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Year-end Reflections & Contemplations

2020 has been a trying year with this deadly and overwhelming pandemic which has recently developed into different strains and testing many nations in the public health arena as well as the economic realm with the loss of

jobs. Some also faced spiritual concerns as churches are affected in their worship services. There are mental issues with increasing incidence of phobia, obsessive compulsive behaviour, anxiety disorder and depression. How did you and your family get through the year?



We had a lockdown known locally as a *Circuit Breaker* for almost 2 months in early April which disrupted our lives including our church worship services. Our church had virtual services for the first time but by the grace of God,



restarted our physical worship services in the church premises on 28 June (with safe management plans approved by the relevant authorities). Since then, we have been worshipping in church by the will of God. Was there fear and anxiety in our hearts or did we commit it all to the Lord? Were we trusting and consecrated in heart to seek God in holy worship? Did we strive to look up, still the fear, obey and trust Him who is faithful, just and true (1Jn 1:9) in the midst of this calamity? Did we yield our lives to His control and let Him rule and transform us in the process? How did we fare in our devotion, faithfulness, stewardship, worship and obedience to the Word of God during this year?

This pandemic has revealed how vulnerable man is to imminent danger and possible despair. We are powerless even against an invisible enemy, a contagious virus of deadly proportion for almost a year. Did this cause us to pray and to turn to God for His deliverance? Did we put away the idols of



our hearts i.e. the latest game, YouTube video or K/J-Pop star? Some popular Korean actress or dancers committed suicide in the last 2 years and many young fans and followers were saddened. Do we know that our lives are but a vapour that can vanish anytime? More than 1.75 million have died and more than 79 million worldwide have been infected and seriously affected, and still counting. Are we conscious of the sovereignty of God and submit to Him or are we still enthralled by other idols like an

obsession with our work, vanities, wealth, games, pleasure, beauty, fame or power? Is the contest of "**God vs Gold**" and "**Word vs World**" happening daily in our lives? Did we set our priorities right in 2020, putting God first in our lives, living with eternities' values in view, numbering our days and applying unto wisdom? I pray that we will choose the right priority to seek and serve the right God, making Him the main focus of our souls.

The Contemplation of the Divine Dimension

The thought of putting God first and which god to look up to or serve this year is important and relevant (Jos 24:14-15). Paul noted that all may have an idol or god that must be given up and to turn to the Lord (1Thes 1:9). The power of choice is a sacred gift of God and needs to be used well to the glory of God. Decision making has to be done wisely in the will of God (Psa. 37:3-7) and should be used discreetly for the glory of God and the edification of others. We need to soberly consider who to believe, worship or serve and where to spend our time and energy for there are serious consequences. We will need to intellectually support that choice with actions by the wisdom of God (Jas 1:5). All must consider if they are to know, trust and believe God as Saviour and Lord for there are eternal consequences. Decision making is a faculty of the mind and the heart. We need to humbly and prudently discern God's will for our lives (Eph 5:15-17) and seek him with faith and repentance of sins while He may be found (Isa 55:6,7). Many have witnessed God's works in their lives and experienced His blessings this year even in the midst of this epic crisis, while others have had a more trying time coping with it. All of us who are saved by grace have a glorious hope and we are to look up to heaven and to seek and surrender first to the almighty Jehovah God who is true, holy and omnipotent.



As we come to the end of the year, let us prayerfully examine and consider our lives and our continual walk, testimony, growth and progress (or regress) in the Christian life. This is the sure way to help us to keep close to the Lord in the new year. Let us look back at this past 12 months and ponder deeply, having a time of personal reflection and post-mortem. Take time to consider the following questions prayerfully:



- 1) How has your walk with God been this year? Have you been confessing your sins to God and meant it? Have you been reading the Bible and praying daily? Think of one transformation in your life or lesson you have learnt from your Quiet Time.
- 2) Have you been worshipping God every sabbath day and serving God faithfully in His church? In what areas and how was the progress of your service? (Sunday School, PA team, bible class, ushering, music, safety and cleaning team, missions, Chinese fellowship meetings etc.)
- 3) Have you been of assistance or help to reach out to someone in need? When was the last time you did something sacrificial and been a blessing to others in need?
- 4) Have you been a good example or witness to others at home, office or in school or camp i.e. helped or comforted someone, exhorted or encouraged or strengthened any person, or visited the sick or elderly, or pray for another, etc.?
- 5) What sin or sins have you repented of (or still struggling with) this year by the grace of God? What changes would you like to see in yourself next year?
- 6) What has God blessed (or tested) you with this year? How have you used these blessings/testing to glorify God and edify others?



- 7) What are 2 or 3 areas in which you would want to improve your devotion and walk with God in the coming year and how, i.e. disciplined quiet time, attend Sunday School class or church prayer meeting or service or evangelism, etc?
- 8) As a steward of God, how have you spent your time, talent or resources, wisely (or foolishly) for the Lord (or otherwise) this year? Are you involved in the church ministry in anyway now? How would you do it differently if you had another chance?
- 9) Did you join the church in the midweek prayer meeting and intercede for one another before the throne of grace or were you caught up with something else all the time? Would you do it differently in 2021?
- 10) Did you make a conscious effort to witness to your loved ones, colleagues or anyone about Christ or gave a gospel tract or invited someone to come to seek the Lord with you? Something to work on practically.

Conclusion

As we conclude this eventful and exacting year, we are soberly reminded of the frailty of life and the nearness of eternity as more than a million have died due to COVID19 so far. Let us fear God first and humble ourselves and return to seek the pardon and covenant mercies of God before it is too late. Let us number our days and apply our hearts unto wisdom for our lives are in His hands (Psa. 90:12). The Lord is coming back again soon to rule and judge the world and our hope is in the power of the Lord to save us forever. We are to be expectant and ready for His soon second advent. Are you prepared to meet your God? Something to seriously think about before it is too late.

Jack Sin



AN APPRAISAL AND UNDERSTANDING OF BIBLICAL REVIVALS

JANUARY TO MARCH 2021

JANUARY

3RD
PSALM 85:6-11
The Call and Theology of Revival

10TH
DEUTERONOMY 31:6-20
The Focus and Foundation of Revival

17TH
1 KINGS 18:20-40
The Battle for the Revival of Hearts

24TH
2 CHRONICLES 7:1-14
Repentance, Humility and Revival

31ST
ISAIAH 37:14-36
A Jewish King's Triumph over the Foes

FEBRUARY

7TH 3RD ANNIVERSARY
1 CHRONICLES 16:8-20
Devotion and Gratitude to God in
Trying Times

14TH
2 KINGS 22:1-20
A Jewish King and the Covenant of Revival

21ST
EZEKIEL 37:1-14
The Valley of Dry Bones Revived

28TH
NEHEMIAH 8 :1-20
The Word of God and Revival

MARCH

7TH
HOSEA 14:1-9
Healing of Backsliding and Revival

14TH
ACTS 2:1-11, 39-47
The Holy Spirit and Revival

21ST
ACTS 6:1-9
The Church Priorities and Revival

28TH
ACTS 8:5-24
The Danger of False Revivals/Conversions

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Memory Verse

Matt 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Jack Sin speaks tonight on at our Watchnight Service on “**Am I a Wise or Foolish Virgin?**” (**Matt 25:1-13**).
3. Rev Jack Sin speaks on Sunday on “**The Call & Theology of Revival**” (**Psa 85: 6-11**), the start of the 2021 Jan – Mar sermon series on “**An Appraisal & Understanding of Biblical Revivals**”.
4. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - “Rules for Walking in Fellowship by John Owen” – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Leviticus – 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.
7. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
8. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
9. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
10. Pastor is available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
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**

Psalm 121

**I will lift up mine eyes unto
the hills, from whence cometh
my help.**

**My help cometh from the
Lord, which made heaven and
earth.**

**He will not suffer thy foot to
be moved he that keepeth
thee will not slumber.**

**Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor
sleep.**

**The Lord is thy keeper the
Lord is thy shade upon thy
right hand.**

**The sun shall not smite thee
by day, nor the moon by
night.**

**The Lord shall preserve thee
from all evil he shall preserve
thy soul.**

**The Lord shall preserve thy
going out and thy coming in
from this time forth, and even
for evermore.**