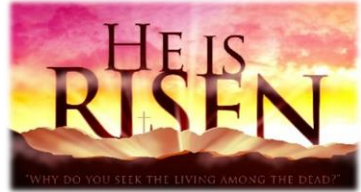


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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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Response to the Resurrection of Christ



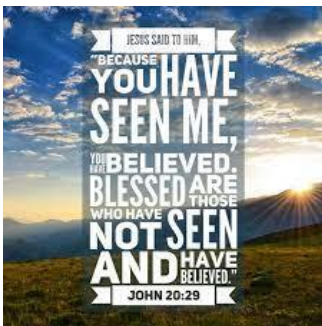
What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave mean to you? Is it just a nice historic story to repeat? Is it merely a convenient theme for some message or conversation? "What are we to do in response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ?" We can answer that question by turning to the Bible and seeing the response that others made to the resurrection of Jesus as recorded in the Bible for us to trust and follow and believe in our lives.

Consider Matthew's Account of the Resurrection of Jesus:

In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay (Matt 28:1-6).

Genuine Belief in the Risen Christ as the Son of God

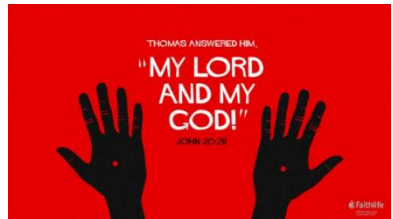
First of all, we must respond to the resurrection of Jesus with faith. His resurrection proves that He was not a liar or a deceiver. His resurrection proves that He was who He claimed to be, the Son of God. The resurrection was hard for even the disciples to believe at first. When the women reported what they saw to the apostles, they did not believe the women at first. They thought it was nothing more than idle talk from foolish women. Eventually eleven of the twelve believed. They all told Thomas that they had seen Jesus alive. He would not believe, however, until Jesus appeared to him. When Jesus did appear to Thomas, He said to him, *Do not be faithless, but believing (John 20:27).*



Then he believed too. The resurrection event was difficult for them to believe. Faith was their response as it must be ours today. When Thomas finally believed, Jesus saith unto him, *Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed* (John 20:29). Jesus pronounced a blessing on us if we would believe in him, even though we have not seen him literally with our eyes. Our question is, **“Do you believe Jesus was raised from the dead? Do you believe and have you received Christ, the Son of God as your Saviour and Lord?”** If not, **DIN** or **“Do It Now”** and **“Delay It Not”** while we have breath in our nostrils.

Holy and Reverential Worship

A second response we ought to have when we are confronted with the resurrection of Jesus Christ is an attitude of worship. When the women left the empty tomb of Jesus, they *“departed quickly from the tomb with fear”* (Matt. 28:8). Fear and worship are not the same thing, but fear in the sense of awe or reverence is a part of worship. These women left the tomb to tell the other disciples about Jesus. As they were going Jesus appeared to them and greeted them. The Bible then says, *And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him* (Matt 28:9). Likewise, when Thomas saw the resurrected Christ, he said, *My Lord and my God!* (John 20:28). This was a statement of worship and adoration of the risen Saviour. He realised that the resurrection of Jesus meant that He truly was God's only Son, the Lord of lords. The question is, “Whom do you worship? **Do you worship the living and true God sincerely from your heart as a Christian on the Sabbath in a Bible believing church, or do you worship self, family, work, leisure, wealth, idols or men?**”



Gospel Joy and Fear



Another reaction of the women who left the empty tomb of Jesus was to share the gospel *“with fear and great joy”* (Matt 28:8). They were so excited they were running to tell the news to the other disciples. Does it put joy in your heart to know that there is a hope for eternal life and a resurrection from the grave to that eternal life? Is there also the fear of the Lord that is the

beginning of wisdom? **Do we revere, respect and love God with all our heart? Is there the fine balance of joy and awe that overwhelm our hearts as we serve and worship the living and true God?** Let us arise on this Easter with these sacred emotions to share the good news to our family and friends, as we live for Him fervently and confidently in the days ahead. Do not forfeit yourself of this holy joy, peace and hope to witness of our risen and victorious Lord and worship and seek Him today and forever more.

The Call to Go and Share the Message of Hope

Finally, the reaction of the women at the tomb was a desire to share the good news of the resurrection of Jesus with others. The angel at the empty tomb told them to do this: *Go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead* (Matt 28:7). Moments later when Jesus Himself met them and greeted them, He likewise said, *Go and tell my brethren* (Matt 28:10). After Jesus had made several post resurrection appearances to more than 500 people, before His final departure, He gave the Great Commission to the apostles and us all. **In essence, it was to share the good news of His resurrection with the world. Let us be going and make disciples of all ethnic groups, bringing them to the church and then baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19).**




Note this “*Go quickly and tell the gospel.*” (vs 7) That was the first command given to those who saw the resurrected Christ. We should go and tell the whole world because it is such a liberating and joyous truth. We should go and tell because it is good news. We should go and tell because it brings hope of salvation from the bondage of sin. We should go and tell because Christ’s death is not the end of it all. With Christ it is an endless hope, without Christ, a hopeless end.

Understand and Appropriately the Resurrection

If we believe in the strong evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament, what significance then does the resurrection have for us?

1. In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we see the clear demonstration of the power of the true God. Eph 1:19-21 tells us that it is the power of our heavenly Father that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.
2. The resurrection proves that Jesus Christ is God. That is exactly what God the Father wanted to communicate to us, as we read in Rom 1:4. The Jews crucified Jesus Christ because, to them, He was blaspheming when He said that He was the Son of God, equal to the Father. The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates the truth that He is who He claimed He was, for only God can triumph over death. 3. Our salvation depends on our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Rom 10:9, we are told how to be saved. It says that “*if you confess with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*” **This means that you cannot be a Christian unless you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If someone claims to be a Christian but reject the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they are not genuine believers.**



3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates to us that all the teachings of Jesus Christ are true. Everything Jesus taught was true, including His great promise in John 6:40. Anyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him *“shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”* Jesus’ teachings concerning His person, work, heaven, hell, and the future judgment are all true.
4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ secured our justification. Christ died for our sins and He was raised for our justification, Paul says in Rom 4:25, *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*
5. Our own resurrection depends completely on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Read 1 Thess 4:14. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. There are other verses concerning this, including 2 Cor 4:14.
 
6. The power for our Christian life in the present is the power of His resurrection. We read about this in Eph 1:19-21 and Rom 6:4: We are therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. “How can we live this Christian life?” We can live it by the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

Sovereign Judge and Ruler of the World

The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates that He is the risen Saviour and appointed Judge of all the wicked people in the world. In Acts 17:31, Paul told the

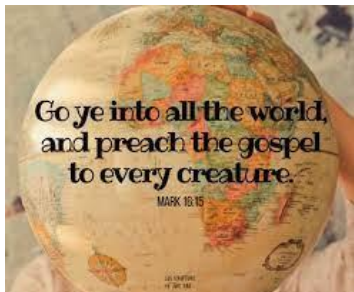


Athenians, *For he [God] has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead. We see the same idea in John 5:22 where Jesus said, Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son. In verses 27-29 he continued, And he has given Christ full authority to rule and judge, because he is truly the Son of God.”*

One day, all who are in their graves will hear His voice and will rise— those who are redeemed in Christ will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. **The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that He will raise up some to eternal life and some to eternal damnation and Jesus Christ will be the Judge of the wicked one day. All who have trusted in their fallen reason and rejected the claims of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:51-58), He will then judge them righteously one day with eternal consequences.**

Conclusion

Is death the end of it all or is there is more beyond the grave? We can be certain there is life beyond death due to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. People are dying, but who has come back to tell us what it would be like on the other side? Christ tells us there is. Do you believe this? Do you share this good news with others as well? Be a witness for Christ today and save souls.



The resurrection changed Peter from being a persecutor of the faith into a preacher of the gospel. It changed Paul from a persecutor of Christians into a missionary of the Christian faith. The early Christians all preached Jesus and the resurrection wherever they went. Some in that day who mocked, some procrastinated and some believed. But for those who believed, the resurrection had a life-changing, transforming experience. That is what God would have us know this Easter morning. Do you believe in the resurrection or

are you caught up with superstition and falsehood? Do you believe that Jesus arose from the dead, bodily and supernaturally? He is still alive today and is coming back again.

He is the One who has all the power in heaven and earth, and He must be reckoned with. If any man will receive and acknowledge Him into his life, then he shall be born again. Christ says, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* (Matt 11:28-30). This can be your privilege too today.

We have looked at how we ought to respond to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we realise that Jesus was raised from the dead and that He is truly the Son of God, our response should be:

- (1) Genuine Belief in Christ as God,
- (2) Holy and Reverential Worship,
- (3) Gospel Joy and Fear,
- (4) Obeying the Charge to share the message of Salvation with others with a burning desire.



Will you seek Christ today as your only Saviour and Lord and share it with others as well?

Jack Sin

***With Grateful Thanks from Yangon, Myanmar
(for the love gifts from SHBPC)***



From Gilead Balm Home:
Praise God for the books that are blessings to the readers!



Pr Myitta and the sack of rice and Christian books and Bibles for his church members and children ministry.

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MAY DAY SEMINAR
Biblical Perspective of Work and Retirement

BY REV JACK SIN

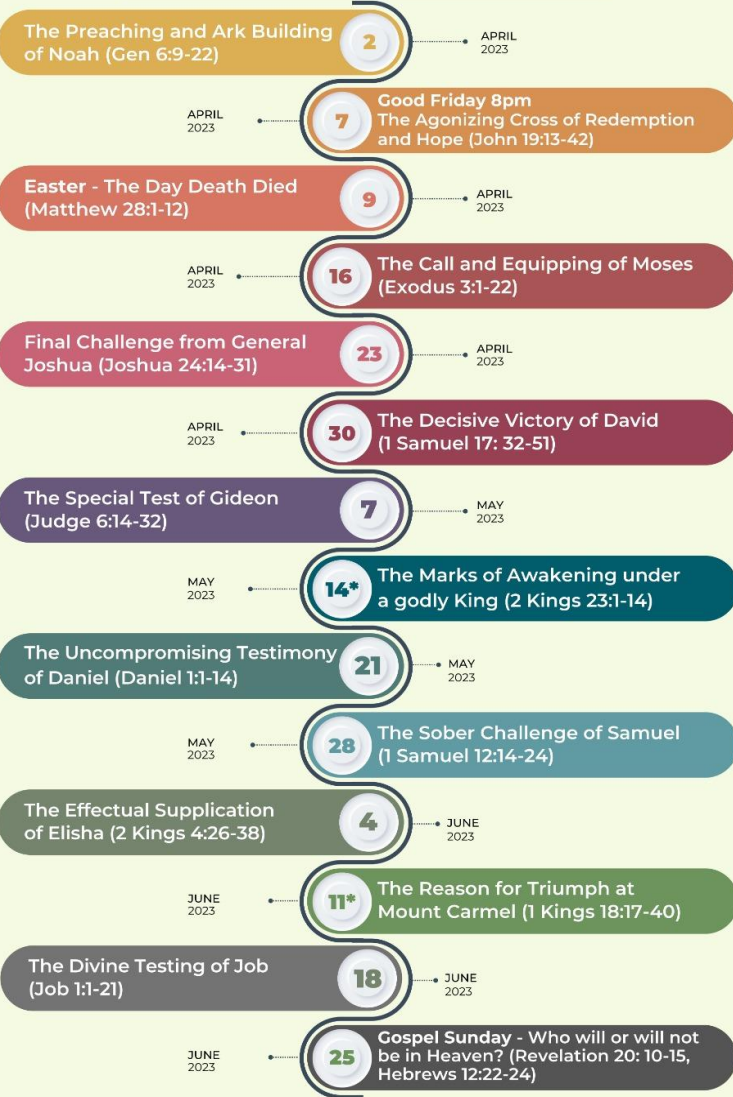
AS WE APPROACH AN AGEING WORKFORCE, KNOW WHAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS TO TEACH US ABOUT THE NATURE OF WORK AND THE MANNER OF RETIREMENT FOR THE CHRISTIAN

01 MAY 2023(MONDAY)
9:30 AM

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LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR APRIL - JUNE 2023
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE OT FOR OUR LEARNING



Memory Verse

Matt 28:7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

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 Resurrection Sunday on "***The Day Death Died (Matt 28:1-12)***".
3. Pastor will preach next Sunday on "***The Call & Equipping of Moses (Exo 3:1-22)***", continuing the new quarterly series on "***Significant Events in the OT for our Learning***".
4. Sunday School classes will resume next Sunday:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Sermon Reflections – Dn Yue Kay & Paul Kong
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. The **Annual May Day Seminar** on "***Biblical Perspective of Work & Retirement***" on **Monday 1 May 2023 9.30am – 1pm IN CHURCH.**
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 5 May 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. The **Annual Church Camp** will be held at **Pulai Springs Resort (Johor Bahru, Malaysia), June 7-10, 2023.** Rev Philip Heng is our camp speaker "***Exercise unto Godliness in an Ungodly World***".
10. 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.
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**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.