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The Victory of the Risen Christ & its Consequences

The Christian faith is a unique religion, for the founder died and claimed to be risen from the dead. The life, death and the resurrection of Christ is the bedrock of the Christian faith. If we took away this truth, we would literally be left with nothing in true Christianity. His life and resurrection is the only reason for our faith. A Christian philosopher in CS Lewis once said that Christ is either a Liar, Lunatic or Lord, and if Christ's claim to be God is true and He is neither of the first two, then He is truly the Lord of our lives and we need to believe and trust and submit to His lordship in our lives.



Consider the nature and work of Christ's atoning work at Calvary. Below are four pertinent Ps as pointers for us:

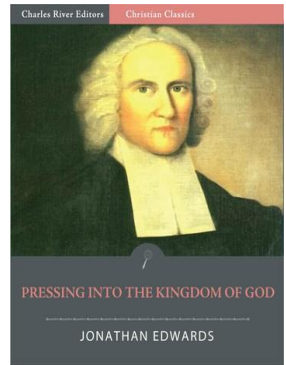
Pure faith in the Life and Vicarious death of Christ

Jas 4:14 says, *'Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.'* As Christians we need to be mindful of our temporal lives in the light of eternity and be careful lest we be swept away by the currents of the world and temptation and lose our way in life. The goal of Christ's redemption is not merely to save fallen sinners from hell or perdition, but also through the forgiveness of sin, the impartation of life, and Christ's and the Spirit's in dwelling, to bring them into peace with the Triune God. Believers are regenerated with the divine power (1 Pet 1:3) that they may be transformed by Christ (2 Cor 3:18), glorified by His enabling love (Philippians 3:21) and be built up in the life into the Body of Christ (Eph 4:16). But we need to take the initial step of believing in Christ as Saviour and Lord.

In Heb 2:3, there is the use of the word "neglect" so great a salvation, which means to deny or reject on purpose. Is there neglect or indifference in your seeking of God, in your salvation or your personal walk with God?

Though salvation is all by the grace of God, we are personally responsible for our damnation if we are not saved. We cannot blame God for not saving us, for we deserve to be left in our sinfulness before Him. He is sovereign, but we are responsible for our sinful condemnation if we do not believe in Him.

Jonathan Edwards, the famous US theologian and revivalist, wrote a sermon named "Pressing into the Kingdom of God" based on Luke 16:16 to encourage us to do our part to seek and press on towards His Kingdom by His sovereign grace, into saving faith in Christ. It is our duty to seek out God before it is too late.



Peril of the Wilful Ignorance of Christ

The author of Hebrews reminded us that God is mindful of the fallen state of man and in His mercy, He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ, who is both fully God and man, and He came to visit and redeem His chosen ones (Psa 8:4). We must not forget or ignore this great salvation of the Lord.

He mentioned that Jesus was made to suffer for us being the sinless son of God. 1 Jn 4:9-10 says, *'In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.'* It refers to Jesus being sent as a man to suffer and die for our sins, giving up His glory in heaven. It authenticates the humanity as well as deity of Christ and proves that Jesus is the captain of our salvation and not by our merits or works (v.10). We need to seek out Christ before it is too late. Isa 55:6, 7 says, *'Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.'*



'Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.'

Thank God for God's sovereign grace and mercy in giving depraved men a second change of hope and peace with God when we turn to Him and entrust our lives to believe in Him fully.

Panacea for Sin by the Death and Resurrection of Christ

Life and death are real and every day many die for various reasons and no matter how advanced science or medicine is or will be, there is no way we can stop this. For many unbelievers, the fear of death constantly grips them in their lives and holds them unto bondage. But we have no fear at all. We need to put our trust fully in Jesus' finished work at the Cross alone, who has

gained victory over the power of death (which is the devil) through His redeeming work on Calvary's cross on our behalf.

What are your greatest fears today? Are there some among us who have much phobia and especially the fear of death and hell? We can have victory over this last enemy if we trust in the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. 1 Cor 15:51-58 says yes through Christ's victory for us. We can experience full deliverance from God through Jesus Christ who is the Victorious Saviour over the grave.



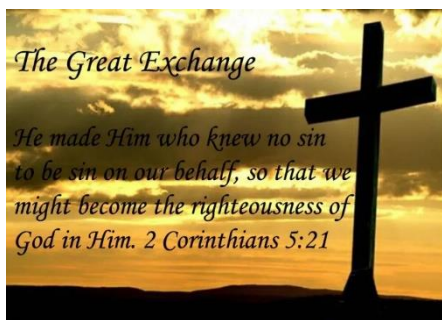
Priesthood of Christ as the Faithful Intercessor

Our only Redeemer is Christ who is the merciful and faithful Great High Priest and the propitiation for our sins (1 Jn 2:1,2). He is ever making reconciliation to God for us all. Heb 4:15-16 says He is a special high priest who intercedes on our behalf so that we may receive mercy from God and find grace in the time of need. Christ understands us and has gone through much for us at Calvary Cross to save His people from sin (Matt 1:21). He is the Son of God who died for our sins to placate the righteous demands of God.

Are you prepared today in your heart to respond to Him by faith in Christ and believing, to repent and confess of your sins, asking Christ who died on the Cross on your behalf to save you and to be your personal Lord and Saviour?

The plan of God consists in Christ, the only Son of God, who became the Son of Man. He was Sent into this world to be born of the virgin Mary, sinless, that He might be born under the law, to keep the very law for us. The perfect, sinless, Son of God has perfectly met all the requirements of God's law, and gave us His righteousness so that we can stand before a thrice holy God. He went to a cruel and contemptible Cross; there He was lifted up for us to atone and die for our sinfulness. Those who believe in Him and are chosen by him, God made Him to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God, as Paul had well said.

Steve Lawson added that "The great exchange of the Cross is that the worst about me was laid upon Him, the best about Him now to be laid upon me as He shed His blood upon that cross. He reconciled sinful man to holy God. There is no other way for us to have a relationship with an infinitely holy God except through the blood of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was by his sin-bearing, substitutionary, vicarious death upon that cross, it was as if He took sinful man in one hand, and holy God in the other hand and brought the two



together through His death. By that death He satisfied the righteous anger of God and appeased His wrath towards all who would believe in Him.”

Do you believe all this? This is the only way to everlasting life in God. There is no other way (Jn 14:6).

Conclusion

Christ's death on the cross and its power to save is the only cure for a depraved and fallen world that we live in, and not good works or a moral life or even a good philosophy. We are living in the perilous times as we see the tumultuous global health crisis where more than 124 million were affected and 2.7 million people have already died and still counting. We need to humbly seek Christ as our Lord and to repent of our sins, and to also communicate His gospel more to lost souls, to serve Him faithfully and to worship and glorify Him. May God revive in our hearts and minds the remembrance of the glorious atoning death of our Saviour Jesus Christ as we yearn expectantly and look forward to His soon advent any time. Tit 2:13, 14 says, *'Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.'*



Pray for the salvation of Doutam from Bangladesh who is learning about Easter and the resurrection of Christ for the first time that God will convict his heart unto everlasting life.

Jack Sin

We warmly welcome Audrey to Sovereign Hope BPC as our new church member!



Testimony of Audrey Phang

Age of Innocence

I don't think I can pin-point a specific time when I came to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I was schooled in a convent school and from day one, I had been 'attending' 'masses' and immersed in a Roman Catholic education setting.



One thing was certain, I did not understand the masses, the eucharist and why some of my friends could eat the tiny wafer whereas some of us could not. I remembered my Primary Three form teacher, a Mrs May Tan who would talk to us about the story of Adam and Eve and some other bible stuff every Wednesday morning. Actually, it was amazing how in that environment that not once did I get drawn into Roman Catholicism.

Just about that year, I had a late cousin (she suffered from cancer and went home to be with the Lord in early 2009) who decided to bring me to her Anglican church in town for the children's Christmas party. Needless to say, as it was with most children, I enjoyed the games and food. But I could not recall if there had been any message or if there was, what the message was about. I continued to be invited to the party for the next two years.

Deep calls unto Deep

Being the only child of adoptive parents, I grew up among adults, most of my cousins being many years ahead of me. I had developed an emotionally sensitive nature. I was more of an introvert, preferring to play my own quiet games and be in the world of books. Perhaps it was not such a coincidence that one day, I chanced upon a small blue book in my house, entitled "Is there evolution?" I thumbed through the first three chapters and did not quite understand the content but there was one portion that had these verses, "Psalms 37: 10-11 A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found. But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity."

In that chapter, it talked about a coming time when all the peoples of the earth, of all tongues and nations will occupy the earth and there was even graphics to show. I was really fascinated and kept this verse in my heart. I did not read that book again until many years later. But I did think, what a wonderful world that would be, where the lion and the lamb could play together and there would be no more wars and all the peoples in the world would live harmoniously together.

Physical Infirmities

The following two to three years, I had to undergo several corrective surgeries on my dislocated patellas. That female cousin and her then fiancé came and prayed for me. I believe it was through their prayers that not once did I feel fear of those surgeries. The following year with all the surgeries completed and both legs functional, I was ready for school and all the exciting life that the teen years had to offer. It was Christmas again and I approached my cousin to ask if she could bring me to the children's Christmas party in her church. To my great disappointment, she told me that I was no longer a child and there was no more parties for me to attend. Also at that time, I had to stop attending the catechism classes at my school as they were only meant for those with a Catholic background. The catechism classes were conducted by a nun and she would often read from this particular interesting book that had stories about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Spiritual Hunger

As there was no way to attend the catechism classes in school and no more Christmas parties to attend, I was wondering how do I go about to find out the continuation of those interesting characters and stories.

At that time, another cousin had brought me to watch a film on the Life of Jesus Christ in the cinemas. Of course, I could not make a connection between those OT characters and the stories and of Christ. But one thing imprinted on my mind and I remembered asking my cousin continually, "What happened to the body of Jesus?", "Where did He disappear to?", "Will there be a sequel?", "What is resurrection?" To all my questions, she simply said to learn about the sequel, would I be keen to attend church with her? It was quite amazing that my parents did not object to me attending church and so the following Sunday, I set foot into a protestant church (Clementi Bible Church) for the first time. It was in the Sunday school that I learnt about God and His wonderful Son, Jesus Christ who came to die for our sins. During those times, I only knew Jesus as a Friend, a Friend who would befriend the weak, the lonely, the fatherless and the despised. I did not have many friends in school as I was not the most popular nor was I with the in-crowd and I felt that most of my adult cousins often misunderstood me and there was no one my age with whom I could really relate to. So Jesus was the only Friend I had. I remembered I would feel really miserable, what with growing pangs and the rigours of studies and that I was never smart enough, like some of my younger relatives. I would often gaze into the night sky, like Abraham did when he counted the stars. And I would speak to

Whom I believed in my spirit, to be Abba God. I would tell Him to quickly get me Home or have that new world spoken of in Psalms 37 to happen soon.

Salvation

I did make a concrete confession in Bible Church about accepting Jesus into my life and perhaps many times thereafter just to be sure and got baptized the following year. I think God is extremely, extremely patient with most of us. I grew mostly in head knowledge of God and Christ, for most of my adult years even till after I got married. It's really amazing that oftentimes, even though the Evil One tries many times to derail Christians in their walk, the Lord knows His own and steer us back onto the straight path again. My innumerable trials and journey through the darkest valley of my life, I had undoubtedly, not only my invaluable and solid Friend, who walked by my side but my Abba Father who tenderly cared for and protected me from all harm. For time sake, I shall not relate that story here but will leave it to a later opportunity.

A Pilgrim's Work In Progress

Even before the lockdown due to the covid situation, how the Lord led me on the continuing journey of life, was that He would speak to me through situations, via mature and close Christian friends and more so when He would lead me to listen to numerous sermons that are biblically sound. I know that my Abba God had imprinted upon my heart that He would teach me Himself and there would be no fear that I would not know the truth. And so it was even though I was greatly disappointed with the situation when churches had to close due to the lockdown, I was prepared to be feed on His Word in some other ways. Hence when churches start to go online, I was already online with my Abba Father. Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

It was right about mid 2020 that Pastor Jack invited me to SHBPC. I was pleasantly surprised that they had started worship onsite and decided that this was a great act of faith and a bold step for a church to take. Some churches with bigger congregations were still shut at that time and some (overseas) still have yet to re-open for services. As I had Pastor Jack and Angie from way back, there was not much difficulty integrating. And I do believe that it is really important for any Christian to be under spiritual cover of some form, so that there will be accountability and protection. The race of life is still not done, it may be another 10 years more or more or it may be tomorrow, but I know the One who redeems me sleeps not but will make sure that I'm safely gathered into the sheepfold when He comes, I only pray that I may be found faithful till the end.

Lessons in Godly Prudence from a Wise King

Studies into Ecclesiastes

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04

APRIL 2021

- 2 Good Friday: Who killed Jesus? (Luke 23:1-26)
- 4 The Implications & Impact of the Resurrection (1Cor 15:1-21,51-58)
- 11* The Matters of the Heart (Eccl 1:1-18)
- 18 The Meaningless of Labour under the Sun (Eccl 2:18-26)
- 25 The Opportune Time for Everything (Eccl 3:1-12)

05

MAY 2021

- 2 The Beauty of Two in God's Economy (Eccl 4:4-21)
- 9* The Management of the Tongue (Eccl 5:1-13)
- 16 The Mindless Pursuit of Wealth (Eccl 6:1-12)
- 23 The Basis for True Spiritual Discretion (Eccl 7:1-17)
- 30 Reverence and Fear of God (Eccl 8:1-13)

06

JUNE 2021

- 6 The Intervention of God (Eccl 9:7-18)
- 13* Speech and Danger of Laziness (Eccl 10 :12-20)
- 20 Wise Counsel for Young and Old (Eccl 11:1-10)
- 27 Gospel Sunday: Fruitful Aging and the Chief Purpose of Man (Eccl 12:1-13)

Memory Verse

1 Cor 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor Jack speaks today on "***The Implications and Impact of the Resurrection***" (1 Cor 15:1-21, 51-58).
3. Pastor Jack speaks next Sunday on "***The Matters of the Heart***" (Eccl 1: 1 - 18), the start of a new quarterly sermon series on "Lessons on Godly Prudence from a Wise King – Studies in Ecclesiastes".
4. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - New Testament Survey – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Numbers – Dr Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Apr prayer list is available from Dn Choo Siang.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will meet on **Friday, 9 Apr at 7.30pm** in church on the study of 2 Samuel. Do come and join us for a time of learning God's Word.
8. Join us at our **Annual May Day Seminar on Sat 1 May 2021 9.30am – 12.30pm**, "***God's Wonderful Creation – The Largest Organ in the Body: The Skin by Assoc Prof Tan Bien Keem***" & "***Biblical Perspective of Death & Bereavement by Pastor Jack***". Do register with Dn Yue Kay by 22 Apr.
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
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**
