

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 September 2019

English Worship Service

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

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

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Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7.30 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415); Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045)

Guard your Faith in the Lord

My brothers and sisters in Christ, early this week I was rather surprised and concerned when I read the article entitled 'Evangelical Songwriter Says He's No Longer Christian in Emotional Instagram Post'. This songwriter, a musician and worship leader spent many years writing worship songs and performed with the Hillsong, a well-known contemporary Christian music label.

I am not completely sure why he has arrived at his decision to quit Christianity and abandon his faith but a sampling of his Instagram postings revealed that he has doubts about how a good God could condone evil and suffering in the world. He is questioning the goodness of God. Another question he really cares about is "Did Jesus raise from the dead?" Other thing that bothers him was the way some Christians testified about their being freed from financial problems or cured of certain diseases while many out there continue in their financial miseries and withering sickness. In other words, God is so unfair. Perhaps, the mind-set of the Christians in their testimonies could have upset him.

Unresolved and unanswered doubts can be detrimental to one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. However, doubts seasoned with grace, with humility and submission to the understanding of the God's sovereignty can result in greater faith when they are resolved and answered according to the light of God, the illumination of the Holy Spirit and the truth in God's word, the Bible.

My concern when I read the article is whether what has happened to the songwriter can happen to us who called ourselves Christians and professed our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Can we overcome our doubts and guard our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? Well, the answer is "Yes" with God's help and ourselves guarding our hearts with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23).

This is how we can guard of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. Believe all scriptures are the revealed word of God, and they are they, which testify of our Lord Jesus Christ (Psalms 119:160; John 5:39; 1 Timothy 3:16).
2. Cast your doubt or concern upon the Lord for such is your burden, which you may not be able to bear on your own (Psalms 55:22).
3. Know that God is holy and righteous, gracious and full of compassion and verily the Lord is God who

judge rightly and doeth rightly (Psalms 58:11, 116:5, 119:137 and 145:17).

4. Seek the LORD thy God, for thou shalt find him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul (Deuteronomy 4:29; 1 Chronicles 29:9). Seek not man, for man is mere dust. God is our Creator. He is our wisdom pertaining to all things in life (Job 12:12-13). To a man who is not double-minded, God will grant to him wisdom (James 1:5-8).
5. Fear the LORD and trust in the LORD. (Psalms 62:8, 115:11). Do not put your trust in men (Psalms 118:9). When others question God's word, persevere to hold fast to God's truth despite the onslaught of wicked and evil lies.
6. Avoid vile person as in Isaiah 32:6, for such a person is toxic to our faith in the Lord because he is a fool who speaks folly, whose heart is inclined to sin, practices hypocrisy and is prone to speak error against the LORD. Today, there are many such scoffers and mockers who openly question the veracity, truth, reliability and authenticity of the Bible (Psalms 14:1; Proverbs 19:20; Acts 13:41; 2 Peter 3:3). Have nothing to do with them. Rather, associate yourself with God-fearing men whose company edifies and strengthens faith in Christ.
7. Defence our faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and be prepared to give an answer to everyone (1 Peter 3:15). Like the apostle Paul, be an influencer for the Lord rather than be influenced by godless men (Acts 26:1-29).
8. Read good and uplifting testimonies of godly men of God who shared their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ rather than ungodly men who words are like clouds that are without water, carried about of winds, fruitless autumn trees, twice dead, completely uprooted and useless (Jude 1:12).
9. Put on the armour of God that when the fiery darts of the devil come our way, we may be able to stand against his wiles (Ephesians 6:11).
10. Pray always in the Spirit that the Spirit of truth will illumine our minds and enable us to discern truth from error, that nothing can shake our faith in the Lord (Ephesians 6:18; Malachi 3:18; Hebrews 5:14).

The LORD is He who is able to keep and guard our faith in Him. We can be certain of this. For His word says so. If I am truly born again, I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39). God is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy (Jude 1:24). Our Lord is able to help us overcome any doubts that may arise in our walk with Him. He will guard our faith in Him even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings (Matthew 23:37).

Be strong in the Lord as we see the coming of the Lord draws nearer. Be steadfast and unmovable in our faith in the Lord. In Christ, we can cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). Amen.

Elder Daniel Tau

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Theme for the Quarter :
THE MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP

English Worship Service :

Elder Daniel Tau
speaks on
The Joy of Christian Companionship
(Scripture Text : 2 Corinthians 7:6; Responsive Reading : 1 Thessalonians 3:1-
13)