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Getting into **POLE** Position for Chinese New Year 2023

Exo 12:2 *This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*

Exo 12:42 *It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.*

The Jewish new year began with the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt after the end of the 10 plagues that led to the death of the first born in Egypt. **It was the beginning of a new life with freedom to worship and serve God with a new land in view led by Jehovah their God after the crossing of the Red Sea.**

Rosh Hashanah did not only begin as a new year but it is celebrated with festive meals and holy days and the blowing of the shofar which is a call to seek God and to deeper faith and repentance. Lev 23:24-35 *Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.* It is normally around the middle or end of September on our calendar and it is a **rest day for all and no work to be done on that day but also a day of worship**



and offering to the Lord. It is a day to enjoy the blessings of God in fresh fruits and other delectable food as a family.

The fresh start rested on the sovereignty of God and the people of God has a part to do as well.

The Chinese New Year this year falls on a Sunday which is a day of holy worship as we begin our Lunar New

Year with God in His sanctuary. For the Chinese speaking world, it is an important occasion for them to meet up with family in a reunion dinner with sumptuous food, and visitations to renew ties and build relationships.

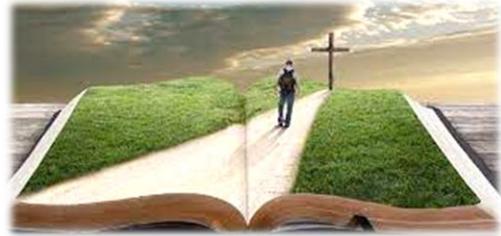
It is an opportune time for us as Christians to also think about our lives in the light of eternity. For that we need to consider and ponder about how we ought to live this year for Christ and for the sake of eternity. In this regard, every Christian should consider practicing the **POLE** principle in our work or studies or ministry in order to be effective in what we do. **POLE** stands for:

***P*ray, Plan or Ponder the will of God.**

Psa 5:3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

Eph 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

We have a great privilege to be able to commune with our God directly. Prayer is the daily breath of a godly life and it is the life line to heaven. God has given to us the privilege of intercession and our mental faculties to use for His glory. Plan to seek and deeply study and meditate the Word of God in 2023 and also be given to supplication and intercession. **Have a clear direction and plan ahead to achieve this. Let your life be meaningful and purposeful for the Lord. We need to ask for the guidance of the Lord and prayer is to be made daily with much fervency and importunity. (Dan 6:10)**



***O*rganise our Lives**



2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

CNY is a seasonal time to do spring cleaning and to organise our homes too. A disorganised home or person is hardly effective or efficient. It is important to develop your God given talent and write and work out your plan with **sound administration or organisational skills and knowledge of the Word** on how to get there and the resources you will need, just like organising your life first and then your home (ie children) or office as well.

Labour & Learn New Things

2Thess 3:8 Neither *did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:*

Every new year is a golden opportunity to learn new things and acquire new skills like music, singing or even some practical skills like digital skills for some. Will it be a good time to attend some courses even in a sound Bible college and grow in the knowledge of God? We had the opportunity to conduct online Bible courses over last 3 years for Pastors and lay leaders via Zoom to deepen our understanding of God's Word. Success is **heart-work** and **hard-work** and you need to be diligent to work it out, to learn more and grow as led by the Spirit. **It is a time for determined diligence in this year as we or our children study, work and serve the Lord with greater joy and zest.**



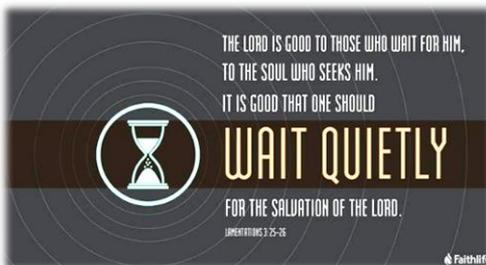
true humility is
staying teachable,
regardless of how
much you
already know

Evaluate & Evangelise

Lam 3:26 *It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.*

Singapore is a fast-paced demanding society with a growing export-oriented knowledge-based economy that many of us are engaged in, amidst high inflation and a slower global marketplace. We live in an exacting world with many demands made on us daily. In 2023, **we need to manage our limited time and use it wisely. We need to constantly review and examine our lives if we have sin against God and to repent and to also how we can be more**

effective in our work or service for the Lord After some time, you need to sit back and reflect and ask the Lord to examine us and do a post mortem and how you can better move forward the next time by His sovereign will. Psa 139:23,24.



Mark 5:19 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.



The call to share the glorious gospel of Christ to the lost or to evangelise to souls is traced to Jesus and Paul's teachings on the precept and practice of evangelism as what is taught in the holy scriptures. Mt:28 18-20 and Act 28: 23-31

The church will either evangelise or fossilize. We need to ask ourselves if we **have a burden for souls** or, **have we lost the burden?** We have a gospel debt to pay and let us do so while we and others have breath before it is too late.

Let us be involved in sharing Christ and supporting missions and not make the Great Commission our Great Omission in 2023. **Let us fulfil our sacred duties and responsible stewards and witnesses of the gospel of the Lord Jesus before His soon coming.**

Conclusion

There is so much for us to endeavour to do for Christ in our lives and in giving and supporting church based gospel missions in the new year more than just increasing our net worth. Pray for wisdom for ourselves, our loved ones, our children and parents and for discipline to do the 4 things above. Let us soberly consider applying the precepts of **POLE** in the new year in our family, studies, church or professional life too, to be effective stewards for the Lord till He comes to judge us and the world.



Jack Sin

 **Mark Your
Calendar**

JOIN US!

SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

**An Invitation to rejoice with us!
5th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, 5 Feb 2023, 10am**

*The Witness of the Church
in Dangerous Times*

(Acts 5:29-42)

*Guest Speaker:
Rev Philip Heng*

**Kindly inform Dn Yue Kay (+65 97450311) by 25 Jan 2023
if you are attending as lunch will be provided.**

**Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar,
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~ **PREDESTINATION** ~
A Reflection on
Eph 1:5-6 & 11
by Dn Yue Kay

Eph 1:5-6 *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace herein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

Eph 1:11 *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being, predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*

The salvation that is in Jesus Christ is predestinated. It is not an accident or a backup plan on God's part. It is the choice of God to adopt some as His children, by Jesus Christ and his work on the cross, to Himself.

What a precious description of God's gracious and purposeful and individual outreach to His people – it is the adoption of children, making us His own forever by choice and out of love. Nothing could be sweeter than to hear that God has chosen us and that He has permanently welcomed us into His family.

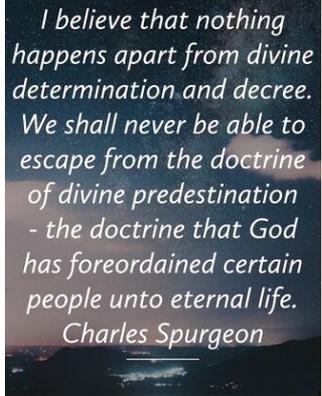
What directed this love, this choice? Not our good works or right decisions we made in our lives or family heritage. It was accordingly to the good pleasure of His will that He chose a people to be adopted into His family. Not because of anything in us, but because of the goodness within Himself, directed by His perfect will. As we trust in Christ for salvation, we are assured of our belonging and inheritance in the family of God.

To what does all this tend to? Not to the glory of man, as being worthy or lovable, but to the praise of the glory of His grace, that He would choose unworthy and powerless children to be saved.

God's predestination and sovereign design for salvation was, like everything else that He does, ultimately for the good of His people and to the praise of His name. This adoption gives comfort to us, and it gives all the glory to God.

It is unsettling, to some degree, for us to realize that God is actually engaged in His creation and is working everything after the council of His own will.

Paul specifically speaks, in this verse, of God's predestinating a particular people to receive a heavenly inheritance. God's sovereignty and power are



I believe that nothing happens apart from divine determination and decree. We shall never be able to escape from the doctrine of divine predestination - the doctrine that God has foreordained certain people unto eternal life.
Charles Spurgeon

certainly nowhere displayed more abundantly than in the accomplishment of our salvation and is the basis for biblical evangelism.

On practically every page of the scriptures we are reminded that God is able to save whomever He desires to save, whenever He wishes to do so. God is not in heaven wrangling His hands in consternation and frustration, hoping someone down on earth will trust in him. God has predestinated those will be saved; it is not us making decisions to seek God on our own as we all dead in our sins.

But Paul further generalizes from this illustration of sovereign authority, in order to remind us that this predestination is only one example of the fact that God is working all things after His own will. Nothing is outside the sovereign rule of God.

Why is this so unsettling to us? It is because we all, deep down, would like to have the universe (or at least our own little world) revolve around our will instead. We do not like to acknowledge the obvious: there are countless events and people and choices that are completely out of our control.



But when we realize that God is all good, all-wise, and all-powerful, it should comfort us to know that his will, not ours, is what makes the world go round.

Dn Tan Yue Kay

(NB. Join the Sunday School class after service on the Reflection on Ephesians led by Dn Yue Kay and Paul Kong.)

***Pray for our
BP Pastors
and Elders
as they serve
the Lord
faithfully in
the new year***



Memory Verse

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! Blessed Lunar New Year! 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.
2. **Chinese New Year Worship Service** is held tomorrow, **Mon 23 Jan 2023** (2nd day of the Lunar New Year) at **11am in Chinese**. All are welcome to attend.
3. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "**Progress of the Church (Eph 2:11-22)**", the new quarterly series on "*The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action (Book of Ephesians)*."
4. Pastor will preach next Sunday on "**Fullness of the Church (Eph 3:1-12)**".
5. 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
6. We are commemorating 5 years of blessed ministry of Sovereign Hope BP Church as follows:
 - **Thanksgiving Lunch Fellowship on Saturday 4 Feb 2023** at Changi Beach Club. All church members and regular worshippers are invited but **MUST REGISTER with Dn Yue Kay**.
 - **Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday 5 Feb 2023**, 10am at our church premise.
7. 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
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.
9. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 3 Mar 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
10. 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.
11. 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**