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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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JESUS' LAST SEVEN STATEMENTS ON THE CROSS



What was Jesus thinking of while He was hung for 6 hours on the cross for us? The Bible records seven statements which He made. What can we learn from these last teachings on the cross?

1 Luke 23:34 ~ “.. *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do* ..”

Not only did Jesus purchase salvation for His people on the cross, He also gave us a perfect example of how to suffer graciously to the glory of God. In the seven statements by Christ on the cross that are recorded for us in scripture, we are given seven molds that should shape our responses to grief, tragedy, pain and injustice.

The first words that was heard from our Saviour's mouth, as He suffered at the hands of ignorant, cruel and deceitful men, are words of kindness and mercy. And so the first lesson we learn from our suffering Lord is this: **forgive and pray for those who have wronged you.**

This is often not our first inclination. We wish to strike back, speak out, or count all the wrongs that we have suffered. Yet here is the only truly innocent person that ever lived and, while He was dying at the unjust and cruel hands of His enemies, He was speaking words of genuine pity and pardon.

It is evident that the New Testament Christians took this example to heart, for they emulated Him time and again. As Stephen was being stoned to death for preaching the gospel, his prayer was “*Lord, lay not this sin to their charge*” (Acts 7:60). As Paul faced the wicked Roman ruler Nero, even some of his closet companions forsook him; yet his response was “*I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.*” (2 Timothy 4:16).

Has someone harmed you? Have you been the victim of unfair treatment? How have you responded? Have you forgiven them? Have you prayed for them? If Jesus could forgive on the cross, certainly we can forgive because of the cross. (Ephesians 4:32 / Colossians 3:13).

2

Luke 23:43 ~ “....., verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise”

The second lesson we learn as we look to Jesus on the cross is this: **think of others in the midst of your own suffering**. Here, in the darkest hour in human history, we find the one who was suffering was thinking of others.

On the cross, Jesus was not only bearing the wounds from scourging beating, slapping, and crucifixion, He was bearing all the sins of all His people and the wrath of God for them. There are no words to describe or parallel experiences to illustrate the misery this must have been. It was literally hell on earth.

How unexpected then, to see one of the thieves crucified next to Him turned to Him and asked for a place in His kingdom. But as striking as that scene doubtless was, it must have been even more shocking to see the one who was suffering so much turned to the thief and spoke to him words of comfort.

If Jesus can think of others at a time like this, surely we are utterly without excuse for ever being self-centred or self-absorbed in times of personal struggle or affliction. If Jesus can help and encourage and comfort while hanging on the cross, then we can certainly minister to others in the midst of our own pain or grief or loss.

Are you struggling under the weight of some great difficulty or sorrow? Then look to Jesus on the cross; not only does He have words of comfort for you, but His example is a model for you. May looking to Jesus take your eyes off yourself and inspire you to reach out to those around you who are hurting and hopeless and needy.

(James 1:27 / Micah 6:8)

John 19:26, 27 ~ “....., Woman, behold thy son!, Behold thy mother!”

3


We are commanded to “look to Jesus” on the cross in order to know how to handle suffering (Hebrews 12:2). The third lesson we learn from the seven sayings of Christ on the cross is this: **Make practical preparations, in the midst of your sorrow**.

When we face overwhelming grief, unrelenting discouragement, or pounding pain, it is often hard to know what to do. We tend to want to roll up in a ball and hope that the storm will pass or that some easy solution will present itself.

However, the right response, even in times of great suffering, is to make practical preparations in the midst of your sorrow. You must still get out of bed, or go to work, or do the laundry or pay the bills, or play with the children, or write up your will, no matter how low you may feel, ignoring your responsibilities will not help any problem go away.

Here was Jesus, in the darkest moment of human history, bearing the brunt of man’s and God’s wrath. No one has ever been in as low a state as Jesus was at this time. And yet, He was making simple, mundane preparations for after his death. He was making sure that His mother would be cared for.

Elizabeth Elliot calls this fundamental need to face reality to “do the next thing” principle. When you do not know what to do next, she says, do the next thing. This excellent and practical advice comes from an old, sacred poem:



*Do it immediately, do it with prayer
Do it reliantly, casting all care;
Do it with reverence, tracing His hand
Who placed it before thee with earnest comma.
Stayed on omnipotence, safe neath His Wing,
Leave all results, do the next thing.*

4 **Matthew 27:46 ~ “..... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”**

The fourth lesson we learn from Christ on the cross is this: **Believer, God will never forsake you.** You may be thinking, “How does Jesus teach us that, when He Himself was being forsaken by God in His darkest hour:”

In every prayer of Jesus that is recorded in scripture, he addressed God as His Father, except one. Here at the cross, as he was punished for our sins, he cried out “*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” Jesus called God His Father with one exception, so that we could call God our Father without any exceptions!

You see, Jesus was forsaken by his Father on the cross (only once here) so that you and I would never be forsaken. He became sin for us, and so we now have free access to the Father by Him. No sin, no person, no obstacle can keep us now from the love and forgiveness and blessing of our Father.

It is because of His own sure work on the cross that Jesus gives us such sure promises of His continued presence and grace with us.

“I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:206)

“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:56)

5 **John 19:28 ~ “....., I thirst.”**

We come to the fifth of Christ’s seven statements from the cross, and the lesson we now learn from him, even in the midst of unspeakable sufferings, is this: **Submit yourself to the Word of God.**

Perhaps the human who suffered most in the Bible, besides (and of course not even approaching) Jesus, was the man Job. Yet Job, after losing his wealth, family, and health, testified *"My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."* (Job 23:11-12)

This, clearly, was supremely and perfectly the concern of Jesus, even as He prayed in the garden *"Not my will, but thine be done"* (Luke 22:42). Again, the gospel of John records this rhetorical question which Jesus framed for his disciples, *"The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"* (John 18:11)

Is that your spirit? Are you willing to take the cup of God's Word and drink it completely? Do you trust God's will enough to utterly surrender yourself to it, or do you pass His commands through a mental cupbearer, testing its contents by the standard of your own reason or understanding?

Jesus, even on the cross, was concerned that the scripture be fulfilled, perfectly and consciously in His life. Is that the great concern of your heart?

6 John 19:30 ~ **"....., It is finished:"**

Here is lesson number six from Jesus on the cross: **the most important thing in your life is God's will for your life.** You are not finished until you can say, like Jesus, *"It is finished."*

Jesus "gave up the ghost" or died, accordingly to His own time and pleasure. Unlike us, Jesus' life was in His own hands. Yet He refused to depart this world until He had accomplished the purpose for which God has sent Him. He endured the cross and cruel mocking until His business here was finished. The work of redemption was indeed complete, when Jesus said *"It is finished."* Nothing needed to be added to it; nothing could ever be found lacking. He paid the price and got what He paid for. The Redeemer actually redeemed.

The apostle Paul wanted to die. He even said, "to die is gain". But in the end, he concluded that "to abide in the flesh (keep on living) is more needful" (Philippians 1:24) Why? Because God was not through with him yet. Paul knew that as long as God had him here at all, then he was here for a purpose.

The perspective changes are in Paul's last letter, as he faced his approaching martyrdom under Nero. Paul confesses, *"I am ready to be offered"* (2Timothy 4:6) Why? Because, Paul says, *"I have finished my course"* (2Timothy 4:7). Not until he had finished all that God had for him, was he ready to die.

Whether young or old, rich or poor, happy or sad, the most important thing in your life is God's will for your life. You are not finished until you can say, like Jesus, *"It is finished."*

Luke 23:46 ~ “....., Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit”

7

The seventh and last lesson that we learn from Jesus on the cross is this: **commend yourself to the loving hands of your Father**. We can apply this lesson to ourselves in at least two ways.

First, right here and now we can recognize and trust that, for His own good purposes, He is either bringing or allowing every event into our lives, “*for of him, and through him, and to him, are all things*” (Roman 11:36). Therefore we can glory even in tribulation, knowing that tribulation works patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, so that the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us (Roman 5:3-5).

Second, we can commend ourselves to our loving Father’s hands for the future, to carry us from this world to the next. There is no door in our lives so mysterious, troubling, or sorrowful as the door of Death. And yet, as believers, we can rest in our Father’s certain and unwavering promise that death is, as it was for His Son Jesus, but the door that leads us to His lap.

Do you have worries, fears, sorrows, pains, or discouragements? Commend yourself to the loving hands of your Father and know that He will never let you go.

(Deuteronomy 33:27a / 1Peter 5:7 / John 10:28-29)

Conclusion

These last seven statements of Jesus on the cross give us rich insights into Jesus’ heart, mission, experience, and love for us. Each phrase teaches us about His ability to empathize with our humanity. They demonstrate His unwavering commitment to His Father’s will and His complete fulfilment of the prophecies found in the scriptures. As we prepare our heart to remember this Good Friday & Resurrected Sunday, take time to meditate on these seven statements of Jesus on the cross and let their messages deepen our love for the amazing God we serve.

Dn Yue Kay

Grateful sharing from Yangon

We praise God for His timely provisions that we could buy the following needs: (1) 10 rice bags with 580,000, (2) 10 visses of peanut oil with 120,000 and remaining 150,000 for family morning breakfast...God bless all donors!

Eld Habukkuk

Gilead Balm Home, Yangon, Myanmar

(NB. Dr Dn Tan sent love gifts from SHBPC to 4 missions in Myanmar and 2 missions in Bangalore, India in supporting the gospel work that they are doing in the Lord. Do uphold them in much prayers.)



Thanksgiving from Adelaide

Dear Rev Jack Sin

Thank you very much for the copy of SHBPC's 5th Anniversary magazine which I was happy to receive through Elder Michael. I am still reading through it, but encouraged with some of the testimonies I read and seeing God working through the Church.

May God's hand be at the tiller of the Church and may His providence and preserving grace see Sovereign Hope through the coming challenging years ahead. The world is heading again to those evil days when everyone does what seems right in their own eyes.

God bless.

Eld Colin Gan
Hope BPC, Adelaide



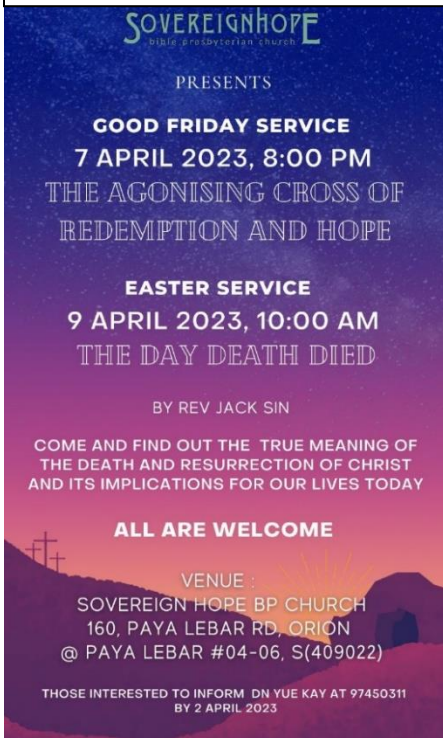
5Rs from the Word

While studying 2Timothy, we are reminded of 5Rs as we meditate on the nearness of Christ's coming and the surety of eternity with Christ one day.

1. **Read** and **Reread** Carefully the Word of God.
2. **Rehearse** and **Remember** the Lessons learnt Prayerfully.
3. **Reflect** upon and **Recollect** Meditatively the Application in our lives.
4. **Revive** and **Renew** our Vision and Strength Soberly in the Lord.
5. **Resolve** Wholeheartedly to live Holy Lives for Christ till He comes.

May the Lord be gracious to help us reflect upon this and to revive our hearts and our families again as we live in a turbulent and uncertain world in perilous times of His imminent second coming.

Jack Sin



SOVEREIGNHOPE
Bible Presbyterian Church

PRESENTS

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
7 APRIL 2023, 8:00 PM
THE AGONISING CROSS OF
REDEMPTION AND HOPE

EASTER SERVICE
9 APRIL 2023, 10:00 AM
THE DAY DEATH DIED

BY REV JACK SIN

COME AND FIND OUT THE TRUE MEANING OF
THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIVES TODAY

ALL ARE WELCOME

VENUE :
SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION
@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)

THOSE INTERESTED TO INFORM DN YUE KAY AT 97450311
BY 2 APRIL 2023



SOVEREIGNHOPE
Bible Presbyterian Church

MAY DAY SEMINAR
Biblical Perspective
of Work and
Retirement

BY REV JACK SIN

AS WE APPROACH AN AGEING WORKFORCE, KNOW
WHAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS TO TEACH US
ABOUT THE NATURE OF WORK AND THE MANNER OF
RETIREMENT FOR THE CHRISTIAN

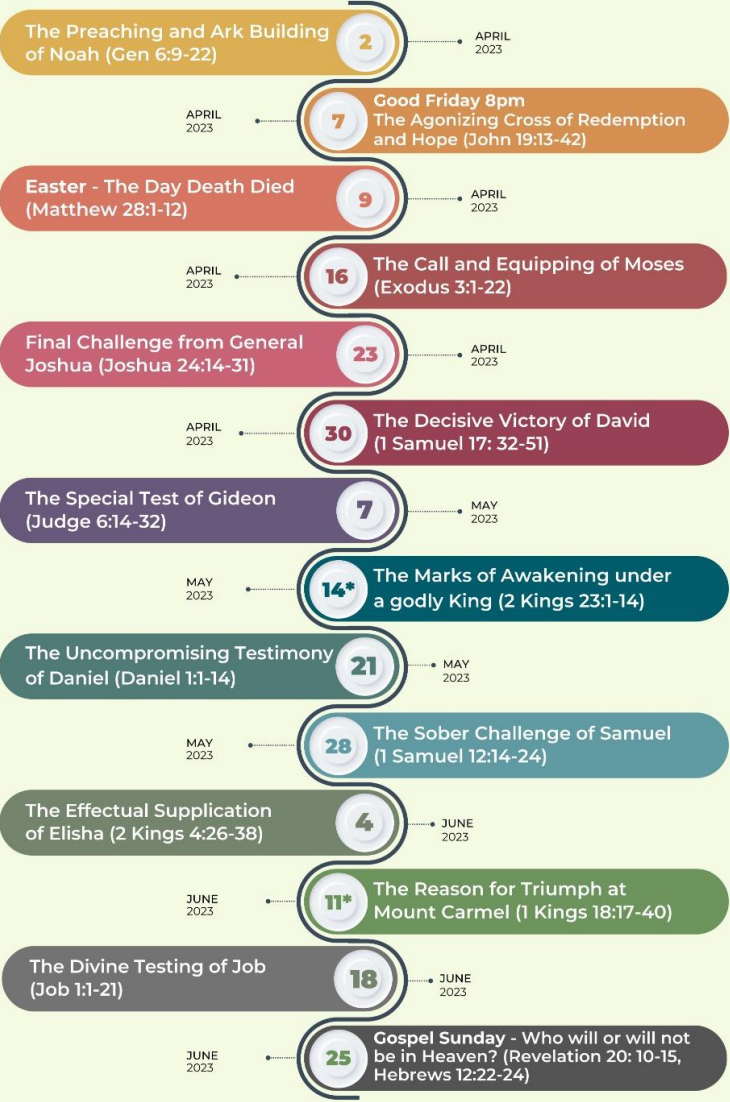
01 MAY 2023 (MONDAY)
9:30 AM

VENUE :
SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION
@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)

REGISTER BY 15 APRIL 2023
WITH DN YUE KAY AT 97450311 AS THERE IS A LIMITED CAPACITY
ALL ARE WELCOME

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR APRIL - JUNE 2023

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE OT FOR OUR LEARNING



Memory Verse

Gen 6:9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! We are so glad you are here to worship with us. If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Preaching & Ark Building of Noah (Gen 6:9-22)***", starting a new quarterly series on "***Significant Events in the OT for our Learning***".
3. Pastor will preach at the **Good Friday Worship Service on 7 Apr 8pm** on "***The Agonizing Cross of Redemption & Hope (John 19:13-42)***".
4. Pastor will preach next Sunday, being Resurrection Sunday on "***The Day Death Died (Matt 28:1-12)***".
5. Weekly Sunday School classes after the worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Practical Reflections from Ephesians – Dn Yue Kay & Paul Kong
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Basic Theology, and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551**]
7. 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. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode:218178**]
8. The **Annual May Day Seminar** on "***Biblical Perspective of Work & Retirement***" on **Monday 1 May 2023 9.30am – 1pm IN CHURCH**.
9. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 5 May 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
10. The **Annual Church Camp** will be held at **Pulai Springs Resort (Johor Bahru, Malaysia), June 7-10, 2023**. Rev Philip Heng is our camp speaker "***Exercise unto Godliness in an Ungodly World***".
11. We need willing hands and hearts to assist in the weekly cleaning of the premises. Do let Dn Yue Kay if you are available to serve in this area.
12. 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**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.