

SOVEREIGNHOPE

bible presbyterian church

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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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THE DAY WHEN TIME ENDS

Our modern generation would do well to spend time each day to ask the question: "When will time end?" Of course, as believers today know, the world does not take seriously the teaching of Christ that he will one day return and put an end to time. But, scoff as people may, Christ makes it very clear that he will come again "*in his glory, and all the holy angels with him*" (Matthew 25:13). He makes it very certain that "before him shall be gathered all nations" in order to receive the godly into heaven, and to cast away the unbelievers into "everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:46).



Our generation is fulfilling the prophecy of God's word and informs us that "*there shall come in the last days scoffers...saying, Where is the promise of his coming?*" (2 Peter 3:4). The very thought of Christ's Second Coming is ludicrous to the scoffers. They do not believe the universe we live in was created by God. They do not believe the biblical teaching about the flood of Noah's day and they do not believe the universe is kept in being at this very day by the divine, sovereign power of the God, who created it.

As believers we should remind ourselves that time is running out. We do not know when the end of time will come. But we must be alert to the fact that time is far spent. The solemn hour is coming nearer each day in which God will put an end to time. All the clocks will one day stop. Time will be over. Every man, woman and child must appear before Christ, who is our great Judge.

There are two ways in which we may go wrong as we think about the end of time. One mistake is to pretend that we know when time will

end. But all human theories as to when time ends are unsatisfactory. God has told us that time will end when Christ returns. But we are not told the day or the hour when that will be. Our duty is, not to guess or speculate, but to be sure we are ready for that solemn day when we all shall be judged, and either be received into heaven or else cast into hell.

It is this ignorance of hell and eternal punishment, which is the second, and extremely serious mistake which, very sadly, many people are guilty of today. It is a guilty and a serious fault because God has told us very clearly in the Bible that the world will one day come to an end and every person will need to stand before Christ as judge, who will receive godly people into heaven, but cast ungodly and unbelieving into eternal punishment.

One extremely serious lesson for us all is that it will be too late to repent of our sins when Jesus returns. The time to repent and believe the gospel is **NOW**. The scoffer may amuse himself and his foolish friends when he laughs at the biblical teaching that tells us about our need to repent now and to be prepared for the Second Coming of Christ to judge the world. But the price to pay for scoffers is going to be very terrible. It will be to be cast into outer darkness and to suffer eternal punishment. How terrible!!

The seriousness of this return of Christ to earth at his Second Coming is very clear from the Bible. Each one of us will have to appear before the judgement-seat of Christ and give an account of all our thoughts, words and deeds. True, sincere and godly Christians will be admitted into heaven, where they will enjoy eternal happiness.

But those who do not believe in God and in the teaching of the Bible will be thrown into eternal punishment and punished with everlasting suffering in a place where there are no friends or family to comfort us, but only misery and pain in the place of darkness and unending terror.

There are many vital lessons to learn from the teaching about the Second Coming of Christ. Everyone will be there. By that we mean that every person who has ever existed will be there – summoned by Christ to face the judgement of God on the way they have lived – whether good or bad.



Are there any lessons about this Second Coming of Christ which we should give careful thought to? One important thought is that the entire world is highly populated today. Whilst we do not know how close to our day the Second Coming of Christ is, we do know that there are millions and millions of people today living all over the world.

Another important thought is that the Jews are now back in their own native land of Israel. There is reason to believe that this is a significant fact: "*Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled*" (Luke 21:24).

God is building his church in stages. In the Old Testament it was the Jews who were, almost exclusively, called to become the members of the church.

After Pentecost it has been mainly the Gentiles who have made up the church. But in the final phase of history, it appears clear that Jews and Gentiles will both be called by God into his church.

The fact that the Jews returned back to Israel as their native land in 1948 is important to notice. And the fact that Jews are, in large numbers throughout the world, believing in Christ is important to notice. We do not know when the world's history will come to an end. But we are seeing today significant events which indicate that time is getting nearer to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The great lesson in these events is surely clear. The Second Coming is coming nearer and we should give it serious thought. We need to "shake off all carnal security and be always watchful" (Confession of Faith XXXIII:III).

We do not know the date of the Second Coming. But, in the light of the Bible, and of the present events in the world, the great lesson is: **BE READY**. This means that we need to believe the Bible's teaching, cast off all scoffing and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Saviour.

*Rev Maurice Roberts,
Free Church of Scotland Continuing*



Reaching Out with God's Love at Christmas

Our Church Treasurer sent love gifts from SHBPC to some Pastors and Missionaries associated with us in India and Myanmar to support them in their ministry and their gospel outreaches.

Thanksgiving from India

From Pastor

Babu of New Covenant BPC, Bangalore:

Thank God for the blessed Christmas service over 150 attended. Please pray for the salvation of souls in the will of the Lord. Over 40 kids have received their goody bags. Thank God for the provision of the Lord.



From Pastor Lazarus of Calvary Reformed Church, Bangalore:

Dear Pastor Jack and SHBPC, thank you so much for your Christmas love gift towards outreach. We are able to reach children, men and women and few widows and blind families, by providing clothes, food, cake, chocolates and supported 1500 rupees towards one widow and one blind family. Glory to God. Continuously pray for the same.



Thanksgiving from Myanmar



Hello, Mingalarbar Sovereign Hope BP Church Singapore. First of all, we praise God for His goodness. Secondly, we are really thankful for your tireless prayer and Christmas love gift for our Church. We are really glad through your love gift we can reach out to the unbelievers who are widows and children. We proclaimed



the gospel to them and supported their basic need because of our country's situation and families face difficulty in food supply. Thank you so much for your support – these families are really glad and were also able to hear the Gospel at a special lunch and dinner. God bless you all and thank you so much.

Hui Puii, Mercy Church, Nay Pyi Taw

Today, 24 Dec, our Christmas outreach programs are going well by the grace of God. Some unbelievers came to hear the Gospel of God and had fellowship together with us. Thank you, pastor, for your prayer, love and support for my church and my ministry. We always pray for you and your church.

Pr Myitta, Yangon



I am so pleased to inform you that we have joyfully received the funds sent from Sovereign Hope BPC Singapore via Western Union. We are so grateful to God for His provisions and we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to you for your faithful service toward us that we could cover the purchase of our needs. God bless all of you and wishing you all the very Happy and blessed Christmas!! just herewith attached some pictures of what we bought but not all. Below is how we have used the funds:

Received: 1,150,958mmk

Expensed:

1. One -Ten (Tithe)=110,500,
 2. Medication (Eld Hab)= 200,000,
 3. Rice bags 10x50000=500,000, 4. Peanut oil =120,000
 5. Clothes for children = 200,000,
 6. Transport (Taxi)= 20,000
- Total exp. = 1,150,500



Eld Habakkuk. Gilead Balm Home, Yangon

Questions for Reflection for Year 2022

How fleeting and temporal is life as we witness how time flies each year.

Time and Tide Waits for no Man. We have come to the end of yet another year in 2022 which also witnessed regional conflicts, the Ukraine war, persecution, earthquakes, pestilences and the effective management of the pandemic to some extent in our country but yet we have to be vigilant as it is still prevalent in other countries.

Here are some sobering questions to ponder and consider as we examine our lives in the light of eternity and the will of the Lord.

1. Have I conscientiously honoured and put the Lord first in my life this year?
2. Have I been diligent to keep away from sin and to confirm and confess and repent of them (if there is any) and to watch over my soul by the strength of the Lord?
3. Have I been consistent in my daily quiet time and prayers with the Lord?
4. Have I deepened in the fear and the knowledge of God in the meditation of His Holy Word and through the means of grace?
5. Have I obeyed and kept to the commands of the Lord as the Spirit of God prompts me or have I quenched the Spirit?
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 (Gal 5: 22-23) in my life?
7. Have I been disciplined to study, meditate and memorise God's Word and attentive to the preaching of the Word?
8. Have I been caring and concerned for the spiritual well-being of the brethren of the church?
9. Have I made a conscious effort to minister to the believers, visitors, seniors in our midst and be an encouragement, example or comfort to them?
10. Have I used the faculties (i.e. mouth, legs, eyes etc.) and my substance to give regularly and joyfully to the Lord and to serve and glorify God and to edify and bless others?
11. Have I employed my time judiciously for eternity, being mindful that I am to redeem the time for my days on earth are limited?
12. Have I been used of the Lord to be a channel of blessing to others in any way I possibly can?
13. Does my life reflect good fidelity and faithful stewardship in worshipping, witnessing and serving and giving regularly to the Lord in all things entrusted to me?

14. Am I constantly expectant and looking for the soon coming of the Lord, and watching and working while waiting for the Master's imminent return?
15. Have I a burden for souls and do I witness for the Lord in sharing the gospel to my unsaved friends and loved ones?
16. Have I read any edifying Christian book to build up my self spiritually in the fear of the Lord?
17. Have I been coming faithfully and worshipping the Lord in the house of God on the Sabbath in spirit and in truth in the beauty of holiness?
18. Have I kept the Sabbath holy and honour Him on His Holy Day or have I missed it with indifference and other events that rob me of the worship of God ?
19. Have I been caught up with worldly cares, pleasure and the deceitfulness of riches and neglected God in prayer and faithful stewardship and service of the Lord?
20. Have I followed the will of the Lord and be concerned for souls and to advance His kingdom by inviting someone to church or to give out a tract as the Lord leads us?

We need a spiritual audit or post mortem of our lives today. Psalm 139:23-24 says, ***'Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.'*** Such soul-searching enquiries urgently demand our immediate prayerful attention. Let us confess and repent of our sins if we have fallen short in one area or another. Our failings should stir our hearts to greater action. Get right with God and get right with our loved ones and fellow men, especially our family and seek the Lord humbly.

Take some time to humbly and fervently seek the Lord and consider what action is needed for year 2023. Ask the Lord for wisdom and strength to work on it, determine in our hearts to truly end the year with a clear conscience before God and men. Let us prepare our hearts to start afresh this coming New Year in 2023! 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 till He comes.

Jack Sin

Seeking Christ in the New Year

Jack Sin

Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872. Arr. by John W. Peterson

$\text{♩} = 120$

1. As we ap - proach the end of year,
 2. Je - sus, Great Shep - herd of the flock,
 3. Prayer and the Word, Thou hast giv'n us,
 4. Would you no words, please think a - gain,
 5. Would our last breath be in that year,

We search and pray and seek with fear,
 Thy form - er mer - cies we for - get not,
 Wor - ship and fell - ow - ship so blest,
 For - give - ness, life and hope and gain,
 Our fel - low - ship might just end here,

The new and dawn - ing days a - head,
 Here in our wait - ing hearts to meet,
 O Lord, help us these grace - s share,
 Are ours to keep if we would reap,
 O friend, have you that life that lasts,

Must be de - pend - ent on His grace.
 The faith - ful - ness that we re - ceive.
 And grow in faith and not des - pair.
 The bless - ings that our Lord has bid.
 That's found on - ly in Je - sus' blood.

Lord's Day Programme for January - March 2023

The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action

(Book of Ephesians)



JANUARY

- 1 Divine Calling of a Believer (1:1-12)
- 8* Character of the Church (1:13-23)
- 15 Changed from Darkness to Light (2:1-10)
- 22 Progress of the Church (2:11-22)
- 29 Fullness of the Church (3:1-12)

FEBRUARY

- 5 **5th Anniversary Thanksgiving**
The Witness of the Church in Dangerous Times (Acts 5:29-42)
- 12* Functions of the Church (3:13-21)
- 19 Conduct of the Church (4:1-16)
- 26 Steps for Effective Witness in our Lives (4:17-32)

MARCH

- 5 Divinely Transformed Living (5:1-21)
- 12* Guidelines for Healthy Marital Relations (5:22-33)
- 19 Rules for Family Relationships (6:1-9)
- 26 Divine Protection for Spiritual Combat (6:10-24)

SOVEREIGNHOPE
THE PROTESTANT CHURCH

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Memory Verse

Mark 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our 2022 Watchnight Service. We are glad you are here to end the year with worship, thanksgiving, reflection of the past year 2022 and prepare our hearts for the new year 2023. Pastor will preach on “**Guidelines for End Times Living (Mk 13:20-37)**”. For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Tomorrow, 1 Jan is the first Lord’s Day of 2023! Pastor will preach on “**Divine Calling of a Believer (Eph 1:1-12)**”, the start of a new quarterly series on “**The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action (Book of Ephesians)**”.
3. Pastor will be preaching next Sunday on “**Character of the Church (Eph 1:13-23)**”.
4. Come and learn at our weekly Sunday School classes:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Practical Reflections from Ephesians – Dn Yue Kay & Paul Kong
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a video study on Fundamentals of Theology on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on this **Fri 6 Jan 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
8. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
