

# MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

28 January 2018

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

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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

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## Sobering Reflections Of A Committed Disciple Of Christ

As we consider our life and calling as a God-honouring Christian, it is opportune for us to consider our calling and purpose in life. Here are some sobering questions to ponder and contemplate as we seek God first in His Word, Will and Work as we worship and serve Him in the new year.

1. Do I conscientiously desire to glorify God and enjoy him and put the Lord first in my life this year?
2. Have I been diligent to keep away from sin and temptations and the wiles of the evil one and ask God to watch over my soul in this fallen world by His protective hand?
3. Have I been consistent in my daily quiet time and personal prayers to and walk closely with the Lord?
4. Have I deepened my understanding of the fear and the knowledge of God in the meditation of His Holy Word and through the means of grace?
5. Do I obey and keep the commandments of the Lord dutifully by His grace?
6. Have I done my best to nurture and develop the fruit of the Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance (Galatians 5: 22-23) in my life? Or is my life filled with vengeance, bitterness, anger, covetousness, hatred, jealousy and resentment?
7. Have I been disciplined to study, read, apply, meditate and memorise God's Word?
8. Do I strive to be in deeper grace and godliness with each passing year?
9. Have I made a conscious effort to reach out to others to the growth, unity and ministry of the church and be an encouragement, example or comfort to them?

10. Have I used my mouth to praise and glorify God and to edify and exhort others or do I spread rumours and gossip?
11. Have I employed my time and talents judiciously for eternity, being mindful that I am to redeem the time for my days on earth are limited?
12. Have I been dutiful to rule my family well and to bring up my children in the knowledge and fear of God?
13. Do I strive by good fidelity to be faithful in my service and stewardship in giving to God and all duties entrusted to me and not neglect or forsake them?
14. Am I constantly expectant and looking for the soon coming of the Lord, watching and working hard while waiting for the Master's imminent return?
15. Have I a burden for lost souls and do I witness for the Lord in sharing the gospel to my unsaved friends and loved ones?
16. Have I been reading any edifying Christian book to build up myself spiritually and grow in sanctification?
17. Have I been steadfast and faithful under trials and testings and continue faithfully and worship God on the Sabbath in spirit and in truth and in the beauty of holiness?
18. Have I kept the Sabbath holy and honoured Him or have I desecrated the Lord's Day with worldly leisure, self-interest, work or others?
19. Have I been caught up with secular cares, work, and the deceitfulness of riches and neglected God in corporate prayer, daily communion and faithful service?
20. Have I sought the will of the Lord in my life, career or family and been concerned for souls and the advancement of His kingdom?

Am I truly saved today and am I a committed Christian today seeking and serving God with hope, joy and peace in my heart? You can be if you seek Christ as your Saviour and Lord by faith and keep away from spiritual harm and preserve you in the midst of testings and temptations. You can be assured of your salvation and life eternal in heaven with God if you have Christ as your Saviour and Lord in your hearts. Our lives on earth are temporal and they can vanish away like a vapour anytime; as we sense the weakening of our physical bodies (Psalm 90:12).

A Bible believing Christian is one not in name only but also in his or her heart and soul as well. One can be saved now and be assured of eternal life if we are founded by faith in Christ alone. You can be a true Christian in your heart today. If you are not, come and humbly seek Christ as your Saviour and Lord in evangelical repentance of sins and believe in Christ who died for your sins and rose again, victorious over the grave. For if He is our God, we can be filled with

eternal hope, peace, joy and comfort today and forever. Romans 10:9-10 says, *'That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.'* Do it now before it is too late! Psalm 2:12 says, *'Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.'*

## **Conclusion**

Spiritual reflection urgently demands our immediate prayerful attention. Let us humbly seek the Lord and ask and trust Him for his sovereign grace and leading. The Word of God should stir up fervent hearts to serve God and to greater spiritual action and stewardship. Seek God first and He will give you much grace and strength to do His will despite trials and testings. Take some time to humbly and fervently ask the Lord for wisdom and strength to do His work and determine in your hearts to serve God with a clear conscience. Our temporal lives are fleeting away with each passing moment. Psalm 90:12 says, *'So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.'* Let us continue to honour, fear and love the Lord, and worship and serve Him with greater zest and devotion in these last days till He comes.

*Jack Sin*

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## **The Dangers of Wealth (Proverbs 23:4-5)**

Hear, my son, and be wise; and guide your heart in the way. Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags (Proverbs 23:19-21). Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (James 4:4).

The Bible is not against people being wealthy. The important thing is how one acquires wealth and what one does with it. Do you hoard your wealth? Do you give generously?

The Bible warns against making riches the goal of one's life. We must certainly work and labour for an honest living but we must not make an idol of wealth. In Proverbs 23:4-5 we learn why we should not work just to acquire riches.

You will weary yourself if you toil just to be rich. Some people work themselves to mental and physical exhaustion in order to acquire wealth. But we are not meant to live like that. We were created to have rest amidst our labour. The Lord's Day is God-given to give us rest. How foolish to ignore what our Maker has given for our benefit.

Labouring for wealth is a sign of an unregenerate heart. The writer of Proverbs argues that we

should cease from that worldly thinking which craves for wealth. Cease from worldly thinking. You will be happier for it.

Riches are an illusion. Why set your eyes on that which is not? You may think that wealth will bring you happiness but wealth does not satisfy the soul. It promises happiness but does not fulfil. Some of the unhappiest people in the world are the richest in the world.

Wealth is uncertain. You may have money in the bank or assets at your disposal but they can all be suddenly lost. Wealth makes itself wings and flies away like an eagle toward heaven. You do not have control over your wealth. It can of its own accord just disappear without consulting you. It can go without warning - no word of farewell.

As we consider Proverb 23:4-5 let us also consider the Lord Jesus and his attitude toward wealth.

Jesus did not seek the riches of this world. He required his followers to have the same attitude. They were to seek heavenly riches and seek from the heavenly Father the sure provision for earthly needs (Matthew 6:19-21; 31-34). Better to seek permanent heavenly riches than perishable earthly ones.

Jesus lived for heavenly riches. He came from the riches of heaven into a fallen world. What he possessed in heaven was far more glorious than any earthly glory. No wonder he lived for that which was superior.

Jesus was poor. He had nowhere to lay his head. He lived a simple life of a carpenter. Though bodily poor he was spiritually rich. His qualities such as love, mercy, obedience, forgiveness, self-sacrifice, live on forever.

Today, the poor carpenter from Nazareth is remembered more than all the rich people who have ever lived. People will perish with their riches but those who are rich in Christ will never perish.

Jesus was content with his earthly plight. Not once did he complain. The apostle Paul was possessed of the same mind when he wrote that he had learned to be content whatever state he was in (Philippians 4:11,12).

In the light of Proverbs 23:4-5 beware lest you make earthly riches your god. Riches are transient and illusory. Seek heavenly treasures just as Jesus did. Jesus awaits you. The treasures of heaven also await.

*Rev David Yan*  
Emmanuel Church  
Auckland, New Zealand

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Thank God for a profitable session for 24 who attended the first Adults Fellowship meeting as Pastor shared on *Christian Goal Setting and Resolutions* and a good turnout for evangelism as well.

Pre-Worship  
Singing for the  
Chinese brethren.



Pray for these two brothers attending the Chinese Catechism Class and their understanding of God's Word.

**Theme for the Quarter :  
The Extraordinary Display Of Faith In God  
(Studies in the Book of Hebrews)**

**English Service**

**Rev Nathan  
speaks on**

***Isaac and Jacob—The Blessing Of Faith*  
(Scripture Text : Hebrews 11:20-21; Genesis 49:1-10;  
Responsive Reading : Genesis 48:1-22)**

[*End of MM*]