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## “Wisdom's Guidelines in Triumphant Living” [Prov 3:1-10] Prayer Meeting Devotion Summary (15 Feb 2023)

Pastor welcomed the 15 attendees, comprising a Deacon, members & regular friends and 4 overseas brethren, namely: Pastor Lazarus (Calvary Reformed Church, Bangalore), Elder Habakkuk (Gilead Balm Children's Home, Yangon), Pastor Benjamin (Biblical Reformed Seminary, Yangon) and Sis. Hla Pui (Mercy Church, Nay Pyi Taw).

Pastor shared from Prov 3:1-10. What's “Wisdom Literature”? These include the Books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. They were the ancient teaching textbook for the Jewish people; a manual that the Jews use especially for verbal instruction that was very central to traditional Jewish literature and instruction, whereby their Rabbi would quote from when they taught in the synagogue.

The following are the 4 salient points to consider:

### A) Remember the Word of God and His Laws (v1 – 4)

- In Prov 3:1, Solomon, King of Israel, referred to the people close to him as “My Son” and advised, exhorted and challenged the young people **NOT to forget (i.e. to REMEMBER)** God's law and commandments.
- **Forgetfulness** is a **negative** testimony of our **faith** to the **unbelievers**. Thus we become a **less effective Christian** in this respect. It's also a **sign** of our **indifference** and **ingratitude** to **God's blessings**.
- What's the secret to **overcome** forgetfulness? Make a **concerted, conscious** effort to **keep** God's law and commandments in our **heart**, which is a **safe** and **reliable** place to **hide** them.
- **Why** must we **remember** God's law and commandments? In verse 2, Solomon said, “For **length of days** and long life and **peace** shall they **add** to thee”.



- **Longevity** is dependent on **NOT ONLY** a balanced diet, proper exercise regime and a healthy lifestyle, but also **BLESSINGS** and **PEACE** from **God** for a **compliant heart from us**.
- What we need in the **final** days of our earthly lives will be **calmness, serenity** and **tranquility** of our soul, so that we will not be **disturbed** or **fearful**.
- We must also **NOT** neglect **mercy** and **truth** in our lives, for by doing so, God will **grant** us His **favour** and **blessings** (verse 3)
- God honoured and was faithful to people who were **obedient** to and who **kept** His **law** and **commandments** eg, Abraham, Job, Daniel and Joseph, because their lives **showcased** their **obedient** and **compliant** heart. (verse 4)

## B) Trust in God with all your heart. (v 5)

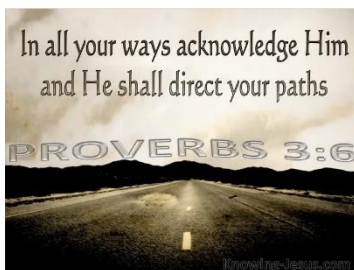
- Trust is normally given to someone, something, an organisation, or a righteous God and for the believer, is a total reliance on God.
- People generally think highly of themselves and feel that they do not need God or His blessings especially when they are doing well in life.
- This mindset **contradicts** against the call to trust in God.
- Thus trusting in God will lead to giving up that “trust in the self” mindset, so that they will “lean not on their own understanding”, but trust in God instead.
- We can seek understanding of how a thing, a procedure or system works, but we must not depend on that as a basis for our decision or direction in life.
- We are not so “great or omniscient” that we can make an important decision in life without consulting God first.
- When you trust someone, you will want to talk to him and communicate with him, especially on major issues in your life. Hence **consulting** God is important as one who is truly **seeking the will of** God.



## C) Acknowledge God to direct your path. (v 6-8)

- \*The word “acknowledge” has a sense of “to submit, to commit or give in to” with a sense of humility, as you recognise that God is in charge of the situation.
- “Direction” in life is very important to people as any wrong decisions made on all their major life issues may result in sorely dire and negative outcomes upon their lives.

- So the correct order of action is to acknowledge God **first** and then He will direct and show us which path (way) to take. The word “path” means the correct (proper) way or decision to take.



- When we acknowledge God, we do 3 things:
  - (i) admit that we don't know the way,
  - (ii) seek and ask God for the correct direction and
  - (iii) run away from sin as a result of honouring God.
- A positive outcome is to “fear the Lord and depart from evil”. (v. 7)
- A negative outcome is “to be not wise in thine own eyes” (v. 7)
- Verse 8: “It shall be health to thy navel and marrow to thy bones” depicts a picture of spiritual vitality of someone who is so well-guided and protected by God.
- It takes lots of strong discipline to live such a proper and healthy life that is pleasing to God.
- Acknowledging God requires divine help, sustained discipline, great diligence and steady determination to get it right.

#### D) Honour God with your Life and Substance. (v 9-10)

- Verse 9: “Honour the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase.”
- The word “substance” refers to material things like food and our tangible or physical assets. Including ourselves as a living sacrifice
- Harvest time is usually around April – May, but not all the fruits ripen at the same time. Some of them ripen earlier than the rest, so these are called “first-fruits”. They are better in appearance and quality, taste sweeter and can fetch higher prices when sold, so they are considered more valuable and more precious (to their owners) than those that ripen later.
- King Solomon exhorts us to offer our best material possessions to God, to honour Him out of our thankful hearts for His blessings and favour.



It is our joy and privilege to give to the Lord joyfully every Sunday for the extension of His kingdom

- When we honour God out of love ,(not for any personal gain)with our time talent and treasure He will honour us too, as He knows and understands our needs, for God is sovereign in His own time and way to bless us, in his own time as he wills as shown in verse 10(even if he does not, we are still joyful to give to the Lord whom we love )
- So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.” (v.10)
- The idea of honouring God is surrendering to God and putting Him first in our lives as it is a honour and our priority to do so to our Savior and Lord. (Mt 6:33). It is a true expression of our devotion to Him and a testimony of our obedience to His Word

### **Conclusion**

It is a joy and privilege that we can seek God first and submit to his will and to honour God with our material possessions, heart and soul, our time and talents, and even our lives to the glory of God in the extension of His Kingdom. In addition, may we be earnestly motivated to apply the 4 simple yet relevant guidelines from King Solomon for our triumphant daily Christian living.

*Han Kin Hoong*

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Lord's Day Programme for January - March 2023

# The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action

(Book of Ephesians)



## JANUARY

- 1 Divine Calling of a Believer (1:1-12)
- 8\* Character of the Church (1:13-23)
- 15 Changed from Darkness to Light (2:1-10)
- 22 Progress of the Church (2:11-22)
- 29 Fullness of the Church (3:1-12)

## FEBRUARY

- 5 **5th Anniversary Thanksgiving**  
*The Witness of the Church in Dangerous Times (Acts 5:29-42)*
- 12\* Functions of the Church (3:13-21)
- 19 Conduct of the Church (4:1-16)
- 26 Steps for Effective Witness in our Lives (4:17-32)

## MARCH

- 5 Divinely Transformed Living (5:1-21)
- 12\* Guidelines for Healthy Marital Relations (5:22-33)
- 19 Rules for Family Relationships (6:1-9)
- 26 Divine Protection for Spiritual Combat (6:10-24)

**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
evangelical christianity

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Rev Philip Heng

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PULAI SPRING



7-10 June 2023



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Pulai Springs Resort,  
Malaysia



## Memory Verse

*Eph 5:25* Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! We are so glad you are here to worship with us. 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 "**Guidelines for Healthy Marital Relations (Eph 5:22-33)**", continuing the quarterly series on "*The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action (Book of Ephesians)*".
3. Pastor will preach next Sunday on "**Rules for Family Relationships (Eph 6:1-9)**"
4. Come and learn at our weekly Sunday School classes after the worship service:
  - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
  - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
  - Practical Reflections from Ephesians – Dn Yue Kay & Paul Kong
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Basic Theology, and the book of Joshua. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. 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.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 5 May 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
8. The **Annual Church Camp** will be held at **Pulai Springs Resort (Johor Bahru, Malaysia), June 7-10, 2023**. Rev Philip Heng is our camp speaker "**Exercise unto Godliness in an Ungodly World**". Do set aside this time and join us for a time of learning, spiritual refreshment and blessed fellowship. Contact Paul Tan (hp: 8060 4412) for more information.
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.