

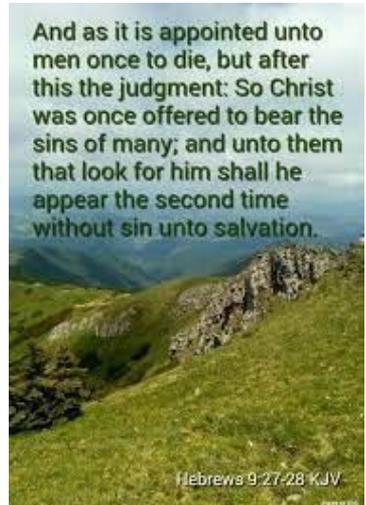
Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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“LIFT THE GLOOM FROM THE TOMB”

It is easy for scoffers to scoff at the gospel and at the Bible. But it is not so easy for them to scoff at death. The heart of the unbeliever wishes to believe that death will be nothing more than a state of non-existence. He is comforted to hope that when he (or she) dies there is nothing of us left. It is not their wish to exist. But it is far better for the sinner to enter into non-existence than into a world where God will give them eternal punishment.

Death is certainly not the end of all creatures. When an animal, bird or fish dies it dies in every way. But the Bible makes it very clear that human beings do not cease to exist after death. We can easily understand the difference between a man's (or woman's) death and an animal's death. It is most important to understand that human beings have two parts: body and soul. Animals, on the other hand, have a body and no soul. So when the animal dies its body dies and it has no other part. But human beings, at death, leave their body to be buried, but their soul, having left the body, enters at once into another world.

How can this be? It is because God made human beings very different from animals. This difference is far greater than many people realise. The most important difference is that men and women live after death in another world. No human being, at death, ceases to exist. The soul is invisible and, at death, immediately goes into another world. In this other world it will live for ever and ever. This is an extremely important truth.



Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour go to a different world, after death, from the world to which unbelievers go at death. The eternal home of those believers in Jesus as their Saviour will be heaven. This is a world of love,



joy and comfort in the presence of God, whom in this life they loved and worshipped. But the eternal home of all unbelievers, who do not have Jesus Christ as their Saviour, will be hell. This is a place where God punishes all unbelieving sinners for their sins committed in this life. It is a world of darkness, torment and eternal suffering. God will punish all unbelievers eternally for their sins done in this life.

To enter into the tomb of death is not an experience the intelligent person looks forward to if he (or she) is ignorant of the gospel of Christ. The wise man (or woman) wants to die well, not to die badly. To die well means to die as a person who believes in Christ as Saviour. Such people die in the knowledge that at death their soul will go to heaven to enjoy eternal life. The believer in Jesus realises that Jesus died on the Cross to pay for the sins which he (or she) has committed in this life.

But those who are unbelievers, who do not have Jesus Christ as their Saviour, need to realise that they will suffer eternal punishment for their sins. They may scoff at death and scoff at the Christian faith, but in hell no one will scoff.



The tomb has a gloom for many people. But there is a solution to this problem. Give your heart to Christ as Saviour and He will take you to glory. Christ can take the gloom from the tomb for us all, if we believe in Him as our Saviour.

Rev Maurice Roberts
Free Church of Scotland Continuing

“The Power of Christ in Providential Care”

- Summary of Wed Night Prayer Meeting on 3 Mar 2021

Pastor Jack welcomed the 11 attendees (2 deacons, members, regular friends and 3 overseas brethren, namely, 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, ‘There’s a Land that is Fairer than Day’. This is to remind us of heaven beyond this temporal shore of life and the Power of Christ in His Providential Care, especially when we meditate on Life and Death matters. Thereafter, Pastor Jack led us through a word of Opening Prayer. Next, we took turns to read God’s Word from John 11:17 – 40 before Pastor Jack expounded on it.

4 Salient Points to consider:

A) Sickness of Lazarus (as a representative man)

Ever since the fall of mankind, sickness started to plague us in the form of our physical, mental, psychological and spiritual weakness. Sickness is also NO respecter of one’s age, gender, race, religion or nationality. One day we will all die as the old Chinese proverb says. All of us go through it at one point or other in our lives time. Sin, a more deadly sickness that we cannot see nor cure, is worse as it brings death in the end! But, as Christians, we are comforted by James 5:14. It reads, *“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and pray over him, anointing (therapeutic) him with oil in the name of the Lord.”* Prayer and seeking medication go together, there is no contradiction with God.

B) Sorrow of the People over Death (v21)

Nothing happens without God’s knowledge and approval. Hence, we should not play the “Blame Others” game. Just like the 2 sisters, Mary and Martha, in the town of Bethany, mourning over their brother, Lazarus’s death. God has His own purpose why Jesus tarried for 2 more days in the place where He aboded when the sad news reached Him (v6). The intent for Jesus’ “late” arrival of 4 days is reflected in v15: And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. Martha to some extent blamed Jesus for coming late, for not saving her brother on time. She had her theology right but she did not know that God was bringing forward the Lord’s resurrection for her brother. Our faith, patience, belief... will be tested throughout our earthly journey. His thoughts and plans are higher than ours if only we trust in Him fully.

C) Sayings of Christ (v25 &26)

Verses 25 & 26 read: I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? This is an amazing verse, that Christ is the hope of life and he has power over the grave and death to give us eternal life to those who believe in Him.

Don't be too harsh / legalistic during bereavement. In v 35, Jesus wept (as a 100% human). They were very poignant tears. Why? Jesus saw what sin did to Man and the pain and suffering and death that follows. Jesus really cared for His people and that is why he died for us on the cross.

In verse 39, " ... Take ye away the stone ... ", Jesus told Martha and the lesson is God would want us to do what we can do. HE will do what people cannot do. This is not because of 'no chivalry' but 'we are to see the glory of God' as in v40. We are to live our lives for the ultimate glory of God even at our expense.

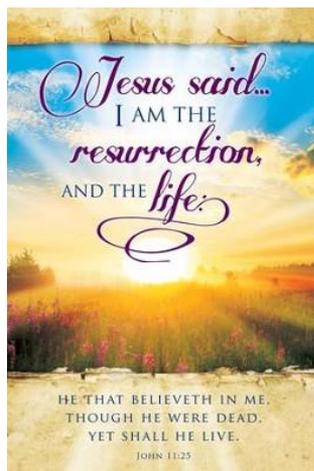
D) Summon unto Everlasting Life (vs 40-44)

Lazarus was dead already and buried for at least 4 days and his body would have an odour but his 'soul was summoned/called back supernaturally from heaven by Jesus who is God himself and he was revived and continued to live on earth for a season. Thank God for this which reminds us of our resurrection one day when He comes again in all his glory.

Conclusion

Many good and bad things can happen along our way although we may not fully understand them. We are to focus our attention on Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith and trust in Him. We must also learn to wait patiently upon the Lord for His higher hand to lead and direct us according to His perfect timing. His will is the best for us and He will carry us through finally. Amen.

Han Kin Kheng



Memory Verse

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

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 Holy Spirit & Revival" (Acts 2:1-11, 39-47)**, continuing the 2021 Jan – Mar sermon series on **"An Appraisal & Understanding of Biblical Revivals"**. The Lord's Supper is served.
3. Pastor Jack speaks next Sunday on **"The Church Priorities & Revival" (Acts 6:1-9)**.
4. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - "Rules for Walking in Fellowship by John Owen" – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Leviticus – Dr Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Preacher TM from Country X will be ministering God's Word tonight on **"人生的安稳与富足"** (Luke 12:13-21).
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Mar prayer list is available from Dn Choo Siang.
7. **Good Friday Worship Service** will be on **Fri, 2 Apr 2021, 8pm**. Pastor Jack will be preaching on **"Who killed Jesus?"** (Lk 23:1-26). The Lord's Supper will be served. Do come and bring a friend to hear the Gospel.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of the month at 7.30pm in church on the study of 2 Samuel. Do come and join us for a time of learning God's Word.
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
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**
