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## WILLIAM CHALMERS BURNS: 1815-1868

W. C. Burns was son of the manse in Kilsyth, twelve miles east of Glasgow. He had been very well educated in the local parish school. He early developed an interest in language and obtained distinction

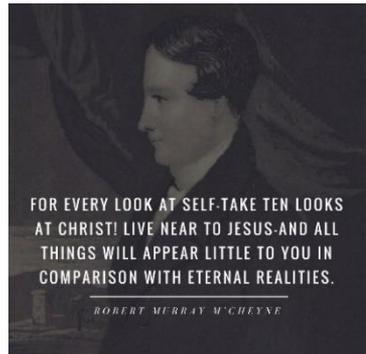


The longing of my heart is to make known my glorious Redeemer to those who have never heard.

~ William Chalmers Burns

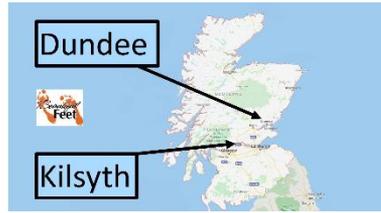
as a student at Aberdeen University. Stirred as a young man by a Christian book called "Early Piety" he felt called to the work of the ministry. To prepare for this, he went to Glasgow University to study theology.

At a religious meeting he was stirred as he listened to a missionary about to sail for China. This vision was to shape his entire life. In March 1839 he was licensed to be a preacher. At this date he was invited by Robert Murray McCheyne, minister of St. Peter's, Dundee, to fill his place while McCheyne went on a visit to Palestine. This was a great privilege and challenge as McCheyne was a preacher of distinction with a huge congregation in St. Peter's, Dundee. Three months later W. C. Burns saw openings for his ministry in several countries overseas. In July therefore he went to his home town of Kilsyth to seek God's guidance. Here he shared the pre-communion services with his father, the minister. There was an intense spirit of prayer among the people of the congregation, who yearned for revival. On Tuesday morning W. C. Burns preached a powerful sermon,



which deeply stirred the congregation. Many shed tears and cried out for mercy.

When he returned to Kilsyth he told the people of the revival in Dundee. There was now a profound stirring of soul among those who heard of the Dundee revival. Meetings were held daily for many weeks.



McCheyne returned from Palestine at the end of that year and resumed his ministry at St. Peter's, Dundee. W. C. Burns now began a wonderful ministry in other places, spreading the gospel: in Perth, Aberdeen and elsewhere. Such were the wonderful effects of his preaching that it was clear that a genuine revival of religion had taken place. He spent his energies in this way for three years, preaching as far away as Edinburgh, Newcastle and even Dublin. Huge crowds gathered to hear him preach at the railway station on the Sabbath. His wish was to object to the railway service, which was opening on the Sabbath.

In Dublin he preached in the open in the open air and was faced with angry crowds who heckled and shouted to try to silence his preaching. But Burns thought it was right to preach to them the true gospel.

This visit to Ireland was followed by three-months of evangelistic preaching in Glasgow.

W. C. Burns next sailed to Montreal, Canada, in order to give preaching. Here too he was mobbed and pelted as he preached in front of the great R. C. cathedral. He remained two years preaching in different parts of Canada.

In April 1847 Burns attended the Synod of the English Presbyterian church. They appointed him to be an evangelist to promote the gospel in China. He was thirty-two years old. He now waited two months or so in order to travel from London by ship to China. He felt it was the Lord's will that he should now serve Christ in China.



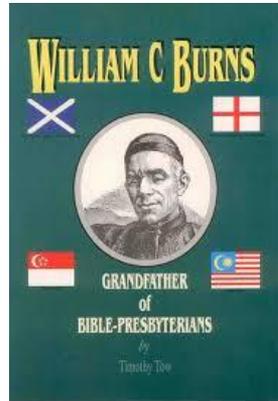
Burns' journey from Britain to China was on a ship called the Mary Bannatyne. As he began his journey he could say, "I feel I am where it is the Lord's will I should be". It was stormy at sea and he was very sea-sick. He led a short daily service which members of the crew could attend. Then he studied his Chinese notes. He had acquired before his departure at sea a little Chinese-English vocabulary and a copy of the Gospel of Matthew in Chinese written by Robert

Morrison. After some stormy experiences the ship, having been at sea over five months, arrived at Hong Kong on December 13<sup>th</sup> 1847.

W. C. Burns was warmly welcomed by Christian and missionary friends at Hong Kong. He now concentrated on mastering Chinese. He also started a little school for boys. This grew in time and some came to faith in Christ. After fourteen months in Hong Kong he felt the urge to cross the narrow strip of water to mainland China, teeming as it was with people in great need of the gospel. In January 1849 he took steps to prepare to cross to mainland China. He was accompanied with two Chinese preachers from the London Mission.

Burns now spent his time travelling so as to give Bible knowledge to the Chinese people who had no Bible knowledge at all. In 1856 he adopted the full Chinese dress, which he used for the rest of his life. For sixteen months he lived in the wealthy city of Canton. It burdened him that people there were so ignorant of the gospel of Christ.

From Canton he next travelled to the island of Amoy, where a missionary colleague, Dr. Young, lived and served Christ. Here in Amoy the people were different. They accepted Christian tracts and asked questions. Burns was referred to as "The Man of the Book". He now translated "Pilgrim's Progress" and other literature into Chinese for the local people.



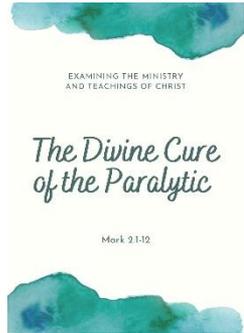
In 1854 he returned home to Scotland for some months but returned again in March 1855.

The well-known missionary, Hudson Taylor, arrived in China about this time. He and W. C. Burns became the closest of Christian friends. In January 1868 W. C. Burns became ill and passed away on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1868.

Rev Maurice Roberts

Free Church of Scotland Continuing

**Sermon Summary – 16 Aug 2020**  
**The Divine Cure of the Paralytic**  
– by Rev Jack Sin  
(Mark 8:27-38)



**1. The Reality of Knowing Christ v 27-29)**

Many are still confused about the identity of Christ today

- Some think he is a prophet, good man or philosopher

“Whom do men say that I am?”

- “And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.”
- Peter got the answer right and acknowledge Jesus as God  
Matt 16:17 - “Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”

The first 400 years had many church councils debating on this theme of the nature of Christ. The Council of Nicea in AD325 affirmed that Christ is fully God which we fully adhere to as well. The deity and humanity of Christ is still being undermined today by many cults.



The Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses are two in particular and they are active in Singapore. Both deny the deity of Christ among other false teachings.



**Date:** 325 AD

**Place:** Nicea

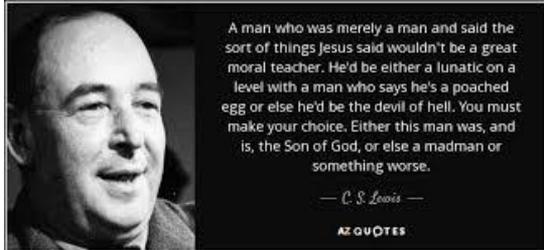
**Participants:** 318 representatives from five areas (Alexandria, Antioch, Rome, Constantinople, Jerusalem)

**Reason for Council:** Respond to Arianism & defend the faith

John 20:28-29 - "And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

- Jesus did not correct Thomas' statement of him as God but there is implicit acceptance of it. We need faith not sight to believe in Christ.
- Heb 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

CS Lewis, the famous apologist once taught this: 3 options concerning the claim of Christ that He is God.



He is either a: (1) Liar (2) Lunatic (3) Lord

There are no other options.

Option 1 - He is a mad man of unsound mind (but it's strange because He is teaching is sound, coherent & logical. And He also performed miracles to save others.)

Option 2 - He is a liar (but a liar will usually tell the truth at his point of death. But this "liar" died for a "lie". And more than 500 people also saw him after he was raised the dead. 1Cor 15:1-4) Across history, top legal minds like Frank Morrison, etc all sought to prove the "fraud or hoax" of Jesus' resurrection, but in the end was convinced and converted otherwise by the will of God.

Option 3 – Then He is truly the Son of the living God; He is truly who He said he is; God Himself.

## 2. The Requirement for Following Christ (v 30-34)

Mk 8:34 - "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

- Salvation is free, but discipleship comes with a cost. There is no cheap grace or easy believism.
- A true disciple needs to deny himself & take up his cross and follow Christ.
- A disciple of Christ needs to deny himself all the pleasurable things that are contradictory to bearing of the cross which symbolise death and suffering.
- A Christian may not be the most welcomed person in this world or in certain places and he may face persecution and testings.
- As a disciple of Christ, we need to take up the cross as we testify for Christ.

## 3. The Reason & Reward for Persevering in Christ (v 35-38)

Mk 8:35-36 - "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

***Pay the Price for the Prize;*** the reward is a life everlasting in Christ in heaven

Mk 8:38- "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

- Are we ashamed of the gospel or are we willing to bear the cross to stand for Christ even in trying time?
- Dare to stand for and with Christ and he will bless and preserve us to the end.

## Conclusion

Do you really know who Christ is?

Are you willing to believe in Him as your Saviour and to take up your cross & follow Jesus on His terms?

There must be the persevering of our faith to the end. Your soul is precious. Eternity is forever. What else could be more precious than a soul?

Seek the Lord while He may be found before it is too late.

Kim Meng

## Memory Verse

*John 9:31* Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! Kindly comply with the safety measures available on the notice boards. For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Jack Sin speaks today on “Blind Man Sees Again” (John 9:1-32), continuing the Jul to Sep 2020 theme of “Examining the Ministry & Teachings of Christ”.
3. Rev Tan Eng Boo speaks next Sunday on “Feeding 5000 Hungry Men” (John 6:1-15).
4. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service
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. The Church Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be held on Sat 29 Aug 2020 at 2pm via Zoom. The link will be sent to members during the week
8. Those who would like to help with the cleaning or safe management procedures of the church, please see Dn Yue Kay.
9. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
10. Pastor is still available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
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 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**

## *Examining the Ministry and Teachings of Christ*

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FROM JULY-SEP 2020

### **JULY**

**5**

The 3 Fold Focus of Christ's Ministry (Matthew 9:35-38)

**12**

The First Miracle at a Wedding (John 2:1-13)

**19**

The Beatitudes Explained (Matthew 5:1-12)

**26**

The Divine Cure of the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)

### **AUGUST**

**2**

The Healing of the Impotent Man (John 5:1-15)

**9**

The Demonstration of Faith (Luke 7:1-11)

**16**

The Eternal Profit of a Soul (Mark 8:27-38)

**23**

Blind Man Sees Again (John 9:1-32)

**30**

Feeding 5000 Hungry Men (John 6:1-15)

### **SEPTEMBER**

**6**

Overcoming Temptation by Christ (Matthew 4:1-13)

**13**

Christ as the Bread of Life (John 6:48-69)

**20**

Abiding in the True Vine (John 15:1-16)

### **GOSPEL SUNDAY**

The Light of the World (John 8:12-36)

REACH US!

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