

# SOVEREIGNHOPE

bible presbyterian church

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](http://www.sovereignhopebpc.org)  
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / [jacksin710@gmail.com](mailto:jacksin710@gmail.com)  
Elder Loke Tat Luen: [tloke822@gmail.com](mailto:tloke822@gmail.com)

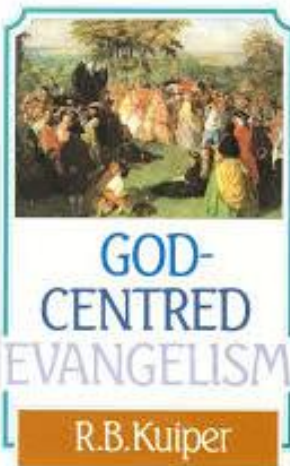
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## The Challenge to Advance the Pure Gospel in the Last Days

As we come to the last quarter of this eventful year of 2020 with COVID19, we remember how even though we are a young and growing church, the Lord led SHBPC to support, visit, and minister to our overseas mission stations since Feb 2018, building up the overseas congregations as God guides us. We remind ourselves of the grave importance and absolute necessity of biblical gospel missions and church building entrusted to all of us by the Lord. The churches today are lacking in the propagation of the gospel and some have compromised by promoting the social gospel, health and wealth gospel, or the prosperity gospel instead of focusing on the saving of souls through the faithful preaching of justification by faith in Christ alone.

### The Sacred Duty of Evangelism

R.B. Kuiper had said rightly in his celebrated book, *God Centered Evangelism, Banner of Truth Trust*, below,



“The fault of the social gospel of modernism is not that it would remedy social ills, but that it would accomplish this in a way which stands diametrically opposed to Christianity. Brushing aside the obvious truth that society can never be better than are the individuals which constitute it, it would improve the individual by improving society. It would rescue men from sin’s consequences such as poverty and disease, rather than have them redeemed from sin itself by the blood of Christ. It would save the individual by what is termed the regeneration of society, not by the new birth supernaturally wrought by the Holy Spirit. It would by human effort get men out of the slums instead of getting the slums out of men by the grace of God. It neglects the profound truth so well expressed by that great evangelistic preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, ‘Take a thief to heaven, and

the first thing he will do is to pick the pockets of the angels.' There is another way of stating the difference between the individual gospel of fundamentalism and the social gospel of modernism."

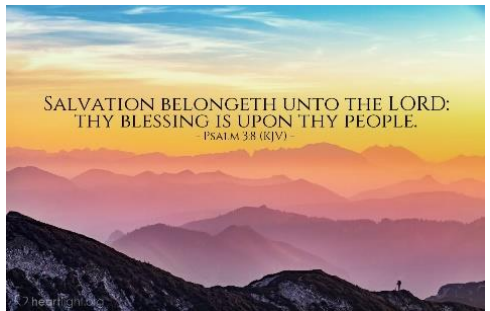
The churches need a return to the sound declaration of the pure and unadulterated gospel of Christ and the defence of the faith in our missions and outreach. Question 89 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism says this, "The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners and of building them up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation."

Our ultimate motivation in evangelism must be to see God glorified, and God is glorified when the truth about Christ is known and made Him known. We should want to glorify God by proclaiming the truth about Him that sets people free from sin as He calls us. Jesus commands His disciples to "*go and teach or make disciples of all nations, or ethnic group or different cultures or tribes*" (Matthew 28:19-20). We are to be consecrated or "set apart for Christ as Lord for this purpose," that is, we should witness or evangelize because God calls or commands it. The love of God and love for souls should compel us to have compassion on those in need, and everyone's greatest need is eternal salvation.

J. I. Packer describes the definition of evangelism below (Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1961, 126),

"To evangelize . . . is to present Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Savior, and serve him as their King in the fellowship of His church."

There are some useful points in this definition and I would also add that this has to be submitted to the sovereign will of God in his election of souls unto everlasting life (Ephesians 1:4-5, Romans 8:29-30). In other words, the success of evangelism is not in its tangible results of numerical conversion but in the fulfilling of God's will in proclaiming the gospel with the call to evangelical repentance and leaving to him to decide the final outcome of this gospel tasks. Many years ago, I was made aware of a certain para group organization that set tangible targets for conversion for the different faculties in a certain University. This is very strange and unbiblical and has no scriptural warrant at all. *Salvation is of the Lord* (Jonah 2:9).



When Jesus began His public ministry, He came '*preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel*' (Mark 1:14-15). Yet we know that

though some were saved, there were many who rejected Christ as well (John 6:66, Matthew 28:17).

### **The Local Church and Missions**

The healthy and growing church is rooted in Christ and partly founded on sound and effective witnessing for Christ, in the understanding and practice of sound doctrine of the word of God, and our devotion to God with an understanding of eternity. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be more equipped and prayerful and ready to reach out to people. All believers should be more motivated to share the gospel, to seek Christ to save people from eternal punishment. Luke 19:10 says, *'For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.'* The love of Christ and love for lost souls should convict and compel us to go out to the various communities to communicate the good news of everlasting hope and let the Holy Spirit, the only Agent who can open hearts convict people of their sins and stir up a desire for Christ as Savior and Lord (Titus 3:5). Our sacred task is to plead with people and explain to them their desperate plight of total depravity and our great need for a Deliverer and Saviour. We need to tell them that the offer of salvation is available to every repentant sinner who believes and accepts the good news of the vicarious atonement and the resurrection of Christ (Romans 5:1-19).

The Apostles' message stresses on faith and dependence in God and repentance for the sinner. Acts 20:21 says, *'Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.'* We must be willing to go out of our comfort zone and sow the gospel seed (in both the cities and villages), just like our mission team ministered at Covenant BPCI and

New Covenant BPCI where Rev George Skariah, Pastors Babu and Lazarus and others are serving, edifying and building up the people in the fear of God. Pray for commitment and willingness to sacrifice as you seek to expand the church building with



additional floors as the Lord wills and buttress it with the growth of the church and reach out to the children in the Elim childcare. Proverbs 3:9,10, *'Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.'* We pray that the sowing of the gospel seed will fall on good ground and bring forth much fruit in due season and we will never forget our calling to share our blessings and give to the extension of the kingdom of God.

The Biblical faithful and sound preaching of the gospel was the method employed by our Lord. Christ preached that men everywhere should repent of their sins and believe in the gospel of Christ. Matthew 9:35 says, *'And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.'* Christ often rebuked the Pharisees for their hardness of heart and rejection of Him. Christ pronounced a serious judgment upon them and we are to want of the just and righteous judgement of God one day as well. A sound church-based ministry must not neglect to share of the holiness of God against the sinfulness of man, the consequences of rejecting Christ, and the need to turn to Him.

All churches also have the sacred duty to build their own flock and to teach and ground new believers in the understanding and application of sound doctrines using reformed creeds and confessions after their regeneration and help them to grow in their faith and be part of a sound local church (Matthew 28:20, 2 Timothy 2:2). R.B. Kuiper correctly places great emphasis on the teaching of reformed creeds and confessions as the tools of theological grounding for converts and disciples of Christ. He says below:

“Is the Christian church of today to ignore practically the entire history of Christianity? Are there no lessons to be learned from the past? And are not such great confessions as, to name but a few, The Nicene Creed, The Apostles' Creed, The Augsburg Confession, The Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England, The Canons of Dort, and The Westminster Confession, products of the historic church's guidance into the truth by the Spirit of truth, promised to the church by its Head, even Jesus Christ.”

### **The Spiritual Burden of SHBPC**

Although we are not able to personally go on our missions this year due to COVID19, over the past two and the half years, SHBPC has been committed to local evangelism, foreign gospel outreaches, and mission work in Batam, Indonesia (Filadelfia BPC), Myanmar ( Gilead Balm orphanage and theological teaching in bible colleges in MTS, BIT, and BRS), Country X (local churches in a few provinces), and Bangalore, India (Covenant BPCI, New Covenant BPCI, Covenant Reformed Church, and MBBC) that are badly affected by the global health crisis, among others. There is still much to be done as the Lord carries and when the pandemic situation improves. In due time when we can travel again, we are to preach and teach the Word as the Lord leads.

### **Conclusion**

We remember that Paul saying in Ephesians 4:11-13 that the Lord has given us different gifts and calling to be used for the Lord: *'And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.'*

Even in the midst of the global health crisis, let each one of us be spiritually burdened of the Lord and be willing to witness to our loved ones and friends , give of our resources, pray and reach out fervently to souls for Christ while there is still the opportunity to do so. It is our sacred duty to build up this church and other missions in the will of God. We are to arise and use our time, talents, and possessions to serve God in the church, share the pure gospel to save souls, and to prayerfully build up this spiritual witness in our church ministry and in the overseas teaching of the like-minded churches, all to the glory of God.

Jack Sin

REACH US!  
 Pastor Jack Sin +65 91160948  
 sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com  
 www.sovereignhopebpc.org

160 PAYA LEBAR ROAD, ORION@PAYA LEBAR  
 #04-06 SINGAPORE 409022

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**PROPHETIC AND PRACTICAL INSIGHTS  
 FROM ISAIAH FOR TODAY**  
 Lord's Day Programme from Oct - Dec 2020

**OCTOBER**

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4 The Case for Divine Reasoning (Isaiah 1:1-18)  
 11\* The Holiness of God and the Prophet's Response (Isaiah 6:1-8)  
 18 When the Top Angel became the Devil (Isaiah 14:1-15)  
 25 Reformation Sunday: The Refuge of God in the Reformation (Isaiah 25:1-12)

**NOVEMBER**

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1 The Basis for Peace of Mind (Isaiah 26:1-9)  
 8\* The Gospel Highway and Streams of Life (Isaiah 35:1-10)  
 15 The Almighty Comforter for Souls (Isaiah 40:1-14)  
 22 Fighting Phobia with Courage in God (Isaiah 41:1-14)  
 29 Triumph over Distress as Witnesses (Isaiah 43:1-28)

**DECEMBER**

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6 The Only One True God of the World (Isaiah 45:5-28)  
 13\* The Call to Extend the Kingdom of God. (Isaiah 54:1-17)  
 20 The Foundation for Contentment (Isaiah 55:1-13)  
 24 Christmas Eve: Mary and the Lamb of God (Luke 1:27-47)  
 27 Reforms through the Hand of God (Isaiah 59:1-21)  
 31\* WATCHNIGHT SERVICE: Am I a Wise or Foolish Virgin? (Matthew 25:1-13)

## Available for Purchase at Sovereign Hope BPC!

Please accept my apologies for delaying my appreciation of your kindness in giving me the book “A Christian Perspective of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Biblically Related Themes Examined” co-authored by you and Angelina.

Great blessings be upon you both for the great work you have done. It has been highly recommended by all who have read it.

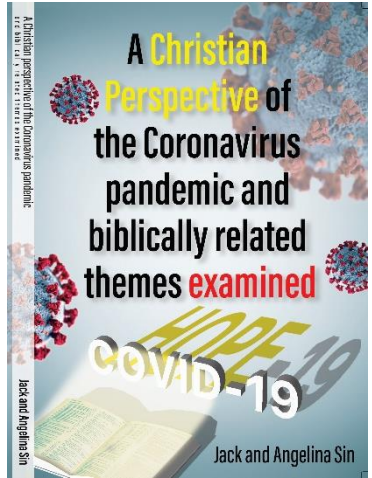
God had been with you both.

*Eld Chia Kim Chwee  
Zion BP Church, Serangoon Gardens*

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Thanks Rev Jack. Yes, will certainly pray God use the book mightily for His glory to strengthen the faith of the saints and for the proclamation of the gospel far and wide in such a time as this. May the good Lord bless Rev Jack and Sister Angelina for your labour of love towards His people and to the unsaved that they may find Christ.

*Rev Lek Aik Wee  
Pastor  
Blessed Hope BPC*



Purchase available through Deacon Yue Kay or  
via email at [sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com](mailto:sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com)

## Sermon Summary

### The Case for Divine Reasoning (Isa 1:1-18) by Rev Jack Sin 4 Oct 2020

#### 1. The Iniquity of Israel Exposed (vs 1-9)

- The author was Isaiah who wrote during 740BC to the southern kingdom of Judah and served during the reign of a few kings for about 50 years. The themes include the sovereignty of God, revival, judgment, repentance and the holiness and justice of God. The people sinned against God and ignored the commandments of God – there was indifference to spiritual things (a serious offence) and also proactive sins.
- God took umbrage to it and had a serious charge against them
- In our spiritual life, if we do not go forward, we will actually backslide. There is no such thing as being stagnant. It may not be obvious from the outside but it is happening even without us knowing it.  
“Isa 1:23 - “Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: everyone loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.”
- There was gross Injustice, idolatry, gross violence, rebellion, unfaithfulness to God, bribery or corruption, etc.
- God highlighted all their iniquities to the people (Israel was laden with sins)
- They needed to do something about it before it was too late.

#### 2. The Indignation & Indictment of God Explained (vs 10-15)

- God was provoked to anger and there are consequences to this
- Unlike our anger, God’s anger is the divine expression of righteous displeasure and antagonism aroused by injustice and the sin & depravity of His people  
Num 11:1 - “And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord: and the Lord heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the Lord burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.”
- Do we have an ungrateful, ungracious, complaining & murmuring spirit? Need to examine ourselves and be thankful to God for all He has done for us, for those whom God has used to minister to us His word and our parents too.

- We have an example here in Deut 29:27-28 - “And the anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book: And the Lord rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.”
- Even today, there are many distractions in life. Sinful actions, slothfulness in service and worship and stewardship can creep in insidiously if we are not careful. Neglecting God and His Word and kingdom may incur the wrath of God.
- Is God angry with me? Do we even care? If we do not, this is a serious problem. Do we stiff necked or have a rebellious spirit? Let us ask the Lord to transform and convict our hearts.

### **3. The Invitation of Jehovah to Cleansing Exhorted (vs 16-18)**

- “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”
- Consider the intensity, intimacy & urgency (NOW) of God’s invitation Paul said in 2 Cor 6:2, “Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” Do not procrastinate for it is more than the thief of time and can be the thief of our souls.
- Pastor Jack often tells his Bible college students at the beginning of the semester to practice DIN - Do It Now or Delay It Now with regards to assignments.
- The Lord says “Come, now & reason together.” It is given in the imperative and is a divine invitation to peace and hope The Lord took the initiative to reach out to us. God has taken the initiative and provided the only way out. It is a divine pardon that requires repentance and confession of sins.
- Only God can wash away our sins though they be as crimson or scarlet and none else. Are we willing to obey and repent of our sins? May the Lord help us.

### **Conclusion**

If we confess before the Lord today, we will recover, be refreshed & regenerated in our heart. Or we can refuse, rebel & face the consequences of the wrath & judgement of a righteous God. It is our call. Pray and seek the Lord while He may be found. Do it before it is too late.

Kim Meng



## Memory Verse

*Isaiah 6:8* Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,  
Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?  
Then said I, Here am I; send me.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Jack Sin speaks today on “**The Holiness of God & the Prophet’s Response**” (Isa 6: 1-8), the Oct to Dec series on “*Prophetic & Practical Insights from Isaiah for Today*”. The Lord’s Supper is commemorated today.
3. Rev Jack Sin speaks next Sunday on “**When the Top Angel became the Devil**” (Isa 14: 1-15).
4. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
  - Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
  - “Rules for Walking in Fellowship by John Owen” – Dn Choo Siang
  - Studies in Leviticus – Dr Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. Do collect your Oct prayer list from Dn Choo Siang.
7. Those who would like to help with the cleaning or safe management procedures of the church, please see Dn Yue Kay.
8. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
9. Pastor is still available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
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**