

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3 April 2016

"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

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Sunday School: 9.45 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

What can we pray for our members?

As a covenant Church and family, let us remember to intercede and pray for one another for the members and friends at the Wednesday night prayer meeting. Below are some prayer concerns for all to consider.

1. For the Growth in Knowledge and Fear of God

to "Be still and know the Lord" {Psalm 46:10}. In our busyness, may the members be still and reflect upon God's word in our daily Quiet Time and family worship.

2. For Salvation of our Loved Ones and Colleagues / Missions

that the Gospel which *is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek* {Romans 1:16} is believed in their hearts and help our members and their children and loved ones to seek God unto salvation in their lives and to remain faithfully committed to his ways. Pray for our missionaries in Myanmar, Malaysia, Country X (Chinese Sunday evangelism to the dorms) and India, as they share the gospel and build up the flock.

3. For Prudence and Patience as Parents

that although family life is often hectic and busy, for God will give wisdom to parents to bring up their children in the fear of God, to counsel with patience to the cares and problems of our children and give them the right advice (if any).

4. For Spiritual Strength and Health

that in our times of moral corruption and temptation of our times, to enable our members to exhibit spiritual and moral strength and cling on to the Lord their God and not fail and for the good health and strength of members and recovery of the sick and afflicted.

5. For Pastors, Elders, Deacons and Missionaries

that God will give the unction and godly wisdom in the preaching and teaching of the word to the edifying of the flock and the stewardship of the church in both English and Chinese Services.

6. To be Salt and Light

that our members will learn how to be effective witnesses for Christ to His glory, in their circles

of influence, to be *“the salt of the earth” and the “light of the world”* {Matthew 5:13-14}.

7. For Protection from Harm and Evil

that our members who will travel everyday to school, overseas or work will be lovingly protected by God from every danger, disease and harm and from the wiles of the evil one.

8. For Faith in Times of Difficulty

that our members when faced with temptation, trouble or fear, will be strong and will turn to God for guidance and strength as *“The eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms”* {Deuteronomy 33:27}.

9. For our Children’s Growth in the Grace of God

that our children may grow in the admonition and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ {2 Peter 3:18} through their daily quiet time, prayer, Christian worship and regular fellowship.

10. For Spiritual Contentment

that our members will cultivate the same spiritual contentment as did the Apostle Paul, who have learned to be content whatever the circumstances {Philippians 4:11-12} and not be covetous of things that do not belong to them.

11. To be Good Stewards

that our members will be more loving, practice self-denial, more willing to give joyfully to the Lord and sacrifice for God and others for missions and outreaches (church van) and understand that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

12. For Spiritual Wisdom in our Work

that members in their workplace and schools will be filled with spiritual prudence for the word and wisdom to deal with different challenges and not the folly of this depraved world.

13. To Confess their Sins, Repent and Seek Forgiveness

that our members when they err and do wrong, will confess and repent of their sins and seek God’s forgiveness, that they may know, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* {1 John 1:9}.

14. For Gratitude to the Lord

that gratitude, praise and thanksgiving to God will flow from the hearts of our members, *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

15. For the Building of Strong Biblical Convictions

that our members “be strong and courageous” {Josh 1:6} and stand up for the truth for the Lord in witnessing for Christ to their unsaved friends and not compromise with the world (Daniel 1:8)..

16. To be Filled with Christian Hope

that whatever befall us, may we be filled with hope that it prevents despair from bothering us. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost {Romans 15:13}

17. For Endurance in the Race of Life

that our members be patient and develop within them endurance and perseverance so that

when faced with major challenges and crises, they do not easily give up but rely and trust in the Lord. Let our members be *rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer* (Romans 12:12).

18. For a Genuine Love for God and His Word

that they will cultivate a passion to study, meditate, to read God’s Word and practice it. That our members will have the same kind of passionate love to praise, worship and honour the word of the Lord with all their heart, mind and soul (Joshua 1:8, Matthew 22:36-37).

19. To be Forgiving of Others

that our members may have the spirit of forbearance and forgiveness. Whenever they are hurt, that they may learn to forgive and thereby be free from the bondage of hatred as the Lord forgave us {Colossians 3:13}.

20. To have a Willing and Teachable Spirit

that our members be willing to serve God with zeal in His church (i.e. English and Chinese Services), to attend regularly Sunday School, Tweens, Maranatha Youth Fellowship (MYF) / Maranatha Young Adults Fellowship (MYAF) / Men and Ladies Fellowship (MLF), Church Camps, Vacation Bible School and Church Meetings.

21. For the Wise Use of their Talents / Time

that our members will discover and develop their gifts, talents and abilities, and be nurtured and exercised in wisdom to serve God more effectively, edifying others in the Church and beyond.

22. For the Revival of the Church

that we will be awakened and God will revive the church (English and Chinese Services) with His spirit to greater devotion for His will, His Word and His Work among the people.

23. To be Faithful in Corporate Prayer and Worship

that our members be filled with a desire for regular personal and corporate prayer on Wednesday night, in that they will be filled with the Spirit and “pray in the Spirit, persevering” {Ephesians 6:18} and remember and desire to come for Wednesday night prayer meeting and to worship the Lord on the Sabbath, in attending the Sunday School classes and fellowship meetings / Neighbourhood Bible Classes (NBC) as well.

Jack Sin

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Book Review : The Pursuit of Holiness

(Jerry Bridges)

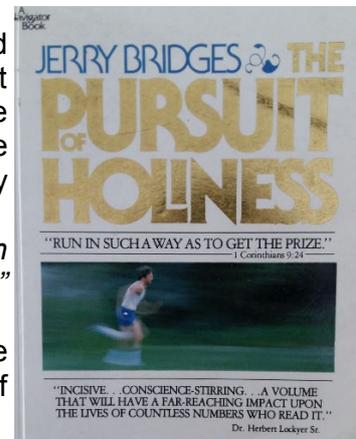
Introduction

This book, *The Pursuit of Holiness*, highlights the necessity for all Christians to pursue a holy life. In Leviticus 11:44, God specifically commands us to be holy. “Be ye holy, for I am holy.” Holiness is to conform to the moral precepts of the Bible and in contrast to the sinful ways of the world. As God is perfectly holy, He cannot overlook any sin, no matter of its perceived size. We would therefore need to put off our old self, which is corrupted by worldly desires,

and put on our new self, which is created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Holiness is necessary for

- **fellowship with God.** The Psalmist said: “If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear.” God does not need a perfect and sinless life to fellowship with him but He requires us to be serious about holiness, that we grieve over the sin in our lives instead of justifying it, and that we earnestly pursue holiness as a way of life.
- **our well-being.** Hebrews 12:6 says “*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*” God will discipline us when we fail to obey.
- **effective service.** When we indulge in our sinful desires, the Holy Spirit is grieved and we will not prosper in our area of service.
- **our assurance of salvation.** True faith will always show itself by its fruits. The only safe evidence that we are in Christ, is a holy life.



We can resist sins as

- **Christ is absolutely clean of sin.** He is absolutely sinless, thus He is the only one who can die for our sins and cleanse us. He set an example for us to follow – a desire to do the will of the Father.
- **God has given us the ability to do so.** The responsibility of resisting, however, is ours - not God's.

How we can resist sins

- God tells us to **search our heart and to guard it from any sinful desires.** But, while doing that, we might fall into traps: firstly, after seeing how sinful we truly are, Satan will discourage us and say that we are not up to God's standard and continue to try to demoralise us. Secondly, after searching our hearts, we might miss the true issue in our lives, that we would need to change. Thirdly, we might become overconfident and think that we would definitely not commit a certain sin. To solve this, we need to **watch our hearts** with all diligence and **pray** so that we do not fall into temptation.
- In the battle for holiness, we are not alone, God is with us. First of all, **He gives us Christ**, who cleansed us from our sins and is there for us to use as an example for holiness. **He also gives us the Holy Spirit**, who strengthens us to holiness, enables us to see our sins and needs and creates a desire for holiness. We must also do our part by **consistently reading the scriptures** and **praying for holiness.**
- We are to **submit ourselves to God, resist the devil**, and he will flee from us. We need to **make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with God.** But, again, we must do our part. We need to look to God for holiness and use whatever provision God has given us. We must accept this responsibility and appropriate God's provisions.
- We need to **put our sinful misdeeds and earthly nature to death** under the direction of the Holy Spirit. We need to have a conviction to live a holy life and a conviction to obey God.
- We also need to have a plan to **memorise the scriptures** so that we can use them in certain situations to help or comfort us, and also determine God's will from them.
- We need **Christian discipline**, because holiness cannot be instantly mastered. We must **correct, mould and train moral character.** This starts with the Word of God, which we have

to read, memorise and meditate over so that it can guide us in our daily life and help us resist temptation. We need to persevere in discipline, however hard it may be, and despite our failure, so that we can gradually obtain holiness.

- **Keep our desires and natural appetites controlled**, or they will be used for instruments of wickedness instead of one for righteousness. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, thus we need to do all things to the glory of God. We would need to control our body, so that it would be easier to mortify other sinful deeds in our body.
- **Flee temptation** and take positive steps to avoid it, and also avoid thinking how to gratify our sinful desires.
- **Obey Jesus** and control our thoughts. We must not even have a slight hint of sin in us, because we are God's people.
- Be **content with God**, because He will provide all our needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- **Resist the urge to retaliate** when someone offends us, because that is not our job.

We need to see that God is holy, for then we would see the awfulness of sin against God, and that would help us to hate sin and resist the devil, and draw nigh to God.

Luke Yeo
13 years old



Resurrection Sunday
Combined Baptismal Service



The Chinese
Choir with the
rendition of a
gospel song on
Resurrection
Sunday.



Resurrection Sunday
breakfast fellowship as
prepared by some
members.



Thank God for the 5 baptised
members and pray for their
walk with the Lord.

Welcoming
newly
baptised
members into
the church.



Theme for the Quarter :

Developing our Biblical Understanding of Christian Issues

English Worship Service

Rev Dr Jack Sin

speaks on

Biblical Understanding of Conversion and Regeneration

(Scripture Text : John 3:3-15; Titus 3:5-7;

Responsive Reading : Ezekiel 36:22-38; Ephesians 2:1-10)

[*End of MM*]