



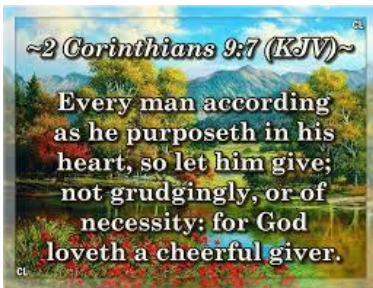
Abel gave acceptable offerings unto the Lord (Gen 4). Abraham tithed to Melchisedec in gratitude to God (Heb 7:7-9). The law required Israel to bring the first fruits of their labour. The early church brought their gifts to the storehouse on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Some contend that tithing is an Old Testament practice that has become obsolete under the New Testament administration of grace. A commentator has rightly replied, "If an Old Testament Jew was expected to give a tenth under the law of Moses (Lev 27:30-32); how much more should we who have been freely saved by the grace of God give as an act of worship?" Dr Peter Masters, the Pastor of Metropolitan Tabernacle in London and successor to Spurgeon says well here,

*"Tithing, therefore, predates the Mosaic Covenant, and should not be regarded as exclusively belonging to the ceremonial law abolished. The important thing to remember about the New Testament stewardship is that it may greatly exceed the formal tenth (as in the case of the widow's mite), and therefore no fixed rule of giving is any longer appropriate. It is now a matter of heartfelt and maximum generosity as the Lord prospers. But the tithe still stands as a guide to what is a minimum reasonable proportion."* (Peter Masters, Tithing, The Privilege of Christian Stewardship, Sword and Trowel, London, 1994,21)



The principle of tithing practiced in the Old Testament even before the moral law came into being is not irrelevant but a good pattern for the Christian in the New Testament period to emulate and follow.

A Pastor from a Christian Bible reference organisation has this to add, *"Giving is to be done cheerfully, rather than as an obligation (2 Cor 9:6-7), and not for the purpose of public recognition (Matt 6:1-4). The right amount to give may be more or less than ten percent, depending on one's circumstances (Matt 19:21, Luke 18:22, 21:1-4, Heb 13:16, 1 Jn 3:17). Generous giving is an acknowledgment that everything we have is a gift*



*from God, and is to be used in His service (Luke 12:33, Acts 20:35, 1Tim 6:17-19, Jas 1:17, 1:27, 1 Pet 4:10)". God gives us the privilege to give as in 2 Cor 9:7 which says, 'Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.'* If the primary purpose of the church is to worship and praise God and to propagate the gospel, should

not every believer be spiritually and financially involved in such a godly endeavor for His name's sake? What an honour it is to serve the King of kings with devotion and our substance.

## 2. The Element of Commitment to the Cause of Christ

Our motivation for giving should not be selfish in nature but one noted from studying the promises of God that it is not without any blessing or benefit. Abraham gave his son, Isaac, willingly and God blessed and gave Abraham an entire nation as his descendants. Hannah gave her son, Samuel to the Lord, and the Lord rewarded her much more in return for her faith. The widow of Zarephath, gave Elijah her barrel of food, and God kept the barrel full for her whole family. The little boy gave his 5 loaves and 2 fishes, and God used them to feed the multitude a meal and had an excess of 12 baskets full of food remaining. It is a privilege to serve God and bless others. If you honour God's Kingdom, He will also take care of yours by His grace and mercy as we trust in Him. Prov 3:9-10 says, *'Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.'*



## 3. The Element of Evangelism and Soul Winning

Giving to the Lord in church missions is consistent with the burden of spreading the gospel around the world to the saving of souls. (Mark 16:15) At the end of the day, this is the ultimate commission of the church besides the worship of God. Church meetings and fellowships are relevant in their proper place. But Christ died on the cross for the elect that He had called (Matt 1:21). He died for souls He predestinated that would be saved. As our church supports Indian and Myanmese missions in the different ethnic groups with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we can pray and give to support this glorious cause practically as well.

## 4. The Element of Effectual Ministry of the Church



It is a joyful service and ministry that we can be used of God to minister to many souls in Christ. What we are doing to reach out to them is our sacred duty and prerogative. The thought of eternity for souls should be a grave concern in our giving to God and the wise management of

financial stewardship. It is having an eternal concern in view. Rom 12:11-12 says, *'Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;'* Let us do it joyfully and fervently so that God's work may advance, in promoting His kingdom to the saving of souls as a form of our spiritual service.

## 5. The Element of the Glory of God

1 Cor 10:31 says, *'Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.'* Above and beyond all other reasons mentioned, as stewards of the manifold grace of God, we thank God that we have the honour to support and give cheerfully to gospel missions for the chief end of man is to honour and the ultimate aim is to glorify God. Whatever we do, may we do it for His exaltation and glory. When Christ is lifted up, He will draw all men unto Himself.



### Conclusion

May we give of ourselves, the surrendering of our bodies, our time, talent and substance to the honour of God. God will use our gospel witness, along with our time, talents and substance, for His divine glory and sovereign purpose. Paul exhorted us in Rom 12:1-2, *'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.'*

Jack Sin

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***The joy of learning  
God's Word  
together at the  
Sunday Catechism  
Class.***



## ***A Call from the Mission Field of Bangalore, India***



We request for your kind prayers for Pastor Lazarus of Calvary Reformed Church as he builds his church spiritually and physically in a village of Bangalore to reach out to many non-Christians in the vicinity. Pastor Lazarus is a faithful servant of the Lord and we have known him for many years through the contact of Rev Dr George Skariah and ministry of Covenant BPCI.

The Sovereign Hope BPC mission team was there in Dec 2019 and conducted a VBS for 60 children and young people in the current rented premises which is facing opposition from the neighbours.



Thank God for a new location 11 km from the present rented premises on which he has started building and to move over in due time. For a start, the ground floor is a house and small parking space where they can have fellowship and Bible study



to begin a new mission work. In the future as the Lord provides, the first floor will be added to conduct children ministry or Bible classes and a hall on the second floor for prayer, worship or mission work.

Do contact our Church Treasurer, Dn Choo Siang, if you have a burden to give unto this building work of Pastor Lazarus.

## *Email of Thanksgiving to God from Myanmar*

Greetings! I trust that you are doing well. We are all doing fine by God's mercy and grace in the midst of the political chaos in our country.

I, on behalf of the group of people, would like to express our heartfelt thanks to you for sharing your extraordinary wisdom on the topic of the Minister's Role in the Unrest Political Crisis.



Today we have finished the last session. We had a short discussion on the lecture that you and others have given to us after the class. The people who joined the presentation are very happy because they have learned so many things and are blessed from your lecture. They now have a clearer understanding how to live and lead the people in this kind of situation.

They also would like to have this kind of presentation on either the same topic or other topic that will benefit the ministry here in Myanmar. We pray that the Lord will give us the opportunity to have this kind of valuable time in the future for His glory.

Thank you very much for giving your time to us in this timely situation.

May the Lord our God's blessings be on you and your work!

Sincerely,

Rev David Khobal  
Myanmar Theological Seminary  
Yangon

(NB: Do uphold the safety of the Reformed Pastors and their churches in Myanmar as they go through a trying political and health crisis in their country.)



## Memory Verse

*Ecc1 3:11* He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor Jack speaks today on “***The Opportune Time for Everything***” (**Ecc1 3: 1-22**), the start of a new quarterly sermon series on “Lessons on Godly Prudence from a Wise King – Studies in Ecclesiastes”.
3. Pastor Jack speaks next Sunday on “***The Beauty of Two in God’s Economy***” (**Ecc1 4: 4-21**).
4. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
  - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
  - New Testament Survey – Dn Choo Siang
  - Studies in Numbers – Dr Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Come and rejoice with us in our 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving tonight.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Apr prayer list is available from Dn Choo Siang.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of the month at 7.30pm in church on the study of 2 Samuel. Do come and join us for a time of learning God’s Word.
8. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at [sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com](mailto:sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com).
9. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
10. 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**

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# Lessons in Godly Prudence from a Wise King

Studies into Ecclesiastes



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**04**  
APRIL 2021

- 2 Good Friday: Who killed Jesus? (Luke 23:1-26)
- 4 The Implications & Impact of the Resurrection (1Cor 15:1-21,51-58)
- 11\* The Matters of the Heart (Eccl 1:1-18)
- 18 The Meaningless of Labour under the Sun (Eccl 2:18-26)
- 25 The Opportune Time for Everything (Eccl 3:1-12)

**05**  
MAY 2021

- 2 The Beauty of Two in God's Economy (Eccl 4:4-21)
- 9\* The Management of the Tongue (Eccl 5:1-13)
- 16 The Mindless Pursuit of Wealth (Eccl 6:1-12)
- 23 The Basis for True Spiritual Discretion (Eccl 7:1-17)
- 30 Reverence and Fear of God (Eccl 8:1-13)

**06**  
JUNE 2021

- 6 The Intervention of God (Eccl 9:7-18)
- 13\* Speech and Danger of Laziness (Eccl 10 :12-20)
- 20 Wise Counsel for Young and Old (Eccl 11:1-10)
- 27 Gospel Sunday: Fruitful Aging and the Chief Purpose of Man (Eccl 12:1-13)