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An Extraordinary Mission Trip Sustained by Sovereign Grace

Acts 11:26 says, “*And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*”

We thank God for a fruitful 9-days mission trip to minister the Word at a Hong Kong Reformed Church and in country x from 28 Jun to 6 Jul. For the first 4 days, we were in the heart of Hong Kong, one of the busiest economies in Asia with a population of 7.3 million people and 12 percent Christianity.



At the invitation of the Board of Elders (Joseph, Caleb and Simon) of Grace Reformed Evangelical Church, Pastor preached twice at the Sunday services, taught the Sun School class of 15 on “**Building Godly Relationships & Courtship**” as some are facing the crossroads of life in relationships. The church does not have a Pastor and is led by 3 faithful Elders who hold the fort with about 30 worshippers all these years. The church also has 7 Filipina domestic helpers who are growing in their faith while working in Hong Kong. We shared with the worshippers our church resources and books. The church is very hospitable and kind to us and we had a blessed time of fellowship with them, savoring famous and delectable Cantonese cuisines in Hong Kong with delight.



1 Jul was a public holiday for Hong Kong in commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the handing back of Hong Kong to China. At GREC, it was a whole day of seminar on the theme of **“Mental Health Concerns from a Biblical Perspective”**. There was a lively discussion during the 3 sessions as many questions were asked, such as how to help someone who is psychotic, what can we do as a church or individual to support or help if we or a loved one has depression/anxiety

disorder/phobia, etc. The members are zealous to learn and there were some new friends who came for the seminar.

On 2 Jul, we moved on to our next destination and had a fruitful time together with 2 leaders to discuss some relevant matters. The need for grounding in God’s Word was expressed and we shall commit this to prayer as the Lord opens doors and enables us.

The final leg of our journey was to visit Dr Samuel Gan, a professor at a local university. We also had blessed fellowship with 12 brethren as we studied Psalm 37 to seek, understand and apply it in our lives. We had a lively discussion with good questions asked. One person is now attending our Sunday evening fellowship meeting.



Thank God for good health and strength and safety and wisdom for us as we seek to serve the Lord an exhort and edify the brethren in the most holy faith. We thank God for the church and others who have been upholding us in prayers.

Acts 20;24, our church motto, expresses the desire of our hearts,

*“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, **to testify the gospel of the grace of God.**”*

As the Lord enables us and lays the burden on our hearts, we need to continue to pray and support churches in different parts of Asia and to be able to strength their ministry with the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, which is the bedrock and the Balm of Gilead for our souls.



Jack and Angie Sin.

**The Lord's Day
7 Jul 2024
at Sovereign Hope BPC**



Angie & Faith Lim



2024

2007



**Our Overseas Visitors
Eld Dr Jensen Lim & daughter Faith,
(Scotland)
Dr Jason Lim & Bee Leng (Australia)
Karen, daughter of Marilyn (Philippines)**



**Blessed Birthday, dear sisters!
Kin Hoong, Kin Kheng, Janet.**

**Sunday School
Class on
"How
to Study
the Bible"**



Q: Is the popular teaching of the third category of man called the Carnal Christian a concept that is sound and biblical?



A: That is a good question. Some in certain para groups or churches were taught that there are different kinds of Christians; some carnal and some spiritual and there is also a natural man.

A carnal Christian apparently is one who has been saved but who remains "carnal" and his life continues in sin as much the same as before he was "saved." He is considered to be different (but saved) and warrant a separate category of man is formed to describe him or her, and it is assumed generally that he or she is on his way to heaven even in this present state of carnality.

Closely related is the teaching that a person can have Jesus as their Saviour without acknowledging Him as his

or her Lord of their lives. That Jesus is to be Lord of our entire lives, worthy of submission and daily obedience of the elect is the proper understanding and foundation of genuine conversion. **See Matt 7:21-23 for this harsh truth where our Lord rejects those who calls him externally Lord but are not so truly**



Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

in their hearts even if they claimed to be doing something in the name of God. Those who (supposedly) are saved without having Jesus as Lord are those who do not understand or accept the call to repentance and continue to live a life that is not changed by the grace that "saved" them.

Such teaching can be traced to the old dispensational teachings popularised by the old Scofield Bible notes of the 1970s and arises out of its "Arminian theology" on the superiority of man over God in his or her decision for his or her own salvation and the kind of superficial ecumenical mass evangelistic work, that emphasised on numbers and mass conversions.

This concept was popularised by the late Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ in the 1970s in his four spiritual laws and his second blue booklet called, "Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit?" With due respect to their good intent, **if we are not careful, the message we bring can seriously flawed or defective if it**

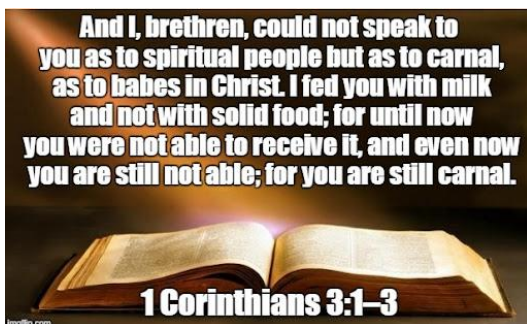
does not have the biblical teaching of true evangelical repentance and we can be marketing a half priced cheap grace gospel which in Gal1:7-9 is a different or false gospel.



The teaching for those laws is that of "*man's sovereign free-will*" and teaches that the will of the sinner is decisive in his or her own salvation. God only makes us "*savable*" through the death of Christ but did not actually save anyone in particular; it is all up to man if he wants to be saved. **This is a very strange teaching that is foreign to the Bible. So, we have the concept of the absolute sovereignty of men in their own salvation (Eph 1:4,5) that is popular with many liberal or charismatic and neo-evangelical churches.**

That teaching is reflected in the modern-day altar calls, emotional and man-centred appeals and decisions making and all other such marketing techniques that are so much a part of popular and mass evangelism work today among many para groups and churches. **The teaching of the carnal Christian is an attempt to explain why the vast majority of persons who come forward in response to altar calls and appeals may or may not be saved, as is evident from their so-called carnal lives. In order that they may continue to count those as saved who have responded in some way to their evangelistic efforts, they have come up with this notion of "*carnal Christians*".**

What does the Bible teach?
The word '*carnal*' was used twice in 1 Cor 3:1-4. It was not to designate a new category of men but to underscore the danger of spiritual immaturity which has to be addressed. It was a gentle rebuke of those engaged in strife and factions and not to teach a new doctrine on anthropology.



According to Rom 6:1-2, having been forgiven and given the victory over sin, technically, there is no reason anymore why we should continue in the bondage of sin. The ransom and vicarious atonement have been satisfied by Christ, and we are redeemed and released from our spiritual bondage and are free from the slavery of sin.

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may Multiply?</p>	<p>God forbid!!!! How shall we, that are dead to sin, still live in it?</p>
<p>Romans</p>	<p>6:1-2</p>

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We acknowledge that Christians can and do fall into sin from time to time in this life. There are examples of this in Scripture (for example Samson, David and Solomon) but if they are truly saved, they will not only repent of such sins in due time but will grow in holiness and obedience to God. Christians should not continue to behave in a fleshly manner in the long run (I Cor 3:1-4). In another text, the distinction in Gal 5:17-24 and Rom 8:1-9 is not between carnal and spiritual Christians but between those who are Christ's and those who are not (Gal 5:24); those who are in Christ and those who are not (Rom 8:1). **The only two classes of people are the redeemed or the spiritually justified man and the unredeemed or the natural man, it is just the elect and the non-elect. There is no intermediate half-way house between them.**

This third category of men called the "*carnal Christian*" teaching is strangely unbiblical and unsound which may encourage or given the licence to a false sense of worldly security in salvation, the belief that one is saved while in fact one may not. **It can give Christians an excuse for habitual sinning, which is unhelpful to say the least. It denies the sovereignty of God's grace, the election and justice of God and the finished work of Christ. He did not die only to redeem us but to make us holy vessels unto Himself (Eph 1:3-4. 1 Pet 1:16) through the sanctification process which the Holy Spirit in transformation of our lives (Rom 6:12-19).**

Hope this helps.

Jack Sin

EXODUS - SUPERNATURAL GUIDANCE IN THE WILDERNESS OF LIFE

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

JULY

- 7** Overcoming the Bondage of the World [Exodus 1:1-22]
- 14*** Divine Preservation in the Plan of God [Exodus 2:1-25]
- 21** God's Answers for Man's Excuses [Exodus 3:1-22]
- 28** When God Used Human Vessels [Exodus 4:1-21]

AUGUST

- 4** Powerful Display of Divine Power [Exodus 8:1-28]
- 11*** Typology of the Passover Lamb [Exodus 12:1-27]
- 18** Song of Gratitude & Praise [Exodus 15:1-27]
- 25** When Teamwork & Prayers Matter [Exodus 17:1-16]

SEPTEMBER

- 1** The Wisdom of Collective & United Service [Exodus 18:12-27]
- 8*** Relevance of the Moral Laws [Exodus 20:1-17]
- 15** When An Idol Displaced God [Exodus 32:1-23]
- 22** Using Our Gifts & Talents to Build the House of God [Exodus 35:21-35]
- 29** Why Jesus Matters in This & the Next Life [John 14:1-14]

Memory Verse

Exod 2:25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! 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 "***Divine Preservation in the Plan of God [Exod 2:1-25]***", starting a new quarterly study on the "***Book of Exodus – Supernatural Guidance in the Wilderness of Life.***"
3. Next Sunday, Bro Joseph will preach on "***God's Answers for Man's Excuses [Exod 3:1-22]***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service continue as follows:
 - "Obedience is Better than Sacrifice" (Marcus)
 - Studies in Ezra (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Old Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
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. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
7. Pray for:
 - Medical: Samuel Wong [multiple health conditions], Aunty Chwee Lian [hip fracture], Daniel Phang [high blood pressure], Kin Hoong [monitoring of heart and lungs pressure], Anthony [lung cancer].
 - Missions in Yangon: Rev Khobal (BRS, MTS), Eld Habakkuk (Gilead Balm Home, BIT), Pr Myitta, Pr Lapui
 - Missions in Bengaluru: Ps Babu (New Covenant BPC, KinderBees Preschool), Ps Lazarus (Calvary Reformed Church).
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**

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