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The Importance of Love in the Gathered Church

Heb 10:24-25 ~ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.



A church cannot exist without Christ and believers who are committed to meeting together in the house of God for Sabbath worship, corporate prayer, service, accountability, and biblical instruction from the preaching of the Word of God. While this seems a self-evident truth, many Christians do not live with this in mind.

This was true even in the infancy of the church. Paul therefore admonishes that we faithfully assemble with others in the church as often as possible as we worship on the Lord's Day and serve God together. Otherwise, **we are guilty of forsaking or neglecting the attendance at the church of Jesus Christ and, by extension Christ.**

The spiritual ignorance and apathy that many Christians experience today is chiefly due to a lack of commitment to Christ and to the gathered church in the name of Christ. They do not learn, mature in the faith, or benefit from the sound, practical preaching of God's Word because they are not there to hear it, not present when it is being prayed for, or not dedicated to living our lives fruitfully through the body of Christ.



But there is another reason, just as important as personal growth, for us to be dedicated to meeting with other saints. We are to be there for the corporate witness of the church in its ministry to one another provoking one another to love and good works. We cannot be a blessing or help to others in their Christian Walk if we

are not there to rub shoulders with them, to meet them and care for them and to pray with them and reach out to them with genuine affection.

Consider the needs of others today, as well as yourself, and determine anew to find your place of joyful commitment and service in the body of Christ In regular attendance, for the glory of His name.

The Christian life is not one of isolation but of active involvement with the people of God. There is to be a separation from the world and its influences while at the same time maintaining a Christ-honouring interaction with every believer in the church where we are worshipping and belong. Every Christian should be a baptized member of a local church that you are attending and be involved in the service of the Lord there



In this verse we are encouraged to positive action. We must not be just an observer of what is happening around us, **but to be engaged and to be praying, worshipping and working together to serve the Lord and to encourage and stimulate others to love and good works.**

If we are provoking others to love, then we must display a loving spirit for others. Love is to be more than just a verbal expression – we are to love in deed and in truth. Love will move us with compassion for those who suffer, to visit the sick or needy and to share the gospel to lost souls with concern and patience towards those who are difficult, and with generosity to those who are in need.


Love should also move us to consider others with regard to dutifully and joyfully attending the assembly of saints in the house of God for corporate worship and fellowship. Too often thoughts are centered only on how we feel or what we expect to receive.

But we are told that our very presence in the physical assembly of the saints in the sanctuary of God can be a good example and witness and a blessing to others and provides the opportunity for us to exhort, edify, encourage them with the Word of God in their service of God. It's human nature to think about self but let us pray to God for grace to grow in our effort to "consider one another", reach out to one another in the local church and grow in the fear of God to the edifying of the flock and to the saving of souls as the Lord leads




*You are the body of Christ!
Each one of you is a part of it.*

Dn Tan Yue Kay


 CHRISTMAS SERVICE
When the Heavenly King Condescended
 COME AND FIND OUT THE TRUE MEANING
 OF THE FIRST COMING OF CHRIST AND
 ITS LASTING IMPACT IN OUR LIVES TODAY
 BY REV JACK SIN
 DECEMBER 25,
 10:00 AM
 VENUE : SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
 160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION
 @ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)
All Are Welcomed
 THOSE INTERESTED TO INFORM
 DN YUE KAY AT 97450311 BY 15 DEC 2022




 WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
Guidelines for End Times Living
 BY REV JACK SIN
 DECEMBER 31
 8:00 PM
 VENUE :
 SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
 160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION
 @ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)
 THOSE INTERESTED TO INFORM
 DN YUE KAY AT 97450311 BY 20 DEC 2022

4 Admonitions for Christians from the Word of God



Keep the Heart (Prov 4:23)

Solomon the wise King of Israel warns us to **protect the heart for it decides many of the important concerns of life.** Just like in the physical realm, the physical heart is important as many die from cardiovascular diseases. It is necessary also for the Christian to keep our hearts from spiritual dangers that will cause us to lose our soul and mind and heart to seductive idols or the earthly distractions of this life. Let God guard your heart in the love of Christ and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you (Mt 6 33,34)

Guard the Eyes (Isa 45:22)

We are also admonished to guard our eyes as our sight will affect determines what will be the information or data for the brain to think of. We need to discipline our eyes to only see things that are edifying. The reading of the Word of God and edifying books and websites and all. **You are what you eat and see and hear and we need to regulate our intake of the world before it consumes us in its deception and obsession Satan will try to tempt us with many other seductive objects that will distract our minds and eyes from the Lord.** Fix and focus your eyes on Christ and not on the waves or the things of this world that will vanish away one day.



Watch the Tongue (Psa 12:2-4)

We have a very potent member in our body. One of the smallest members of our body can be one of the deadliest or most destructive. The tongue can be a world of iniquity, as James says, and can set things on fire with what we say. (Jas 3:6) **Many marriages and homes were wrecked by careless word and relationships broken are hurt or distressed over words that were said that may adversely affect their lives.** For every word that we are about to say, there should be 4 sentinels or rules that

should govern our speech before we let it out of our mouths: Consider the following

1. **Sagacity** (Is it wise to say it at all and to whom?)
2. **Charity** (Is it said out of love or hatred with an evil intent?)
3. **Verity** (Is it true or it is just a conjecture?)
4. **Necessity** (Must I say it and must it be now?)

We should always watch the Extent, Content and Intent of our speech. Paul in Col 4:6 says, "*Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*"

Guide the Feet (Heb 12:13)

Isa 52: 7 says "*How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*"

The direction in life and the places we

go to can affect us. **Feet that bring mischief is one the things that God hate (Prov 6:18) We need to be careful that we do not go to certain places that may cause us to sin or to join in certain activities that are unsound or unhelpful to our Christian witness and testimony**

One of the facets of the fruit of the Spirit is temperance and this can keep us away from evil or the dangers of this age and preserve us undefiled before the Lord

Jack Sin



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
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Memory Verse

Rom 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Philip Heng speaks this morning on “***The Gifts of the Spirit (Rom 12:1-12)***”.
3. **Next Sunday is Christmas Day.** Pastor will preach on “***When the Heavenly King Condescended (1 Tim 3:1-16)***”. Brother Alvin will share his salvation testimony and there will be a song item and lunch fellowship. Bring someone to hear the Christmas message and the gospel of Christ.
4. The following Sunday School classes continue after worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Addressing Objections to the Gospel – Joseph Wee
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
5. There will be **Evanglism at Macpherson this afternoon**. All are encouraged to join the team.
6. A Church Choir is being formed for the 5th Anniversary Thanksgiving Worship Service in Feb 2023 with practices commencing in Jan. Contact Dn Kwong Leen by Dec 18 to register.
7. **Watchnight Service** will be held on **Sat 31 Dec 2022, 8pm**. End the year with worship, thanksgiving and reflection of the past year and heart preparation for the new year 2023.
8. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. **Sun 25 Dec meeting will be a special Christmas Outreach that includes a testimony.** Join us for a time of profitable learning.
9. 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.
10. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 6 Jan 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
11. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
12. 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**