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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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AFTER DEATH - ASLEEP OR ALIVE?

A letter to a doubter...

In interpreting any basic doctrine, one goes to the plainest sections of Scripture first. For me, Paul's own description of what he expected at death is so plain in 2 Corinthians 5:6ff where he states that when we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord – therefore he would rather be absent from the body and be



present with the Lord – not in non-existence! This is not an isolated mention by Paul – he was writing in prison the letter to the Philippians, and he wrote about his present conflict (1:23, 24) ...having a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better, nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. Not simply body sleep or soul sleep – but a conscious being with Christ away from the flesh.

This was the hope that our Lord held out to the repentant thief on the cross (Luke 23: 42f) – the thief wanted to be remembered in the future kingdom. Our Lord lovingly contradicted him saying today you will be with Me in paradise. (I am aware of the nonsensical evasion of the Jehovah's Witnesses and some SDA's that Jesus said today, comma, you will be with Me... They need to realise there is no punctuation in the original – and Jesus was not saying today in contrast to yesterday or tomorrow). By the way – where is paradise? See Revelation 2: 7. While referring to Revelation, turn over to chapter 6 (9ff) where the souls of the martyred dead – very much dead, were actually speaking and white robes were given to them – before the resurrection!

Our Lord, furthermore, contradicted the Sadducees who did not believe even in the resurrection or after-life and who sought to put our Lord on the spot with a ridiculous question about the future resurrection (Matthew 22: 23 – 33). He not only refuted their nonsense about the resurrection – He used the occasion to teach them, quoting from Exodus 3 that NOW, even before the general

resurrection, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, though their bodies had been in their graves for over 1500 years were ALIVE because God is the God of the LIVING and in Exodus He said I AM the God of Abraham etc. (In Exodus they had been dead for a few hundred years). When our Lord was at the tomb of Lazarus, He assured them over against their concept of just a future resurrection that, for a believer – he/she NEVER dies! (John 11: 23 – 26) I will never forget sitting beside my dear first wife as she lay dying – her laboured breathing gave way to a few short wisps of breath – then silence. I looked at her body – but the real Virginia had gone. Something had certainly gone – death was swallowed up in victory as she beheld her Lord. A few days later we put her body in the ground at Northern Suburbs for it to sleep until the resurrection – but the real woman had left that body.

We even had a glimpse of the reality of the continued living existence of the dead in Matthew 17:3 where Moses, who had been dead for 1500 years appeared with Elijah (who had ascended to heaven) much to the amazement of the three disciples.

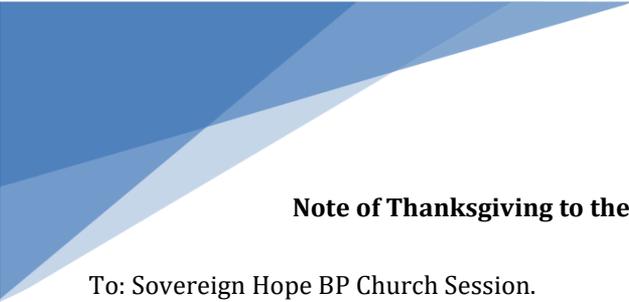
Well, then, does the Bible contradict itself? No – the Bible records accurately what people in varying situations said. But I find it rather strange when protagonists for soul-sleep or the non-existence of the soul have to resort to some of the ups and downs of David in the Psalms or the sad wanderings of Solomon in Ecclesiastes (for example 9: 5 etc) where he had concluded that all was vanity in life anyway, instead of going to the plain teaching of Paul and of Christ who brought life and immortality to light in the gospel - 2 Timothy 1: 10. (By the way Solomon still referred to the spirit in death – 8: 8 – as separate from the body – and it is not the same as the animals - 3:21)

Perhaps the final example is from our Lord again – in Luke 16:19 – 31 – the well-known parable of the rich man and Lazarus. The chief objection raised by those who reject the obvious nature of the example is that – it is just a parable, not real life. My reply is – did our Lord draw from reality in His parables or not? Did He deceive us here while lost sheep, lost coins and prodigal sons were representations of what could be real situations in other parables of His?

Sorry for the length, but the fingers kept going. Hope this explains why I believe that, at death, our soul/spirit of believers departs from the body and goes to be with Christ, while their bodies sleep or rest in the grave until the resurrection – and what a Day that will be! The Lord bless you and best wishes.

Rev Denis Shelton
Presbyterian Reformed Church
Sydney, Australia





Note of Thanksgiving to the Lord

To: Sovereign Hope BP Church Session.

Dear brothers,
Greetings!

On 18 May 2021, I have received a sum of Rupees 547, 435 which SHBPC sent us, towards the mission work building project.

I thank God and thanks to SHBPC Session and all members and mission partners who have supported us with sacrificially towards our mission work building project.

Your support is highly appreciated and it is very important to us to build the kingdom of God to fulfill the great commission of our lord Jesus Christ.

Continue to pray for my family for God's wisdom to carry the gospel work at the new place and the resources to complete the ground and first floor buildings.

Once again, I thank Rev Jack Sin, Rev George, Dn Choo Siang and the Session and members of SHBPC for raising the funds for us for God's glory. May God continuously bless each one of you, the name of Lord be glorified.

Thanking you.

With kind regards
Rev.Lazarus
Calvary Reformed Church
Bangalore, India

SHBPC Wednesday 8p.m. Prayer Meeting (5 MAY 2021)
“Being Vigilant and Equipped for Spiritual Battle”
Ephesians 6: 10 - 18

Pastor Jack welcomed the 12 attendees (deacons, members & regular friends and 4 overseas brethren, namely, Elder Loke TL from Melbourne, Pastor Babu @ New Covenant BPC, India, Pastor Lazarus @ Calvary Reformed Church, India and Preacher Mok @ New Life BPC, London).

We opened the Prayer Meeting with the hymn, “Faith is the Victory “. This is to remind us that our Faith in God is the victory that overcomes the world in our Christian Spiritual Warfare. Thereafter, Pastor Jack led us through a word of Opening Prayer. Next, we took turns to read God’s Word from Ephesians 6 v 10–18 before Pastor Jack expounded on it.

3 Salient Points to consider:

A) Exhortation to be Vigilant (v10 – 11)

First of all, we must build up our body to be physically fit and strong. To fight the enemy we are called to be strong.

Verse 11: The command is to put on the WHOLE armour of God, to withstand the wiles of the evil one. Partial armour will only have partial protection and that is dangerous. Otherwise, you will be vulnerable to the deceiver’s attack if your armour is vulnerable!

B) Enemy and its Evil Ploys (v12)

Verse 12: Describes the enemy.

Satan has different rungs of authority in his army of devils (principalities, powers, rulers...) to tempt us. He has his host of demons which he can use to undermine the people of God.

C) Equipment to Put On (v13 - 18)

“stand” is mentioned in verses 11, 13 & 14. It means: good footing, holding ground, solidly firm. We need spiritual gear to protect us and not worldly or human gear.

We need the following 6 spiritual equipment provided by God to help us stand firm.

1. **Belt of Truth** – It holds the whole armour of God. . . for God is Truth. This refers to both objective and subjective truth. Satan is a master deceiver and truth will expose him. Truth will protect us while lies can destroy our testimony and our effectiveness.

2. **Breastplate of Righteousness** – This (bulletproof vest) righteousness is first imputed to us when we trust in the Lord. It comes from Jesus Christ for us to live a life of sincerity and justice. It is integrity, rectitude and moral uprightness. It concerns our life in our Character and Conduct and our actions.
3. **Feet shod** – It refers to the Preparation / Readiness of the gospel of peace (for without shoes, you are not ready). It means we are to be prepared all the time to share the gospel to anyone when called upon, with meekness and fear.
4. **Shield of Faith** – TRUST: It refers to both objective and subjective faith a) doctrines/ faith in God (doctrinal faith) b) faith as in trust and dependence on God and not doubt in fear (we must grow this faith in the knowledge of the word of God).
5. **Helmet of Salvation** – It refers to the intellectual understanding and knowledge of faith / gospel and salvation. We need to know why and what we believe and be able to defend it and profess our faith publicly.
6. **Sword of the Spirit** – It has reference to the word of God, the bible and our ability to interpret and use the Word of God effectively. So we need to read, meditate, apply and equip ourselves with the Word of God to be effective in our battle against the evil one. Remember that Christ quoted the NT during His temptation by the evil one and he triumphed over him.

All this has to be supported by watching with fervent prayers and supplication for all saints as given in verse 18.

Conclusion

Are we ready for battle spiritually? We need to put on the WHOLE armour of God at all times and be in much prayers too. That is, to be complete, the armor must be oiled with . . . Prayer & . . . Perseverance & . . . Supplication.



Amen.

Han Kin Kheng

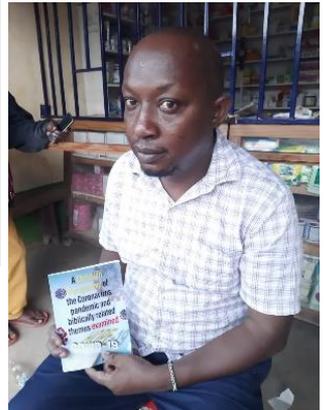
A Word of Sharing

Thank you very much for your book "A Christian Perspective of the Coronavirus pandemic and biblically related themes examined" - a timely reminder for us as believers to look up to the Lord and be in His mission as His return draws nigh. Thank God for giving Isabelle the opportunity to serve the Lord in SHBPC. Shalom and take care.

Eld Chung Kok Wah
Galilee BP Church



Pray for Rev David Mwendwa of African Inland Church and sis Violet Onyango, both from Kenya as they study the pandemic book and share it with their churches.





Thank God for Pastors, Preachers and Church Leaders from 7 countries and different churches who came together for this webinar on last Monday as we shared the scriptures and discussed the biblical perspective to handling this pandemic. Let us take all precautions and continue to uphold them before the throne of grace in troubled times.

**Lessons in Godly Prudence
from a Wise King**
Studies into Ecclesiastes

05
MAY 2021

- 2 The Beauty of Two in God's Economy (Ecc1 4:4-21)
- 9* The Management of the Tongue (Ecc1 5:1-13)
- 16 The Mindless Pursuit of Wealth (Ecc1 6:1-12)
- 23 The Basis for True Spiritual Discretion (Ecc1 7:1-17)
- 30 Reverence and Fear of God (Ecc1 8:1-13)

06
JUNE 2021

- 6 The Intervention of God (Ecc1 9:7-18)
- 13* Speech and Danger of Laziness (Ecc1 10 :12-20)
- 20 Wise Counsel for Young and Old (Ecc1 11:1-10)
- 27 Gospel Sunday: Fruitful Aging and the Chief Purpose of Man (Ecc1 12:1-13)

Memory Verse

Ecc1 7:2 It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor Jack speaks today on “**The Basis for True Spiritual Discretion (Ecc1 7:1-17)**”, continuing the quarterly sermon series on “Lessons on Godly Prudence from a Wise King – Studies in Ecclesiastes”.
3. Bro Joseph Wee speaks next Sunday on “**Reverence & Fear of God (Ecc1 8:1-13)**”.
4. In compliance with the Covid19 Phase 2 (Heightened Alert), the following Sunday School classes will be suspended till 13 Jun 2021 or when the heightened measures are lifted:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - New Testament Survey – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Numbers – 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. The May prayer list is available from Dn Choo Siang.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of each month in church on the study of 2 Samuel. The class on Fri 4 Jun is postponed in compliance with the Phase 2 (Heightened Alert)
8. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
9. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
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**
