



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
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: tloke822@gmail.com

"5 Things We Are To Be as a Christian" (Col 4:1-9)

*- summary of the devotion by Pastor
at the prayer meeting on 28 Feb 2024 -*

Pastor Jack welcomed the 15 attendees that comprised Dn Yue Kay, regular members and friends and 4 overseas brethren, namely: Ps.Lazarus (Calvary Reformed Church, Bangalore), Ps. Babu (New Covenant BPCI, Bangalore), Pr. Benjamin (Biblical Reformed Seminary, Yangon) and Pr. Myitta (New Vision Evangelical Church, Yangon).

We sang the Hymn, “Trusting Jesus” to remind us to always trust in the Lord Jesus, whether we encounter any difficult problems or not. Pastor then led us in opening prayer, and we took turns to read out God's Word from Col 4:1-9.

Pastor expounded on that text with the theme of **“5 Things We Are To Be as a Christian”**. The Apostle Paul wrote this prison epistle to the Colossian Church to enquire after the welfare of the believers there and to encourage the Pastor Epaphras and the believers to continue in the faith because of some issues regarding Jewish legalism that they were confronting in the church that Epaphras (v12) started in Colosse. In the process of writing this letter, Paul used 5 words, of which each can be summarised with the suffix “FUL”, as follows:

I) Be Prayerful in our Lives

- At the beginning of this letter, Paul reminded the people who were employers (“masters”) of workers, to be just and equal (fair) to their employees, because, likewise, they also have a Heavenly Master (God) to be accountable to and God is in charge and is looking at us too.
- So what were they to do? Paul exhorted them to “continue in prayer” as in Col 4:2.
- The word “continue” signifies that the believers already had been



praying, but as time passed, their prayer frequency, fervency, intensity, sincerity, intimacy and worship also decreased much, with so many worldly distractions in life to contend with.

- We all know that we have a privilege of direct communication with God with direct access to His Throne of Grace, but often we do not make use of these privileges, nor do we know/realise what they actually are.
- Prayer is a divine privilege and a means of grace but sometimes we do not make use of this privilege to call on and communicate with God as we ought to, because we get so caught up with worldly issues in our life.
- Epaphras was lauded as a good example of a prayerful servant and a brother in Christ as depicted in Col.4:12, “*always labouring fervently for you in prayers that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God*”.
- You will never go wrong when you pray for people to seek and follow the will of God.
- Spurgeon declared that the greatest good anyone can do for him is to pray for him.
- Prayer is not prattle but battle, as we are fighting and labouring frequently, intensely, sincerely, perseveringly with urgency, humbly and being strongly committed to/focussed on, divine communication with God, to draw near to Him and make known to Him your supplications /requests /petitions.
- **It is important that prayer is a very sincere offering of our desires to God, submitting to the will of God in the power the Holy Spirit and not ordering/ demanding that God must provide us with whatever we want /desire.**
- The humble, sincere and submissive prayers of Daniel and Nehemiah clearly reflect this attribute of what our petitions to God ought to be like.
- The Lord Jesus Christ taught His disciples what to pray by using “The Lord's Prayer” that is found in Matt 6:9-13.
- Whenever we recite from memory the Lord's Prayer, do we sincerely and genuinely mean all the words we utter from our mouths, or are we merely going through the motion of idle prattle?
- We can use this acronym, “**ACTS**” to remind us of the order of how we ought to pray.
 - A- Adoration
 - C- Confession of sins
 - T- Thanksgiving
 - S- Supplication
- Every Christian is a prayerful and committed Christian, so Paul was exhorting Christians to be prayerful in our lives.

ACTS PRAYER

ADORATION

Expressions of love and worship

CONFESION

Acknowledgement of sin

THANKSGIVING

Gratitude for God's gifts

SUPPLICATION

Humble requests for ourselves and others

II) Be Watchful in the Spirit (v2)

- The word “watchful” has been used many times in the Bible.
- “Watchful” denotes being alert, ready, vigilant and prepared.
- Watchfulness is a Christian virtue not to be compromised.
- We are now living in the end times /last days, so why are we watching?
- It is because there's an enemy in these last days and there is something that is going to happen.
- **The Lord is coming back again, so are you watching, or will you be found slumbering?**
- **If the designated watchman of a sovereign state/country is found literally sleeping on the job and not protecting his country's security** and sovereignty responsibly (as in the current surprise HAMAS attack on ISRAEL), then there will be wide-spread disaster, destruction, death, despair, suffering, chaos, fear, pain, and hopelessness, so Paul was reminding Christians to be watchful in the spirit as well as prayerful in our lives.



III) Be Thankful in our Hearts (v3)

- **Thankfulness is a testament of gratitude and of being beholden and indebted to God for giving us our salvation and delivering us from eternal damnation.**
- Unfortunately, sometimes people, who are living in good health and abundance, show great displeasure, indifference, ingratitude, disdain or unappreciation to their benefactors for their unsolicited gifts/kindness/love.
- **A thankless person is a mark of discontentment and also being unappreciative of the goodness of God.**
- To be thankful is a virtue that every Christian should develop and is a factor of a Christian who is truly grateful to God for his salvation.
- Whenever we pray, make sure we include “thanksgiving” to God for all His blessings upon us.
- Be thankful because God has opened doors, as in verse 3, “*Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds.*”
- As a result, Paul said that “*I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak*” because he was thankful that although he was in the Roman prison, he was still able to write letters, to meet people and to witness for Christ.
- We have a lot of freedom and resources but are we thankful to God for His provision?
- **Thankfulness is not only the things we say but the things we do in response to gratitude.**



- If you are thankful to someone for what he/she has done for you, would you do something in return for your benefactor? Something to ponder over.
- Thankfulness is an important spiritual gift that God has given to us.
- It is easy to give thanks when all things are going well in your life, but would you still give thanks when you are faced with misfortune, afflictions, failures, persecution, bereavement, trials and tribulations?
- What will your response to God be, if one day, any one of your human abilities such as sight, speech, hearing or breathing is suddenly wrested away from your life? How would you then respond?
- Will you still be able to say, “*the Lord giveth; the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord*”, like Job?
- That will be more easily said than done!
- Or will you denounce, blame and curse God and vent your anger upon Him?
- **This issue of being thankful in our hearts, amid adversity in our life needs our serious and wise contemplation, faith, prayers and decision.**
- **Thus, Paul continued to exhort us Christians to be thankful in our hearts, watchful in the spirit and prayerful in our lives.**

IV) Be Careful in our Speech & Use of Time (v5&6)

- “*To walk in wisdom*” (v.5) is a very careful disposition and demeanour.
- Nowadays the crooks are also very highly sophisticated and skilled in their crime of scamming unsuspecting victims of humongous amounts of their wealth, resources, and properties.
- Many people, whose nature and demeanour had not been careful “*to walk in wisdom*”, lost substantial amounts of their resources to these crooks.
- We can walk in a foolish way, especially on overseas trips to European countries where there are many pickpockets and thieves.
- **When we are not careful in our walk and worse still, if we are not making full use of the time that is given to us, we will suffer the consequences, as Paul wrote in verse 5, “*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*”**
- Paul said that this carefulness has also to do with our speech, as verse 6 says, “*Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man*”.
- Sometimes we can be careless with our speech when we say things we should not say and do not say things that we ought to say.
- As a result, we may offend people and maybe end up saying something unedifying.
- ***Salt is a preservative, and it also adds flavour, so it is a flavourful**



speech, that is pleasant, not caustic or acrimonious, will not decay and seasoned with grace.

- We must also know how to answer everyone who questions /challenges us on our faith /beliefs.
- There are certain information /things we need not divulge to certain authorities/immigration staff if the data is unsolicited.
- *Be careful in what to say and what not to say and to some extent, so as to be confidential/ private about it.
- Say things that are right, proper and edifying, not lies, falsehood or cursing/angry words.
- Sometimes we regret saying something in the way we had done so earlier, as it might not be the best answer.
- **Most people have a problem with their speech, so we need to be wise as serpents under this system to be careful in our speech and in making the best use of the time that we have been given to spend on earth.**
- Hence Paul continued to remind us to be careful in our speech and use of our time.

V) Be Faithful in our Stewardship. (v7)

- Paul used the word “*faithful*” in verse 7 to describe Tychicus, a beloved brother and a fellow minister and servant in the Lord and also in verse 9 to describe another similarly beloved brother named Onesimus.
- Paul most probably sent Tychicus to deliver his prison epistle to the Colosse church to find out what was happening there and to comfort their hearts.
- **So the word “*faithful*” was used twice. Why was this word important?**
- **Faithfulness is required by the master of a servant as it means that the servant is loyal, dependable and responsible.**
- If a servant is unfaithful to the master, then he/she may be actually plotting some evil plans against the master to either steal his money and valuables, to abuse his other more vulnerable/dependent elderly/infant family members or to get rid of him by endangering the master's life.
- **To the Christian, faithfulness is doing what God has entrusted to us with full loyalty and responsibility.**
- Are we, as Christians, faithful in our stewardship?
- In this regard, we need not do big things, but do small things in a big way, e.g. as a church van/bus driver to fetch the children/ elderly folk to these church services, do we do the job faithfully and punctually or are we always late on the job?
- Thus, Paul exhorts us Christians to be faithful in our stewardship.



Conclusion:

From the chosen text in Col.4:1-9, the Apostle Paul from his Roman prison, wrote an epistle to remind the Christians in the Colossian church to do 5 things to uphold them in their faith, so that these 5 words/factors can aptly become the hallmark of their Christian faith.

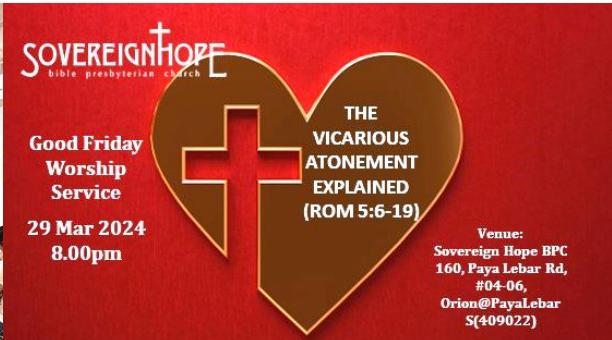
We, as Christians, have been duly reminded and exhorted to carry out these 5 things to continue to uphold our faith. Will you continue to abide in it?

Han Kin Hoong

A promotional image featuring a portrait of Dr. Don Batten, a man with grey hair and a warm smile, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and yellow patterned tie. He is positioned on the left side of the image. To his right, there is a large, bold text overlay that reads "CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL" at the top, followed by "DR DON BATTEN" in a very large, prominent font, and "INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER, AUTHOR AND BIOLOGIST" at the bottom. To the right of the text, there is a blue background area containing the text "Hear the good news that the biblical account of origins is not only historically accurate, but makes better sense of the evidence." Below this text is a "Registration QR" label with a square QR code. The overall design is clean and professional, using a white background for the main portrait and text area.

13 April (Sat) 2024 at 3:30pm
Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church
160 Paya Lebar Road.
Orion@Paya Lebar. #04-06. S409022

Enquiries: Deacon Paul Tan at mobile 97314733
Registration Form Link:
<https://forms.gle/2k5mBYEgetz4yBP1A>
Admission is free. Creation resources available.



Simon, Kwong Leen,
Dn Yue Kay & John W

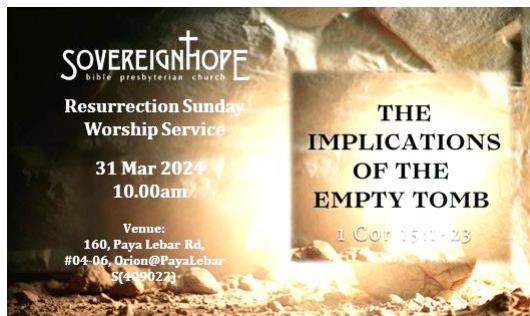


Joseph, Joy & Amber, Rachel,
Emily (Macpherson resident)



Philip & Soo's family





Baptism of Joy Tan Bee Leng &
Transfer of Church Membership of
Marilyn Esmeralda.



Joy's 3rd sister, Karen, came to witness her baptism.

Praise Item by John Almon & Lily



Marilyn's good friend Connie came to witness her transfer of church membership.



A sumptuous Easter Brunch of Nasi Lemak contributed by many worshippers.





What can I or my family do if I contract an infectious disease?
What are the medical options and consideration that I should be aware of?
Come and find out from an Expert at this Seminar!

MAY DAY SEMINAR

WED 1 MAY 2024, 9.45AM – 12NN

Health & Healing for Those with Infectious Disease



Speaker:
Dr Shawn Vasoo
Infectious Disease Expert



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Venue: Sovereign Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church
160 Paya Lebar Road
Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022

Enquiries & Registration: Dn Tan Yue Kay [hp:9745 0311]
Deadline: 22 April 2024.

DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES IN THE LORD

Lord's Day Programme for April to June 2024



April 14*

Discipline for Godliness
(1 Tim 4:1-8)



April 21

Discipline of Joyful Giving to the Lord
(Mal 3:7-10, 2 Cor 9:6-15)



April 28

Discipline of the Tongue
(James 3:1-12)



May 5

Discipline of Fervent Prayer
(James 5:14-17)

Discipline of Faithful Stewardship
(Matt 25:14-30)

May 12*



May 26

Discipline of Christian Witness in the Workplace
(Col 3:22-25)



Discipline of the Sound Mind
(Phil 4:6-8, 2 Cor 10:4,5)

June 9*

Discipline of Christian Fellowship
(Acts 2:41-47)



June 16

Discipline of the Christian Family
(Deut 6:1-25)



June 23

Discipline of Reverential Worship
(1 Chr 16:23-29, 1 Cor 14:33,40)



11

April 7

Discipline of Meditation of the Word
(2 Tim 2:15, Joshua 1:8)



May 19

Discipline of Contentment
(1 Tim 6:1-10)



June 30

Discipline of Responsible Evangelism/Missions
(Acts 8:25-40)



Memory Verse

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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 "***Discipline of Meditation of the Word [2 Tim 2:15, Jos 1:8]***", commencing a new quarterly series on "***Christian Disciplines in the Lord***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach "***Discipline for Godliness [1Tim 4:1-8]***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service continue as follows:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith (Pastor)
 - Studies in 2 Chronicles (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. 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: 218178].
6. Pastor and Angie will be away from 8-12 Apr 2024 (Mon-Fri). In Pastor's absence, Joseph Wee will assist with pastoral support when needed. Kindly contact Joseph at hp 90171772.
7. Next Saturday is the **Creation Ministries International Special Talk by Dr Don Batten on Sat 13 Apr 2024 at 3.30pm**.
8. **Annual May Day Seminar** is held on **Wed 1 May 2024, 9.45am – 12 noon** on "***Health and Healing for Those with Infectious Disease***" by **Dr Shawn Vasoo**. Those interested can inform Dn Yue Kay at 9745 0311 by 22 April 2024.
9. **Annual Church Camp** will be held on **June 11-14, 2024**, at **Lotus Desaru Beach Resort** on the theme "***Biblical Pathway for Church Growth & Health***". Rev David Khobal, Principal of Myanmar Theological Seminary, will be our Camp Speaker. Contact Dn Yue Kay (hp:97450311) or Dn Paul (hp:97314733) for more details and registration by 30 April 2024.
10. 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].
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**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.