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# Fruit of the Spirit – Patience

By Mona Li

A man reaps what he sows. If a person is truly rooted in Christ then that person inevitably bears the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness, self-control and patience (Galatians 5:22).

As I prepare for the speaking engagement with high school and college students of our Sunday school department, I thought of touching on just one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit which I believe is so sadly lacking among young people today. It is none other than PATIENCE.

With the advancement of modern science and technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are all inflicted with 'hurry sickness'. Who among us hasn't been to fast food chains because we have no time to sit down and order food ala-carte? Even that isn't quick enough and so we opt to drive-thru for our orders and eat them in our cars. Cubicles that offer instant photos produce funny looking pictures that emphasize flaws in our faces yet we still make use of this service because air-brushed photos take forever and we need our images ASAP. Fast, quick, and instant are adjectives on products that sell simply because we are always on the run, always in a hurry, always not having enough time to do everything. I am glad that every Christmas I still receive cards in the old and traditional way, snail-mail and in hardcopy. Not that I don't appreciate receiving greetings through electronic-cards or e-mails, but such



greetings could be deleted with just a mouse-click. The joy of going over it is gone forever. The old saying 'haste makes waste' doesn't ring true anymore for we are willing to sacrifice quality for speed. Ever need to consult a physician? In this part of the world, while we have the

privilege of choosing which physicians to consult with, there is also a price for it. The better the physician, the longer the list of patients and the longer the wait. Patience is a much needed virtue that carries a lot of waiting inside clinics. Is it any wonder why we are called patients?

There are things and decisions that we could but should not do in haste. For young people, the choices of their career and their spouse are perhaps the two most important decisions they have to make in their lives. These decisions will steer and charter the course of their lives. To choose for the best, allow God to take full control of the decisions for He wants only the very best for His children.

As Christians, we are asked to wait patiently for the Lord (Psalm 37:7). His grand design takes time. God is never in a hurry, and He is always on time. It is said that God stretches our patience to enlarge our souls. It is His strategy for maturing us and keeping us rooted in Him. A friend of mine has this phrase in all her e-mails ....Be patient, God is not finished with me yet.....This phrase rings so true for Christ is not done with us until He calls us home. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on (Philippians 3:12). Let us therefore continue running the race set before us with our roots deeply anchored in Christ and bearing the fruit of the Spirit for Christ and mankind. Hallelujah, praise be Jesus' name.

# The Name Above Every Name

By Rev. Un Hack Wee

Names are very important for they signify our identities. As parents, we think of beautiful and meaningful names even before the baby is born. Sometimes we use names of bible heroes for we want our children to be like them. We also combine parents' names even names of godparents, friends and artists whom we look up to for our own children's names.

The most precious holy baby came into this world; His names were of great meaning. To give Him the proper praise He deserves, let us know what His names mean.

## I. WONDERFUL

His first name is Wonderful. The word simply means "extraordinary." He is the MARVELOUS ONE.

When Jesus Christ came to earth, that act alone was already WONDERFUL. The Son of God, the King of kings was born, and the Lord of lords willingly came down from His heavenly kingdom and became like one of us.

He was called Wonderful, because he was the only king ever to be born in a manger. He was the only king who had no place to stay upon birth. The only King whose parents were so poor that they didn't even have cradle for him to sleep. He was not only the king of a country but the king of the whole world and history would show that this will never ever happen again.

He was the only King who can make the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the dumb speak. He opened the prison

*For a child will be born to us,  
a son will be given to us;  
and the government will rest  
on His shoulders;  
and His name will be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.  
(Isaiah 9:6)*

doors and set the captives free. He revealed the Father's love and gave rest to the weary. Only Christ can satisfy what we lack in our lives, heal our pain and make us complete.

## II. COUNSELOR

What is the main job of a counselor? A good counselor knows the cause of problems and will try to come out with some solutions. When we encounter problems, let us come to Jesus for He knows our every need. He is the CREATOR and GIVER OF LIFE.

Not only can He see the cause and where it came from, He knows concrete solutions to the problems. His solution or answer is perfect and He will never commit mistake. Indeed, He is our best adviser.

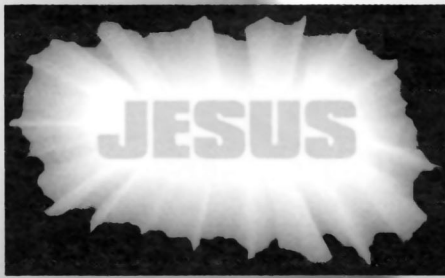
To be a king, one needs to have many counselors to help him solve the problems of his kingdom. But when we are in Christ, He is then the only ONE we need and He can solve all the problems of mankind.

## III. MIGHTY GOD

Not only is Jesus the counselor who can solve all the problems of the world, He is also the MIGHTY ONE. The Jewish nation is very small nation compared to the surrounding nations; hence, their neighboring countries see Israel as a weak nation. Yes, we may be weak in the eyes of the world, but if the Lord is with us, then we can become strong for the Lord our God is the MIGHTY ONE.

The Philistines challenged the Israelites to send one man to fight against their tallest and strongest man, Goliath. If he was able to fight and kill Goliath, then the whole Philistine will become subject to the Israelites. At first, no one dared to fight him, but a boy with great faith in God stepped into the battle field and declared that he came in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel whom Goliath had defied. A weak nation and a boy fought against a giant. From a man's perspective, it was impossible to win. But the Bible told us that David used a sling and a stone to hit Goliath's forehead, then as the giant fell facedown on the ground, David took Goliath's sword and cut off his head. Mighty is our God!

When Isaiah the prophet was writing this book, the neighboring countries were



about to attack Israel and he wrote to the king and reminded him that the God of Israelites is called the MIGHTY ONE.

Only in Christ can we be complete. We have many needs in life and our needs vary from one another. What I need might not be what you need, and what you need might not be what I need in life. We have so many needs in our lives and only Christ can satisfy our needs.

#### IV. EVERLASTING FATHER

Our earthly father gives us earthly life, but our heavenly Father gives us ETERNAL LIFE. Since we are sinners, it is only through Christ that we can have eternal life. Therefore we can put our trust in Christ for he can guarantee life for eternity.

Christ secured our position before the Father in heaven when he died in our place and was raised on the third day. We have received life everlasting that will never fade, just like an old evergreen tree.

#### V. PRINCE OF PEACE

Peace simply means the absence of war. The prince (chieftain) is the one with authority to make war and grant peace but this royal Prince uses His authority to end war and keep peace. We see nations against nations and this situation will prevail from one generation to another. We see in the government, officials in disaccord. We see among family members, parents and children fight against each other because of wealth and health issues.

As we think about the Lord

this Christmas, may we realize that even when life seems dark and lonely, there is hope. Remember that He is Wonderful, so that when our souls are in despair, we are encouraged when we see His wonder and beauty. Remember that He is the Counselor. When you lack wisdom and discernment, come and seek God's Word for advice. When you are weak, strengthen

yourself with the truth that Jesus Christ is the mighty God! He will help us be victorious. In times of doubt or despair, lift up your eyes to our Everlasting Father who gives us eternal life. And in season of confusion or uncertainty, seek the Prince of Peace to give you the quietness of your soul.

#### THE BELL

##### I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)  
 I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)  
 I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)  
 I am bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)  
 I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)  
 I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)  
 I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt. 5:13-14)  
 I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)  
 I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)  
 I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil. 3:20)  
 I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)  
 I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor. 5:17-21)  
 I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)  
 I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)  
 I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39)  
 I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21-22)  
 I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)  
 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)  
 I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)  
 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)  
 I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)  
 I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)  
 I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)  
 I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)  
 I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil 1: 6)  
 I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)  
 I belong to God  
 Do you know  
 who you are!?

"The LORD bless you and keep you;  
 the LORD make His face shine upon you  
 and be gracious to you;  
 the LORD turn His face toward you  
 and give you peace."  
 Numbers 6:24-26

# 降生在馬槽裡的耶穌

邵晨光牧師

降生節，是紀念並慶祝主耶穌為人類降世於馬槽的佳節。這個節日表現出上帝愛世人的真理，突出顯明耶穌救贖主的特殊角色。耶穌曾在人類歷史中降生在馬槽裡，在這個時代裡祂更願意降臨在我們心中。祂降生在伯利恆城應驗了舊約先知彌迦的預言(參太二1-12；彌五2-5)。

## 一. 主耶穌是大君王

「伯利恆、以法他啊，你在猶大諸城中為小，將來必有一位從你那裡出來，在以色列中為我們作掌權的…」(彌五2節)。經文中的以法他就是古時的伯利恆，它是預言中耶穌的降生地。先知以賽亞曾預言耶穌出自猶大支派，即「從耶西的本必發一條，從他根生的枝子必結果實」(賽十一1)。馬太福音第二章記載東方博士為朝拜新生王，千里迢迢追尋至耶路撒冷，而希律王聽到猶太人的王降生的

事情，十分懼怕，召集祭司長和文士得知預言中，「基督將生在猶太的伯利恆」(參太二2-6)。耶穌為世間的每一個人，而道成肉身來到這個世界，東方博士特地從遠道而來，向大君王耶穌呈上他們所預備的、最貴重的禮物：黃金、乳香、沒藥。

「猶太人的王」，這是猶太人控告耶穌的罪狀，祂也因此被釘十字架。舊約所預言的大君王是值得猶太人敬拜的大君王，但他們卻將祂釘上十字架。事實上，主耶穌的誕生就是為受十字架的苦而來，祂是世界的大君王，我們應當將最好的獻給祂。世界原屬祂，祂並不需要人的奉獻，但祂給我們機會表達對祂的愛。世界最富裕的國家汶萊，「石油」是他們的出產，百姓不需要向政府納稅，國民需要政府提供幫助。我們的主是萬有的主，祂是大君王，當將最好的獻給祂。

## 二. 主耶穌是大牧者

「…祂必起來，倚靠耶和華的大能，並耶和華祂上帝之名的威嚴，牧養祂的羊群。他們要安然居住…」(彌五4)。新約主耶穌自稱「好牧人」，並且好牧人為羊捨命(約十11)。這裡提到主耶穌要牧養「祂的羊群」。聖經藉牧人與羊來描寫主耶穌與信徒的關係，說明大牧者主耶穌知道我們每個人的名字及個性。好牧人知道羊的性格，羊膽小會迷路，也不知道前面的道路往哪兒走，但好牧人在前面引導牠們前行的道路。今天我們不知道明天的道路如何走，但我們的大牧者主耶穌知道，祂引導我們前面的路程。降生在馬槽裡的主耶穌愛你、眷顧你，引導你前面的道路。

同樣地，大牧者主耶穌希望你做小牧者，去愛及關懷他人，因為世上有許多人需要主的愛。世人注重聖誕老人，主喜悅我們將祂的愛分享給世人。迷路的羊需要牧者照顧，你願意照顧他們嗎？就請你做個小牧者帶他們到教會來。

## 三. 主耶穌是平安王

「這位必作我們的平安…」(彌五5)。這節經文提到降生在馬槽裡的主耶穌是平安王。祂必作我們的平安，必賜下真正的平安。中國人見面的第一句話總是問：「你喫了嗎？」我曾問過多位長輩，想了解典故是否與祖先缺乏食物有關，但不得結果。中國人喫雞，從雞頭至雞爪一點都不浪費！猶太人是上帝的選民，他們見面的頭一句話是：「平安！」主耶穌是平安王。平安不單指人在世生活的平靜安逸，真正的平安乃在於心靈上的平安喜樂。「平安」在希伯來文的意思是完全的平安。與家庭不和睦，與人不和好，心靈就沒有平安，與上帝的關係不好，更是沒有平安可言。主耶穌賜平安，將完全的平安作為禮物賜給我們。

## 四. 結語

今年的降生節，全球籠罩在經濟危機的陰霾底下，我們所居住的世界並不穩妥，但主耶穌是我們生命中的大君王，是生活中的大牧者，又是我們生存的平安王，祂必引導我們二零零九年的道路，讓我們在萬民不安的世界中，獨享屬天的平安及福氣。願我們讓主耶穌掌權，引領並作我們的平安。



# Thanksgiving in September

By Ann Marie Su

Last January 28, 2008. I was admitted to the hospital for INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE – an auto-immune case. While in my sickbed, the Lord impressed upon me to undertake a project for the less-privileged children. My mind was full of questions.... How am I going to do it when I myself was rather immobile? Where will I get the funds when I myself needed financial support? Who will be the blessed recipients? What will I say this project was for?

Keeping all these in my heart, I prayed. And the more He spoke to me, the clearer it became – GOD IS GOING TO HEAL ME AND I WILL OFFER HIM THANKSGIVING. The Lord showed me – among all the ministry partners, it was going to be for CEF, i.e., Child Evangelism Fellowship. So I started getting busy... I texted several friends to see if I could have their support. I contacted suppliers for the things I needed. By June, blessings came pouring in. Loving friends responded and I couldn't describe the overwhelming gratitude I felt then. I was so amaze at how He made things happen. He provided everything and He did it all for His glory – I could not dare to take even a bit of it. Even more so, as I worked on it, I felt my body getting better and stronger. The more I was challenged to get well so I could be there at the event. Everyday, I worked little by little so as not to stress myself out. Finally, everything was packed



and ready for distribution. The date was set - September 27 – the day I claimed healing. The CEF staff had their usual weekly feeding program. But on this particular day, the bible story, songs and memory verse were all about Thanksgiving. The kids also prepared some special numbers. The sack packs were distributed to the children in Umapad Mandaue dumpsite, Brgy. Opao (squatter area UC Mandaue side) and the CEF Mission School in Alaska, Mambaling. It's wonderful how everyone was so blessed – givers, mobilizers and receivers. Somehow, love and joy just overflowed into thanksgiving. Through this experience, I have learned a lot about ThanksGIVING. Should it matter what our attitude is as long as we do it? I believe it does. God delights in a cheerful giver. But one who gives grudgingly or out of duty misses out the real benefits. Cheerful givers are not worried about the future because they know God is in control and have cast their cares on Him. They give knowing it gives God pleasure. As Matt 6:21 says,



"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." If we treasure God, we can exercise generosity with what we have. Until we discover the joy and freedom of letting go of things which give false security, we will never discover the sheer joy of cheerful giving which is actually a by-product of being thankful. This I have truly witnessed in one of the supporters who actually gave the biggest amount though she had the least income. She was one of the first who responded – pledged a figure and saved for it. Praise God for "thank-givers". In sharing all these, I give credit to no one else but God alone. Indeed, it is true that God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.

# What is Christ's Mandate to Us Christians?

By Pastor Eric Chan

Jesus had been doing His earthly ministry for quite sometime. He healed a number of sick people. He fed a great multitude of people. He preached about the Kingdom of Heaven. Now, Jesus was about to end His earthly ministry and He wanted to test His disciples' faith. He asked them, "Who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said in return, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."

Indeed, it was of utmost importance that Jesus asked His disciples that question. Jesus came for a purpose. His purpose was to save His people from slavery, that is, to release them from the bondage of sin. Peter responded positively. He confessed Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. That was an important confession, if indeed, we consider ourselves true followers of Jesus Christ. That confession illustrated clearly the two natures of Jesus Christ: (1) the HUMAN nature (the Christ), and (2) the DIVINE

nature (Son of the living God). Hence, such confession allowed Peter to receive Christ's mandate for all who would make such confession.

In Matthew 16:18-19, Jesus said to Peter, "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Jesus, in Matthew 16:18-19, conferred POWER and AUTHORITY to Peter. The same authority and power are bestowed upon those who will make the same confession. In other words, we Christians are given POWER and AUTHORITY by Jesus Christ.

## • POWER

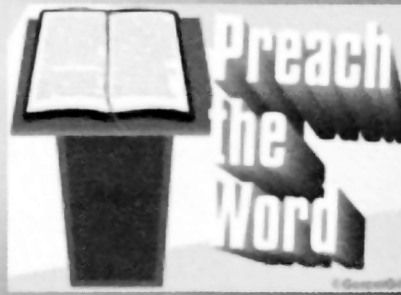
Jesus gave each and everyone who confessed faith in Jesus Christ the POWER to build the church and overcome the gates of Hades. *Hades is the place where the wicked*

*dead reside and are punished.* In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man experiences torment in Hades. This is the intermediate state, for the bodily resurrection and the final judgment are still in the future. Jesus' point is that Hades foreshadows the rich man's final judgment. Similarly, Lazarus rests at Abraham's side, connoting the joyous abode of the righteous dead (Luke 16:23).<sup>1</sup>

Christians are one body in Christ with many members (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:27). *The Church is the body of Christ* (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:12), who is the head of the body (Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18).<sup>2</sup>

Jesus used the term *Hades* to represent DEATH, the penalty for sin (Rom. 6:23). The disciples were given POWER to overcome DEATH. That power came by Jesus' victory on the cross when He resurrected





from the dead. Jesus overcame death because He was sinless; therefore, death was not a JUST penalty for Him. God, in His own righteousness, accepted the sacrifice and death of Christ as a fragrant offering (Eph. 5:2); hence, God resurrected Jesus from the death. And God, in His own graciousness, extended the blessing of eternal life to all who will believe in the name, the deeds, and the words of Jesus Christ. Thereby, all who truly believe and confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God are rewarded POWER to overcome DEATH and build His church.

#### • AUTHORITY

As followers of Jesus Christ, we know and understand the TRUTH; Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Salvation comes by a person's acknowledgement of this TRUTH, which also happens to be the KEY by which a person enters the kingdom of heaven. The authority to bind people on earth or to loose people on

earth comes by our sharing of the TRUTH. The TRUTH is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as exemplified by Peter's confession in Matthew 16:16. Anyone who adheres to that TRUTH possesses the KEYS to the kingdom of heaven. Hence, we Christians need to share the TRUTH (Gospel), the very KEY to the kingdom of heaven. That's the authority given to us by Jesus Christ. It is the mandate given to each and everyone of us who believes in Jesus Christ.

However, when Christians fail to share the Gospel, then, the KEYS they possess are of no use. How many of us Christians have been too preoccupied with earthly concerns, conflicts and desires? Thus, the AUTHORITY given to us was eventually neglected and if not, wasted.

In Matthew 25, Jesus spoke of the *Parable of the Ten Virgins* and the *Parable of the Ten Talents*. These two parables were given by Christ to warn

believers not to neglect their mandate. At the judgment, Jesus will judge between the Sheep and the Goats. It should be noted that both the Sheep (Matt. 25:37-39) and the Goats (Matt. 25:44) addressed the King (Jesus) as Lord. But the Goats will go away to eternal punishment, and the Sheep to eternal life (Matt. 25:46). The question needed to be asked therefore is, "What is Christ's mandate to us Christians?" Are we too preoccupied with other things that we have neglected Jesus' two basic commands, that is, to love one another (John 13:34-35), and to make known the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:16-20)?

Jesus came to seek and to save what was lost (Luke 19:10). As followers of Jesus Christ, aren't we EXPECTED TO DO THE SAME?

<sup>1</sup> *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, Hades.

<sup>2</sup> *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, Church.

*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season;  
correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.  
(2Tim. 4:2)*

# Perfect Submission

By Pastor Angelo Gutierrez

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ

- Ephesians 5:21

## THE COMMAND: SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER

Submit to one another. How often do we hear this being said in the church? But more so, how often do we fail to obey this every day? According to the Scriptures, this is something we all should be willing to do for one another because we are a fellowship of believers gathered together by the same salvation. It is God's will that we have a responsibility to and for each other because we are joined together by the death and resurrection of Christ.

Ephesians 5:21 says, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." The word "submit" is indeed a powerful word. It means to "lose or to surrender one's own rights or will." It also means to "give precedence to others." It is not that submissive people think less of themselves. Rather, they just think about themselves less. They put other people before themselves.

The word "submit" in this passage has a continuous sense, meaning to always and continually submit. And who is it that we are to submit to? The Bible tells children to submit to their parents; slaves to their masters; wives to their husbands; and the church to her Christ. Today, this principle would also mean an employee is to submit to an employer; students to their teachers; a flock to its shepherd; and a nation to its government.

Encompassing all of these, we Christians are to submit to one another, which means giving precedence to our brothers- and sisters-in-Christ. God's will is that we become busy surrendering our rights and our wills for the sake of God's church.

What happens when we submit to one another? When we truly obey this, we cannot possibly have church fights and splits and divisions. When we submit to one another, there is no one among Christians who is motivated by ego and power and the "me-first" syndrome. When we submit to one another, no one in the body of Christ will insist on having his own ways.

This teaching, no matter how unappealing it may sound, is reminded to us by Paul in Philippians and 1 Corinthians. Philippians 2:2-4 says, "Make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." In the same way, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 tells us, "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to

drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many."

## THE ATTITUDE: VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION

Those who do what Paul says don't submit because they have to, but because they want to. There was a time when a slave had no choice but to submit to a master; but once that slave becomes a Christian, he or she begins to submit willingly. The best Biblical example is the slave Onesimus. He was not a believer when he stole money and ran away from his master Philemon. But upon meeting Paul and becoming a believer in Rome, Paul sent him back to Philemon - not as a rebellious slave but as a brother in the Lord who voluntarily submits and serves his master.

Likewise, there was a time when wives were treated as a piece of property and had no choice but to submit; but once they become Christians, they willingly submit to their husbands. And, there was a time when men had to submit to their rulers - or be executed - but once they become Christians they willingly submit to their rulers.

Christian submission comes from the inside. It is a voluntary choice rather than a legal requirement. Paul was after a spirit of humility by choice and not by force.

For the church, what does voluntary submission mean? It means that members voluntarily submit themselves to the rule of



the leaders – even when it comes to chastisement, admonishment, and discipline. Voluntary submission also means that all parties strive to do what is best for the body instead of insisting on their individual ways. It means that those who want change and those who resist change voluntarily restrain their differing desires and still their tongues for the sake of the other group. It means the young put the old first and the old put the young first. Voluntary submission means that we always take the time to listen to one another. Voluntary submission means that we put the other members first before ourselves. All these are for the sake of the body of Christ.

This similarly applies to marriage. Paul reminds us in the following verses that husbands and wives adopt their partner's hopes, dreams and aspirations as their own. It means laying aside your own selfish desires and seeking your partner's happiness and fulfillment in marriage rather than your own.

"Submit to one another." What a beautiful thing to do – what is more captivating than those in the body of Christ submitting to one another? Or, what is more captivating than a husband and wife seeking the good and happiness of the other person?

Submission is beautiful. Yet, doing so requires a lot of effort. You see, submission is almost always contrary to our system. It is contrary to the ways of sinful persons. But our motivation does not rest on fleeting and superficial reasons.

### **CHILDREN**

*submit to your parents*

### **SLAVES**

*submit to your masters*

### **WIVES**

*submit to your husband*

### **CHURCH**

*submit to your Christ*

### **EMPLOYEES**

*submit to your employer*

### **STUDENTS**

*submit to your teachers*

### **FLOCK**

*submit to your shepherd*

### **NATION**

*submit to your government*

We, who are sinners heading to eternal punishment but have been saved through the work of Jesus Christ, become willing to submit to one another because of the undeserved salvation we received.

### **THE MOTIVATION: OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST**

Notice, we are not told to submit because the other person is perfect, or worthy, or righteous, or outstanding model of godliness. Rather, we are to submit to one another "out of reverence for Christ." Because of Who Christ is, because of the place He occupies in our lives, because of what He has done for us at the cross, we are to submit to one another.

Herein lies the secret to submission. What is impossible and unnatural for sinful, fallen

people is possible for those who know and love and serve Jesus. People who love Jesus are able to submit to one another. People who died on the cross and were resurrected with Christ are able to submit to one another. You see, people who love Jesus are called to be like Jesus Christ.

As the King of kings practiced humble and voluntary submission by obeying the will of God when He came to this world to suffer, die and rose again, we are called to exercise humble submission to our brothers and sisters. So long as we come to Jesus and make Him the Center and Master of our lives, we would be molded to submit to one another.

This thought is strengthened by the fact that the word "submit" in this passage is connected to the word "fill" in verse 18 ("be filled with the Spirit"). This implies that our submission to one another is an evidence that we are filled with the Spirit of Christ. Thus, submitting shows that we are following the leading of the Spirit. Submitting shows that we are one of Christ's true disciples.

Spirit-led people, Spirit-filled people, Spirit-born people – in the midst of a world that laughs at submission – are given all the resources they need to do what otherwise is not possible. In Christ and through the power of His Spirit, we are granted the grace and the power and the humility to submit to one another. May God's grace and mercy be with us all and make us willing servants of His people.

# 寶貴的聖經

許錦繡

本教會今年的主題是「向下扎根，向上結果。」一顆樹能夠長得高大又豐盛，其根一定要扎得很深才可抵擋外界風雨的打擊，也可結出果子使人享受。同樣的，我們要靈性得以長進，也需要向下扎根，使我們信心堅定，無論遇到任何試煉都可站立得住。

要如何「扎根」呢？就是要扎在上帝的話語上。神創造世界萬物是以祂的話語而建立的。在創世記一章神說要有光(1:3-5)，要有空氣(1:6-8)，要將天的水聚在一起(1:9-10)，要地生青草，結果的菜蔬，並結果的樹木(1:11-13)，要有光體可以分晝夜作記號。定節令日子、年歲，並要發光在天空(1:14-15)，要在空中和水中生命的物(1:20-23)，要有活物在地(1:24-25)。祂說事就這樣的成了。主耶穌在世醫治各種奇難雜症並沒有使用藥品治療，而是以祂的話。祂只「說」病就消失了，人就得了痊癒。可見神的話是多麼有權柄呀！

如今，上帝在天上，耶穌已復活了，我們要怎麼樣得到祂的話語？奇妙的主哉，祂知道我們的需要，祂為我們預備了這本寶貴的聖經，我們應該珍惜它。將神的話藏在心中，作我們處世為人的指南。

聖經和世上其他的書籍有何分別？

## A.) 聖經是傑出的

### • 神是作者：

神藉著四十個人在一千五百年中，在不同的時間、背景、文化，由神的默示，聖靈的感動，寫了這本書。

### • 有科學家的實證：

很久以前，人以為地球是被載在一隻大龜的背後。在1687年Isaac Newton發現地球沒有被任何東西維持著。在二千年前「神將北極鋪在空中，將大地懸在虛空」(約伯26:7)。

### • 翻譯了二千多種的言語：

世界任何著名的書本，無論怎樣地流行，過了不多年就失去了吸引力，漸漸的退化，也沒有任何書被翻譯了這麼多的言語。

### • 是永遠長存的：

猶大王約雅敬閱卷中預言神必降災禍給他們，他就很生氣的用刀割破，扔在火盆中燒盡了。但上帝再命耶利米叫巴錄將所燒掉那一卷一切的話再寫出來。

William Tyndale將聖經翻譯英文。當時的英王不滿就將他捉去，活活的燒死。任憑人怎樣想辦法來毀滅聖經，總是不會成功的。因為主說：「草必枯乾，花必凋殘，惟有我們神的話必永遠立定」(賽40:8)。「耶和華的話安在天，直到永遠」(詩119:89)。「天地要廢去，我的話卻不能廢去」(太24:35)。

### • 是永不過時的：

聖經所記載從前的事，到現在仍舊如此：例如情慾，姦淫，污穢，邪蕩，拜偶像，邪術，仇恨，爭競，忌恨，惱怒，結黨紛爭，異端，嫉妒，醉酒，荒宴(加5:19-21)。人為貪愛錢財離親背友，做出很多邪惡的事，而且離棄真道，使愁苦刺透了自己(提前6:10)。這些事如今還有。

### • 會改變人生：

「神的道是活潑的，是有功效的，比一切兩刃的劍更快。甚至魂與靈，骨節與骨髓都能刺入剖開，連心中的思念和主意都能辨明」(希4:12)。

自從保羅被天上的光光照以後，他的生活有了一百八十度的轉變，從一位迫害門徒的法利賽人，變成終身事主的僕人(使9)。

John Newton 是一位放蕩醉酒的人，當他悔改接受基督後，他的人生改換了，成了一位出名的佈道家，並寫出

Amazing Grace(奇妙恩典)這首詩。

「若有人在基督裡，他就是新造的人，舊事已過，都變成新的了」(林後5:17)

## B.) 聖經是確實的

### • 從近死海洞中所發現的書卷與聖經沒有什異：

聖經的確實(Inerrancy)是指神所默示的原文。舊約的原文是希伯來文，新約的原文是希臘文。現在我們所閱讀已是翻譯本，如KJV, NKJV, NIV, NASB, NLT。所以在譯本中難免有不同的譯意，要得到作者原來的意思應該查看原文。

### • 證明赫人的存在：

創世記23:10有記載到赫人的存在。當撒拉死後，亞伯拉罕向赫人買一塊地為她埋葬。但至今，我們未曾聽到赫人的蹤跡。是否聖經錯了？不是的，差不多一百多年後，考古學家在埃及地發現了土版有記載埃及人與赫人爭戰。在1906年Hugo Winkler於土耳其發掘時發現赫人的首都。

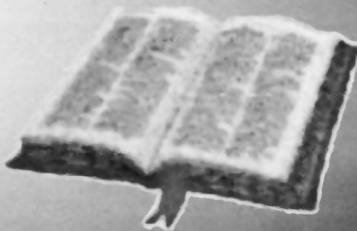
### • 耶穌親自用神的話教導人：

耶穌引用舊約來教導人：

- 1) 「人要離開父母與妻子連合，二人成為一體」(太19:5/創2:24)
- 2) 「人活著不單靠食物乃是靠神口裡所出的一切話」(太4:4/申8:3)
- 3) 「不可試探主你的神」(太4:7/申6:16)
- 4) 「當拜主你神，單要事奉祂」(太4:10/申6:13)

### • 新約的作者是主耶穌的見證人：

- 1) 「有好些人，提筆作書，述說在我們中間所成就的事，是照傳道的人，從起初親眼看見，又傳給我們的」(路1:1-2)



2) 「我們從前將我們主耶穌基督的大能和祂降臨的事告訴你們，並不是隨從乖巧捏造的虛言，乃是親眼見過祂的威榮」(彼後1:16)

- 使徒行傳所記載的地方都是事實的：

Dr. William Ramsay以為使徒行傳有很多錯誤的地方，所以他讀了許多書，然後親身去那些地方察看。他很驚奇的承認所記載全是真實的。

#### C. 聖經許多預言已應驗了

- 以色列的復國

在主後七十年，耶路撒冷聖殿被燒毀，所有以色列人都分散在世界各角落。耶和華在以西結書37:21「我要將以色列人從他們所到各國收聚，又從四圍團聚他們，引導他們歸回本地。」很奇妙的在一九四八年，二千五百年後，以色列真的復國了。

- 耶穌降生的地方

上帝預言將有一君王由猶大之伯利恆而出(彌5:2)。耶穌真的降生在猶大的伯利恆(太2:1)。

- 耶穌騎驢進耶路撒冷城

五百年前告知撒迦利亞，預言救主要坐驢進耶路撒冷城(亞9:9)。在翰12:12-15，耶穌真的騎驢進耶路撒冷，也就是今日的棕樹節。

- 耶穌的死

在以賽亞書53章形容耶穌怎樣被藐視、厭棄、受痛苦，經憂患、欺壓不開口，為擔當人的罪成了贖罪祭。在四福音裡都有記載耶穌受苦釘十字架的情況。

- 耶穌的復活

耶穌和門徒在一起時，有題到「人子要被交給祭司長和文士。他們要定祂死罪又交給外邦人，將祂戲弄鞭打，釘十字架上，第三日祂要復活。」(太20:18-19)當抹大拉的馬利亞在第七日的頭一日，天快亮的時去看墳墓之時，

天使對婦女說：「不要害怕，我知道你們是尋找那釘十字架的耶穌。祂不在這裡。照祂所說的已經復活了。」(太28:5-6)真的，耶穌已復活了。

- 猶大出賣主

猶大去見祭司長，為了三十塊錢竟然願意出賣耶穌。耶穌在逾越節的筵席中說：「你們中間有一個與我同喫的人要賣我了。」(可14:18)過了不久，猶大並有許多人帶著刀棒，猶大以親嘴的暗號賣了主(太26:47-49)。

- 彼得三次不認主

耶穌對彼得說：「今夜雞叫以先你要三次不認我。」彼得說我就是必須和禰同死，也總不能不認禰。(太26:34-35)過了不久，當耶穌在公會前受審時，彼得在眾人面前三次不認祂(太26:69-74)。

- 推羅的毀滅

舊約預言推羅城必被滅絕而成為曬網的地方。(結26:3-6)今天，推羅城已沒有存在。現在是漁夫曬網的地方。

神的話有許多的名稱。詩篇有論到神的法度律例，訓詞，命令，典章，律法，真理，誠命，訓誨；這些都是神的話語。閱讀神的話對我們有甚麼好處？

- 1) 神的話是我們的靈糧

我們是有靈有體的活人。身體需要食物，心靈也需要靈糧。「耶穌說：我就是生命的糧，到我這裡來的，必定不餓。信我的，永遠不渴。」(翰6:35)

- 2) 神的話記載歷史，可供為榜樣及鑑戒

歷史是往事實實的記錄。神的話有記載歷史，證明了事故發生的存在。在聖經中歷史的人物，其成功或失敗可做我們的學習和警戒。

- 3) 神的話是我們的喜樂

神的話是醫治的良藥。當

我們遇到試煉，憂傷，痛苦，灰心失志時，祂話語中的應許成了我們的安慰和鼓勵。詩人大衛說：「禰的律法是我所喜愛的。」(詩119:77)「我要在禰的律例中自樂，我不忘記禰的話」(詩119:16)。

- 4) 神的話賜我們有智慧

箴言是聖經中的智慧書。從中可得到勸世之言，也使我们懂得作正確的揀擇。箴2:6「因為耶和華賜人智慧，知識和聰明都由祂口而出」。箴23:19「我兒，你當聽，當存智慧，好在正道上引導你的心」。

- 5) 神的話是我們人生的手冊

當我們購買用具時，裡面通常都夾上了說明書，使我们懂得怎麼樣來使用。神是人類的創造者。祂最了解人的一切。祂的話就是我們的手冊。神的話是我們腳前的燈，是我們路上的光(詩119:105)。「聖經是神所默示的，於教訓督責，使人歸正，教導人學義，都是有益的。叫屬神的人得以完全，預備行各樣的善事」(提後3:16-17)。

- 6) 神的話是我們的盼望

凡屬主的人，上帝在祂的話語中應許了下列的盼望：

- 1) 天上的盼望(西1:5)
- 2) 榮耀的盼望(西1:27)
- 3) 永生的盼望(多3:7)
- 4) 活潑的盼望(彼前1:3)
- 5) 盼望耶穌基督顯現(彼前1:13)

希望我們對聖經的認識後，會珍惜它的價值，立定心志，撥出時間多多閱讀聖經，遵行祂的教示，使我們能夠過著聖潔的生活，知道神的旨意，有美好的見證，蒙神的喜悅。

# What Does It Take To Blast Into Space?

By Chris Tio

Have you ever wanted to become a spaceman? How you ever wondered what it would take to become an astronaut, a member of the elite explorers of the human race? I remember when I was a kid, I wanted to blast off into space. I would watch movies like Star Wars and E.T.. I shared young Luke Skywalker's desire to go into space. Like many, I was very inspired when Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, voicing the immortal words, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

We cannot imagine what it takes to become members of the elite explorers of our generation. Can we understand or fathom the sacrifices needed to fulfill the commitment required? Many of those chosen were already elite pilots and scientist, all recognized as being part of the best, before making the commitment to the space program. Many of them have dedicated themselves to the singular purpose of being able to blast into space and achieve the ultimate feeling of "freedom" from the Earth. It is a superhuman dedication that merits our adulation and respect.

We see glimpses of the rigid training and discipline required from watching the Discovery Channel. We see these individuals training and subjecting themselves to working under extreme stress and highly dangerous situations. They are trained and equipped to represent the best that the world has to offer, with millions of dollars invested in their training and equipment.

They have willed and trained to become literally the best that human kind has to offer. As a result, they are capable of many things that the

ordinary person is incapable of. What I just find ironic is that, the moment that they are finally strapped in for takeoff, they actually find themselves helpless. All of their abilities, training, and discipline are set aside. They are now in the hands of the people that they will leave behind. If they are successful, these people will be tiny specks in the ground, too little to see. But their lives and the success of their mission are actually now in the hands of the "little" people.

*"Now faith is being  
sure of what we  
hope for and  
certain of what  
we do not see."  
Hebrews 11:1*

Every little detail becomes important. I can imagine what goes through the minds, "Did the engineers check everything? "Did the scientists calculate correctly? "Did maintenance sweep everything free of debris? "Is everything strapped securely?" "Are the weather conditions ideal?" I am sure that there are thousands of questions that go through their minds.

It must drive the astronaut mad thinking about whether or not others did their job. They have shaped their lives to become precise instruments and examples of human abilities and discipline, but at that precise moment before takeoff, they need to rely on other people and circumstances that

they have no control. I remember one shuttle takeoff that ended tragically because of one small chunk of foam. So what is the astronaut to do?

He discovers Faith. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." I cannot imagine what goes through the minds of these brave individuals, but I am certain, that each of them, in their own way, must have uttered a prayer.

Recent financial news have shocked everybody. The failure of a legendary financial institution like Lehman Brothers have led to deep questions about certainties and securities in life. Just like astronauts, these institutions are the leading experts and authority in the financial world. They are supposed to secure our wealth and invest it. What do this financial meltdown and its subsequent painful losses to its investors tell us? They were the best at it, having a track record that lasted more than a century and yet.... The lesson: we can lay the best laid plans, hire the premiere experts, prepare for perfection and yet, if we don't have faith, God may not be willing.

In these times of crisis and hardship, we need to turn to God and our Faith. We need to trust our Father in Heaven. We have done everything that we can, Father, the rest is in your hands. We just have to have Faith. Matthew 17:20 states: He replied, "Because you have so little **faith**. I tell you the truth, if you have **faith** as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." And nothing really is impossible with God. We just have to have Faith.

# 教會消息 Church News

## 五月 MAY

五月十一日 - 舉行母親節主日，由主日學部及英文查經班贈送禮物，以表敬意

May 11 - Mother's Day: English Bible Class & Sunday School Department honored mothers with gifts of love and appreciation

五月卅一日 - 歡迎洪英峰傳道，詹獻榮傳道，陳仁仁傳道蒞臨本會事奉

May 31 - CGC welcomed Ptr. Eric Chan, Ptr. Angelo Gutierrez & Ptr. Keren Tan to minister in our church

## 八月 AUGUST

八月十七日 - 舉行青年主日，為青年人的委身與愛主的心讚美上帝  
Aug 17 - Youth Sunday: praise God for our youth's commitment and love for the Lord

八月廿四日 - 舉行聖樂主日，願大家以唱詩頌讚獻給神  
Aug 24 - Sacred Music Sunday: songs of joy and praise to our Almighty God

九月十四日 - 會友組主辦「長輩郊遊日」，關懷長輩們

Sep 14 - Senior Citizens Outing in Danao by the Membership Committee



BP monitoring



"Hep Hep Hooray ..."



The Membership Committee members & staff



sumptuous dinner courtesy of TKO



Moon Festival game

六月十五日 - 舉行父親節主日，懷著感恩的心答謝父親們  
June 15 - Father's Day: let's be grateful for our godly fathers

六月廿八日 - 由陳貽強博士主持特會，題目是「從聖經原則看教會領袖」

June 28 - special seminar on "Biblical Principles of Church Leadership" by Rev. David Cheung

## 七月 JULY

七月六日 - 為王良基舉行嬰孩奉獻禮，願主看顧

July 6 - Child Dedication Sunday: God bless Christian Dean Ong as he was presented to our Lord



七月十二至十三日 - 由邵晨光博士主持尼希米書講義及華福主日之講道  
July 12-13 - CCOWE Sunday: special message and seminar on the Book of Nehemiah by Dr. Joseph Shao



exercise

## 九月 SEPTEMBER

... more on page 16

## ASER JUNE

# G.R.E.A.T. Kids Speak to the Nations

By Miss Aiza Lepor, PCGS Nursery Teacher



Where is mommy and daddy living?



## Can our Children make a Difference?

Desiring to create awareness of other nations around the globe, PCGS Preschool Department presented "G.R.E.A.T. KIDS around the World" last September 25. Prayers were offered for nations that the children were representing. It also became an occasion to introduce parents to global concerns involving our children. It was a call to everyone - adults and young children alike, that we can make a difference.

Parents can support this challenge by educating and motivating children to be responsible. It starts with giving children "simple" tasks like making their beds, cleaning up the table; throwing trash in the bin, practice recycling, minimize wastes including paper, etc. Encourage them to bike, jog, or walk to cut down air pollution, turn off lights, the radio, or TV to save energy; do not leave the water running while brushing their teeth. Make it fun! A weekly bike trip to the local farmer's market not only supports local food production and improves air quality, but it can also become a great family outing.

As a teacher, it's sometimes hard to encourage the children to do some of these tasks because they are brought

up differently. In most homes where there are helpers, children are usually not trained to do house chores at all. But we should not give up because if it is something that will benefit you and others, then it must be worth doing even if we are making little progress.



"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today."

*Anonymous*



These kids had a taste of what other cultures look like.





Wow! Teachers are "speaking to the nations" through their body language. What a dance!



A special message from our department

Let us pray then for all children of the world. Let us pray for their families, schools, teachers, and friends; pray for their physical and spiritual health; pray that their hearts would be receptive to the Gospel; pray for their future, protection from the evil that abounds in their times; pray for courage to pursue God's will in their lives, etc.



## God is in control

We've been facing a lot of crises – first, it was the oil price hike, then prices of rice going up as well as other basic commodities, etc. It seemed like global disasters are in total chaotic positions. Recently, we heard that the US stock exchange plummeted which is a great shock to many Filipinos who are dependent of US economy. Furthermore, natural disasters are also happening everywhere.

But our grandmas and grandpas have been in life situations like what we are going through right now. Yet they survived. This doesn't mean that this generation can be nonchalant of our economic crisis; rather, let us affirm that God is in control!

What a privilege for this rising generation to have high technology machines or a new gadget on hand where just by a click of a button, you have what you want. Everything is simply just within their reach. For some reason, I believe this could also be another concern. Hopefully, they never forget to appreciate the simple life that many of us used to enjoy. We can teach them that "less is more", or that "simplicity is beauty." We can also reach them with God's love and try to make a difference *in* their lives.

As the Scriptures say, "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in time of trouble. So we will not fear, even if earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea..." **"Be silent, and know that I am God."** Psalm 46: 1- 2 & 10



Look at the kids! Aren't they cute and fascinating ?

# 教會消息 Church News

九月  
SEPTEMBER

九月廿一日 - 舉行主日學主日, 願主使用教師祝福兒童

Sep 21 - Sunday School Sunday: may our Sunday School teachers continue to be blessings to our children



*Kids Around the World*



*MGC Children's Choir*



*“耶和華祝福滿滿”*

九月廿五至廿八日 - 舉行宣道週, 主題為「基督宣道, 你我使命」講員為J. Banzuelo 傳道

Sep 25-28 - Mission Emphasis Week with the theme "Christ's Mission, Our Mission" by Ptr. Jay Banzuelo & Ptr. Jebo Banzuelo



*Pastor Jay Banzuelo at Revival Meeting*



*Mission Sunday with Pastor Jebo Banzuelo and Elder Frank Sy*



*43<sup>rd</sup> MEW with missionaries and council members*

十月十五日 - 歡迎陳錦湄傳道到本會事奉. 感謝主!

Oct 15 - we welcome Ptr.

Charmaine Gutierrez to be part of our pastoral team

十月十九日 - 舉行敬老主日, 由迦密、職青年人贈送禮物予長者們

Oct 19 - Respect the Aged Sunday: special token of respect to our elderly from Carmel Fellowship & Young Professionals Fellowship

十月廿五日 - 由好消息電視台之劉曉亭牧師主持音樂佈道會

Oct 25 - Musical Evangelistic Meeting by Rev. Lui Shiau Ting of GoodTV

## 十月 OCTOBER



*Musical Evangelistic Meeting with Rev. Lui Shiau Ting*

# 作新造的人

小山

「若有人在基督裡，他就是新造的人；舊事已過，都變成新的了。」

林後5:17

## 一. 在基督裡的人

在基督裡的人就是蒙恩得救的人。救恩是上帝的恩典，因為祂愛世人，差遣祂的獨生子道成肉身，降世做人；為罪人捨命，被釘在十字架上，使凡相信祂的不至滅亡反得永生。而聖靈感動人信主接受主耶穌基督為救主。因此救恩實在是三位一體上帝的作為。（參約翰福音3:16；以弗所書2:8）

在1858年，Frances Ridley Havangal 陪伴父親到德國醫她父親的眼疾。他們住在一位牧師的家中，她看到一幅主耶穌釘十字架的圖畫掛在壁上；下面寫著：「我為你這樣做，你為我做甚麼？」她急忙拿了一張紙，按照這座右銘寫了一篇詩；但她對這詩感覺不滿足。就把它扔在火中；這張紙卻奇妙地沒有損壞！這事以後，她父親鼓勵她將之發行；這詩由Philip P. Bliss作曲，成為今日有名的聖詩：

「我為你捨生命，  
寶血洗你過犯，  
使你得贖歸正  
而且出死入生。  
為你，為你我捨生命；  
你為我捨甚麼？」

是的，主耶穌為我們捨命，我們應為祂捨甚麼？為主耶穌長、闊、高、深的愛。難以測度的愛；我們應改變犯罪作惡的舊本性；立定心志愛主愛人。傳福音救靈魂來忠心事奉主。

## 二. 舊事已過

我們未得救前的舊事很多；諸如世界的嫖賭酒煙等罪中之樂；金錢、地位、名聲的追求；風水、相命、交鬼巫術、異端邪說的吸引。我們信主後是否真正地舊事已過呢？我們來自我檢討一下，在基督裡舊事已過，但在我裡面實在不能完全棄舊換新。

歌羅西書3:5說，「所以要治死你們在地上的肢體。就如淫亂、污穢、邪情、惡慾和貪婪，貪婪就與拜偶像一樣。」又8-9節說，「但現在你們要棄絕這一切的事，

以及惱恨、忿怒、惡毒、毀謗、並口中污穢的言語。不要彼此說謊。因你們已經脫去舊人，和舊人的行為。」這些經文指出我們犯罪的舊本性的行為。我們應用堅定的信抵擋之。才能實在地使舊事過去。

## 三. 都變成新的了

我們在基督裡的人，舊事既已過去就要更新；因此我們對四圍的人要有新的看法，我們將他們看作是基督為他們的罪死的人，不再將他們看作朋友或是敵人，顧客或是同工；我們要按照基督的看法看他們如需要牧人的失喪之羊。當你被基督的愛所催迫，你就必願意分享祂的愛給他人。

在美國一次之劇烈的總統競選中；有一位教會的職員帶著一個宣傳的徽章來到主日學課室。牧師叫他脫下這徽章直到不在教會才可再掛。「為甚麼要脫去？而且他實在是一位很好的候選人！」牧師回答道：「設使你所掛的被一個屬於另外一個政黨而未信的人看見了，是否會使他不滿而不要聽信福音。」他安靜地脫下他的徽章，然後微笑地說：「我想我應記得無論是共和黨或是民主黨都是罪人，且需要一位救主；這比在競選中得勝更重要。」這位教會職員是一位重生得救的人；有棄舊換新的潛力。

## 四. 作新造的人

以上的結論就是要做新造的人。新造的人的一舉一動應有新生的形式；主為我們捨命使我們無論活著或死了都與主同活；更是為那為我們死而復活的主來活。

做新造的人和基督有新的關係，祂也使我們和世上的人有新的關係，新的看法；與未信前不同；因為是照著上帝所賜屬靈之形像造的，是有仁義、聖潔和真理。我們靠著住在我們心裡的聖靈引導，過著得勝成聖的生活。主捨命之目的是要帶進新創造的人。新人是指我們作上帝兒女的地位；使我們靈性日日增長，愈來愈像主耶穌基督。

# The King's People: In the Midst of Troubled Times

By Pfr. Charmaine Yu Gutierrez

"RP shares plunge to lowest in 4 years." "Oil plunges to \$61/barrel." "Global economic crisis to leave more Filipinos unemployed." These are the sort of headlines that have been greeting us lately almost every morning. The global impact of financial crises, economic instability, and even food scares push people to wonder about their and their family's future security. Once again, we are being forced to face the vulnerability of life.

How are we reacting in these unstable times? Where is the best place to put our security in now? What is the wisest decision to make for our families' future?

Matthew 6:25-34 provides us God's timeless guidance that stands whether in good or troubled times.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that

is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

## Words of the King to His people

These words of encouragement are part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where He gave His inaugural address. As the promised King, Jesus declared His divine standard to the people, that is, how the members of His kingdom are expected to be.

Jesus' command to not worry about material needs is essentially linked with the previous verses. Matthew 6:19-23 tells us that the Master of our lives should be God instead of money. With God as our sole Master, our main concern is Him, not material needs.

The reason why we should not worry for our basic needs is because God, our Heavenly Father, is the sole provider of all His creations. In times of crises, this statement sounds too good to be true.

How do we know that God is indeed the provider of us all? Jesus gave two simple but clear illustrations to prove this truth. First, God provides the food of even small animals like birds. Second, He also provides the clothing of the plants, which sometimes live for just a short while. Jesus is letting us see that God, who created everything in this world, cares for every single one of them.

## Creator and Provider

Some people believe that God created the world and everything in it but left them on their own. This echoes the teaching of deism. Matthew 6:25 to 34, however, proves that this kind of belief is unbiblical and wrong. God did not only create everything, He also takes care of everything. What is more amazing is that if God cares so much for these less valuable creations, how much more does he care for us? We Christians have a special relationship with the Father through Christ. That is why the words "heavenly Father" were emphasized twice in this passage. God is our heavenly Father. Jesus is assuring us that God cares for us, even on the small areas of our lives like our need for food and clothing. God's care is more than sufficient, and it is unchangeable. Therefore, our response should be to trust in Him even on little things.

The true significance of having a national leader is to put



our dependence on him or her. The members of that nation are to put their trust that this person will provide for their needs, whether physical, social, mental or emotional. But nowadays and in this country, we often end up disappointed with all the unmet needs that they once promised to fulfill. The King of kings is not at all like that. He fills all our needs according to His will. Just as He promised, He takes care of us and does not change His mind.

**Living as people of God's kingdom**

With such assurance from the Lord, how should we live as people of His kingdom? We trust Him and do not worry. In everything we do, with full trust in Him, we do verse 33. "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" exhorts us to strive for obedience and submission to God our King. We obey God because He is not only the Creator, He is also the Sustainer of everything.

Worry is really failure to understand who God is. Members of God's kingdom sometimes fail to see the King's sovereignty and faithfulness. We Christians sometimes fail to know and remember the complexity and beauty of who God is. It is wise to continuously contemplate on the magnitude of His greatness and holiness in comparison to our limitedness and weakness.

We often remember

God's care for us when we are in trouble or when we are having big problems. That is when we really come to God in prayer. We desperately seek the Lord's guidance during these difficult times, knowing that the Lord cares for us and will help us face the problem boldly. Such trust is what God wants. But this trust should not only be confined when we have big problems. We need to show the same trust even on simple things and even in peaceful times.

God will provide for our needs according to His will. Unlike the man-made foundations which are standing firm one day and crumbling down the next, this truth will not change. God is our provider, thus, we should trust in Him regardless of our circumstances. So what is the wisest action to do now (and all the time)? Make our Stable King happy with our unwavering faith and obedience to Him!

*Christmas Word Search*

N	C	Q	L	S	I	B	F	A	L	A	N	Q	W	G
H	K	H	Y	C	Q	N	L	A	O	F	F	D	U	Y
K	J	R	R	L	H	G	N	E	A	V	U	T	M	E
U	G	R	A	V	O	R	K	K	S	T	J	S	G	L
N	O	Y	N	M	T	H	I	Q	E	S	S	H	K	O
B	L	M	G	A	T	B	G	S	R	E	E	X	W	R
M	V	G	E	N	V	T	T	L	T	R	P	D	V	D
A	N	A	L	G	G	A	K	B	O	S	M	E	I	I
L	V	A	D	E	T	A	N	E	T	R	X	O	R	L
A	G	O	Y	R	X	U	B	B	Y	Z	Y	L	G	L
M	V	T	N	N	X	J	Y	R	A	Y	P	B	I	K
S	L	A	Z	G	L	B	A	J	I	F	V	H	N	Y
H	K	R	M	V	I	M	L	A	D	E	V	Q	U	K
E	L	B	D	B	Z	S	X	I	S	H	L	X	A	J
C	P	E	A	C	E	M	M	S	O	N	N	M	C	H

- |         |           |        |
|---------|-----------|--------|
| ANGEL   | HOLY      | MYRRH  |
| BLESSED | INNKEEPER | PEACE  |
| CHRIST  | LORD      | SIGN   |
| GABRIEL | MANGER    | SON    |
| GLORY   | MARY      | VIRGIN |

# Resolutions

By Ptn. Keren Tan

As the year comes to a close and the New Year draws near, it is not a surprise that some might once again consider making a list of New Year's resolutions. While others conscientiously manage their resolutions through the first month, it becomes increasingly harder by the second. Nevertheless a numbered few amazingly reach the third month by simply going through the motions.

A man who lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the name of Jonathan Edwards, a pastor and a theologian who is said to be one of America's greatest preachers, compiled a list of his own over the course of two years (1722-1723). However, unlike most of us, Edwards determined to make it a part of his daily walk by remembering to read his resolutions once a week, adding an item or a portion bit by bit.

Acknowledging his own incapability apart from God, Edwards began his list with these remarkable words:

*Being sensible that I am unable to do anything  
without God's help,*

*I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me*

*to keep these Resolutions,*

*so far as they are agreeable to his will,*

*for Christ's sake.*

It is said that the whole Christian life is all of grace or it is not the Christian life at all. And I believe Edwards understood this statement precisely as it is evident in all his seventy resolutions. I took the liberty of choosing a few items from "The Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards". I implore you to contemplatively read through the selection as you learn from the churchman's utter reliance on the wonderful grace of our Heavenly Father.

1. Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory, and my own good, profit and pleasure, in the whole of my duration, without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriad's of ages hence. Resolved to do whatever I think to be my duty and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general. Resolved to do this, whatever difficulties I meet with, how many and how great soever.

4. Resolved, never to do any manner of thing, whether in soul or body, less or more, but what tends to the glory of

God; nor be, nor suffer it, if I can avoid it.

8. Resolved, to act, in all respects, both speaking and doing, as if nobody had been so vile as I, and as if I had committed the same sins, or had the same infirmities or failings as others; and that I will let the knowledge of their failings promote nothing but shame in myself, and prove only an occasion of my confessing my own sins and misery to God.

12. Resolved, if I take delight in it as a gratification of pride, or vanity, or on any such account, immediately to throw it by.

16. Resolved, never to speak evil of anyone, so that it shall tend to his dishonor, more or less, upon no account except for some real good.

22. Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can, with all the power; might, vigor, and vehemence, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of.

25. Resolved, to examine carefully, and constantly,



what that one thing in me is, which causes me in the least to doubt of the love of God; and to direct all my forces against it.

28. Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.
29. Resolved, never to count that a prayer, nor to let that pass as a prayer, nor that as a petition of a prayer, which is so made, that I cannot hope that God will answer it; nor that as a confession, which I cannot hope God will accept.
31. Resolved, never to say anything at all against anybody, but when it is perfectly agreeable to the highest degree of Christian honor, and of love to mankind, agreeable to the lowest humility, and sense of my own faults and failings, and agreeable to the golden rule; often, when I have said anything against anyone, to bring it to, and try it strictly by the test of this Resolution.
37. Resolved, to inquire every night, as I am going to bed, wherein I have been negligent, what sin I have committed, and wherein I have denied myself: also at the end of every week, month and year. Dec. 22 and 26, 1722.
46. Resolved, never to allow the least measure of any fretting uneasiness at my father or mother. Resolved to suffer no effects of it, so much as in the least alteration of speech, or motion of my eye: and to be especially careful of it, with respect to any of our family.
48. Resolved, constantly, with the utmost niceness and diligence, and the strictest scrutiny, to be looking into the state of my soul, that I may know whether I have truly an interest in Christ or no; that when I come to die, I may not have any negligence respecting this to repent of. May 26, 1723.
52. I frequently hear persons in old age say how they would live, if they were to live their lives over again: Resolved, that I will live just so as I can think I shall wish I had done, supposing I live to old age. July 8, 1723.
58. Resolved, not only to refrain from an air of dislike, fretfulness, and anger in conversation, but to exhibit an air of love, cheerfulness and benignity. May 27, and July 13, 1723.
62. Resolved, never to do anything but duty; and then according to Eph. 6:6-8, do it willingly and cheerfully as unto the Lord, and not to man; "knowing that whatever good thing any man doth, the same shall he receive of the Lord." June 25 and July 13, 1723.
68. Resolved, to confess frankly to myself all that which I find in myself, either infirmity or sin; and, if it be what concerns religion, also to confess the whole case to God, and implore needed help. July 23, and August 10, 1723.
70. Let there be something of benevolence, in all that I speak. Aug. 17, 1723

Jonathan Edwards strived for a personal "reformation" not just in the first few months of the year, but every single day. May God embolden us to yearn for that very same desire in our piety and in our practice even as we understand what it means to freely receive His abundant supply of grace moment by moment. Thus, may we seek to do it not merely for that end, but for the praise and glory of our God!

# 神就是光

白鴿

「神就是光，在祂毫無黑暗。這是我們從主所聽見，又報給你們的信息。」  
(約壹一:5)

是的，神就是光！因祂是公義的神，是聖潔的神，也是信實的神！祂的光能照臨真實或虛假，善意或惡念！雖然我們立志向行在光中，然而卻因一時不謹慎陷在黑暗裡。但神藉著聖靈的光警戒我們、啟迪我們，使我們能夠堅定。

然而，光、生命、愛、與我們日常生活有密切的關聯。耶穌說：「我是世上的光，跟從我的，就不在黑暗裡走，必要得著生命的光。」(約八:12)。使徒約翰說：「愛弟兄的就是住在光明中，在他沒有絆跌的緣由」(約壹二:10)。大凡信徒若要跟從主耶穌的腳蹤，內心需要統一堅毅，純一貞潔，才能明瞭更多更高深的事，且能從上頭領受智慧的光。使徒雅各說：「各樣美善的恩賜和各樣全備的賞賜，都是從上頭來的，從眾光之父那裡降下來的...」(雅一:17)。

因而，光、生命、愛是我們信徒立身的標準。我們不能有光，卻沒有生命；也不能有生命而沒有光；更不能有生命卻沒有愛。所羅門王說：「人的靈是耶和華的燈」(箴二十:27)。

當時主耶穌曾說：「光來到世間，世人因自己的行為是惡的，不愛光倒愛黑暗...凡作惡的便恨光，並不來就光，恐怕他的行為受責備。」(約三:19-20)。

這裡有一則故事：

在清朝康熙年間，安徽省徽州知府烏海圖貪贓枉法，魚肉百姓。他上任短短幾年間，便把一個美麗的富庶的徽州弄得冤聲載道，民不聊生。他還派手下到

處搜集奇珍異寶，作為上奉朝廷的貢品，意向博取皇上的歡心，期盼日後能晉升一品官位。

這年冬天他以重金買通皇宮裡的眼線，說康熙皇帝迷上了『墨寶』就是文房四寶鐘的『墨』。得到這個消息，烏海圖心弦豁然樂極了。

原來在這徽州城內，有不少製墨高手。其中可推舉曹素功製出的墨最為珍貴。他製出的墨不但用料考究，而且墨身上還雕有各種圖案文字，做工極為精細，簡直就是一種高雅的藝術品。

烏海圖本來的意旨欲以一府之尊令曹素功面見他。但經他的師爺的勸告，才排除他的淫威，而親自登門去徵求曹素功為他調製墨寶獻給皇上。出人之意料，向來堅強正直，不偏不袒的曹素功，竟然爽快地接受他的徵求，並保證半個月內把特製的墨寶交給他的手中。

於是曹素功便親自調配明膠、加上泉水慢熬，待火候一到，再加上松煙攪拌均勻，最後又加入麝香，冷卻後倒入墨模裡，然後慢壓成模。最後經過兩天兩夜，在雕房裡，終於完成了這塊墨寶。

當烏海圖看到這塊散發著麝香味的墨寶時，不禁開懷笑著說：「曹先生果然名不虛傳！」

半個月後，這塊墨寶便呈現康熙皇帝的御書房文案上，當康熙皇帝看到『天下第一墨』強勁有力的字和曹素功的題名，便很認真地觀賞，不禁地「噫」一聲說：「這『墨』字上下寫得距離太開了，根本不成章法，而且這

黃山峰頂上的太陽也沒有塗上金粉，朕該找個機會來面會這位姓曹的製墨大師，當面問他一問...」

第二年開春的時候，曹家墨坊突然來個自稱黃三的京城墨商，一見曹素功就拿出一張兩萬的銀票，還掏出了張『天下第一墨』手寫的字。說是花重金請官裡太監弄出來的。想請曹素功為他製一塊和進貢給皇上一模一樣的墨寶。

曹素功當即一口回絕了他，還嘆著氣說：「我原以為皇上是識墨之人，才費苦心給他製了塊『天下第一墨』。而今看來皇上也是肉眼凡胎，看不出墨中的奧妙呀！」

黃三爺卻微笑說：「聽說皇上用你所製墨寶親書了『天下第一墨』而且很快發現字中發出淡紫光芒！對你稱羨不置」。

曹素功聽了卻搖頭嘆道：「我想讓皇上看的不是這些，而是雕在墨身上的圖案呀！墨製得再好，只不過是書畫之用，那比得上這一州百姓的疾苦啊...」

黃三爺聽了半響，靜默不語。曹素功卻借機邀請他觀賞徽州的名勝古蹟。當他們來到許國大學士的八角樓下時，便看見一個披頭散髮的年青人，正跪在地嗑拜，瘋瘋癲癲地喊著：「許閣老呀許閣老，你可為晚生做主啊...還我娘子，還我娘子！」黃三爺忙問其故？曹素功低聲說：「這是方秀才，前春和娘子出遊郊野，怎知碰上知府的公子，見他娘子美貌如花，即起色心，光天化日下搶走了他的娘子。奈何



他娘子是個烈性女子，在經過『萬年橋』時縱身跳進河裡，被淹死了！」

不一會，他們來到街盡頭的一片廢墟前，曹素功指著那些被火燒焦了瓦礫殘牆說：「這裡原是城中首富趙百萬家的府第。去年冬天，知府大人要他交出祖傳的一顆翡翠白菜，說要進貢皇上，趙百萬不答應，結果當天半夜時分這裡成了一片火海，可憐趙百萬一家二十餘口全部葬身火海之中。」

次日，黃三爺又來到曹家墨坊時，有兩個衙役來說：「知府大人要曹先生即刻把京城來的墨商帶去見他。」曹素功聞言一怔，隨手抓一把松煙，抹在黃三爺的右臉上。向黃三爺解釋說：「烏海圖耳目眾多，這裡是他的天下。你長相太威武，該抹些松煙醜陋一下，避免引起他生疑……」。

當他們跟隨衙役來到府衙後堂，烏海圖懶洋洋地躺在軟榻上，兩個侍女為他捶腿肚子。他兩眼緊釘著黃三爺說：「這位便是從京城來的墨商嗎？聽說你很富有，一出手就是兩萬的銀票。同時還有一位跟班，他現在那裡呢？為什麼不帶他來見我？」

黃三爺心中暗忖這狗官真是眼線眾多，對我的行蹤瞭如指掌，便襯出笑臉說：「曹先生的墨寶已是天下聞名，連當今皇上也愛不擇手，我若不出重酬來求購，豈不是對皇上不敬嘛。至於我那位跟班，昨天讓他趕去杭州辦絲綢了，大約明天上午便能回到這裡了。」

烏海圖又瞅了黃三爺一眼說：「你這人臉上長著大塊黑痣，讓人看了怪惡心，這裡天氣也快熱了，本府正想添幾件綢衣，明兒可別忘了帶絲綢來，讓本府挑

上幾匹。」說完伸了懶腰，向曹素功說：「本府有些累了，你們先回去吧！」

當他們回到墨坊，黃三爺隨手拿起『天下第一墨』的拓圖恨恨地說：「怪不得曹先生會把上面的『墨』字寫得上下離開，分明是說這圖中的徽州是『天下第一黑土』而且這黃山峰頂的太陽也是黑色的，寓意這裡是暗無天日的地方。」

曹素功聽了長嘆一聲說：「皇上若是能洞察這圖中的奧妙，該盡早查辦烏海圖這狗官，也不枉我費盡苦心製出那塊『天下第一墨』啦……」。 黃三爺隨即「哦」了一聲說：「有道是多行不義必自斃，我看這狗官也活不了幾天……」。

真巧，第二天，徽州城竟然出現大隊官兵，把知府衙門圍了水泄不通。隨後振奮人心的消息便傳遍了整個徽州城。原來兩江巡撫于文龍接到皇上密旨，特從杭州領兵趕來查辦烏海圖這狗官，即刻於午時三刻押赴刑場開刀問斬。當烏海圖人頭落地後，徽州城內家家戶戶歡躍異常，放起鞭炮，比往常過大年更加熱鬧！

隨後，兩江巡撫于文龍陪同曹素功來到墨坊，曹素功即刻帶領伙計跪地三呼：「吾皇萬歲，萬歲，萬萬歲……」。 康熙皇帝呵呵一笑，上前扶起曹素功說：「朕此次來到徽州，很慶幸與你相見，誠然此行並非枉然！」

於是，曹素功隨即奉上橢圓形的墨寶，上面圖案與前番沒有多大區別，只不過上面沒有題字和題名，而且黃山峰頂的太陽已塗上金粉，正閃爍著金黃的光芒！

然而，康熙皇帝卻哈哈大笑說：「朕可不能像那狗官貪得無

厭呀！不過朕該為你的墨寶題字」。接著他想起曾經用曹素功的墨寶寫字，呈現出紫色光芒，正像紫玉一般的。便說：「朕知道曹先生並不是沽名釣譽的人，乃是清高絕俗之輩」。說著便揮起狼毫在宣紙上寫下了『紫玉光』三個強勁有力的大字，還在旁邊題了名。

瞬息間，『紫玉光』的墨寶譽滿天下，好多文人雅士不遠千里慕名前來徽州曹字墨坊求購。很明顯的，他們不單是沖著墨寶的名氣而來，主因乃是仰慕墨大師曹素功智告賊官的睿智和他高尚的人品。

在這篇故事裡，我們可以領悟到，在這廣土眾民中，散佈著兩種不同心術的人，像烏海圖這樣貪贓枉法，是含著著不義的心術；因他的罪戾，致使他葬身死地；像曹素功這樣的人，他雖賦有製墨高手天分，但卻淡於名利，卻為大眾的疾苦耿耿於懷，且疾惡如讎，巧施睿智揭開賊官的罪戾，是含著著仁義的心術。

正如詩人說：「正直人在黑暗中有光向他發現，他有恩惠，有憐憫，有公義。」（詩112:4）

誠然，我們基督徒既然承受主耶穌的寶血所救贖，就是屬於神的子民，是天國的國民。我們應該跟從主的腳蹤行。因主耶穌說：「我是世界的光，跟從我的，就不在黑暗裡走，必得生命的光。」（約八:12）

照此類推，便能活出生命的見證，明光照耀，彼此切實相愛，凡事以基督的心為心，放下老我，改變自己的見解，因一切都有神的計劃與旨意，我們唯有信靠順服，就必蒙神保守與賜福，願一切榮耀都歸於愛我們的天父。

# Are You A Cat or A Dog?

By Pastor Rosaline Lim



Wonder why I asked if you are a cat or a dog? I've read this book entitled *Cat and Dog Theology* and I would say it can help you check your heart as a Christian today and help you see how the modern message of Christianity is being presented to the churches in present days.

The illustration of a cat and a dog helps us relate to how we treat God as our master especially when asking something from Him. It also points out the discrepancy between "how we live for God" and "God living for us". First of all, let us look at the different characters of a cat and a dog. A cat loves to mark his territory. He will come to you or to the furniture with barely a look at you and then rub himself against you or a thing, thus, marking it as his territory. When a cat wants to go out from the house, he would sit in a certain place near the door...a signal that he wants to go out. When you open the door for him, he would just sit and wait for awhile and look at the outside then inside again a few times. Slowly walking, then again before he reaches outside

(knowing that you are opening the door & waiting for him), he would sit again thinking, "Do I really want to go outside?" A cat's mindset is like this: "Hey! I must be God because you pet me, feed me, shelter me and love me." In other words, we, workers of the cat, are the ones doing things for him.

As for the dog, the following makes him different from the cat. When your dog sees you, he is very happy and wags his tail; and when you rub him, he loves it and the tail wags faster. When a dog wants to go out, he jumps at the door and barks, letting you know that he wants to go outside. As you

open the door, he would rush out. The mindset of the dog is like this: "Oh! You must be God, because you feed me, love me, pet me and shelter me.".... meaning, we are his master.

Herein is a list of characteristics/attitude of a modern CHRISTIAN CAT & DOG on how he is living for God and how he wants God to live for him. Living as a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is not easy. We may have the freedom to worship and serve God but our attitude towards worship and service says it all. Hopefully this can help us realize how we are as Christians, how we present Christianity to others and how we look at God.

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHRISTIAN CAT & A CHRISTIAN DOG

CHRISTIAN CAT says/thinks:	CHRISTIAN DOG says/thinks:
<b>Assurance of Salvation:</b> "I prayed the prayer when I was in ... and yeah, I'm saved"	<b>Assurance of Salvation:</b> "I am passionate for Christ; I want nothing more than to see His glory shine."
<b>In Prayer:</b> Cat focuses only on his life, needs, wants & what God can do for him.	<b>In Prayer:</b> Dog only focuses on God & what he can do for Him.
<b>Interested in:</b> how God is serving man (him)	<b>Interested in:</b> how he can serve God
<b>Death of Christ:</b> Christ came to save us from hell as the main reason.	<b>Death of Christ:</b> Christ came to accomplish the plans of His Father that it may give glory to God's mercy.
<b>Worship:</b> "I should be blessed. I must learn something from the message. I am not growing" ... it's all about me	<b>Worship:</b> "Blessed be Your name O Lord. How wonderful and majestic is Your name! You're merciful & just" ... it's all about Him
<b>Lordship:</b> Cat loves to serve God when it is fun, but he doesn't want interfering with his life. He is Lord as long as he is being blessed.	<b>Lordship:</b> He has complete Lordship - anytime and anywhere. He obeys even if he doesn't want to.

# CAT or DOG???

CHRISTIAN CAT says/thinks:	CHRISTIAN DOG says/thinks:
<b>About God:</b> only knows "half of God" meaning he focuses only on God's love, mercy, & grace but never on His hatred of sin, wrath & judgment	<b>About God:</b> focuses on both God's love & hatred towards sin, mercy & wrath, and grace & judgment
repentance is out ... self-esteem is in	repentance is a part of life ... and holiness is in
Cat defines success in the eyes of men.	Dog defines success in the eyes of God.
Cat hungers to be entertained in the church.	Dog hungers to worship God and reflect His glory.
Cat loves head knowledge. He can quote multiple facts found in the Bible, but lacks application.	Dog loves to be drawn closer to God. He is interested in obeying Him than simply knowing about Him.
Cat wants the full picture before he obeys God.	Dog is happy to obey what little the Lord gives.
Cat has an arbitrary truth – it changes as the wind changes.	Dog has an absolute truth – it never changes.
Cat has a "feel-good" theology.	Dog has an "obedience" theology.
Cat sees missions as reaching out to foreign family.	Dog sees missions as revealing His glory to all people.
Cat can not envision a loving God sending anyone to hell.	Dog knows hell exists because God is holy & just, & promises to judge sin.
Cat can't imagine why God would cause anyone to suffer eternally for a finite set of sins.	Dog knows that hell is eternal because an infinite glory has been rejected.
Cat wants his children to bring him glory.	Dog wants his children to bring glory to God.
Cat thinks God is a means to an end.	Dog thinks God is the end.
Cat wants perks (God's blessings & protection) but none of the responsibilities (God's law).	Dog is very conscious of the fact that God judges. He is aware of His Holiness & that He will not put up with disobedience but judges those He loves.
It's all about me, not Him.	It's all about Him, not me.

*Cat & Dog Theology* by: B. Sjoren & G. Robison

So, which one are you? A cat or a dog? Remember, there is no such thing as half cat & half dog.

# Message to PCGS Teachers

(September 29, 2008)

By Josephine Q. Yu

Today, we are celebrating Teacher's Day, an occasion of momentous import, in which, we commemorate the birth of Confucius on September 28.

Confucius lived approximately 2,500 years ago during the turbulent years of China, coming out of his house only during spring and autumn, while remaining secluded during winter and summer. He was a phenomenal philosopher and educator. Indeed, future generations would regard him to be the "Teacher of All Ages".

He was the first person in recorded Chinese history to offer private education to the general masses. Anyone, regardless of economic circumstances, whether rich or mired in poverty's embrace, had the opportunity to partake of his knowledge. During the span of his lifetime, Confucius took on more than 3,000 students. Seventy two of these were outstanding disciples, who propagated his teachings.

In order for a family to be in order, or a society to be disciplined, or even a country to be progressive, Confucius believes that one should adhere to the four cardinal virtues of man. These virtues I share with you today, so you can impregnate them into the minds of your students, to serve as an anchor to their moral philosophy in life.

## 1. 禮 – Good Manners / Right Conduct

Every child must learn to respect authority. He must show propriety and good manners to proper authority, whether within a family (his parents), at school (teachers and principals), in church (pastors), society at large (superiors), and even the country's leadership. Unfortunately, the new generation appears to neglect this basic value, preferring to link respect to merit. They show less respect to their parents, refuse to listen to teachers, disobey rules and regulations and prefer to go on their own ways. Teachers, the responsibility rests on your shoulders to indoctrinate your students in the ways of this virtue! Teach them to be polite and to know how to say "thank you". But of course, you should be a model for them not only in your talk, but also in your **walk**.

## 2. 義 – Uprightness / Just

The ability to differentiate right and wrong, good and evil, propriety and impropriety, justice and injustice, morality and immorality.... Such is not a simple virtue to live by, but it is a fundament of our civilization. We must adhere to what is right, regardless of the consequences, and firmly stand by it, in all circumstances. Our judgment must be based on principles, and not be influenced by petty factors such as other people's opinion, peer pressure, fear or

self-interests. We must teach our students to treat everyone fairly and rightly. But teachers, you should be their best example on this virtue of uprightness/just, by being fair in your grades to the students. Remember, your act of unfairness will always be imprinted in the minds of your students throughout their whole life time. James wrote: "My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism (James 2:1). But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers" (James 2:9). For is it not said that all men are created equal in the image of God?

## 3. 廉 – Honesty / Integrity

**HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY** – remember that worn-out cliché? No one adheres to it today. In a classroom setting, dishonesty comes in the form of "cheating" in order to get good grades. Teachers, I urge to pay special attention to this. You should not take this for granted. If it remains unchecked, the tendency of lying and cheating to achieve the end will become part of their upbringing. Is that the kind of leaders you want our country to have in the future?

News from China speaks about a baby milk scandal embroiling the country. Manufacturers would dilute milk with water to save on costs, and added a toxic chemical called melamine in order to pass quality control tests. The effects are



monstrous – as of September 26, four babies have died, while about 54,000 were affected. 12,892 were hospitalized, with 104 in serious condition of acute kidney failure.

And the ultimate cause? Greed, actually, which led to a dishonest cover-up in the pursuit of mountains of moolah. Dishonesty brings about corruption everywhere. If you want our country to be great, you should start teaching your students the importance of HONESTY and INTEGRITY.

#### 4. 恥 – Sense of Shame / Delicadeza

Traditional Israeli culture placed great emphasis on the "sense of shame". The gospels recounted a wedding feast at Cana, Galilee attended by Jesus, his mother, and the disciples. Weddings were a gala occasion, and in a village like Cana, would be a community celebration. Refreshments were provided for guests, and WINE was very important. Failure in providing adequately for the guests would result in social disgrace. In those times, the closely-knit communities would never forget such an inexcusable failure. Such negligence would haunt the married couples all their lives. The situation prompted Mary to tell Jesus of the emergency, resulting in water being turned to wine.

In ancient China,

shameful acts committed by the children not only redound to the offender, but will also ruin the reputations of the parents, grandparents, and even the great grandparents.

With the influence of individualistic western culture, this "sense of shame" has faded into obscurity. This is a very dangerous development because people without a "sense of shame" are capable of doing horrible things without feeling guilty. According to Plautus, "I think that a man is lost indeed, who has lost the sense of shame." Turgenev said: "You should never trust a person who doesn't blush." In other words, don't trust a shameless man. Do you want to live in a peaceful environment? Then, teach your students the "sense of shame" NOW!

While Confucius was a great thinker, we have an excellent and outstanding "master teacher," our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the model teacher whom we ought to emulate. He is full of wisdom, humility, and is consistent and mature. He

treated his students with love, care, and understanding.

Dear teachers, always remember what James said: "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such, we will incur a stricter judgment." (James 3:1)

As we gather here today, the Board of Trustees would like to express our appreciation for the dedication and sacrifices that you have given. While the pay is not attractive, teaching is personally fulfilling and that's what counts. Teaching is the most noble of all professions, because YOU are involved in moulding character, influencing personality and transforming lives of the youngster. As you are teaching in a Christian school, you also have the dual responsibility to provide earthly knowledge as well as spiritual instructions – to inculcate "the fear of the Lord" in their minds. Your mission of bringing them to the knowledge of Christ shall greatly be rewarded by our Lord Himself.

Thank you.

#### 4 Cardinal Virtues of Man:

禮 Good Manners / Right Conduct

義 Uprightness / Just

廉 Honesty / Integrity

恥 Sense of Shame / Delicadeza

# Redefining Success

By Dr. Ed Becker, edited by Kevin Miller



*Dr. Ed Becker is co-founder of Econotech Ltd. a company that provides technical support for pulp and paper companies.*

In 1977, I thought I was successful. I owned 50 per cent of a successful business, had a Ph.D. and was married with three children. I believed I had accomplished this all through my own capability and wisdom. I thought I could accomplish anything if I just tried hard enough. My knowledge, strength of will, college degrees and business success were important to me, and I put them ahead of everything else.

My 20-year-old son Alan had different priorities. He tried to tell me what Jesus Christ meant to him, but I was convinced I didn't need Him. I told Alan that I could do everything myself. I was so firm about rejecting the Christian faith that Alan told his pastor, 'My dad will never become a Christian!' As a chemical engineer, I had tried to prove or disprove the existence of God as one does chemical reactions in a lab. The tests came up empty, so I ignored God.

Alan later became seriously ill and

was admitted to hospital. After his heart stopped beating, I stood outside the emergency room struggling with pain, anguish and helplessness. It was here that I realized I could not do everything myself. There was nothing I could do as my son hovered on the brink of death. I didn't even know how to pray.

Alan survived the cardiac arrest, but he was in the hospital for a long time suffering from a serious head infection. He told me, 'God is in charge. If God's purpose in my suffering is to bring you to Christ, then everything I'm going through is worth it.' I was astonished!

I read Alan's Bible to him every day at his bedside. For the first time, I began to learn what the Bible was really about. And I began to learn about Jesus. Alan's strong belief in Jesus, combined with what I read in the Bible, made me realize that Jesus was real. He had to be who He claimed to be. Although I tried to believe that He was nothing more than a great teacher or prophet, this argument didn't stand up to the test. He claimed to be the true Son of God. I decided that Jesus must have been telling the truth, and I accepted His claims.

A month later, I asked Christ to take charge of my life, to be my Lord and Saviour. I knew God wanted me to have a more meaningful life. Alan was thrilled when I told him about my decision! He had prayed for a long time that his father would know eternal life.

Three weeks after my decision, Alan went into a coma. For three days I hardly left his bedside, until

finally he slipped away from life on earth to be with his Lord and Saviour. I had looked forward to sharing my new Christian life with my son, but I knew that he would now spend eternity in heaven and that I would see him again someday. Though grief stricken, God gave my wife and me a peace and hope that surpassed all human understanding.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that if anyone is in Christ, he is a 'new creation.' The old self has gone and the new has come. This certainly was true in my life. God now has first priority, followed by my wife and family, and then my business. My principles for decision-making have also changed completely. I ask God for help in making daily business decisions, and no longer rely solely on my own knowledge. I have found that God's infinite wisdom is vastly superior to my own. Best of all, there is joy in my life no matter what happens to me. I know that I have eternal life to look forward to.

How do you define success? Why not ask Jesus for his definition? If you don't know Jesus, we encourage you to pray the following:

*Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life. Make me be the person You want me to be.*

God Bless you.

# 祈禱的重要

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祈禱對基督徒之重要，猶如呼吸對全人類之重要，從聖經看祈禱至少有下列七大要點：

一) 沒有祈禱沒有平安 (腓四6-7) No Prayer, No Peace (Phil 4:6-7)

上帝那出人意外的平安，是當人在禱告，祈求和感謝時賜給人的；所以說「沒有祈禱沒有平安」。

二) 沒有祈禱沒有喜樂 (約十六22-24) No Prayer, No Joy (John 16:22-24)

耶穌基督應許我們，奉祂 - 耶穌基督的名向天父求甚麼，天父必因耶穌基督的名賜給我們，叫我們的喜樂可以完滿；所以說「沒有祈禱沒有喜樂」。

三) 沒有祈禱沒有異象 (徒十9-48) No Prayer, No Vision (Acts 10:9-48)

彼得上房頂去禱告，魂遊象外看見天開了，有不潔的物降下來，又有聲音說話，一連三次，他得了異象 - 超越猶太傳統的異象，不久，傳福音給外邦人 - 羅馬籍百夫長哥尼流和他的親屬密友，並給他們施洗；所以說「沒有祈禱沒有異象」。

四) 沒有祈禱沒有差傳 (徒十三1-7) No Prayer, No Mission (Acts 13:1-7)

安提阿教會在事奉主禁食禱告之際，聖靈發動了差傳聖工，把安提阿教會中最優秀的人才和最寶貴的錢財同時差遣了出去成為第一個真正差傳的教會；所以說「沒有祈禱沒有差傳」。

五) 沒有祈禱沒有能力 (路廿四49; 徒一8、14; 二1-42) No Prayer, No Power (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8, 14; 2:1-42)

人是有限的存在，人離了無限的上帝，就不能作成甚麼事，正如萬軍之耶和華指示所羅巴伯說：「不是倚靠勢力，不是倚靠才能，乃是倚靠我的靈，方能成事。」主耶穌升天前要門徒等候直到領受從上頭來的能力 - 聖靈降臨就必得著能力，約有一百二十名門徒都同時心合意的恆切禱告，結果五旬節到了，他們都被聖靈充滿，得了能力，那一天門徒添了三千人。能力從聖靈來，聖靈從等候祈禱來；所以說「沒有祈禱沒有能力」。

六) 沒有祈禱沒有得勝 (出十七8-15) No Prayer, No Victory (Exodus 17:8-15)

亞瑪力人和以色列人利非訂之戰的勝敗全在於「摩西何時舉手以色列人就勝，何時垂手亞瑪力人就勝。」舉手是祈禱的記號；所以說「沒有祈禱沒有得勝」。

七) 沒有祈禱沒有祝福 (創卅二24-32) No Prayer, No Blessing (Genesis 32:24-32)

創世記第卅二章是雅各一生最重要的章，第26節那人說黎明了，容我去罷，雅各說，你不給我祝福我就不容你去，祈禱最基本的意義就是人跟神說話，那人是上帝 - 雅各後來說我面對面見了上帝，我的性命仍得保全，那人說你的名不要再叫雅各，要叫以色列 (神的太子 Prince of God, 與神同治 Ruling with God 之意)，於是在那裡給雅各祝福；所以說「沒有祈禱沒有祝福」。

末世聖徒寄居於此時此地比任何時代任何地區都更需要祈禱。因此，讓我們「起來禱告，免得入了迷惑」。



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