

Arise!

Newsletter of the Rise Up Men of God Ministry
April 2024 • Issue 6

All Haste is of the Devil

Hurry seems to be the
infection of this modern age.
The virus of hurry causes a
global pandemic.

EDITORIAL

**The Will and
Providence
of God**

THEOLOGY

**McIntire
Maxims**

WISDOM

**Redeeming
the Time**

REFLECTION

**Success in
Christian
Ministry**

SERVICE

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“Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein.” (Jeremiah 6:16a)

Hurry seems to be the infection of this modern age. The virus of hurry causes a global pandemic.

An early church father, Jerome, who translated the Bible into the Latin Vulgate, is credited with the popular maxim “All haste is of the devil” (*Omnis festinatio ex parte diaboli est*).

The mark of a highly successful individual today is seen as one whose schedule is packed to the brim and who busies himself multi-tasking in as many board meetings and directorships as possible.

Alas, men today frequently make haste in the wrong direction. Instead of hastening to repent of sin and to Christ, men today hasten to the world, to lust, and to sin!

Stand and See

There is possibly even a sick notion that a man is wasting his time if he stops to pray, ponder, and wait upon the LORD.

This sickness of time springs from the delusion that time is accelerating, and we must speed ourselves up to keep up. Everything screams for our immediate attention and decision. “Opportunity cost” they reason!

There is a flurry of activity all around: many meetings, discussions and hustles.

I wonder if man has much ado about nothing in all his enterprises and endeavours. There is a want of thought and thinking of our mortality and the destiny of our souls.

The prophet Jeremiah exhorted Judah during her last days amid their idolatry and apostasy. Alas, they did not heed the LORD's plea and warning. They continued to sow to the flesh, reaping a lifetime of sorrow and regret that also cursed future generations because they failed to stand in their ways, to see and to ask for the old paths and the good ways.

The Good Way and the Old Path

The devil promises riches, fame, power and pleasure. The Lord Jesus Christ promises us rest for our souls.

There is only one way to God the Father – through the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. All must come by this same way and this old path!

What other remedy is there when one turns away from the old paths of the old faith and turn one's back on the good way of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? There is no remedy but tragedy!

In the mad rush of today's modern society infected by busyness and hurriedness, men of God must stand still in their ways, see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk therein.

**By grace alone,
through faith
alone, in Christ
alone, by the
Holy Scriptures
alone!
Soli deo gloria!**

In these last days of apostasy and falsehood, one must walk circumspectly lest he be deceived and falter so close to the finish line.

The clarion call of the 16th Century Reformation continues to ring loudly and distinctly in these last days. It is still the same old path of the 16th Century Reformation that leads to the way of Christ and the

way of the cross.

By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, by the Holy Scriptures alone! Soli deo gloria!

Quo Vadis Frater Meus?

Quo vadis frater meus is Latin for "Where are you going my brother?"

Where are you rushing off to in life?

Men of God, will you stand in your ways this day and consider these words in your heart before the LORD to continue to walk in the good and old path today? ✠

As always, if you have a testimony to share, a book to recommend, a question to raise or perhaps feedback on how we can improve to cater to you or your family's spiritual needs, please do not hesitate to write to Dn. Adrian (hiswayisperfectforme@gmail.com), or Dn. Simon (chuahanyong@gmail.com)



The Will and Providence of God

The Will of God

Christians often speak of finding God's will as if it is lost, or a mystery that cannot be known. Some talk about running away from God's will as if the decisions and rebellion of man can thwart God's divine and eternal decrees.

God's will is not some fortunate stroke of serendipity. While man may appear to have the freedom to choose in this life (even to sin), God will providentially rule and overrule all his choices and contingencies to synthesise every single detail perfectly according to the wise working and divine providence of His own will, without excusing sinful men.

There is no randomness or confusion in this life. Everything ticks in perfect harmony with celestial precision according to God's infinite and eternal counsel as God had ordained before the foundation of the world according to His good pleasure. (Isaiah 46:9-10)

The Providence of God

Providence is the twin doctrine of creation. This is a most comforting doctrine to God's children to know that there are no accidents in this universe. What heavenly consolation to know that every single detail in this universe has been "*predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*" (Ephesians 1:11)

Everything in this life is ordained according to the sovereign and eternal decrees of the LORD God by the free and immutable counsel of His own will and for His glory.

The Providence of God is seen in all things. It is seen in the greatest of things and the least of objects. It is seen in the appointment of powers, governments and authorities, and also in the provision of the insignificant, small, and weak.

In many instances, God's providence may be seen in many things we enjoy daily

with faithful regularity, such as air, rain and sunshine. In his finite mind, man refers to such regular and recurring precise phenomena as science because they are repeatable and reproducible. Terms such as “water cycle”, “oxygen cycle”, etc. are coined, and man put their trust in the faithfulness of such cycles to continue sustaining life. But they fail to see and acknowledge the hand of God.

Sometimes, God’s providence is seen in unexpected provision or deliverance. And man labels these near-misses as mere luck and good fortune instead of God’s mercy and protection.

The Providence of God is in All Things

Creation is under the supervision and wise care of the Creator God. Nothing happens by chance. The hand of God is seen clearly by the believer in every sphere.

Every blade of grass. Every drop in the ocean. Every ray of sunlight. Every electron in the atmosphere. Every atom of every particle. They are all carefully measured in God’s divine balance. (Isaiah 44:24, 45:5-8, 18)

God is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. He knows all things all at the same time. God measures the exact speed of the mighty whirlwind and calibrates the precise magnitude of the powerful and terrible earthquake to the minutest decimal point. He also knows when each leaf breaks off its branch in autumn and drifts gently down to fall onto the pavement. God superintends every iota of detail.



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 skilful 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,

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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

2024

10 April (PH)

Be ye holy; for I am holy

1 Peter 1 : 13-21

31 August (3rd Anniversary)

Meet for the Master's use

2 Timothy 2 : 14-26

31 October (PH)

Ready always to give an answer

1 Peter 3 : 8-22

The Providence of God is at All Times

There is the macroscopic architecture of God's providence. There is also the attentive microscopic detail of celestial design. And then, there is also the punctuality of divine providence. Everything in God's plan is perfect, and perfectly on time.

A plane navigates its flight path under the pilot's watchful eye. The ship meanders along the vast oceans with the captain at the helm, steering her in her course. But God is no mere pilot or captain steering creation along. The pilot and captain may steer the plane and ship, but are helpless against great storms and powerful tsunamis.

God takes care of every realm of creation, and there is no condition or influence in this entire creation that is not under the sovereign power of the Omnipotent and Almighty God who neither slumbers nor sleep. No, not for a single split of a millisecond! All creation moves perfectly synchronously and harmoniously according to God's infinite and eternal decrees, under the Creator's watchful and loving eye.

The Providence of God is Not Blind

Be not mistaken to confuse providence with fatalism.

Fate is blind. It is random and uncertain. There is no purpose and no design. In fate, there is only fear and trepidation about the unknown morrow.

But the providence of God is an intricate tapestry that is perfectly woven with countless events, people, and moments according to God's divine appointment. And all things, even the foolishness and evil and wicked designs of sinful creatures will work together for God's

glory, and for the good of God's children according to God's eternal decrees.

There is great comfort and assurance in the certainty of the providence of an all-wise and gracious and merciful God.

The providence of God allows the believer to see the hand of God at every turn, in every circumstance and situation, and at every moment. The believer can rejoice and give thanks in everything, for he knows that this is the will of God for him in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18).

The providence of God is a marvelous and grand display of God's infinite wisdom, power, mercy, grace, and love!

The providence of God allows the believer to see the hand of God at every turn, in every circumstance and situation, and at every moment.

Excerpt from "Westminster Confession of Faith (Adapted)" and "Westminster Larger Catechism (Adapted)"

Note: Portions of the text have been edited for clarity.

WCF Chapter 5: Of Providence

————— WCF V:1-4, 7 —————

1. God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.
2. Although, in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first Cause, all things come to pass immutably, and infallibly; yet, by the same **providence**, He ordereth them to fall out, according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently.
3. God, in His ordinary providence, maketh use of means, yet is free to work without, above, and against them, at His pleasure.
4. The Almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God so far manifest themselves in His **providence**, that it extendeth itself even to the first fall, and all other sins of angels and men; and

that not by a bare permission, but such as hath joined with it a most wise and powerful bounding, and otherwise ordering, and governing of them, in a manifold dispensation, to His own holy ends; yet so, as the sinfulness thereof proceedeth only from the creature, and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.

7. As the **providence** of God doth, in general, reach to all creatures; so, after a most special manner, it taketh care of His church, and disposeth all things to the good thereof.

WCF Chapter 3: Of God's Eternal Decree

————— WCF III:1-2 —————

1. God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.
2. Although God knows whatsoever may or can come to pass upon all supposed conditions, yet hath He not **decreed** anything because He foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.

WLC Question12

Q. What are the decrees of God?

- A. God's decrees are the wise, free, and holy acts of the counsel of his will, whereby, from all eternity, he has, for his own glory, unchangeably foreordained; whatsoever comes to pass in time, especially concerning angels and men.

WLC Question13

Q. What has God especially decreed concerning angels and men?

- A. God, by an eternal and immutable decree, out of His mere love, for the praise of His glorious grace, to be manifested in due time, has elected some angels to glory; and in Christ has chosen some men to eternal life, and the means thereof: and also, according to His sovereign power, and the unsearchable counsel of His own will (whereby He extends or withholds favor as He pleases), has passed by and foreordained the rest to dishonor and wrath, to be for their sin inflicted, to the praise of the glory of His justice.

WLC Question14

Q. How does God execute His decrees?

- A. God executes His decrees in the works of creation and providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will.



Excerpted from [*Westminster Confession of Faith \(Adapted\)*](#)
Published by Calvary Pandan
B-P Church © 2009



Excerpted from [*Westminster Larger Catechism \(Adapted\)*](#)
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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:

Trouble, Trouble, Trouble

Spiritual Life Thermometer

This article was adapted from Rev. Timothy Tow's translation of Wang Ming Dao's counsel on Spiritual Life Thermometer.

Unhealthy Spiritual Life

1. Lethargic in prayer.
2. Bible-reading insipid.
3. Anxious and doubting.
4. Loving worldly things.
5. Refuse to repent.
6. Seeking self-glory.
7. Much worrying.
8. Murmuring.
9. Sad and sighing.
10. Easily provoked.
11. Esteeming self better than others.
12. Seeking to please man.
13. Covet earthly things.
14. Criticize others.
15. No desire to witness.
16. Stingy and unwilling to give.
17. Jealous of others.
18. Fail to weep with those who weep.
19. Not willing to forgive.
20. Clothing first.
21. Desire for carnal rather than godly fellowship.
22. Happy to be flattered.
23. Flatter others.
24. Do not keep the Lord's Day holy.
25. Worship is dull.
26. Filled with head knowledge only.
27. Fear man rather than God.
28. No thought on the Lord's return.
29. Play the fool.
30. Do not number his days.



Adapted from [Wang Ming Tao on Temptation](#) translated by Timothy Tow.
Published by Far Eastern Bible College Press © 1997

Will of God

Voyage of Life — We are all on a voyage of life. We set sail from birth through this vast ocean of life. We survey the expanse of ocean waters, gaze upon the horizons, and hope one day to reach that safe eternal and heavenly harbour at the end of this voyage. But where do we go from here, and what do we do in between?



God's Word - The Believer's Compass In Life

God's children are not lost amidst life's vast ocean. They are not left directionless or helpless. God's children have the privilege of God's Word as their compass to navigate this voyage of life.

In God's Word, they receive divine revelation. They have the revealed truth about everything they need to know about this voyage of life - life and death, heaven and hell, and how to get there.

The world, in all its tempestuous storms, may bring their reason. In his feeble attempt, a man tries to defy the Bible's divine revelation with reason. But he must not be deceived by temporary appearances.

Many voices will try to seduce and invite him to go with them. But another

voice rings clear above the raging billows of life – it is the voice of God. There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end of it is death (Prov 14:12). We must be still and hear God's voice, lest we be led astray and be shipwrecked.

The Bible exhorts us, *"that he (we) no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God"* (1 Peter 4:2).

The Holy Spirit - The Wind In The Believer's Sail

The wind in our sail must be filled with the Spirit of God to steer us in the way we ought to go. The sail of our vessel has to come under the dominating influence and power of the Holy Spirit's power and leading. We must not be foolish and unwise but ought to understand what

the will of the Lord is (Eph 5:17-18). To do so, we must be sensitive to the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

To live our lives in pursuit of God's will, we have to live Spirit-filled lives, giving ourselves to study God's Word and prayer. The LORD Himself will reveal what He desires and requires of us.

But the knowledge of God's will is not merely for information. It is for obedience. The will of God is not a mystery that cannot be known; neither is it lost such that it has to be found. God has declared His will plainly in His Word (Eph 1:9). We must pray for the Holy Spirit's illumination as we search the Scriptures diligently to discern the will of God for our lives. We must also be always ready to yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit's prompting, and submit to God's will in our lives.

Therefore, in addition to asking God to show us His will in His Word, we should also pray "*teach me to do thy will*" (Psalm 143:10a)! We must ask God for wisdom and understanding to discern His will, as well as faith and courage to obey His will for our lives. Personal ambitions and desires fortify self-will, often making

**When self-will
and God's will
collide, we must
pray for faith
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our will to
God's will.**

us struggle and resist God's will. When self-will and God's will collide, we must pray for faith to submit our will to God's will. We must ask the LORD for courage to yield our will to be conformed to the will of God for our lives.

I am crucified with Christ. Self-will perished and personal ambitions are extinguished. It is no longer

I that live, but Christ that lives in me. In this regard, the words of the Apostle Paul resonate deeply.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).

As children of God redeemed in Christ, our lives are not ours to live any way we like. We are citizens of heaven placed here on earth as ambassadors for Christ to do the business of our Heavenly Father. We are here to obey and do the will of our Heavenly Father that is revealed to us in His Word – the Bible. In this regard,

SERMON for the **DAY**

Listen to a sermon a day and be spiritually nourished! Subscribers will receive a link to an audio sermon each weekday, Monday to Friday.



@SERMON4DAY

we must remember the Lord Jesus Christ who taught us to pray the Lord's prayer "*Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 6:10).

Let us also consider the perfect example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Himself in His perfect obedience to His Father's will when He said these following eternal statements:

I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (John 6:38)

My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. (John 4:34)

I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. (John 5:30)

The Bible promises that "*the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever*" (1 John 2:17).

Rev. Tow's discourse on "The Clock Of The Sevenfold Will of God" helps us understand the importance of God's Will in our lives. Read the sermon's introduction to find out more!

Introduction from Rev. Tow's sermon on "The Clock Of The Sevenfold Will of God"

Enlargement of two messages preached at the Awana Bible Conference, 3 - 7 September 1990.

TEXT: "Many, O Lord my God, are Thy wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. Sacrifice and offering Thou didst not desire; mine ears hast Thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast Thou not required.

Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, Thou knowest. I have not hid Thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation: I have not concealed Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth from the great congregation." (Psalm 40:5-10)

Introduction

Every Christian who loves the Lord also loves His Law, His Word. Like David, a man after God's own heart, he can say, "*I delight to do Thy Will, O my God: yea, Thy Law is within my heart*" (Ps. 40:8). To do His will is to obey Him, which was David's shining filial piety vis-a-vis the dark self-will of Saul.

Though Saul an outwardly religious man, he was forever condemned because of his self-will. Samuel said to Saul, "*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams*" (1 Sam. 15:22). Will-worship, no

matter how earnest it may be, being counter to God's Will, is *"as the sin of witchcraft"* (1 Sam. 15:23). Calvin calls it *"an abomination"* to the Lord.

The supreme example of doing the will of God is set for us by our Lord Jesus Christ. How often would we hear Him say,

"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work." (John 4:34)

"I can of myself do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just: because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (John 5:30)

His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, thrice-repeated, *"not as I will, but as Thou wilt,"* throbs in the heart of every devout Christian. Our Lord, now weak in the flesh (Matt. 26:41) to do His Father's will, comes under great stress. Nevertheless, He prayed for strength, and through prayer gained He the strength to do His Father's will. Peter delighted to do His Master's will, but failed because he did not look to Him when the testing came. We also delight to do God's will, but in times of persecution, can we say we will fully obey His will?

In times like these, we may not know which way to turn, to run or to stay.

We have a specific example of such a situation in Acts 21:10-15. Agabus prophesied of the apostle Paul, whose arrest awaited him in Jerusalem. Luke, his companion, tells how he and the other disciples *"besought him not to go up to Jerusalem,"* but Paul insisted on going. *"And when he would not be persuaded, we*



ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done." From the sequel to this episode, we agree it was the Lord's higher will for Paul to face arrest in Jerusalem. God's will might lead us to the cross of martyrdom. Are we prepared to obey to do His will?

In order that we might understand how God's will operates in our lives, we will study the various aspects of His will by a graphic presentation in the figure of a clock. As the face of the clock and the moving hands tell the time, here is a presentation of plainly knowing the will of God. As the mechanism inside the clock is complex to the layman, but not to the clock-maker, here is that presentation of the Lord's Higher Will that we should discover by a deeper study of God's Word. Systematic theology is the key to the deep things of God, and Reformed Theology is closest to the truth of God's salvation plan.

Insofar as this writer is concerned, he has put the seven aspects of His will under seven heads, viz.,

- I. Directive
- II. Cooperative
- III. Punitive
- IV. Preceptive
- V. Permissive
- VI. Desiderative
- VII. Decretive.

What "time" is it on the clock of God's will for your life? If we study it clockwise, we will not only see how easily God's will can be known, but also have a clearer perception of His Higher Will, His eternal decrees made before the foundation of the world which the world knoweth not! What are the decrees of God? Answer: The decrees of God are His eternal purpose according to the counsel of His own will, whereby for His own glory, he hath ordained whatsoever comes to pass. (Shorter Catechism Q. 7 & A.)

The decretive will of God determines present-day events, yea, even to the preservation of little birds and the hairs upon your head.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matt. 10:29,30).

The power inside the mechanism of the clock sustains the moving hands over the face of a clock. The outworking of God's providence meshes with His decrees. ✂



Excerpted from *The Clock of the Sevenfold Will of God* by Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow. Published by Far Eastern Bible College Press © 1991

YAF

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The YAF Men's Fellowship is a monthly meeting that aims to minister to YAF men (25 - 35 y.o.) alongside the Rise Up Men of God (RMG) Fellowship. The goals of this fellowship are twofold:

1. To help men practically apply the lessons taught in past RMG messages and materials (e.g. Arise newsletter), and
2. To be an avenue where YAF men can be involved in one another's spiritual life and be one another's keeper.

The meeting is typically held on the fourth Saturday mornings.

Upcoming meeting: 25 May 2024 - Family Worship Workshop

For enquiries, contact E Shem 9236 4400

McIntire Maxims

The Rev. (Dr.) Carl McIntire led the 20th Century Reformation Movement by coming out of the Presbyterian Church of U.S.A. (PCUSA) at the turn of the 1930s. This came after 5-6 years of earnestly contending for the historic Christian faith according to the Scriptures within the PCUSA after the Auburn Affirmation* was published in 1924.

The Rev. (Dr.) McIntire was one of the founding fathers of the Bible-Presbyterian denomination. He was also the teacher of Rev. Timothy Tow, who was the founding

father of the Singapore Bible-Presbyterian church, at Faith Theological Seminary.



Faith Theological Seminary at Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

* *The Auburn Affirmation represented the infiltration by modernists within the PCUSA. This milestone was the turning point of the once-fundamental PCUSA.*

The Auburn Affirmation was signed by 150 pastors and elders within the PCUSA, and disguised as a document to “safeguard the unity and liberty of the PCUSA”.

The Auburn Affirmation was a document that challenged the 5 Fundamentals of the Faith, namely:

1. *The inerrancy of Scriptures*
2. *The virgin birth of Christ (Deity of Christ)*
3. *The doctrine of substitutionary atonement*
4. *The bodily resurrection of Christ*
5. *The authenticity of the miracles of Christ*

The Auburn Affirmation denied the fundamentals of the faith. Yet, those preachers and pastors who signed the Auburn affirmation

were tolerated within the PCUSA and Princeton Theological Seminary, and were allowed to still teach. This signing of the Auburn Affirmation was the turning point of the battle between the Fundamentalists and the Modernists.

The PCUSA and Princeton would soon turn apostate. The Rev. (Dr.) Carl McIntire, his teacher, Dr. J Gresham Machen, and others, soon left the PCUSA and Princeton to start the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC).

Dr. Machen died before the split from OPC which eventually birthed the Bible Presbyterian movement and Faith Theological Seminary. The split from OPC was due to differences in 3 areas:

1. *Moral issue (Total Abstinence vs Social Drinking)*
2. *Millennial issue (Pre-millennialism vs A-millennialism)*
3. *Mission issue (Support of all fundamentalist missionaries vs Support of only Presbyterian missionaries)*

A biography of the Rev. (Dr.) McIntire entitled *McIntire – Defender of Faith and Freedom* was written by Gladys Titzck Rhoads, and her daughter Nancy Titzck Anderson, who continued in her mother’s work after she was called home to glory before the book could be completed. Both women were members of the Bible-Presbyterian Church of Collingswood since the early 1930s, where the Rev. (Dr.) McIntire was pastor.

In Nancy’s own words, on the congregation at Collingswood, “*it was my great privilege to be a member since 1933, all during the years when Dr. McIntire was its faithful pastor, and which therefore was at*

the vortex of the 20th Century Reformation Movement.”

This book *McIntire – Defender of Faith and Freedom* is also for sale at the Tabernacle Book Room, located on level 2 at Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church (201 Pandan Gardens). It is available both in *hardcopy* (SGD\$50) and *soft-copy* (SGD\$35).

God willing, a review of this book will be published in the next issue of *Arise!*

Adapted from “McIntire Maxims”

Note: Portions of the text have been edited for clarity.

The Bible

- ❖ **The Bible has in it all that the Christian needs.**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Tim 3:16-17)

The last days apostasy

- ❖ **Unbelief is here, and we must be prepared to stand for the Word of God.**
- ❖ **What is so interesting about all this is that, in talking about the mighty acts of God and trying to make out of our God a great and powerful God, they have produced for us a God who is unable to give us a record that is true.**



Rev. (Dr.) Carl McIntire

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.” (2 Thess 2:1-3)

About sin

- ❖ It is always in the individual's heart that sin is born.
- ❖ There is always a payday for sin.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom 3:23)

Christ and His Church

- ❖ The Church belongs to the Son of God. It is His. It is His Body, His Bride. He is its Head and its King.
- ❖ The church is not a forum where many opinions and varying views are presented; it is a pulpit from which only one Christ is heralded.

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” (Col 1:18)

To Christian parents

- ❖ Children are gifts of God. There is no better place to rear them than in the Lord's house.
- ❖ When you are training children without the knowledge of the Word of God, the floodgates are open, the churches are empty, and the lovers of pleasure take over instead of the lovers of God.

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Prov 22:6) ☩



Adapted from [McIntire Maxims](#) by Timothy Tow.
Published by Far Eastern Bible College Press © 1999

Redeeming the Time

Every man has a finite time on earth. Man's finite time here on earth is unknown to him, and known only to God.



There are 24 hours in a day. This is equivalent to 1,440 minutes or 86,400 seconds. This same store of time is given to all men alike for every day of life he receives from God.

Some, keenly conscious of their mortality, value the time given to them. They vainly try to add to their store of time by trying to 'save time'. Alas, there is no vault where time can be banked. Time can only be spent and cannot be saved!

Worse still, some find themselves with too much time on earth and invent ways to 'kill time'! How tragic are these poor souls!

Every moment issued to man must be spent. How these seeds of time are sown is of utmost importance, for they will determine the fruit that shall be borne in life.

The Law of the Harvest

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth

to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Galatians 6:7-8)

We will reap what we sow, and we will reap how we sow. This is God's law of the harvest. It is not merely the random law of nature that unbelievers imagine it to be. This is the law of God that God has implanted in nature in His divine providence to govern this earth.

God has ordained the nature of reaping to be governed by the nature of the sowing. Every fruit and crop will always be the same kind that was sown to produce it. An apple seed will not produce a durian tree. A red apple seed will not bear green apples.

This is not merely agriculture or science. This is the wisdom and power of God that permeates every sphere of life and living in this world. Christian parents must impart these truths to their children. God's children ought to view this life through the spiritual lens of faith in order to behold the beauty and wonder of the Almighty God even in their academics.

There is nothing secular in the Christian's life.

"The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1)

Don't play [be] the fool!

The Bible warns us not to be deceived. We must not err into thinking that we can be the exception to the rule of the harvest.

We cannot try to sow to the flesh, and reap the fruit of the Spirit. We cannot serve Satan, and hope to gain the reward of the LORD. We cannot think that we can live our lives here on earth swaggering along the broad road that leads to destruction, and then expect ourselves to end up at the pearly gates of heaven at the end of the broad road. We cannot reject Christ and expect to receive salvation!

No man will be able to get around this rule of the law of the harvest. Attempting to do so will be to mock God. We certainly will not be able to ridicule God in this manner.

Don't be fooled, and don't play the fool! Do not imagine we can be the exception to the rule. God will not allow it!

Sowing the seeds of time

We are given 86,400 seeds to sow in a day. We are transported closer to the end of our earthly journey and inking the final

chapter of our life with every seed of time sown.

I wonder where these seeds of time will take us at the end of life's journey. What is the destination you are headed to? The seeds of time we sow today will impact our destiny.

If we are headed to Changi airport on the easternmost end of Singapore, we would not hop on the westbound train. If we do not want to end up in the wrong destination at the end of this life, we must likewise exit the train that is destined for doom and destruction!

Surely, if we know how to take the right train to the right destination, we cannot be foolish to think that we will get to the right destination on the wrong train in our spiritual life! If we want to go to heaven, we would not persist on the train bound for hell. There is no way a train bound for hell will arrive in heaven.

If we sow to the flesh, it is certain we will reap ruin, and destruction, and damnation. However, it is also certain that we cannot sow to the Spirit and perish!

The LORD promises us that if we "sow to the Spirit, [we] shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting"! (Galatians 6:8b) What a wonderful assurance and promise!

Each moment and seed of time we have in our hands should be treasured and carefully sown. What considerations of time should a Christian have in his life? ❧

**"... but he
that soweth
to the Spirit
shall of the
Spirit reap life
everlasting."
(Galatians 6:8b)**

RMG Fellowship Meet-Up Events for 2024



Boat Rowing @ Kallang

27 April (Sat), 8 am - 11 am

Venue: Kallang Wave Mall, 1 Stadium Place, S397628

Enquiries contact Dn. Simon Chua (8218 3570), Bro. David Sim (9652 4179), Bro. Henry Ko (9843 6032)

Register at



<https://shorturl.at/ftRSW>



Missed out on the earlier kelong trip, or just want to go again?

RMG Kelong Retreat @ Mersing is back

2D1N retreat to Kelong Acheh, Mersing

16 - 17 August 2024 (Fri - Sat)

morning stretches & **lite** **exercises**

with **Bro. David Sim**

16 Nov 2024



Treasure Time

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
(Ephesians 5:16)

*“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without,
redeeming the time.”* (Colossians 4:5)



This article was adapted from Rev. Timothy Tow's translation of Wang Ming Tao's wise counsel on treasuring time.

There are many lessons in life to learn, and many things to be done. Should we labour day and night, we would not be able to learn what we ought and to finish the things we ought to finish. How dare we spend time carelessly, wastefully? Treasure time!

Do not waste precious time in chit-chatting. This is a common malady, most despicable. To discuss a problem of value whereby we polish one another's knowledge of the Scriptures or some academic subject, is no idle talk. Idle talk brings no benefit to our faith, character, or knowledge and work. To ramble along without any objective and limit wears away a lot of time. It ties up proper work. This is a common malady, and more so with those who like to prattle. Let us take heed to do away with this bad habit by exhorting and

**Idle talk brings
no benefit to our
faith, character,
or knowledge
and work.**

supervising one another. Those who fail in this matter can never attain to anything. Treasure time.

Do not waste time on novels that entice you. Generally, most people like to read novels. If we have time on hand, let us use our leisure time to read up on religion,

ethics, education, history, and those novels that edify our character. In these, we can find something good. But let us flee those that purvey immorality and violence, that speak of weird things, that are not only of no value but are injurious to the reader. Take your eyes off them! Do not read novels that have some value but take up one's time to hinder proper work. Treasure time.

Do not play overtime. After work, take up some game or exercise, that is not hurtful

to the body, for recreation. That is in order to recover from fatigue. Such relaxation is essential. But, if we are immersed in these things at the expense of time and work, how pitiful! Do not spend too much time in exercise. Do not spend too much time on music or any game. Let there be a limit of one or two hours for such recreation. When on vacation, this limit might be stretched a little. At any rate, let there be a cut-off point. Let no one be so engrossed in these recreations as to hinder proper work. Treasure time.

Do not patronise crowded places unless necessary or for the sake of buying something. The things you find there play on your senses. They glue you down and dissipate your time. They drag you into the world and away from God. Do not go there lest you fall into temptation. If you treasure time, do not go!

Keeping birds and fish, nurturing flowers and trees, and collecting antiques are hobbies

To live is to work for God, not to play for your own sake.

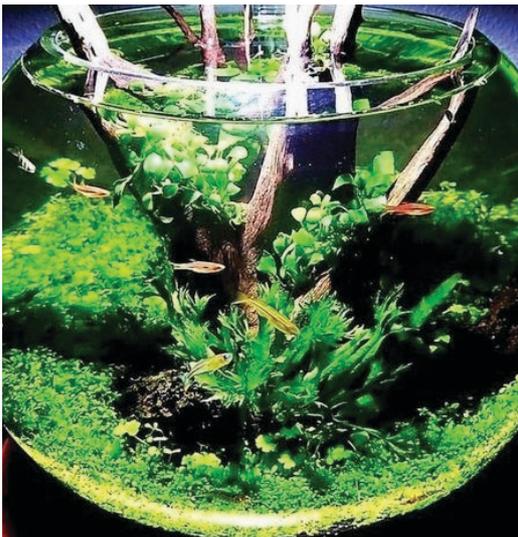
not absolutely forbidden to Christians. To have such recreations provide restfulness to the body and take away fatigue is not without benefit. But, if one has to spend much time and money on these things, then it becomes a loss. Never waste large sums of money on these things. The money God has entrusted to you is not to be used on these things, neither your time. To live is to work for God, not to play for your own sake. Treasure time.

Do not sleep beyond your bodily needs. For some adults, seven hours, more or less, is enough. Ordinarily, it is eight hours. Those who are weak might need nine to ten hours (this does not include the children or the sick). Oversleeping is a waste of time. The lazy bones who like to slumber should cut down. Treasure time.

No matter how busy, cease not to pray and read the Bible.

To stop these two exercises, our spirits become dried up. Our spiritual growth is retarded to our great loss. Except for official business or some unavoidable matter, do "not [forsake] the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is" (Heb 10:25). When a Christian neglects these things, he begins to backslide. Treasure time.

Treasure time. Every day, whether at home or at work, finish up everything that is to be done. Do not say, Tomorrow! Do not shirk your work over to another. Do not fight shy of responsibility. Do not be afraid of work. The more the work, the stronger the muscles. The more you trade your talents, the more you gain experience. Although you could not



do it at first, if you are a willing worker, you will succeed in the end. The unwilling worker, though talented, will be laid on the shelf.

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath (Matt 25:29).

Apart from diligently fulfilling our duties each day, we need to take time to read. Read books on the Christian faith and good character, books helpful to your work and knowledge. We have no opportunity to meet personally the saints whom God has mightily blessed to be taught by them, nor have we the resources to employ the learned and experienced to be our

teachers. But we can learn from them through their books. Apart from reading, let us learn from the people we meet daily and add to our knowledge from every experience. Each day we live on earth is a day in the school of life. Treasure time. 🌿



Adapted from [Wang Ming Tao on Temptation](#) translated by Timothy Tow. Published by Far Eastern Bible College Press © 1997

National Service (NS) Ministry

The NS ministry was established to provide Christian NS personnel (NSFs, NSmen and Regulars) currently in active service, an opportunity for mutual encouragement and fellowship around the Word of God.

Christian NS personnel are welcome to join this ministry to be instructed in God's Word together, and share their journey through full-time national service with one another of like-minded faith.

Pre-enlistees Meeting

Dates: 3rd Sundays of March, June, September and December

Time: 12.15 pm - 1.15 pm

Venue: Level 3 Sanctuary Cryroom

Programme: Introduction, Exhortation, Practical advice/tips by current NSFs, Q&A, Contact taking

NS Prayer Meeting

Dates: 2nd Sundays of each month

Time: 1.15 pm - 1.45 pm

Venue: #03-06 (Primary 2 classroom)

Programme: Prayer and sharing



For enquires, contact Dn. Eric Lim (Overseer) 9699 2162

The Way to Success in the Christian Ministry



This article was adapted from a stirring message that Rev. Timothy Tow delivered at the 42nd Commencement of Faith Theological Seminary, USA on May 14, 1979. The message was based on the text of John 21:22, "Follow Thou Me."

Let me begin by quoting a poem I've gleaned from a booklet I was recently given by Rev M M Myers of Woodland Park Bible Conference, Beckersville, Pennsylvania. It reads,

*"What is success?" I asked a tree,
Standing beside a wall.*

*The leaves looked down at me and said,
"Why success is growing tall."*

*"What is success?" I asked a brook,
Gurgling through the leaves.*

*It laughing, dancing, said to me,
"A river then to the sea."*

*What is success?" I asked a bird,
Singing in the wood.*

*It answered me in lilting song,
"Success is gratitude."*

* * *

*“What is success?” I asked a man,
His cheek aglow with health.*

*He answered me with mighty scorn,
“Why, success is gaining wealth.”*

*Then on bended knee I asked the Saviour,
“Who on the earth had trod,”*

*And a wee small voice within me said,
“Success is knowing God.”*

From this little poem you have the hint that the theme of my message, based on John 21:22, “Follow Thou Me,” is *The Way to Success in the Christian Ministry*. I have preached from this text at this pulpit once before, and the same text has been quoted, you say, for the hundredth time! So, why this text again? Well, let me tell you an anecdote about Dr Harry Ironside. One day, he was invited by a certain church to speak. The message he preached was, “Ye must be born again.” When invited back a few weeks later, Dr Ironside preached on the same theme, “Ye must be born again.” A church member asked him, “Why do you preach again, ‘Ye must be born again?’” Answered Ironside, “Because, ye must be born again!”

Why do I preach, “Follow Thou Me?” from this pulpit again? Is it because you have not been following Him since my last sermon? How often we follow, but reluctantly. How often we go each our own way. We refuse to follow! *The Way to Success in the Christian Ministry* is addressed not only to the graduands, but to us, ministers of the Gospel, to all who are gathered here tonight, to you, my brothers and sisters!

Now, “Follow Thou Me” is a very short, simple sentence. It has only four syllables, one syllable shorter than our Chinese text. It is so short that any foreigner without any English can learn in one minute. To follow Christ is to take one step at a time, one step at a time. “Follow



Dr. Harry A. Ironside
(1876 - 1951)

盖 (gài)
棺 (guān)
定 (dìng)
论 (lùn)

This Chinese idiom roughly translates to "don't pass judgment on a person's success or failure in life until after the coffin lid is sealed."

Thou Me" is as easy as A-B-C! Yes, the rudiments of success in the Christian ministry are easily learned if you take one step at a time. As the prophet, Isaiah, has said, "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line, here a little and there a little" (Isa 28:10). See, we have Scriptural authority to require our students not to learn Greek from an interlinear, but by patiently learning their paradigms!

Now, while the rudiments of "Follow Thou Me" are easy, one step at a time, one step at a time; the way to success is a long, long, long, long, long one! It is the journey of your whole life on earth; as the Chinese saying goes, "It is only after the coffin lid is sealed," you can tell of one's success or failure. That is why, though you've come to the successful conclusion of your academic training, we do not call this graduation "completion" or "consummation" but "commencement." You are just commencing, just starting in life. There is a long way ahead of each one of you. (Don't throw away your Hebrew grammar and Church History notes yet!)

"Follow Thou Me" to some of my graduate students in Singapore who have returned with higher degrees seems too elementary a lesson to learn! They would instead run ahead, holding high keys of their newly acquired knowledge. Has not Peter been given the keys to bind and loose, to remit sins and to retain sins? Cocksure like Peter before his fall, these soon are found crestfallen from their haughty heights. A classmate of mine in China studied Greek with me from Huddilston's Little Grammar. After six or seven weeks of barely learning six or seven paradigms, he began to wax eloquently, correcting the Chinese translation of the Bible. In the homiletics class, he began to point out a mistake here, and an error there. "My translation," he said, "is the one and only perfect one!" When will young upstarts begin to "follow?"

Does Peter talk like this to his congregation? to his students? In his First Epistle, see how lowly he conducts himself. Speaking to the whole Church, from the highest to the lowest, he says,

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder (he did not assert his apostleship though he could), and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble” (1 Pet 5:1-5).

Yes, until we are humbled before God and before one another, we cannot succeed to follow. Calvin, quoting Chrysostum and Augustine, gave three rules on Christian religion. “The first rule,” he said, “is humility; the second rule is humility; the third rule is humility!” Humility is the strength that will carry us through life’s journey to success in the Christian ministry, and indeed, in any kind of human endeavour. Now, “Follow Thou Me” is a call the Lord has given Peter; do you know, five times, as recorded in Scripture? Following Christ is of quintessential importance!

If we are to follow in the way to success in the Christian ministry, we have plenty to forsake. We must forsake that old self of sinful, slimy Simon; we must forsake the self-reliance in our livelihood.

We must forsake that spirit of self-ease and self-security and embrace the cross of daily suffering with Christ. We must, a second time, be examined regarding riches forsake the love of self that smothers the first love we had for Him.

Praise the Lord, Peter, having three times been asked the question, “Lovest thou me,” was trebly revived. He followed Christ to the very end.

“The first rule is humility; the second rule is humility; the third rule is humility!”

— John Calvin

Like Paul, who could boldly say he had fought a good fight and finished his course, Peter could refer to his faith and the example he had shown his disciples to the very eve of his departure:

“Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ, hath shewed me. Moreover, I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance” (2 Pet 1:13-15).

Can you and I follow Christ to life’s very end?

*“What is success?” I asked a man,
His cheek aglow with health.*

*He answered me with mighty scorn,
“Why, success is gaining wealth.”*

*Then on bended knee I asked the Saviour,
With Peter by the sea,*

*And a wee small voice within me said,
“Success is ‘Follow thou Me,’”* ✠



Adapted from *From the Archives: The Way to Success in the Christian Ministry* by Rev. Timothy Tow, [*The Burning Bush Vol. 6 No. 2*](#). Published by Far Eastern Bible College
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The Presence of God

The difference between the life of a saint and the life of a sinner is the presence of God.



The Presence of God

The presence of God equips the children of God for service, for the presence of God is the power of God. Without the LORD's presence, we have no spiritual power.

One may have all the remarkable human talent and extraordinary organisation, but we have no spiritual power if the LORD is not with us. There is no substitute for spiritual strength and success.

The Bible records that the LORD was with Joseph (Gen 39:2-4) and Daniel (Dan 1:9). We read of Caleb who "*wholly followed the LORD God*" (Josh 14:14). The LORD also promises His people that He will be with them "*whithersoever thou (they) goest*" (Josh 1:9) and "*even until the end of the world*" (Matt 28:20).

Indeed, if the LORD be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Rom 8:31-32)

The Visible Presence of God in the OT and NT

The presence of God in the midst of His people is evidently seen throughout

the pages of Holy Scripture. In the Old Testament, the LORD went before the children of Israel "*by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.*" (Exo 13:21)

We also remember the account at the dedication of the Temple after Solomon's prayer,

when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord. (2 Chron 7:1-3)

We witness the mighty working of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in the New Testament that shook the room as the disciples prayed!, The Bible records,

When they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:31)

The Visible Presence of God in the church today

The visible presence of God in His church is still witnessed today in the transforming power and work of the Holy Spirit seen in the lives of God's people. Such a work will produce a myriad of visible manifestations.

There will arise a genuine love and hunger for God's Word. There will be a hatred of unrighteousness, and the repentance and forsaking of sins. An intense pursuit after holy and godly living will ensue. There will be a growing and sincere desire to commune with God in prayer – both privately and corporately as a church. There will also be a burden for lost souls, and a heart for the work of God. Care and concern for God's people will also naturally flow from a love for the LORD. Finally and significantly, there will be a zealous and godly

jealousy for the honour of Christ and the glory of the LORD.

These descriptions are not mere fanciful imaginations, neither are they abstract thoughts about fundamental Bible-believing Christian religion.

The reality of genuine spiritual conversion and Holy Spirit revival can be observed in many practical ways in the manner we live, in the choices we make, the words we say and the way we serve the LORD. Did not the unbelieving Jews refer to Christians as "*these that have turned the world upside down?*" (Acts 17:6)

With the LORD, there will be spiritual strength and might that will deliver success in the ministry. But without God, all the labour of man will be in vain. This is because we do not battle with flesh and blood. The work of God is a spiritual work. Without the LORD, we will surely fail.

Alas, the departure of the LORD's presence often goes unnoticed today.

The Departure of the LORD

Alas, the departure of the LORD's presence often goes unnoticed today. The church of God today sadly does not recognise when the LORD has departed. The church building still stands, and remains a flurry of activity of busyness and liturgy of religion. Churchgoers and perhaps, even many Christians feel so 'engaged' with the organisation of religion and system of activities that they may not even feel the departure of divine presence

in their personal lives and in the church of God.

There is a worrying concern that Christians are more focused and caught up with activity, personnel, numbers, talent, eloquence, efficiency, organisations and SOPs (standard operating procedure) when doing God's work that we have forgotten about the LORD's presence and power.

But there is no genuine love for God's Word. One must be very careful not to confuse the academic or general curiosity about Bible information and Bible knowledge with a genuine love for God's Word. The Lord Jesus Christ declares the simple litmus test to differentiate between them in John 14:15 "*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*"

Where the presence of the LORD is departed, there will not only be any genuine love for God's Word; there will also be no godly repentance of sins, no fervency in prayer, no burden for lost souls, no heart for God's work, no care and concern for God's people, and worst of all, no feeling at all for the honour of Christ and the glory of the LORD.

The death of the church does not occur when people leave the church. The church does not die when its property is repossessed or her land lease is not renewed. But the church dies when it loses its witness for Christ due to worldliness and carnality. The death of the church

occurs when God's people (and men in particular!) would not arise in these last days for Christ, and to be found on the LORD's side. The church dies when the glory of the LORD has departed.

**If men of God
would be
spiritual, we
must be very
aware and
sensitive to the
presence of
God in our lives.**

The church may still retain a form in her building. It may still possess a formality in her liturgy of worship. But it is like dead men walking. An empty sepulchre. Full of dead man's bones!

The church of God today must be very sensitive to detect the deadliness of spiritual lukewarmness and indifference before it creeps into the hearts and lives of God's children. If men of

God would be spiritual, we must be very aware and sensitive to the presence of God in our lives. An insensitivity or apathy and indifference to the LORD's presence in our lives is a very dangerous and ominous sign of our spiritual condition.

Samson had betrayed His God and His people. He thought he could continue his wanton lifestyle, walk close to God and receive His blessings. He imagined he could continue to simply "*awoke (awake) out of his sleep... (and) will go out as at other times before, and shake myself (himself)*" and give the Philistines a beating when they arrived (Judg 16:20a).

It is poignant to notice carefully: "*But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him*" (Judg 16:20b). He did not know! It is absolutely tragic and

catastrophic for Samson not to realise such a major event as the LORD's departure from his life!! The LORD had departed from him, but Samson went about his day just like any other, as if all was well!

The simple test of self-examination

God's people today must also examine themselves. The simple test of examination is to come humbly before the LORD to plead with Him to reveal our sins and wicked ways that we may repent and turn from them. We must examine our lives by evaluating our motives and intentions, manner of speech and conduct so that we do not continue in any known sin in any area of our lives. We must read God's Word and pray every day.

We must not imagine that we can continue to expect success and the LORD's presence and blessings in our ministry if we were to continue in our sin. How can God's work prosper if we trust in our strength, go our ways, and do God's work in a conceited and lackadaisical manner?

God's people today must have the spiritual sensitivity to perceive the presence of God in their lives and in His

church, even the church in our homes. In this regard, we must note Phinehas' sharp perception,

"This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because ye have not committed this trespass against the LORD" (Josh 22:31).

There is no formula to the way to success in serving the LORD apart from having the presence of God with us. The presence of God is key to success in our Christian service and ministry. We must not go where God is not there. The only way is to follow the LORD.

When a man denies himself, takes up his cross and follow the LORD wholeheartedly and gladly, there will invariably and inevitably proceed a love for God and the things of God. Still unsure? Check the Spiritual Life Thermometer in this issue and examine your own spiritual condition honestly! ✝

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