

Arise!

Newsletter of the Rise Up Men of God Ministry

APRIL 2023 • ISSUE 4



Time is like an everrolling stream. She waits for no man and returns not tither.

Editorial

The Circuit Breaker in 2020 seems like a distant memory, and the Covid-19 pandemic feels like a lifetime ago. The moments of the day continue to fly hurriedly by, and the world rushes on – seemingly oblivious to all around.

Meanwhile, white hairs flourish, wrinkles begin to announce their arrival, the body starts to ache and joints begin to rattle a little.

The children also grow up. They now start to crawl and walk, study and talk, and will soon also gain their independence one day. In the lives of our children and grandchildren, we see how “the days are long, but the years are short”.

Threescore years and ten (seventy years) is but a short earthly sojourn. Our lives are but for a moment – only a vapour that appears for a moment and

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Online Archives

Missed a recent issue of Arise! or want to revisit a previous RMG article? The digital editions can be accessed at <https://calvarypandan.sg/fellowship-groups/rmg>



then vanishes away. (James 4:14b) We spend the years of our lives as a tale that is told. (Psalm 90:9) What does the story of your life tell, and what will it testify of?

Many are concerned with the duration of a man's life. But few are bothered about the impact of a man's life – the impact of his life on others for Christ. What matters is not how long we live, but how we live.

It is true that salvation is by faith alone. But true saving faith is never alone. Because it will always be accompanied by good works for "*we are his [God's] workmanship, created in Christ unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*" (Ephesians 2:10). Faith is the root of our salvation. Good works are the fruits of our salvation.

The Bible reminds us that it is better that we die well than to live badly (1 Peter 3:16-17, Ecclesiastes 7:1).

This was the mantra of many martyrs and saints of old who would rather suffer for the sake of Christ than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. This was how spiritual battles were fought and won by their strength of conviction upon God's Word.

What is conviction and how is conviction tested? The Christian conviction is faith in and obedience to God's Word, and what we will exchange for it. The saints of old obeyed till they breathed their last breath, and they paid for their conviction in God's Word with their lives. Why should our faith cost any

less or our obedience be any less hearty today?

“ May our sons and daughters know well the roots of our faith and may they remain filial and faithful until the day of His glorious appearing.

The Christian life is not merely a cloak of religion to be worn on Sundays and other formal occasions to confer an air of respectability or nobility or piousness.

The Christian life is a life of spiritual warfare, not church play. The Church of God today needs to continue to ignite the flame of "*holding forth the word of life*" (Phil 2:16) and of "*earnestly contending for the faith*" (Jude 3).

The danger today is that if the newer generation of Bible-Presbyterians (BP) do not know the faith of our spiritual forefathers who founded the BP movement against the strong tide of modernism and ecumenism upon the authority of God's Word alone, we might well be swept and carried away with it. We cannot merely pay lip service to the defence of the faith.

In the words of the Rev. Timothy Tow, founding father of the Singapore BP movement and founding pastor of the first Singapore BP church, "May our

sons and daughters know well the roots of our faith and may they remain filial and faithful until the day of His glorious appearing. Amen.”

In this issue, we will consider how a Christian ought to handle his money under the Pastoral segment. A Contemporary column is also featured this issue as we examine the precious doctrine of biblical separation. We do not rest in our regular theological diet under the segment on Theology as we seek to know the LORD our God, and also continue our journey through the lens of Rev. Timothy Tow in the Biography column as he recounts the early beginnings of his call to the fulltime ministry. The Home segment

provides a timely and succinct reminder to all Christian parents.

As always, we hope you enjoy reading and find this issue a blessing to you and your families. Our desires and hopes are that the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be highly exalted and praised through this newsletter; and that all readers will be led to a greater love and devotion to Jesus Christ the Living Word and the Bible which is the Written Word! ✝

Feel free to email Dn Adrian at hiswayisperfectforme@gmail.com or Dn Simon at chuahanyong@gmail.com for any feedback, sharing, or testimonies.



**RISE UP MEN OF GOD
MINISTRY**

*“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
Let all your things be done with charity.”*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

MISSION
Building up godly and spiritual Christian men, husbands, and fathers in the Lord

OBJECTIVES
A Bible-based and Christ-centered ministry to help Christian men, husbands and fathers to:

1. Be skillful in the Word of God and strong in their faith
2. Be godly heads of homes to lead their wives and children to follow Christ
3. Encourage, sharpen and provoke one another unto love and good works

For queries contact,
Dn Adrian | M: 9050 5803 | E: hiswayisperfectforme@gmail.com, or
Dn Simon | M: 8218 3570 | E: chuahanyong@gmail.com

9 am - 12.30pm | Calvary Pandan B-P Church, Main Sanctuary

OUR SANCTIFICATION:
Renewing minds, Reforming hearts and Transforming lives

2023
29 July (2nd Anniversary)
Our Sanctification - the work of the Holy Spirit
1 Peter 1: 1-12

13 November (PH)
Our Sanctification - the work of Scripture
John 17 : 6-19

2024
1st Quarter
Our Sanctification - the work of God
1 Thessalonians 4 : 1-12

2nd Quarter
Be ye holy; for I am holy
1 Peter 1 : 13-21

3rd Quarter
Meet for the Master’s use
2 Timothy 2 : 14-26

4th Quarter
Ready always to give an answer
1 Peter 3 : 8-22

All men are warmly welcome for lunch fellowship in church after the meeting



Contemporary Earnestly Contending

(Jude 3)

The doctrine of biblical separation is a precious fundamental doctrine. Both the Bible-Presbyterian Church in America and in Singapore were born out of their exercise of biblical separation in obedience to God’s Word. However, this doctrine is not merely a denominational Bible-Presbyterian distinctive. It is a biblical injunction.

While it is often applied in the context of separation from falsehood, false teachers, and false doctrines, biblical separation should primarily start with the believer’s separation from sin and unholiness in his own life.

The Bible categorically commands us to live holy and righteous lives, and separate from sin. *“For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what*

agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

The conjunction “wherefore” – which also means ‘consequently’ or ‘therefore’ - follows in the subsequent verse in 2 Corinthians 6:17, *“Wherefore [emphasis] come out from among them, and by ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”*

The believer is to sanctify himself and to be holy, for the LORD is his God (Leviticus 20:7). He is to be holy in all manner of conversation (1 Peter 1:15), and ought to be holy for God is holy (1 Peter 1:16).

The believer is to separate from sin and the world, from falsehood and heresies, and also from disorderly [immoral] (2 Thess 3:6) and schismatic brethren that cause divisions and cause others to sin (Romans 16:17-18).

“ We cannot merely know the Principles of the Faith; we must also be involved in the Protection of the Faith.

Biblical separation has been exercised in many spiritual battles that have been fought throughout Christendom. It is a doctrine that we must continue to hold on dearly to even in the spiritual battles that we have to fight today. As soldiers of Christ, we are to agonise and exert intense effort as we engage in constant and continuous spiritual battles with enemies from within and without. We are to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3).

We cannot merely know the Principles of the Faith; we must also be involved in the Protection of the Faith. Apart from knowing the Faith, it is also our duty to defend the Faith.

In every generation, there will be spiritual battles to be fought. We will have our own spiritual battles to fight in these last days, just as the Reformers had

in their time during the 16th Century Reformation. The sons of the faith must be faithful and have faith!

While the battles may be different, the weapons are not. *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds”* (2 Corinthians 10:4). This will invariably involve the exercise and application of the doctrine of biblical separation.

The doctrine of Biblical separation is a doctrine of preservation (a doctrine which preserves and protects). Dr Jeffrey Khoo draws an analogy to that of the “white blood cells in our body that seek and destroy any invading virus or bacterium, separation keeps the Church pure and free from false teachers and heresies.”

Excerpt from "Biblical Separation: Doctrine of Church Purification and Preservation"

Every Christian should be a fundamentalist. A true and faithful Christian believes in the fundamentals of the Faith and defends them. To defend the Christian Faith, the Christian must separate himself from all forms of unbelief and apostasy. A true fundamentalist is a true separatist.

In the Westminster Shorter Catechism Q4, *“What is God?”* The answer is *“God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.”* Vincent

defines the holiness of God as “his essential property, whereby he is infinitely pure; loveth and delighteth in his own purity, and in all the resemblances of it which any of his creatures have; and is perfectly free from all impurity, and hateth it wherever he seeth it” (Thomas Vincent, *The Shorter Catechism of The Westminster Assembly Explained and Proved from Scripture* [Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth, 1674], 31).

“ We separate from all forms of unbelief and apostasy because it is God’s nature to separate from such.

The essential element of holiness is that of separation. Separation is intrinsic to the doctrine of holiness. We separate from all forms of unbelief and apostasy because it is God’s nature to separate from such. The God of the Bible is a God who is holy. Being holy, He demands the same from His people. God said in both the OT and NT, “*Ye shall be holy, for I the LORD your God, am holy*” (Lev 19:1, 1 Pet 1:16). Buswell said that our code of Christian conduct is, “ultimately derived from the holy character of God Himself. Right is

right and wrong is wrong, ultimately because God is holy. We have knowledge of what is right and what is wrong because God’s holy character has been revealed by His holy will” (J O Buswell, *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1962], 1:67). That is why as Christians, being identified with the holy God, we are called saints. The word “saint” is the Greek *hagios* which means “holy one.” The “os” ending of the adjective denotes the idea of possession (Chamberlain, *Grammar*, 13). In other words, a *hagios* is one who is characterised by holiness. It must be clarified that when we say a Christian is characterised by holiness, we do not mean he is sinlessly perfect. What we do mean is that as saints, we have been declared righteous, and are positionally sanctified. But victory is ours when we walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Rom 8:1-4). Therefore, as we progress in our Christian pilgrimage on earth, we should grow more and more Christlike, and be separated from the world and her evil ways.



Excerpted from [*Biblical Separation: Doctrine of Church Purification and Preservation*](#) by Jeffery Khoo. Originally published by Far Eastern Bible College Press © 1999, 2004

SERMON for the DAY

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@SERMON4DAY

In Understanding Be Men

(1 Timothy 4:16)

THE NATURE AND ATTRIBUTE OF GOD

The infinite God is immeasurable. Our finite mind cannot even begin to comprehend infinity or what it really means to be immeasurable.

Furthermore, we cannot only have a portion of infinity, for infinity cannot be added to or subtracted from. It is also indivisible. It cannot be divided or multiplied. Such is the attribute of God's infinitude.

The Lord Jesus Christ, who is the infinite Creator God, died for sinful finite man so that the sons of man might become the sons of God. God's infinite righteousness is imputed in full to those whom He has elected before the foundation of the world, and in its intinite fullness in Christ. What free and full salvation we have indeed!

The sincere study of the infinite Triune God ought to bring fearful and trembling sinners to their knees

in repentance and worship, and draw children of God to a deeper devotion and greater love for their Heavenly Father.

Excerpt from 'Fundamentals of the Christian Faith'

WLC QUESTION 7

Q | What is God?

A | God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Nature of God

God is a Person

God is a real, actual, distinctive, self-conscious individual or being. God said, “*I AM THAT I AM*” (Exod 3:14, John 8:58; cf 7 “I am” declarations in John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1). He is the Self-existent One. He has existed since eternity past and will continue to exist till eternity future. He is a personal entity, and has a personal identity. As such, God is capable of having a personal relationship with man (Gen 3:8-9, Deut 14:2, Rev 3:20). He is not like an idol of wood, metal, clay, or stone. He is a living Person who hears, sees, thinks, feels, and acts (Acts 14:15, 1 Thess 1:9, Ps 94:9-10).

God is One

There is only one God, and He has revealed Himself in the Bible. Deut 6:4 says, “*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD*” (See also Isa 44:6-8, 45:5, 1 Cor 8:4, 1 Tim 2:5).

WLC QUESTION 8

Q | Are there more Gods than one?

A | There is but one only, the living and true God.

God is a Spirit

God is not a finite, corporeal being (John 4:24). In the Bible, human terms referring to God must be understood figuratively (see Exod 3:20, 6:6, Deut 4:34, 5:15, Isa 37:17, 59:1, Ps 11:4; cf Ps 91:4). When God

appeared as man in the OT, it was God the Son who appeared in His preincarnate form (Gen 12:7, 18:1, 32:30; cf John 1:18, 2 Cor 4:6).

Attributes of God

God is infinite (Job 11:7, 1 Kings 8:27), eternal (Ps 90:2), unchangeable (Ps 102:25-27, Heb 13:8) in His:

Natural Attributes

The following are God’s incommunicable attributes. These are attributes which God alone possesses.

Being. God is omnipresent (Ps 139:7-12). He is not limited by time or space. He is present everywhere and everything is present before Him. He has always existed—past, present, future (Ps 90:1-2, Isa 44:6, Rev 1:8, 21:6, 22:13). He will not change in His character or personality (Mal 3:6, Heb 13:8, James 1:17).

Wisdom. God is omniscient. He knows all things — past, present, future (Acts 15:18, Ps 147:4-5, 1 John 3:20, Prov 15:3, Matt 10:29-30).

Power. God is omnipotent. He is absolutely powerful over everything in both the physical and the spiritual realm (Job 42:2, Gen 18:14, Matt 19:26, Luke 1:37, Rev 19:6). It must, however, be noted that it is impossible for God to do anything against His nature and will. For example, God cannot sin (Heb 6:18).

Moral Attributes

The following are God's communicable attributes. These attributes are also found in man who is made in God's image.

Holiness. God is sinless (Lev 11:44-45). He is perfect in His moral character and judgment. He is, therefore, the standard of all ethical laws (Rev 4:8, Rom 7:12). The commandments of God are holy because they come from a holy God.

Justice. God is just and fair in His dealings with man (Ps 89:14). God cannot and does not overlook sin (Rom 6:23). His justice is reflected in the Law of Moses (Rom 7:12). See, for example, the *lex taliones* or "the law of retaliation" (Lev 24:17- 22). God's justice is also seen in Christ's death on the cross in payment for the penalty of sin so that we can receive eternal life.

Goodness. God is good and gracious (Ps 119:68, 145:9, Matt 5:45, 2 Pet 3:9).

Truth. God is characterised by truth. He is sincere, honest, and truthful. There is no falsehood in Him (Titus 1:2, Heb 6:18, 10:23). His truthful character is attested by the Scriptures which is Truth (John 8:30-32, 17:17).

Questions for Discussion

1. What are the differences between the God of the Bible and the gods of other religions?
2. How should we, as Christians, respond to this omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent God?



Excerpted from *Fundamentals of the Christian Faith. A Reformed and Premillennial Study of Christian Basics* by Jeffrey Khoo. Published by FEBC Bookroom © 1997, 1999 & 2005

Calvary Pandan Bible Presbyterian Church

CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"
(Rom 10:17)

Every 1st Saturday of every month at 5pm

Current Theme:

Christ's Family, We Are!

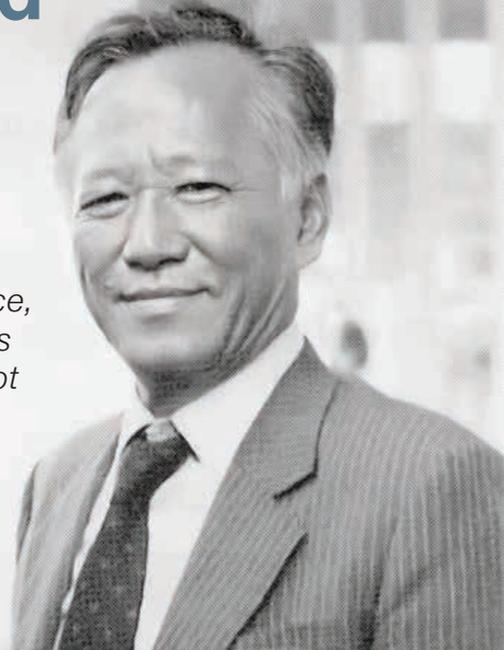
Biography

He Being Dead Yet Speaketh

(Hebrews 11:4b)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:1-2



(Rev. Timothy Tow, Source: True Life BPC)

The Apostle Paul's plea to the Corinthian Christians ought to be every believer's response to the Gospel.

The conjunction "therefore" points back to the basis of Paul's appeal. In the preceding 11 chapters in Romans, Paul had written the divinely inspired theological treatise of salvation by justification in the merits of Jesus Christ for all who believe, and the imputation of God's righteousness upon all who belong to Him.

One's response to the Gospel is highly dependent on his view of the Gospel. We must not have a low view of the Gospel. The Gospel contains the

infinite grace, mercy and wisdom of a Just God who is Himself the Justifier, justifying unjust and sinful men without Himself becoming unjust!

The believer's only reasonable response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, having received and experienced the mercies of God, is to live a life of self-sacrifice, service and separation from the world unto Christ – which is but our reasonable service.

However, the devil's lie to young men is that "You are only young once. You only live once; do whatever you want." This statement in itself is not entirely wrong, because we must not

merely exist. Indeed, we ought to live life. But we ought only to live our lives for Christ alone!

The devil's lie is that to be happy in this life is to be unholy! Your life on earth is too precious to be given as a holy sacrifice unto God, the devil insinuates. The devil lures unsuspecting and naïve men and women to pursue happiness outside God, which will turn out to be the greatest process of frustration in their entire life. Any pursuit of happiness outside Christ is vanity of vanities, for true happiness can only be the by-product of godliness and holiness.

“ We may not be called to the full-time ministry as a minister of the Gospel, but we are called full-time as God's children to wherever He has placed us.

The world calls us to a life of fleshy, sinful carnality camouflaged amongst luxury, worldly degrees and accolades. The simpleton is led steadily, step by step, until he is unknowingly fully immersed in the philosophy and lifestyle of the world. Instead of putting the world behind us and the cross before us, the Christian runs headlong into the world

with the cross behind him and the world before him!

We are exhorted to “be not conformed to this world.” Children of God are called to be non-conformists! We are not to conform to the thinking and philosophy and lifestyle of this carnal sinful world.

For Rev. Timothy Tow, the world beckoned with her glittery array of apparent grandeur and pomp in the legal profession with his acceptance to London University and Middle Temple. But God had also called him to a life of full-time ministry. He responded by yielding his life to the call of the Gospel in his life to become a full-time minister of the Gospel in accordance with God's good and acceptable and perfect will in his life.

We may not be called to the full-time ministry as a minister of the Gospel, but we are called full-time as God's children to wherever He has placed us. God's call for us in our secular positions and places of work are not any lesser than calls of God to the full-time ministry. We must yield and submit to the leading of God in our lives – some to the ministry but all to the altar. The Christian's calling to his secular vocation demands no less toil or faith or trust in his workplace as the minister of the Gospel. He, too, must present himself as a living sacrifice on the altar unto God, in complete and total surrender to the perfect will of God in his life.

The perfect will of God in each of our lives is both good and acceptable (well-

“That is not to say all will be easy with blue skies and fair winds. The Chinese have a saying - 万事开头难。”

pleasing) to each of us in our lives as we yield our lives to Christ, and good and acceptable in God's sight as we submit in obedience to His holy will for us in our lives.

That is not to say all will be easy with blue skies and fair winds. The Chinese have a saying - 万事开头难。 This Mandarin idiom means “every beginning is difficult”, or “getting started is always hard.” Walk through the difficult early beginnings of pastoral life through the lens of Rev. Timothy – a life he chose to live to submit to that good and acceptable and perfect will of God in his life:

Excerpt from 'Son of a Mother's Vow'

To be a pastor is not taking on a profession, much less a vacation, but a vocation. To become a pastor, one must be prepared for every eventuality, Jesus says, *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world,*

and lose his own soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26). While Shakespeare says he who is afraid to die, dies a hundred times, Jesus says he who is not afraid to die lives all the time.

As the young congregation of 30 English-speaking members transferred from the mother church had little strength, and yet it chose to be financially independent, the pastor was prepared to go the whole way with the Lord, as with the early disciples. And in the spirit of St Paul, he would put no burden at all on the embryo church (I Corinthians 9:11-12). All the freewill offerings from the collections on the Lord's Day, from both worship service and Sunday School would be his salary. The first month's collections amounted to \$110. The pastor received this reverently and thankfully as from the Lord. But in no time his pay was increased to \$200. By 1958 he was drawing \$350. But the Lord also supplied him with an honorarium of \$100 for teaching at Chin Lien Bible School. With his wife's pay from her job as a Government midwife, the pastor's growing family could live frugally, happily.

For transportation in the pastoral ministry, wherein the young pastor visited everyone of his members in those days, even when it grew to 200, he found the speediest and most economical means was by riding a BSA racing bicycle costing \$165, a gift from a sister. This was jogging on wheels which kept the Lord's servant fit as a fiddle.

For housing, which was a most acute problem after WWII, the Lord wonderfully caused the European manager of the SIT (Singapore Improvement Trust), forerunner of HDB (Housing & Development Board) to let

him have a three-room flat in Tiong Bahru. (In 1950 there was a queue of 50,000 applying for Government housing.) Through a phone conversation with Mr Carter, the manager by

“ The weeks following found the congregation dwindling to half! This is what Church work is like, and that is how God keeps us humble.

which I was favourably received, the Lord enabled me “to run through a troop and leap over a wall” (Psalm 18:29). The three-room flat at 104 Kim Pong Road became not only the young pastor's residence but also the office of Life Church English Service for the next twelve years until the English congregation found a new home at Gilstead Road in 1962.

Starting out on my life's ministry as a pastor in fulfilment of Mother's vow was thrilling business for me. I was my own boss. I had all the time in my hands. I was to lead and not to be led. I was to implement and not be implemented. As I have taught my students both at Chin Lien Bible School and Far Eastern Bible College, I was like a lion, the king of the beasts, monarch of all I surveyed. It was up to me to go out and forage, to conquer new territory for the

Lord's domain. But a king lion could also sleep seventeen hours a day. It all depended on me!

Although the Inaugural Service on October 20, 1950 saw a crowd of a hundred and twenty, the weeks following found the congregation dwindling to half! This is what Church work is like, and that is how God keeps us humble. According to the Chinese Life Church records, only thirty communicants transferred to the English Service together with their children. Our core membership, including children, was between forty and fifty.

As the flock was young and needed more care than an older congregation, visitation was next to sermonisation. In order to move about freely, I asked Sister for a bicycle. This would save time and money waiting for a bus. This would simultaneously provide good exercise to my body. Besides all these reasons, the chief one was I liked cycling. I had been cycling throughout my school life, even to Raffles College and to the Supreme Court right through the Japanese Occupation. I chose a maroon-and-white BSA racer costing S\$165.

I breezed through the length and breadth of the city not only to visit the young flock but also to Chin Lien Bible School in the Geylang-Katong suburbs to teach. This speed-steed became my travelling companion for about two years before I inherited an old 8 h.p. Ford Anglia from Father with a leaking rubberised roof.

“Economy is the mother of prosperity.” By not easily spending out of Church funds, the young English Church began to accumulate

a surplus for extended ministries beyond its four walls.

While it is stated that the Life Church English Service was to cater to a rising English-educated generation, the overall mandate to any and every church is what is known as the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). However, I would also call the Great Commission “The First Commandment to the Church”. It would be a great mistake for any pastor to sit in his sheepfold and watch that none stray into another pasture. Such a defensive policy is defeatist. Rather, we should heed the Master’s call to bring in the other sheep, those wandering in faraway valleys or on mountain slopes, those who are crying for help. The First Commandment to the Church, as has been proven through the years, is evangelism and missions.

Since Quek [Kiok Chiang] and I were members of the John Sung Preaching Bands, we renewed our covenant to preach the Word outside the four walls of the Church at least once a week. We took an active part in a “rehabilitated” Evangelistic League under the care of Miss Leona Wu, for the

“ We should heed the Master’s call to bring in the other sheep, those wandering in faraway valleys or on mountain slopes, those who are crying for help.



Rev. Tow and Ms Leona Wu, Chin Lien Bible School (Source: True Life BPC)

Preaching Bands were disbanded during the years of Japanese Occupation. We involved ourselves with a new outreach into Johore State across the Causeway. One John Sung old-timer not to be left out was Deacon C.T. Hsu. To preach Christ in his own unique way he had an old Ford car written all over with salvation slogans. Deacon Hsu especially was attracted to my testimony. He remained a loyal and loving friend, supporting my ministry wherever I was called, to the day the Lord called him home. He used to send me a cheque at Christmas for ice-cream. Ordained a minister of the Gospel in 1956, he served the Lord for 40 years to the very last.

Excerpt from 'Forty years on the road to Church Growth'

... On the home front, we saw the opening of the Sunday School one month after the inauguration of the church. In succession were formed the Youth Fellowship, then a Bible Camp, the first of its kind to be organised in Singapore. From the beginning, a Prayer Meeting was held in Church every Wednesday night. When a Friday night Family Worship was instituted, the Prayer Meeting was shifted up to Tuesday, a tradition we have kept to this day. A more permanent work of indoctrination, however, was carried out every Sunday morning with a group of zealous young people studying the Bible together in the Government quarters of Elder Heng Mui Kiah at Hooper Road. The pastor took them through the Gospel of John.

Gospel meetings followed suit whenever well-known evangelists were contacted. Church attendance increased slowly but steadily. So did finance and the pastor's stipend. These beginnings of a young pastor bring to mind that Chinese proverb, "Every beginning is difficult."



Excerpted from *Son of a Mother's Vow* by Rev. (Dr.) Timothy Tow. Published by FEBC Bookroom © 2001



Excerpted from *Forty years on the road to Church Growth* by Rev. (Dr.) Timothy Tow. Published by Christian Life Publishers © 1993

Men's FELLOWSHIP OVER PRAWNING

Exhortation Luk 5:1-10
Fisher of Men

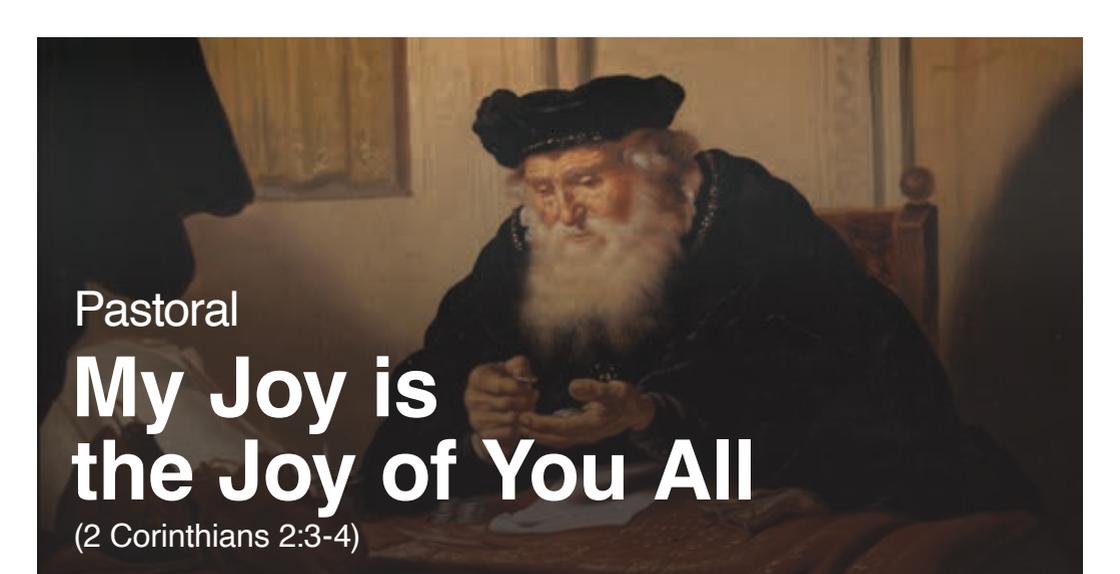
Private Pond

BBQ Prawns

18 Feb 2023 @
Urban Prawning

BBQ Lunch

RISE UP MEN of GOD MEETUP EVENT



Pastoral

My Joy is the Joy of You All

(2 Corinthians 2:3-4)

The pastoral heart of the Apostle Paul for the Corinthian Christians was palpable as he poured out his heart for them. His burden and love for them in the Lord was expressed in his anguish of heart and his many tears when they lived in sin and were steeped in their ungodly ways. It was also seen in his joy and rejoicing when they repented of their sins in godly repentance.

Paul was not content with preaching merely to get the truth out through his mouth. He also cared deeply for the spiritual welfare of the Corinthian Christians. He desired that they not only heard the truth of God's Word, but that they also understood and obeyed God's Word in their lives.

In similar fashion, Rev. Tow also dispensed godly biblical advice out of the infinite wisdom of God's Word from the book of Proverbs like a godly grandfather to his spiritual children and

grandchildren in the faith. Rev. Tow used rich illustrations so that the commoner and simpleton could also understand and love God's Word, and apply these wonderful truths in their lives.

The Singapore success story is a model for many economic textbooks. Her transformation from a sleepy fishing village to the affluent first world county she is today within four to five decades is nothing short of remarkable. Today, it is not unreasonable to refer to Singapore as an economic powerhouse with her highly educated workforce and high GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

“**Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.**”

However, the modern material society of Singapore is frequently described as a dog-eat-dog world. It is often heard that one must rise up to vanquish others in order to survive and thrive in Singapore, as well as in life in general.

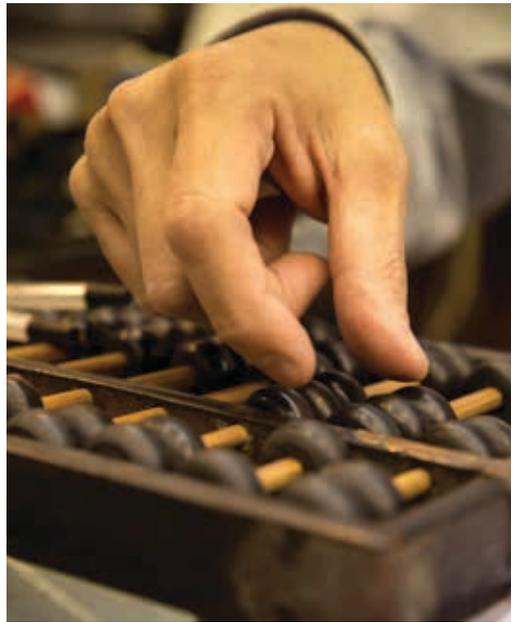
Many say that life in Singapore is a survival of the fittest. To survive, one must take advantage of others. This gave rise to the very selfish and uncharitable spirit of the “*kiasu*” (afraid to lose in Hokkien) and “*kiasi*” (afraid to die in Hokkien) Singaporean that pounces on every opportunity to exploit and take advantage of his neighbour for his own gain and enrichment. This has resulted in a miserly and stingy way of living for many Singaporeans.

How should the Christian view his possessions, handle his money, and do his business? Rev. Timothy Tow provides pastoral advice regarding this matter from wisdom of Proverbs 3:27-28.

Excerpt from 'Pearls of Great Wisdom'

“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.” (Proverbs 3:27,28)

Having stressed the paramount importance of the spiritual, Solomon now deals with the earthly. This is his first instruction on our economic life. He observes



how the economically strong exploits the weak. He puts it in his own way what Moses has declared, first in Lev. 19:13, “*Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.*” A towkay must pay his employee on time. To defer only one day is exploitation. “*In any case thou shalt deliver him the pledge again when the sun goeth down, that he may sleep in his own raiment, and bless thee: and it shall be righteousness unto thee before the LORD thy God*” (Deut. 24:13). A poor man may pawn his blanket with his rich friend. The law says he can get the blanket back in the night for a brief season, but hand it back the next day. To deny him this privilege is unrighteous (Deut. 24:12).

Moses continues, “*Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or*

of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates: At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee.” (Deut. 24:14,15).

In Jer. 22:13, the prophet cries out, *“Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour’s service without wages, and giveth him not for his work;”* How often we see this in ungrateful wives of rich men. Instead of paying their contractor promptly they take advantage of their position to over-criticize their work and cut off their wages.

Coming back to Prov. 3:27, it is interesting to note that this verse is followed by *“Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.”* (v.28). Such procrastination to do good when it is in the power of their hand to do it is condemned by the Apostle James, *“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?”* (Jas. 2:15,16).

In our modern context, we have been fully tested in our Pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Not being used to tipping in Singapore, we Singaporeans can become stingy when travelling abroad where it is expected. No doubt those who serve us in hotels, in airports, in restaurants, in driving us from place to place, are paid, but their pay is meagre. So they expect a tip from you. The

law of tipping is you tip more if your servant serves you more.

Now, when we tip below the expected sum when we have every means of doing it, we get a cold shoulder when we leave. But when we tip just a little above the scale, you have the whole waiter force lined up to wish you goodbye. They truly bless you. We have learned one thing in our travel to the Holy Land and that is to tip liberally. Then you are served like kings. And they who are blessed, bless you in return.

How about private tipping? Do you leave a dollar or two on the hotel bed everyday they make your bed? It is a hard job making bed, but by your tip you can wipe away the sweat on their brows. And they bless you!

When your servant goes out of the way to please you, tip him right away. In one of the sailings across the Sea of Galilee, when the Jesus Boat stopped for the pastor to preach the Word, suddenly the Singapore Flag was hoisted, while it burst out patriotically *“Mari kita rakyat Singapura ...”* The fifty of us spontaneously and proudly stood at attention. We were pleasantly lifted up in our spirits 5,000 miles from home. As leader I ordered that a tip of US\$20 be given to the crew. Were they surprised also, since it came from a non-tipping Singapore?



Excerpted from *Pearls of Great Wisdom* by Rev. Timothy Tow.
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The Christian Home

A Holy Priesthood

(Deuteronomy 6:7)

“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 2:1-5

Excerpt from ' Building Firm Foundations'

Alvin Toffler in his book Future Shock predicts that the trend of the future is for parents to relinquish their parental responsibility to experts to raise their children. Other prophets of gloom claim that the traditional family is near the point of extinction. Working parents are too preoccupied with their own lives to have any time for their children, so the argument goes.

As believers and people of God, what do we say to these? Has God's ordained basic pattern for society outrun its usefulness? Has the traditional family become irrelevant? Our answer is: God's standards for the family

and pattern for society remain unchanged. They are essential for the survival and well-being of the race, now as before. In the face of godless and decadent trends the time-honoured establishment of home and family are even more relevant and important than ever.

Christian parents, your responsibility to your children is paramount. It takes priority over career, pleasures, hobbies or anything else. God commands believing parents to be priests or pastors to their children. To do this effectively, they must love the Lord with heart, soul and might. Then they must teach God's Word diligently to their children, setting them the example by faithfully obeying the same Word of God in their own lives.

“ As God’s instruments, Christian parents must equip themselves thoroughly in God’s Word.

Like people, like priest; like parents, like children! As God’s instruments, Christian parents must equip themselves thoroughly in God’s Word, or they will not be able to instruct their children. But the most effective lesson is the life they live. Parents who neglect their God-given responsibilities do so to their own great regret in later life, for delinquent parents breed delinquent children.

Once a preacher was describing how some parents fail to pray with their children at night and similarly begin the day without

committing the family to God. A little girl listened attentively, then turned to her mother and innocently whisper, “Mummy, is he talking about you?” Taken unawares, and pierced by the child’s question, the mother was convicted of her sin. That night she repented in tears on her knees and began to pray with her child morning and night faithfully ever afterwards.

Memorise this verse with your family:

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

(Deut 6:5)



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