

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](http://www.sovereignhopebpc.org)  
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / [jacksin710@gmail.com](mailto:jacksin710@gmail.com)  
Elder Loke Tat Luen: [tiloke822@gmail.com](mailto:tiloke822@gmail.com)

---

## Serving with a Heart of Gratitude to God

Rom 12:11 *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*

In the Old and New Testament, the Hebrews and early Christians were constantly reminded of the joy and duty of service to God. As a result, **the concept and language of stewardship and thanksgiving should have been prevalent in their lives. But, like us, they were often forgetful of the goodness of God and our duty towards Him in stewardship.**



The Israelites forgot to thank God for deliverance from bondage, for water from the rock, for food that literally fell from heaven, for the shoes that did not wear out, and for the supply of all their physical needs and were murmuring and complaining against God (Num 11) and were then punished by the Lord. Ingratitude and worship of God do not go together. Let us be careful that we do not end up like them with a heart of ingratitude and indifference to God.

### Divine Examples of Service

The Levites served God in the temple together with the priests. Levitical laws for the 'thank offering' were God's reminders, checking Israel's failure to give thanks. The faithful service of the people of God also included the giving of the tithes and thank offering and the peace offering within the sacrificial system of the Mosaic covenant that glorified God. We should serve God with our time and talents in the church as He leads us.

**Distinct from the sin offerings, thank offering were a part of the overall system of peace offerings, ordained to express gratitude to the Lord for any deliverance and any act of love from God (Leviticus 7:11-16; Psalm 107:21-22).**

Even apart from the sacrificial system, the Psalmist and wise Solomon encourage faithful service to God and gratitude for God's material provision, while exposing the folly of greed, discontentment and ingratitude (Psalm 104:15-28; Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:9, 1Cor 4:1-2).

### Thanksgiving to God in our Service

Responsible service and thanksgiving are the hallmarks of the redeemed of God throughout the Bible and especially Book of Psalms. 'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good' is a common refrain (Psalm 106:1; 118:1; 136:1 and Psa 100) and "come, let us worship and serve the Lord".



**It is a privilege to serve God which is given only to the elect. Some psalms specify a reason, linking service and thanksgiving with acts of love and worship and exhorting worshippers to glorify God with their thanksgiving (Psalm 69:30). We are to 'come before his presence with thanksgiving' every sabbath day (Psalm 95:2), to 'enter his gates with thanksgiving' (Psalm 100:4), and to 'sing to the Lord with thanksgiving' and to learn to and study His Word (Psalm 147:7). Both individual and communal service should conclude with the giving of thanks and service to the Lord (Psalm 7:17; 28:7; 35:18; 52:9; 54:6; 86:12; 79:13; 106:47).**

### Christians to Serve with Thankfulness



The books of Chronicles and Nehemiah often mention service and thanksgiving, especially in relation to the service of the faithful kings like Hezekiah, Josiah and others, and the offerings and songs that rose from the Temple were a sweet savour to God.

For example, when David served His God by bringing back the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, the people sang psalms calling on Israel repeatedly to give thanks (1 Chronicles 16:4,7, 8,34,35,41). David also appointed Levites whose heart is to serve God in the temple and the special task was to thank God morning and evening in the temple (1 Chronicles 23:30). As his life ended, he thanked God and exhorted the people to join him in giving thanks for the building of the temple (1 Chronicles 29:13-20). David's life was one of grateful praise to his Jehovah God.

God said to Israel: 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of bondage'. By that deliverance, Israel became the Lord's treasured possession. Consequently, the joy of service in the church and gratitude in the hearts of redeemed and justified men were foundational for covenant life in the Old Testament. The whole law rested on the people with a heart of faithful service and gratitude and love to Jehovah for His redeeming work, not on coercion and punishment.

### The Early Church and its Stewardship

**" Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer "**  
— Romans 12:11-12

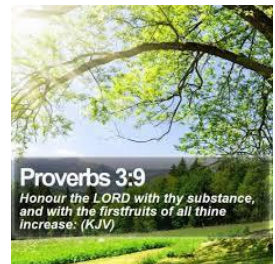
The theme continues in the New Testament. Both our Lord and the apostles exhort us to serve God fervently with our time, substance and talents and to give thanks and show gratitude to God. (Rom 12:11,12) **Our service to God and thanksgiving should be the abiding motive for Christian life and conduct. It should characterise our attitude towards both the blessings and trials of life as well as in the church. It should constitute a central part of prayer and provide the context**

**for the proper use of material things for the extension of the kingdom of God.**

In the Gospels and Acts, committed service and thanksgiving most often occurred in prayer over a meal (ie 'saying grace'), as when Jesus fed the multitudes (Matthew 15:36; Mark 8:6; John 6:11, 23) or presided at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:27; Mark 14:23; Luke 22:17,19). Paul who served God with distinction thanked God for his final meal on the boat that was shipwrecked off Malta (Acts 27:35). In the worship scenes of Revelation, the heavenly hosts give thanks to God for creating all things as well as for redeeming the chosen from all humanity (Revelation 4:9-11; 5:9-14).

### Thanks-Living and Honouring the Lord with our Lives and Substance

1Chronicles 29:3 *Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,*



David the king, though he was not called to build the temple, gave of his life and substance to support the building of it and God was well pleased. Are you involved in the building up of His church today? **Every labour of love, be it in the ministries of ushering, audio visual, music, evangelism, discipleship, worship chairman, visitation, counselling, comforting the sick and bereaved, preaching or teaching the Word, writing articles or summaries, designing and printing tracts and church publications, planning and coordinating church camps and activities, administration such as printing the weekly or articles, counting the offering, finance and accounts, writing of minutes and liaison with banks and statutory bodies - all these are important in building up the church both physically and spiritually in the fear of God.**



The Gospels introduced the disciples who followed Christ and later served Him, and the Epistles further developed the concept that believers are characterised by fervent service with our lives and gratitude for God's deliverance in Christ. Paul asserts that gratitude for God's saving grace envelops the entire Christian life. Those whom God has brought from death to eternal life should offer their bodies to him as instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:13).

In view of God's mercies and knowing that we were bought at a price, we are exhorted to give ourselves to God our bodies as 'living sacrifices' to serve and honour Him with our substance and a life of purity and holiness (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:20, 9:6,7, Lk 6:38). Our Lord exhorts His disciples in Luk 6:38 "*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*" **What a joy and privilege to have a part in the kingdom of God by offering of ourselves to the Lord and our time and substance too. Those who have received the glorious heritage provided in Christ should be willing to serve and worship God, be thankful, and faithfully endure hardship, trusting God for deliverance** (Hebrews 12:28-29).

### **Distinguishing Testimony of a Serving Church**

Exo 35:35 "*Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.*"



During the time when they built the Tabernacle, many of the people came forward to serve God using their God-given talents and gifts and the women too offered themselves to spin and weave in their service and together they built the tabernacle in the wilderness.

A general attitude of humble and fervent service and thanksgiving in both the trials and blessings of life distinguishes the Christian from unbelievers. Paul enjoins the churches to give thanks for all things and in all circumstances (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18). This applies to us even in suffering or trials and testings (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:1-4). Believers should do everything in the name of Jesus and out of a spirit of gratitude (Colossians 3:17).

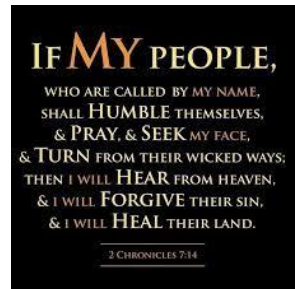
By contrast, thanklessness and ingratitude mark godless and selfish men, who are not interested in God and eternal things of life (Romans 1:18-21).

**Believers on the other hand, retain joy and peace in their worship and service of God and ‘in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving [they] make their requests known to God’ (Philippians 4:6-7).**

### **Corporate Intercession and Service**

2Corinthians 1:11 *Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.*

Service, prayer and thanksgiving are central components of our lives including worship. Paul prayed that the churches will be thankful and fruitful for Christ (Colossians 1:12) and gave thanks for answered prayer, especially for the extension of the gospel and for the growth and strength of the churches (2 Corinthians 4:15). The apostle began many of his letters with expressions of service and thanksgiving to God for the people or individual whom he knew. This thanksgiving usually led on to service and prayer, and the two together introduced Paul’s themes for his letters. For example, Paul thanked God for the faith and testimony of the Roman believers (Romans 1:8); for the grace given to the Corinthians so that they lacked no spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 1:4-7); but have been serving the Lord and for the Philippians’ partnership in the gospel (Philippians 1:3-5; see also 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4).



Saying grace each time before we eat a meal is a good spiritual exercise. It should not be done in a mechanical manner, but with sincere and appreciative hearts for all God provides for us.

**Let us remember to be committed and actively involved the work of the Lord in His church and give thanks in all things, to the praise and glory of God, and not take His bountiful mercy and the ministry of the servants of God and the church for granted.**

## **Conclusion**

Let us pause for a moment and recall God's faithfulness to us and our church these years and the manifold blessings we have today in Christ. Be amazed at the bountiful goodness of a gracious, loving and almighty Father in your life and SHBPC all these years.

**Pray for those who are serving God in the Session of our church as Pastor, Elder and Deacons, and support and serve together with them. Express our worship and thanksgiving tangibly in thank offerings and regular tithing to God in the support of the ministry. Above all, we should not fail to join our fellow believers in worshipping the Lord every Sunday in his sanctuary, giving thanks to God from the heart (Luke 8:38; 1 Corinthians 9:7).**

Let us pray for one another as we serve the Lord, for the new Session who will be serving us for another term after today's ACM cum Elections. Be filled with a heart of humble service to God and in appreciation of those who serve among us at SHBPC and with thanksgiving to the Lord, like the Samaritan leper who returned thanks to Christ. The Lord truly deserves our honour, praise, worship and service, both for who He is and for what He has done for us.

*Jack Sin*





Pray for the salvation of Evelyn, our door-to-door evangelism contact at Macpherson Estate, that she will seek and know Christ as her Savior and Lord.



LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023

DISCOVERING AND APPLYING THE JOHANNINE EPISTLES  
- STUDIES IN THE EPISTLES OF 1, 2 AND 3 JOHN

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)

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)

## Memory Verse

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

## 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 "**Knowing God & the Practice of Prayer (1 John 5:10-21)**", 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 "**Walking in Love & Truth (2John 1-6)**".
4. There are no Sunday School classes this morning. Classes will resume next Sunday:
  - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
  - Studies in 2 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
5. Church **Annual Congregation Meeting cum Elections** will be held after worship service today at 11.45am. **Church members are required to attend.**
6. 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]
7. 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]
8. 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.
9. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*