

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: tiloke822@gmail.com

Dual Citizenship of Christians & our Duties

Eph 2:19 “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, **but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;**”



9th Aug 2023 is our 58th National Day of Singapore. As citizens of this country, we are grateful to God for blessing us in many ways. Singapore is still a developing nation with many challenges faced and as a nation we have done well and need to work harder in the years ahead. We are to be diligent and competent in our work and our duties for the Lord, be thankful and not complaining or murmuring against God. **The Singapore passport is rated the best the world with no visa required to more than 190 countries. By the will of God coupled with a strong Singapore currency, we can do more in our mission work when and where, as the Lord leads.**

We were in the US recently for 3 weeks for the ICCC World Congress and ministry. While the US is the most powerful country in military might and the biggest economy in the world, there are daily news of shootings and murders which have become common news. We are thankful to God for safety in Singapore as our kind hosts in Baltimore told us that there are certain parts of their city that they totally avoid due to prevalent crimes.

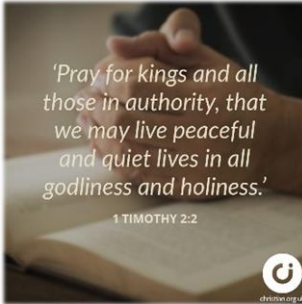
Prayers and Respect for Temporal Authority

The earthly Christian citizen has a duty to contribute meaningfully to the growth of the nation either economically socially or spiritually. We are to pray for divine grace and guidance for our leaders that they will rule this land in the fear of God with equity, justice and integrity. Our intercession for our country and its purpose is required in 1Tim 2:1-4,

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the
truth.*

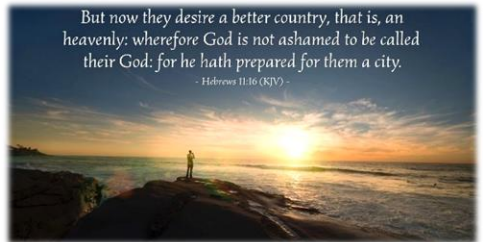


The Christian church has a sacred duty to intercede for wisdom and divine grace for her temporal leaders and those whom God has appointed over us. We pray that God will empower and use them to rule well responsibly with justice, fortitude, probity and integrity and the end of it is that **we want to live a quiet and peaceable life to establish churches, missions and to build up covenant families and homes to the Glory of God.**

God has blessed Singapore these almost 6 decades in many ways that has given us a certain level of prosperity and stability despite living in an increasingly troubled and turbulent world. A nation needs a certain stability and safety for its subjects and while there is always crime in every society, here we can say that law and order is enforced, and criminal activities are reduced to a minimum possible. Let us remember that our sovereign God is in control of all things no matter what happens in the nation as Solomon reminds us in Prov 21:1, *"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."*

Desiring Heaven while on Earth

As Christians, we are also citizens of heaven, as we are described as strangers and pilgrims while on earth. (1Pet 2:11) **As such we are to have a different priority and focus from the ordinary person who do not know the Lord and be**



separated from the obsession with this ephemeral world. This world is not our eternal abode. Like what was said of Abraham in Heb 11:16, "we desire a better country, that is, heavenly." Christians are to be mindful that we do not belong here in this world, because Christians are temporary residents who are just passing through in the short run.

While we are all pilgrims in this world, believers also have to be responsible to obey the law and the authorities as the Lord appointed them over us as taught in Rom 13:1-5. The apostle Peter also said in 1Pet 2:17, *“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”*

Law abiding citizens are good testimonies and witnesses for the Lord. We are to pray for the spiritual revival of our nation in much intercession and to love the people of God and in general, to be gracious to all men. Psa 33:12 says, *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*

Be a Gospel Witness and Responsible Citizens

We pray for the salvation of souls in our land. **Many have not heard the truth of the gospel and you can be a good witness for Christ that peradventure some may embrace Jesus Christ in response to the Gospel as the Lord leads.**



Preparing the tracts & door-to-door evangelism.

We who are saved by grace should go forth and share the good news and draw near to God in trust with a strong faith serving our nation, living in faith and waiting for

the glorious hope of His soon coming. (Tit 2:13-14)

God's people in this world have a duty to love God and our earthly and heavenly country and to reach out to one another. The saving work of God in us prompts us to reach out and share with fellow citizens and foreigners alike as the Lord gives us strength and grace. The Apostle Peter urges us to “love one another with a pure heart.”



Gilead Balm Home, Yangon

Though we may be temporary citizens in this earthly abode, Christians are to be good examples and faithful testimonies where we live. We are soberly reminded that our ultimate hope in our heavenly citizenship, that as the world is passing away along with its desires, *“but only those who do the will of God shall live forever”* (1 Jn 2:17).



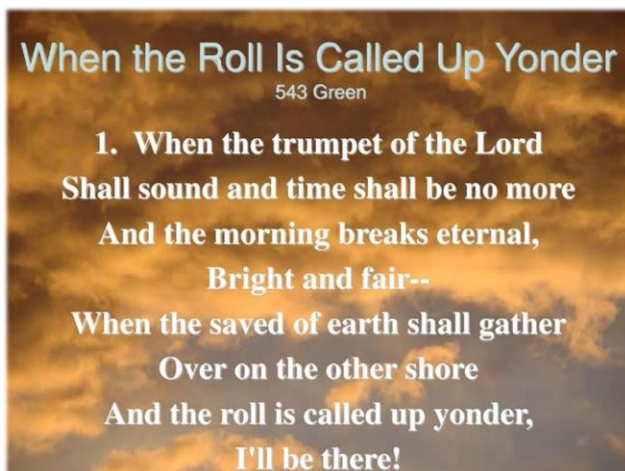
While Christians have their citizenship in heaven, our credentials on earth are our transformed regenerated lives. If we claim to be heavenly citizens, then the world wants to see the marked change in our changed lives as ambassadors. **Let us live in reverent fear to God and humble dependence upon Him, with active trust and godly obedience, with earnest love and diligent hearts in our work and labour and minds focused on eternity.** This world is not our home, and we are just passing through, as the hymnwriter says.

Our chief focus should be on the eternal things of God and to walk worthy of our vocation (Eph 4:1) and to store eternal treasure in heaven (Matt 6:21). We are to consider ourselves as ambassadors for the Lord on this earth. We live for only for a short season in this physical constitution as we are work, wait and anticipate the glorious future of our eternal home. While here, we share Abraham's experience, living *“like a stranger in a foreign country. . . looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God”*. Let us live and serve the Lord well till He summons us Home someday.

Conclusion

As we celebrate our 58th National Day, let us be mindful that we Christians as citizens of this earth, we are also citizens of heaven. Our bodies while still on earth (and even as “citizens of heaven”), we have a duty to fulfil to the State and to our God. **Let us therefore “live as citizens of heaven, conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ” (Phili 1:27). Let us live as responsible and faithful stewards of God while still on Earth, being good witnesses and ambassadors till “the call is called up yonder” and we leave this world with confidence and joy to our Eternal Abode.**

Jack Sin





JOIN US

SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

CHURCH FAMILY DAY

Venue: Rifle Range Nature Park

Date: 9 Aug 2023

Time: 8.30 am - Meet @Beauty World
MRT Exit A

11.00 am – Adjourn for Lunch

Register with Paul Tan (Hp: 9731-4733)



ADVENTUROUS

Hymn Stories: God is Still on The Throne

The words and music to this hymn were written in 1929 by Kittie L. Suffield (1884 - 1972). Before her conversion, at the age of nineteen, Mrs. Suffield had hopes of becoming a concert artist, either as a coloratura soprano or a pianist. But when she came to Christ, she dedicated all of her gifts to His service. How she and her husband met is an interesting story. Fred Suffield, a Canadian, was awakened one night by an urgent pounding on his door. The caller reported that a train had been stalled nearby in the blizzard conditions that winter night. The caller feared the passengers were in danger of freezing to death. Suffield went to the train and invited them all back to his house. One of them, Kitty Jennett, wrote a note to thank him for his kindness, and out of that, and some exchanged correspondence, a relationship developed. The two were later brought to Christ at a church in Ottawa by the Pastor, A. J. Shea. Kitty Suffield was instrumental in encouraging the Pastor's teenage son to use his voice to sing God's praises. His name was George Beverly Shea. Kitty and her preacher husband eventually formed a much-travelled evangelistic team, sometimes with Shea. In addition to this hymn, she also wrote "Little Is Much When God Is in It."

Maybe this week's hymn choice is a reminder that you need this week. Are you worried, anxious, distressed? Then be reminded that God has a plan for this world and for believers and He is in complete control. Theologian A.W. Pink states, "**Divine sovereignty means that God is God in fact, as well as in name, that He is on the Throne of the universe directing all things.**" This hymn reminds us of the Sovereignty of God. God is still on the throne no matter what happens in this world. Give your burdens to Him and trust in Him knowing that He is all-knowing, all-powerful, always present and that He promises and gives peace beyond all understanding. Trust Him for God is still on the throne.

*Have you started for glory and Heaven?
Have you left this old world far behind?
In your heart is the Comforter dwelling?
Can you say, "Praise the Lord, He is mine"?*
*Have the ones that once walked on the highway
Gone back, and you seem all alone?
Keep your eyes on the prize, for the home in the skies;
God is still on the throne.
God is still on the throne,
And He will remember His own;
Tho' trials may press us and burdens distress us,
He never will leave us alone;
God is still on the throne,
He never forsaketh His own;
His promise is true, He will not forget you,
God is still on the throne.*

(adapted from barryshymns.blogspot)

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023
DISCOVERING AND APPLYING THE JOHANNINE EPISTLES
- STUDIES IN THE EPISTLES OF 1, 2 AND 3 JOHN

JULY

- 2/7 MISSIONS SUNDAY:
Fellowship with God in the Light (1 John 1:1-10)
- 9/7* Christ, the Propitiation for Sinners (1 John 2:1-11)
- 16/7 Beware of a Secret Affair with the World (1 John 2:12-29)
- 23/7 Hope & the Purification of Life (1 John 3:1-10)
- 30/7 Loving God from the Heart (1 John 3:11-24)
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AUGUST

- 6/8 Warning to Falsehood & Deception (1 John 4:1-6)
- 13/8* The Supreme Love of God & Our Response (1 John 4:7-21)
- 20/8 The Victory of Faith over the World (1 John 5:1-9)
- 27/8 Knowing God & the Practice of Prayer (1 John 5:10-21)
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SEPTEMBER

- 3/9 Walking in Love & Truth (2 John 1-6)
- 10/9* The Doctrine of Christ & Biblical Separation (2 John 7-13)
- 17/9 A Case Study of 3 Characters (3 John 1-12)
- 24/9 GOSPEL SUNDAY:
In Search of Peace with God (Rom 5:1-8)
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Memory Verse

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday 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 "**Warning to Falsehood & Deception (1 John 4:1-6)**", continuing the quarterly series on "Discovering and Applying the Johannine Epistles – Studies in the Book of 1, 2 and 3 John".
3. Pastor will preach next Sunday on "**The Supreme Love of God & Our Response (1 John 4:7-)**".
4. Sunday School classes will follow the after the worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Studies in 2 Chronicles – Dn 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 Basic Theology, and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551]
6. 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:218178]
7. **Church Family Day** will be held on the morning of **National Day Wed Aug 9** at the Rifle Range Nature Park. **Meet at 8.30am, Beauty World MRT Exit A**. There are 2 routes planned – Easy-peasy or Adventurous! All are welcome! **Register with Paul Tan (hp: 9731-4733)**.
8. Church **Annual Congregation Meeting cum Elections** will be held on **Sunday 27 Aug 2023, 12 noon** after the worship service. **Church members to note and attend**. Nomination forms for the positions of Pastor, Elder and Deacon are available from Dn Yue Kay till 20 Aug 2023.
9. 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.
10. 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.
