

Worship Service: 10am, 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sunday School: 11.45am, Prayer Meeting: 8pm Wednesday
Pastor Jack Sin at 91160948 and jacksin710@gmail.com
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The Challenge to Propagate the Pure Gospel

Introduction

The 21st century church needs to know the grave importance and absolute necessity of biblical missions and evangelism entrusted to us by the Lord. Many churches today often neglect or are indifferent to their calling in the propagation of the gospel and some have compromised to share instead the unbiblical social gospel, or the health and wealth gospel, or the prosperity gospel instead of focusing on justification by faith through preaching Christ as the only Redeemer through His word alone. R B Kuiper said rightly in his celebrated book, God centred evangelism,

“The fault of the social gospel of modernism is not that it would remedy social ills, but that it would accomplish this in a way which stands diametrically opposed to Christianity. Brushing aside the obvious truth that society can never be better than are the individuals which constitute it, it would improve the individual by improving society. It would rescue men from sin’s consequences such as poverty and disease, rather than have them redeemed from sin itself by the blood of Christ. It would save the individual by what is termed the regeneration of society, not by the new birth supernaturally wrought by the Holy Spirit. It would by human effort get men out of the slums instead of getting the slums out of men by the grace of God. It neglects the profound truth so well expressed by that great evangelistic preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, ‘Take a thief to heaven, and the first thing he will do is to pick the pockets of the angels.’ There is another way of stating the difference between the individual gospel of fundamentalism and the social gospel of modernism.”

Fulfilling the Great Commission

The Christ centred church needs to return to the sound declaration of the pure and unadulterated gospel of Christ in our missions and outreaches. Q89 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism says that “The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners¹ and of building them up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.”

Our ultimate motivation in evangelism must be to see God glorified, and God is glorified when the truth about Him is known and made known. We should want to see God glorified by proclaiming the truth about him to the saving of souls as he calls us. Jesus commands his disciples to “go and teach or make disciples of all nations, or ethnic groups or different cultures or tribes (Mt 28:19-20). We are to be committed to this cause and consecrated or “set apart Christ as Lord for this purpose,” that is, we should witness or evangelize because God calls or commands it. The Love of God and for souls should compel us to have compassion on those in need, and everyone’s greatest need is eternal salvation.

Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God

J. I. Packer describes the definition of evangelism below (Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1961, 126.))

"To evangelize . . . is to present Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Savior, and serve him as their King in the fellowship of His church."

There are some useful points in this definition and I would also add that this is all submitted to the sovereign will of God in his election of souls unto everlasting life.

In other words, the success of evangelism is not in its tangible results of numerical conversions, but in the fulfilling of God's will in proclaiming the gospel with the call to evangelical repentance, leaving it to God to decide the final outcome of this gospel tasks. Many years ago, I was made aware of a certain para group organisation who set tangible targets for conversions for the different faculties in a certain University. This is very strange and unbiblical and has no scriptural warrant at all. Salvation is of the Lord (Jon 2:9) and we humbly submit to Him.

When Jesus began His public ministry He came preaching the gospel of God, calling people to evangelical repentance and urging them to believe the gospel of life (Mk. 1:14-15). Yet we know that though some were saved by his sovereign will while there are many who also rejected Christ as well (Jn 6:66; Mt 28:17).

The importance of sound and effective witnessing for Christ includes helping the young converts in the understanding of sin and the grave need for Christ and the sound doctrine from the word, of God's character, of our devotion to God and having an understanding of eternity. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be better equipped and more prayerful and ready to reach out to people, more often. All believers should be more motivated to share the gospel, to seek Christ's help in the saving of souls from eternal punishment. 1Cor 9:16 says, For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

The Love of Christ and for lost souls should convict and compel us to go out to the various communities, to communicate the good news of everlasting hope. The Holy Spirit is the only Agent who can open hearts for us, by convicting people of their sin and stirring up a desire for salvation (Tit 3:5). Our sacred task is to speak with people and explain their desperate plight of total depravity, and our need for a savior, and that salvation is available to every repentant sinner who accepts the good news of the vicarious atonement of Christ.

The apostles message always includes the need for faith in God and evangelical repentance for the sinner. Acts 20:21 says -- We must be willing to go out of our comfort zone and propagate the gospel seed. This is what our mission team of 6 people will be committed to do as they prepare to minister the Word to the Indian people at the Sunday services and Pre Christmas VBS at Covenant BPCI (pastored by Rev George Skariah), and the New Covenant BPCI church retreat led by pastor Babu, and the teaching of the book of Jude at a bible college led by Rev Matthai. Let us pray for their effectual ministry, that the gospel seed will fall on good ground and bring forth much fruit. The Biblical, faithful and sound preaching of the gospel was the method employed by our Lord. Christ preached that men everywhere should repent of their sins and believe in the gospel of Christ. Mat 24:14 says, And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Christ often rebuked the Pharisees for their hardness of heart and their rejection of Him. Christ pronounced a serious judgment upon them and we are to want of the just and righteous judgement of God one day as well. Sound gospel sharing must include sharing of the need for the fear of God, understanding the justice and holiness of God in the sinfulness of man and the consequences of rejecting Christ one day. The

good news begin with the bad news of our depravity and our need for divine pardon from Christ as our only Saviour and Lord.

All churches have the sacred duty to share Christ and to teach and ground new believers in the understanding and application of sound doctrines. After their regeneration, they are to help them to grow in the faith with the teaching of the word in a sound local church (Matt 28:20; 2 Tim 2:2). R B Kuiper correctly places great emphasis on teaching reformed creeds and confessions as the tools of theological grounding for converts and disciples of Christ. He says:

“Worse advice is difficult to imagine. It can be given only by such as are lacking in historical sense or else are hostile to the truth as it is in Christ. Is the Christian church of today to ignore practically the entire history of Christianity? Are there no lessons to be learned from the past? And are not such great confessions as, to name but a few, The Nicene Creed, The Apostles’ Creed, The Augsburg Confession, The Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England, The Canons of Dort, and The Westminster Confession products of the historic church’s guidance into the truth by the Spirit of truth, promised to the church by its Head, even Jesus Christ (John 16:13)? To spurn that guidance is heinous sin.”

Conclusion

We live in a world of compromise and spiritual indifference and the loss of vision even in the churches. Sovereign Hope BPC is committed to gospel outreaches and missions to the saving of souls as the Lord leads. There is still much to be done for the advancement of the kingdom of God as the Lord carries. Let each one be spiritually burdened of the Lord to go to the missions fields if we can, to care for those in need, to invest in eternity and to give generously to support missions and, to pray fervently and reach out to share the gospel fervently to souls, for Christ while there is yet opportunity. Rom 10:14-17 says,

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Jack Sin

Loving the Lord God (Deuteronomy 6:1-15)

Love should be lasting. Sadly today, much of what is regarded as love fades very quickly. This is because people focus much on the emotional and physical aspects of love but fail to realise that love is largely a matter of the will. The Israelites must direct their will to have a continuing love for God. They were on the verge of entering into the promised land. Their leader Moses urged them to love the Lord their God. The implication is clear. With better days laying ahead they could weaken in their love to the Lord. Israel’s God (and our God) is identifiable. He is the one who communicated to the patriarchs (6:3,10). He is the God who revealed himself to the apostles. He did not reveal himself to just one person but to many people, over many years. The cults begin with one person claiming to have had revelation, which cannot be corroborated. Not so Christianity. God revealed himself to many people over many years. Christianity is rooted in people and history.

The God we love has revealed his nature (6:4). He is one, that is, he is the only God, a truth that is emphatically and repeatedly taught by the Hebrew prophets and Christian

apostles. But how do we love God? Deuteronomy 6:1-15 gives us some guidance. We love God with all our being (6:5). There should be nothing half-hearted about our love for God. Was he half hearted in his love for you? Certainly not! He sent his most beloved one - Jesus Christ, to die for you. That's anything but half-heartedness. We love God by keeping his word in our hearts (6:6). Our inner selves produce our words and deeds. From the heart come the issues of life. What is in your heart is crucial. What better thing to reside in your heart than the word of God, the Bible?

We love God by telling others about him (6:7-9). When someone is excited he is constrained to speak about it. Love is like that. Someone in love will talk about love. The Christian apostles had encounters with Jesus and were constrained to talk about him. They were irrepressible. Christians may not be good conversationalists but they must be good talkers of the gospel. We love God by remembering him especially when things are going well (6:19-12). In desperate situations people tend to call out to God. But when things are going well we tend to forget. Hence Moses exhorts the Hebrews to remember the Lord particularly when things are going well. Earthly well-being can be a blessing. It can also distract us from loving the Lord.

Do not go after other gods, that is, do not be an idolater (6:13-15). Our love for God must exclude all other so-called gods. In Israel's experience the other gods were the idols of surrounding nations. We also are surrounded by idolatrous people and things. Do not follow vain idols. Follow Jesus. Love Jesus. We should love him because he first loved us.

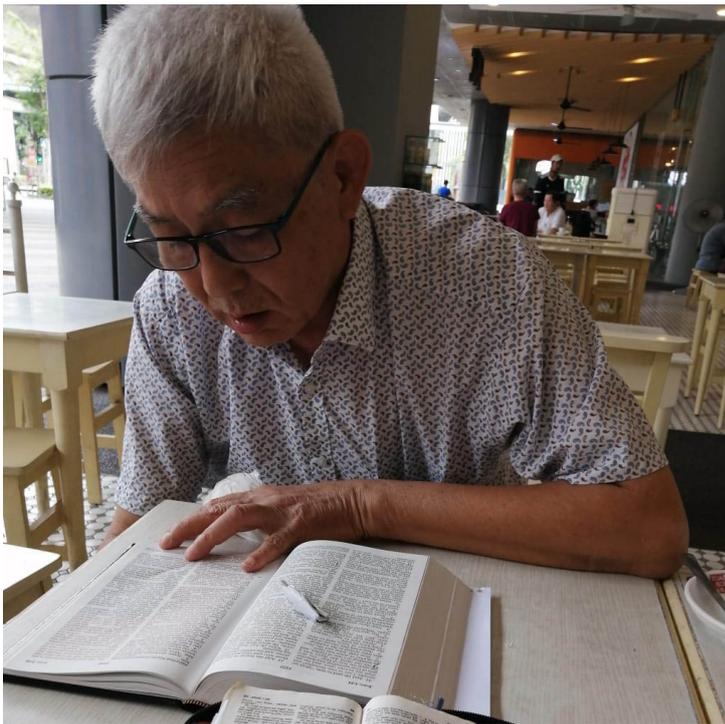
Rev David Yan,
Emmanuel Church
Auckland, NZ



The lively discussion at the monthly NBC studying the book of 1 Samuel in Church



Join the Wednesday night church prayer meeting as we seek the Lord in fervent intercession



Pray for brother Anthony who has received Christ last month as he grows in his faith

Memory Verse

1 Thess 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Announcements

1. Rev Jack Sin speaks next Sunday on "An Apocalyptic Warning". (1Thes 5:1-11)
2. Weekly Prayer meeting will be held on Wednesday 8pm at the home of sis Han Kin Kheng
3. Pastor and Angie are away on a mission trip to teach the word to a group of pastors from 4-14 Nov. They will return on 15 November at 6.50am.
4. Rev Nathan of New Life BPC will stand in for pastor during his mission trip for any pastoral assistance.