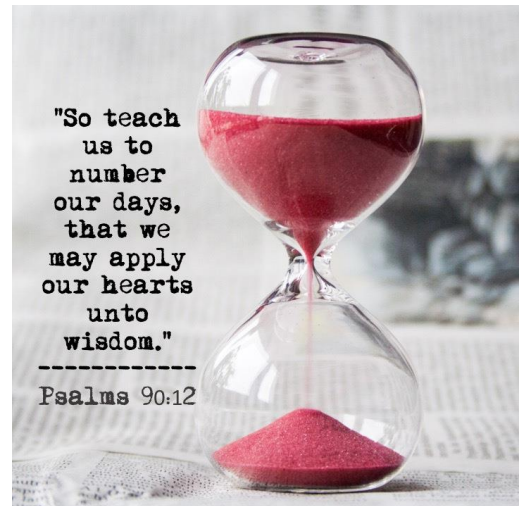


Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
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THE SPIRITUAL ART OF LIVING & DYING WELL

We are living in uncertain and troubled times, with a serious fast spreading global COVID19 pandemic, earthquakes, famines, pestilences, wars, natural calamities, chaos, and unrest in different parts of the world that have serious consequences globally. **God is the sovereign Protector of the elect and we need not fear but we are to be ready to go if it is His will for us.** Ps 90:12 says, *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."* **According to Moses, our life span on earth is about 70 or 80 years. How old are you today? We are never too young to die. Are you really ready to pack up and leave this world anytime, even if it is suddenly or at short notice? Death for a believer is but a door or a departure to a better place.**



Lockyer noted that John Wesley affirmed that all God's people can die well one day. Each of us, irrespective of our profession or position, should learn the precious art of dying well from Scripture. We are overwhelmed these days with books on "The Art of Making Money", "The Art of Losing Weight", "The Art of Healthy Living", and many other such themes.



Much less is written about the skilful art of leaving this temporal tabernacle. Does not the Bible exhort us to be prepared to meet our God when life on earth terminates? Amos 4:12 says, *"Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel"*.

Victors at the Death Bed

Hymnwriters and authors shared that divine grace and peace can be ours to live in eternity's sunrise and to come to the end of the road with a quiet assurance that all is well, with Christ as our Companion and who opens for us the door into the New Jerusalem". When we come to pass over the River into the Celestial City, it can be with the Bunyan's Pilgrim's watchword on our lips, "Farewell, Night! Welcome, Day!"

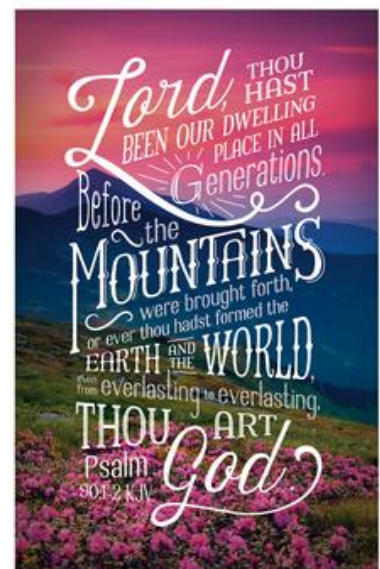


Do our hearts shudder at the thought of death? We can depart in peace, if our eyes have seen the salvation of the Lord like Simeon of old (Luke 2:29). **Death may mean temporal earthly separation from friends and loved ones, but it also means an eternity in fellowship with Him and with the glorious citizens of heaven forever. Surely this is a reason why a Christian should be comforted and content in dying as well as in living.**

One great and victorious death of Christ at Calvary and his resurrection was all we needed to be comforted at the point of death. The end of all the elect is lasting peace and joy in the Lord and eternity with Christ in heaven.

The psalmist says "Mark the perfect *man*, and behold the upright: for the end of *that man is peace*" (Psa 37:37). To all who are redeemed and pardoned by the blood of the Lamb of God, death is no leap into the dark but into the loving embrace of the Saviour. We are reminded that "*Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints*" (Psa 116:15). If we would die in Jesus, we enter into the trust of God as it comes to us. Christ's last word, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit," is the last word on holy living and dying. As the famed FABER has it: "Trust in God is the last of all things and the whole of all things."

Reverently, we all should draw near the Cross and see how the Saviour died. Countless multitudes have left this world and they reached the heavenly abode in peace and joy. They have been the strength of the weak and the consolation of the distressed from age to age. Lockyer says that **John Knox, the fearless Scottish Reformer preacher found in Christ's last words from the Cross the truest and the most meaningful greeting of the soul as it returns to God. The Father's hand to them was what it was to Jesus, the synonym for eternal safety, strength and security.** Ps 90:1, 2 says, "*Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth*



and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

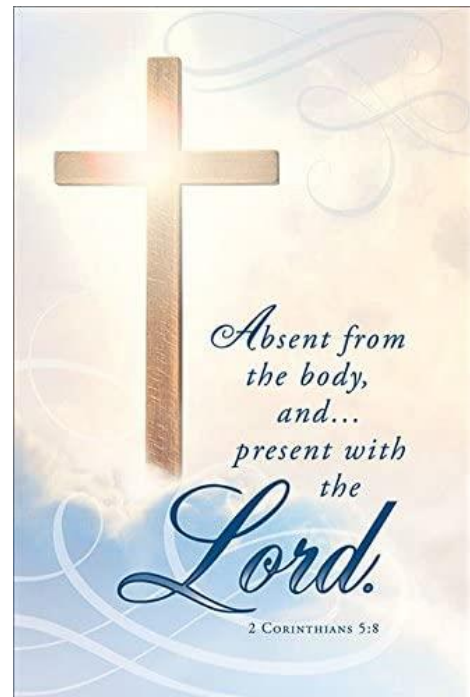
If one realises the inevitability of death, is it not right or prudent to “learn to live” well now and to die well too? Is Death a welcomed friend – or a frightful foe? Is death to be a beginning of eternal life or its end? If one’s heart is fully prepared for the future, then Death will come as a departing friend to deliver us from a heavy burden in this life. Paul says, *“But thanks be to God,*

which giveth us the victory (over death) through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:57). If one has not been prepared for death, then death itself will come as a foe to rob us of a peaceful exit and of a more blessed life beyond the grave. **May God grant that if we have to go home to heaven, that we may go bravely, with hands outstretched to welcome a friend we have “long abided and looked after!”** In death then we meet the Conqueror of death, even Christ, Who is alive forevermore (1 Cor 15: 55-58). Death can become victorious for every child of God, and fear is vanquished.



Lockyer quoted from the ancient work, The Book of the Craft of Dying, that one can gather much wisdom regarding the true “science of dying well and seemly”.

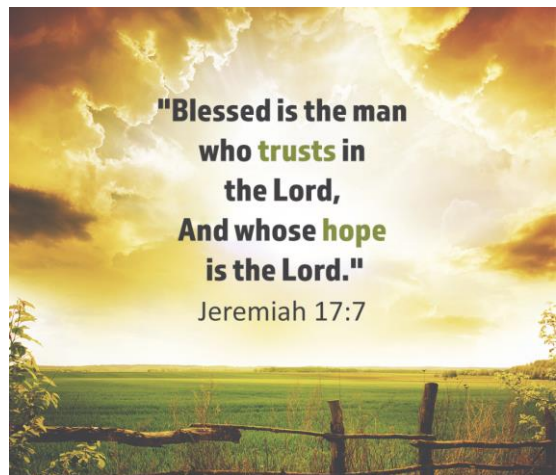
“Here we are given advice as to, “the temptations of men that die – interrogations that should be asked of them that be in their deathbed, while they can speak and understand certain instruction to them that shall die, prayers that should be said to them that be a-dying. If we would die well, we must not dread death, seeing it is nothing else than a departing of an earthly prison, an ending of temporal exile, the breaking of all bonds, and a final entrance into eternal bliss and joy. To die well is to die gladly and willingly in the Lord. If we have a heart and a soul ever ready Godward, then however death may come, it will find us ready. It is a more joyful and blessed estate to be absent in the body and present with the Lord as Paul enjoins us (2 Cor 5:6,7, 9)”



Temptation in Death

Lockyer (221) speaks of the five principal temptations confronting those who die for our meditation as is given below:

1. **Faith must be maintained**: The devil with all his might is busy to dissuade fully a redeemed man from his faith in God to his last end. He endeavours to cloud the mind with doubt and fear as the last hour approaches. That faith is of tremendous importance and rooted firmly in the promises of God when the hour of temptation comes.



2. **Desperation must be avoided**:

When a person is sore tormented and vexed by a dying or debilitating sickness (i.e., like cancer, COVID 19, SARS, stroke, or heart failure), and the devil is active in adding sorrow to sorrow, the believer is drawn into greater despair. **Then the soul must cling on tenaciously to the grace and mercy of God and to the cleansing efficacy of Christ's blood. No dying redeemed person should despair of forgiveness but may fully have a glorious and expectant hope, and absolute confidence in God alone.** The wily crafty foe must be resisted and defeated by the Word of God and putting on the full armour of God (Eph 6:10-18).

3. **Impatience must be eschewed**: Whether we come to die by nature and course of age or by a debilitating disease or accident, we must not murmur against God but suffer and await final deliverance patiently, gladly and with a free and a kind will of heart. In patience we must possess our soul (Ps 27:14) and wait and be renewed in strength like the eagle (Isa 40:31).



4. **Complacency must be renounced**: When the devil sees that he cannot stake a man out of his faith nor induce him into despair, neither to impatience, he assails him by complacency of himself and he tempts him by spiritual pride: "How stable thou art in the faith! How strong are you! How sad in patience! O how many good deeds thou hast done!" But all self-boasting is vain in the hour of death. **Our only boast must be in the Lord and in His grace and not in our unworthy and feeble works, which are filthy rags before Him.**
5. **Occupation with earthly things must be avoided**: "He that will die well and surely, must utterly and fully put away out of his mind all

temporal and outward things and fully commit himself all to God.” Do not be encumbered with many worldly possessions and let it not hinder you from desiring heaven, be not like Lot’s wife or Demas of old (Gen 19:6, 2 Tim 4:10).

Then this unique summary is given – “God is true to His promises and giveth us grace to withstand mightily, manly and with perseverance; giving us might that we be not overcome, grace to get us merit, steadfastness to overcome with. He giveth rich increases of virtue that we may suffer and not fail nor fall and that is by meekness”.

The Example of Christ

Lockyer says that “To those who would master the craft of dying, Christ is our supreme example. Note that our Lord Jesus Christ did five things on the cross:

1. He prayed and quoted the Scriptures in Ps 24:16; 30:6;
2. He cried out on the cross, as the Apostle witnesses;
3. He wept on the cross;
4. He committed His soul to the Father on the cross;
5. He willingly gave up the ghost on the cross.



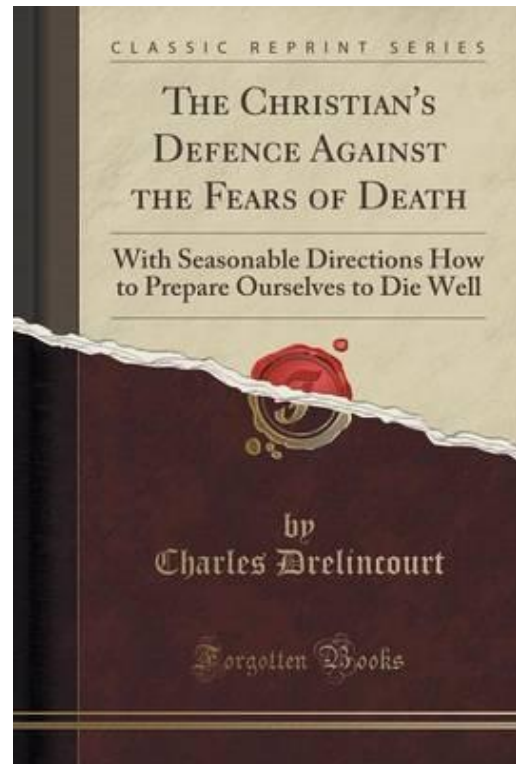
Lockyer added that **dying man or woman should pray, not only with his mouth, and also in his or her heart. He or she should cry with the heart, for God take more heed of the desire of the heart than the crying of the voice. He or she should weep tears of the heart, repenting of all misdeeds.** He must commend his or her penitent soul to God. He or she must die willingly, conforming fully therein his or her own will to God’s will. Not my will but Thy will be done! What a fine example of one who died well and is still alive forevermore!

Is it not tragic that so many come to their last hour with unspeakable sorrow of heart? They learn how to live and live well, but they neglect to learn how to die. Thus, the dread and horror of dying overwhelms them. The unredeemed do not have a joy over death as being the avenue to life everlasting. Theirs is a wretched end as they die without hope in Christ. Against their will, they die, having never learned how to die. Lockyer quoted this well, **“Learn to die in the Lord and you shall learn to live, for there shall learn to live that had not learned to die and he shall be a wretch that cannot live and dare not die.”**

Practical Tips for Triumphant Dying Saints

Lockyer noted that among the rare and ancient books on this theme was one found in 'The Evangelical Library' in London, a most remarkable book published some 300 years ago. It bears the title, "The Christian's Defenses against the Fears of Death" and is made up of seasonable directions on how to prepare us to die well. Its author, Charles Drelincourt, was minister of the Protestant Church of Paris from 1620 to 1669.

Originally written in French, Drelincourt's work on "Consolations" went through 20 editions and the translation into English by Marius D'Assigny of Ireland enjoyed universal approbation by Christians of all denominations. The value of this spiritual classic is the way the author develops his theme on "How to Die Well".



Here is his outline of "Consolations" (Lockyer, 223)

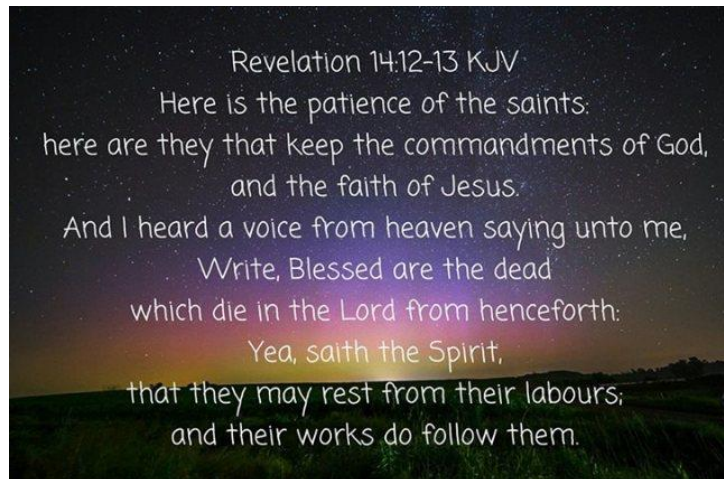
1. God will not forsake us in our grievous agonies.
2. Look upon God as a merciful Father and trust upon His infinite goodness
3. Meditate continually upon the death and sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ and trust upon the merits of His Cross.
4. Meditate often upon the Lord Jesus Christ in His sepulchre.
5. Meditate upon the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
6. Meditate upon the Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven and His sitting at the right hand of God.
7. Meditate upon our strict and inseparable union with Jesus Christ by His Holy Spirit and the fruits of His blessed immortality.
8. Consider that death delivers us from all temporal evils that we daily suffer.
9. Death delivers us from sin, which we may see reigning in the world and from the remains of our corruption.
10. Meditate upon the glory and happiness of our souls at their departure out of the body.
11. Meditate upon the resurrection of our bodies one day.
12. Meditate upon the destruction of death and the eternal and most

blessed life, which we shall enjoy both in soul and body after our resurrection.

Believing that the soundest philosophy is the biblical meditation of death, Drelincourt elaborates that whatever our employment, condition or age, we should lift up our minds and hands to God and prayerfully and faithfully trust and depend on Him.

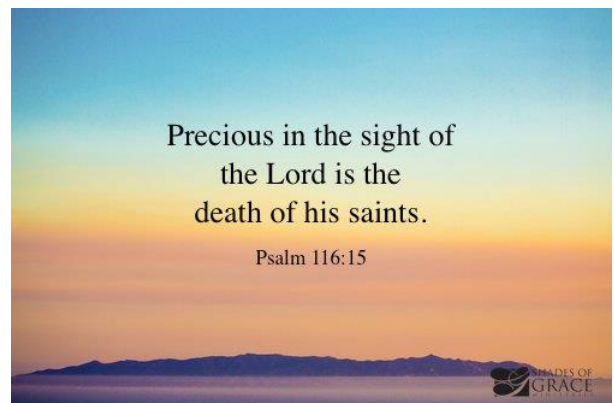
In this way we can think of death more cheerfully and soberly and find ourselves ready to be delivered from a depraved and fallen world of sin and transported to heaven adorned with holiness. Having written so much about death and laboured increasingly to prepare men and women to die well, Drelincourt himself had a triumphant end in his homegoing. His last sermon was based on the cry of the Psalmist: *“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice”* (Ps 51:7,8).

Shortly after, fever struck him; in his last hours he repeated several of his favourite Psalms and entered into glory with peace and bliss. Rev 14:13 says, *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”*



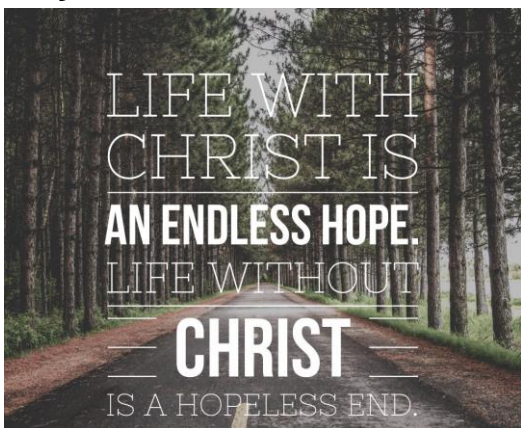
Conclusion

As we bid farewell to a loved one with heavy hearts, is it possible that the day of death is better than the day of birth? We have the hope of the resurrection as Job asked rhetorically, If a man dies, shall he live again? (Job 14:14). And the answer is found in John 11:25, 26. The death of a saint is precious in the sight of our God and to those who remain behind and the church as well (Psa 116:15). Let Christ our Lord and Saviour of our lives be the devotion of our souls and the Master of our lives, then when we



come to say farewell to this ephemeral earth, ours will be the Psalm – “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me” (Ps 23:5,6).

For those who fear the final foe of death, come and humbly seek Christ first as your personal Lord and Saviour now with evangelical repentance of your sins and there is reason not to fear death for with Christ, it is an



endless hope, without Christ, a hopeless end. We are truly living in these last perilous days. The signs of His coming are evident as we live in turbulent days where countless deaths surround us daily due to the global contagious and deadly coronavirus. The Lord is returning soon and at any time, may the Lord prepare us to both live and die well for Him when our time is up one day for our lives are in his hands. Are you ready to meet your God today or tomorrow?

Let us live well each day in and for the Lord that we may leave well one day to meet the Lord.

Jack Sin

(Read Herbert Lockyer, Last Words of Saints and Sinners, Kregel Publications, 1969, 218-224)

*“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”*

Psalm 23:6

(NB.

This article is written and updated in loving remembrance of Dn David Tan who went home suddenly to be with the Lord in his sleep on 10 June 2020, and whom the author and his wife have known for more than 30 years. Let us uphold the bereaved family in prayer as the funeral will be held today at 2.30pm.)



Dn David Tan Boon Keong

Age: 58

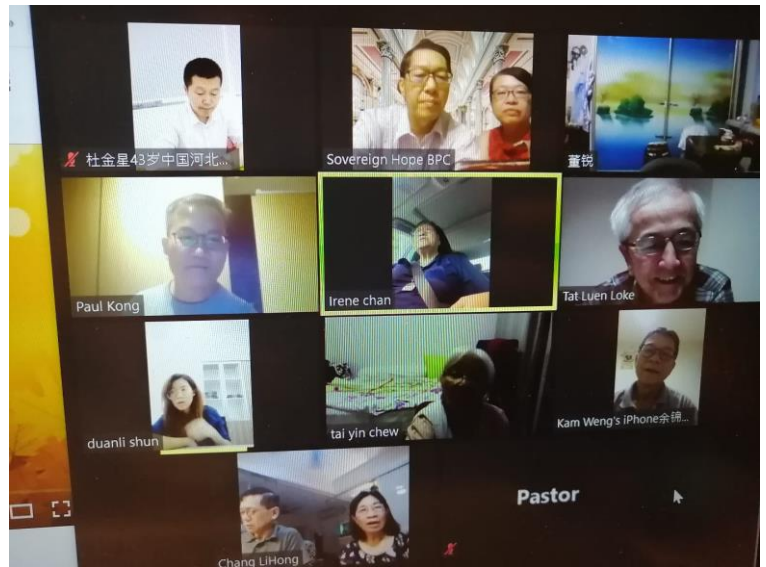
Called home to be with the Lord on 10 June 2020 (Wed).

Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Sharing by Bro Kam Weng

On June 7, 2020, I accepted Pastor Jack Sin's invitation to participate in the Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church Chinese Sunday evening fellowship meeting and listen to Pastor Jack Sin's sharing on "Bible Character: The Encouraging Example of Barnabas".

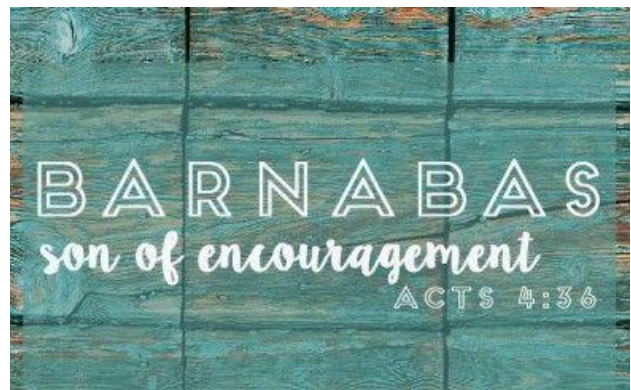
The Chinese Fellowship includes among others a brother who is a security officer from Beijing, a Pastor from a certain Chinese province, Sister Irene, 73-year-old Elder Loke from Australia and a local Chinese migrant worker. There were also two sisters from Yangon, Myanmar. From Singapore, there is a music and art teacher working in Singapore, a couple, an older sister and a brother who is looking for a job, among others.



We first sang two hymns "Give Thanks" and "O to be like Thee", followed by the third hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers", and prayed as led by Brother Paul. Sis Angelina led us to play the game *Bible Characters*, where we guessed and identified the Bible characters from 4 drawings.

Then Pastor Jack Sin shared from Acts 11:19-27. The focus of the sharing was on the biblical character Barnabas: We noted these about Barnabas:

1. Barnabas was a godly man, filled with the Holy Spirit and had great confidence.
2. He encouraged everyone to cleave to God and to rely on the Lord.
3. He taught many people and shared the gospel and many were saved.
4. He was tasked to bring the donations given to other churches together with Saul, as decided by the elders.
5. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch



Pastor Jack Sin also quoted other scriptures to share:

- (1) the character, ambition, faith, tolerance, love, and patience of Paul that we can learn. (2 Tim 3:10)

We who are saved have the Holy Spirit in our lives, we must be responsible, for example, to submit to the prompting of the Holy Spirit;

(2) to also be like Barnabas, to encourage people to apply biblical teachings, and to learn God's words and reach out to others. Barnabas was also a sacrificial man and he was rich and he had land, which he sold and brought all the money to God through the apostles.

The testimony of Barnabas is that God encourages everyone to set their minds on and rely on the Lord, and be a committed steward and disciple. Barnabas and Saul were used by God to bring some financial help to other churches as tasked by the elders. Thank God for this virtual Chinese fellowship where I heard of Barnabas in the Bible and learned of Barnabas' Spirit-filled character, ambition, faith, tolerance, love, and patience, and that we must imitate him in our lives. Amen.

Kam Weng

PhotoNews



Pray for wisdom for Pastor Babu in New Covenant BPC, Bangalore as they resume worship services with limited worshippers.

Pastor Lazarus of Covenant Reformed Church distributing food to the needy members in Banqalore.



Pray for teaching of the Word at the 3 Sunday School classes on Sunday afternoons at 2 pm. (photo shows the catechism class in progress)

Memory Verse

Dan 10:12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel:
for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand,
and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard,
and I am come for thy words.

Announcements

1. We thank God for many who are participating in our Facebook Live streaming worship service which will continue till further advice.
2. Rev Jack Sin speaks today on “Deep Eschatological Insights” (Dan 10:1 - 21).
3. Rev Jack Sin speaks next Sunday on “The End Times Revealed” (Dan 12:1-13)
4. Sunday School classes via Zoom at 2pm on Sunday:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith: Pastor Jack
 - Book of James: Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Exodus: Dr Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom.
7. Those who would like to serve the Lord in any area in the church, please see the Pastor or the Deacons.
8. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
9. Pastor is still available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
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 mailed 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**

- APRIL 2020 -

- 5th Christian Scholar Conquering Compromise (Dan 1:1-21)
- 10th* **Good Friday Night Service (8pm):** 4 Persons and the Deadly Victory of the Cross (Matthew 27:20-54)
- 12th **Resurrection Sunday (10am):** Why We Fear Death No More (1 Corinthians 15:1-21, 51-58)
- 19th Lessons from a Royal Dream (Daniel 2:17-49)
- 26th Fighting Fire – God’s Way (Daniel 3:1-30)

- MAY 2020 -

- 3rd An Earthly King exalts the Heavenly King (Dan 4:19-37)
- 10th* Handwritings on the Wall Explained (Dan 5:11-31)
- 17th The Prayerful Prime Minister (Dan 6:1-28)
- 24th The interpretation of a revelation from God (Dan 7:1-28)
- 31st A Vision of the Past, Present and Future (Dan 8:1-27)

- JUNE 2020 -

- 7th The Supplication of a Godly Saint (Dan 9:1-24)
- 14th* Deep Eschatological Insights (Dan 10:1-21)
- 21st The End Times Revealed (Dan 12:1-13)
- 28th **Gospel Sunday:** The God I cannot ignore (Rom 1:1-16)

APR - JUN 2020
WORSHIP PROGRAMME

- THEME -

EXPLORING AND
APPLYING
PROPHETIC LESSONS
IN OUR LIVES
(STUDIES IN THE
BOOK OF DANIEL)

- EVERY SUNDAY -

WORSHIP
SERVICES
AT 10AM

- CONTACT -

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