Away the Stone"*, etc and many others.

2. Program & Pattern of Christ for Believers vs 18-23

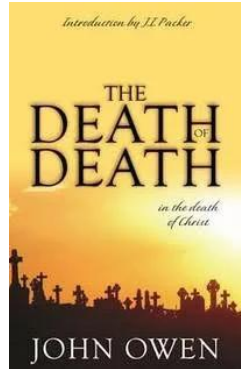
- The Old Adam sinned and died and represents us in our sins and eternal damnation.
- The New Adam in Christ died and rose again represents us in the forgiveness of sins and resurrection unto eternal life.
- the statistic of death is staggering - 100%
- Death is our final enemy but Christ has defeated death and rose from the dead.
- Christ is the first fruit and represents all who will live in Him.
- This is a representative principle that Christ is the second Adam who represents the redeemed of God.

<i>Romans 5:12-19</i>	
<i>First Adam</i>	<i>Second Adam</i>
Adam	Christ
Came from the earth	Came from heaven
Was tempted and sinned	Was Tempted and overcame sin
Disobedient to the Law	Obedient to the Law
Defaced the Image of God	Restored the Image of God
Sin imputed to mankind	Righteousness imputed to His people
Brought condemnation into the world	Brought righteousness to His people
Brought a curse	Brought a blessing
Brought death to mankind	Brought life to His people
Failed	Victorious

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3. Perfection & Promise of Resurrection for the Redeemed Dead vs 57-58

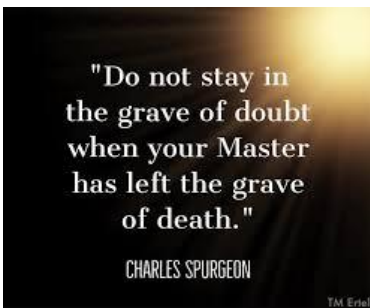
- Paul said that there are celestial bodies, and also bodies terrestrial
- The celestial body will be an incorruptible body. 1Cor 15:42-44 - *"It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."*
- Paul shared a mystery - *"We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised."* vs 50-53
- The dead shall be raised first, then the living Paul says - *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"* (1Cor 15:57)
- A famous puritan John Owen in 1647 wrote *"The Death of Death in the Death of Christ"* which is an excellent book on the atonement of Christ for the sins of His people.
- Easter is the occasion when death died and we can have the victory too when we believe in the Lord alone who can save us. *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*



Conclusion

The meaning of the Resurrection of Christ is the very Power over death and sin. We can overcome sin through Christ alone and let us seek the Lord Jesus who is the risen Saviour before it is too late. Will you seek Christ today?

John 1:12 says, *"But as many as **received** him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that **believe** on his name."* Will you receive and believe in Christ today?



Let us live in hope in the Lord and with the assurance of new life with Christ as our Lord and our God.

"Do not stay in the grave of doubt when your Master has left the grave of death" Charles Spurgeon

Ng Kim Meng

Last Sunday @Sovereign Hope....



Lunch Fellowship...



Dn Tan, Eld Tan, Rev Sin, Rev Tan!

Home Visitations to Nonagenarians....



***Senior Dr Tan Kong Chin
(father of Dr Tan Kwong Leen)***



***Eld Joshua Lim, one of the
founding Elders of the BP
Church in Singapore who has
visited us at SHBPC at least
twice.***

Register today!

SOVEREIGN HOPE
bible presbyterian church

presents

MAY DAY
SEMINAR

MANAGING GRIEF AND EUTHANASIA
FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

DR JACK SIN
MR DANIEL WONG
(OF AMAZING GRACE BEREAVEMENT SERVICE)

1 MAY 2026, (FRIDAY) 3 PM

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

All are welcome and need to register with
Eld Yue Kay at 97450311 by 21 April

Memory Verse

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

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 "***Biblical Understanding of Covenant Theology (Rom 8:26-33, Eph 1:4-12)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Knowing What & Why We Believe***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***Biblical Understanding of the Role & Nature of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26,15:26,16:13-14)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walk Thru the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Revelation (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship that meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
6. **May Day Seminar** will be held on **Fri 1 May 2026 3pm**. See page 7 for details. Register with Eld Yue Kay (hp;97450311) by 21 Apr.
7. **SHBPC Church Camp: 9-12 June 2026**. Theme: "***The Biblical Perspective of the Christian & Church in a Digital Age***". Camp speaker: **Dr Scott Hollander** from Western Reformed Seminary, USA. Venue: **Yello Hotel, Batam**. Contact Dn Paul/Bro Joseph Chan for more details and the registration form.
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:
 - **Pastor Babu** (New Covenant BPC, Bangalore): Vacation Bible Sch in May
 - **Preacher Myitta** (Yangon, Myanmar): Summer outreach to village children
 - **Church Camp Committee, Speaker & Campers**
 - **Medical: Kim Meng's mother** [heart condition], **Agnes' parents** [medical conditions & salvation], **Joseph & Lilian's Dil Annabelle Chan** [knee injury],
 - **Dr Sam** [Safety in Country X & Career Pathway], **Yusong** [PostGrad Studies Pathway]
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application]
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.