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Practical Admonitions for Effectual Christian Living



The book of Hebrews is an important theological book that revolves around themes such as the New Covenant and the supremacy of Christ as our great High Priest. As we approach the end of the book of Hebrews, there are 6 distinct aspects of Christian duty that may be derived from the last chapter, Heb 13:1-12 concerning Christian sacred duties, as follows:

1. Be Caring (v1-3)

In calling the first century believers to 'let brotherly love *continue*', the author presupposes that there is already brotherly love existing within the church. We are told to 'be not forgetful' – or in other words, to not neglect or cease from – the practice of philoxenia (Greek for the love of strangers, or hospitality; stems from the root words *phileo*/love and *xenos*/stranger).

It is interesting to note that in the first century there are not many places such as motels or eateries – everyone almost stayed and ate at home and managed their own affairs. Therefore when people travelled to foreign lands they invariably had to search for relatives of friends with whom they could put up for the duration of their stay. This was what the first-century Christians were encouraged to do: to open their homes to the brethren and be hospitable to them that are of the same household of faith in Christ.



Similarly, in today's context, do we care enough to go out of our way to do good to those of the household of faith, even at the expense of our own convenience? **There are always people around us who need practical assistance and concern and mental and spiritual counsel or encouragement, who have real needs that need to be met like the elderly, the widows and the sick.** We are therefore to strive to be more altruistic, to care not just for ourselves but for the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of others as well (Philippians 2:4). A few concerns that come to mind include:

- Helping & encouraging those who are suffering, and remembering them in prayer.

- Being burdened for the spiritual health of our loved ones and brethren in Christ and asking after those whom we have not seen in church for some time.
- Sharing the gospel and testifying of God's goodness with both believers and non-believers.

2. Be Chaste (v4)

We live in a sinful world of immorality and gross moral compromise with the world's fast changing views on LGBT, abortion, cloning, euthanasia, transgenderism, and many other issues. The young and old are open to engage in



premarital and extramarital sex and see nothing wrong with it. It is not easier to strive to be the person God wants us to be. **Nothing can be a replacement for a set apart heart truly devoted to living a sanctified life that pleases and glorifies God. As Christians, we are called to fight against our depravity and the temptation to sin and to be holy or separated or set apart from the corruptions of this world.**

Just like In our day and age, marriage was being taken lightly than it has perhaps ever been. Marital separation and divorce have become increasingly rampant not just among nonbelievers but within the Christian community as well. A pertinent question to ponder about therefore is whether your marriage is honourable in the sight of the Lord. Is it being faithfully upheld and managed for God's glory? We are to be faithfully devoted to our spouses, to love and cherish them for life, and to keep ourselves chaste for them. When a marriage is not honourable, it will be hard for the couple to reach out and be a good testimony to the others and the children in the family. **We must understand that children do what they see, not what you say. It is essential for couples to establish principles and practices within their relationship that serve to build up and not tear down the marital bond.**

Many times, we find more dysfunctional familial and members of a family tend to become more vulnerable to spiritual and moral attacks from the devil. **Our covenant homes are meant to be a refuge for us from the troubles and evils of the world, where there is genuine love and concern one for another. We need to preserve and protect the Christian marriage and the covenant homes today**

3. Be Content (v5)

In an intensely economically driven society like Singapore, we are under constant pressure to do well materially and to almost focus on building of our net worth and tangible assets and material possessions. The Bible, however, warns that '*a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth*' (Luke 12:15). We must therefore beware of

what happened to Achan and Gehazi and also Lot and his wife, who craved more despite his present wealth, and in the process the life of his wife was taken away. While there is definitely a need to provide for our family (1 Tim 5:8), **it is also essential to**



understand that material gratification is never an adequate substitute for parental devotion and love to a child. Covetousness or the love of money is the root of all evil. The collapse of the FTX exchange recently is a good example of covetousness and misplaced trust in temporal worldly things (ie NFTs) rather than in the kingdom of God

The later part of verse 5 reveals to us the Christian's basis for contentment: Christ. Because we have Christ, we need not want anything else (Ps 23:1). Are you content if you have Christ but have not money, friends, or even your life? In this respect we have much to learn from missionaries past and present, who have given their lives to work in dangerous fields – and in so doing, build up for themselves treasures in heaven. The Philippian church during Paul's time also set us a good example by honouring God through their offerings despite being needy themselves (Philippians 4:15-19).

4. Be Cognizant (v7,17)



Paul in 1Th 5:12,13 exhorts us And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Do we appreciate and know those who are serving the Lord in the mission field and also those serving the Lord in the preaching of His Word? Do we pray for our preachers and missionaries and reach out to them in

concern and joyful gratitude in the Lord and we are reminded to remember those whom God has placed above you, who have blessed you and taught you, who have guided you in your tender years, and who have ruled over you. For this reason our church session have decided that we will be sending Christmas love gifts to our missions partners in India and Myanmar as the Lord provides to encourage and strengthen their ministry (and those who are interested to assist in this can let the treasurer know or designate that love gift to the Missions Fund) Thank God for these faithful servants of God and let us pray that we may likewise be a blessing to them and others too.

5. Be Careful (v9)

There are many scams these days that we need to be vigilant against. But many Christians today are also ignorant of the Word, or they can be indifferent or careless about their knowledge of the faith that make them vulnerable to the wiles of the evil one. Statistics show that about 70% of the members of modern-day cult groups like the Mormons, JW's, SDA's, Freemasons, Christian Science are made up of people

originally from mainline denominations. We must constantly be on guard to shield ourselves and our families against the false doctrines concerning Christ, the Trinity, salvation and the second coming of Christ that abound today. Man-centred ways to save the earth that exalt a new age mother earth is unbiblical and it can possibly draw people away from the living and true God, by advocating the divinity of the earth. Then we are in danger of being deceived by the evil one. The truth is that the earth is doomed for destruction by the Lord by fire (2Pet 3:9-12), and we should be responsible stewards of what God has blessed us with and more importantly to focus our time and effort on the saving of souls who live on this earth instead as given in the Great Commission.

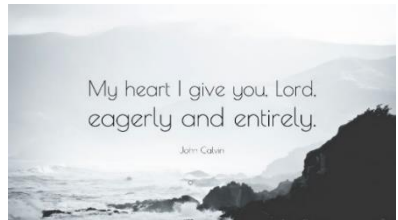
6. Be Consecrated (v10-13)

We are to be totally committed to the cause of Christ and His Word as the basis of our faith, to be consecrated is to be set apart or sanctified by the Holy Spirit in life. It is often easy to begin well but very difficult to end well. Nobody knows what tomorrow may hold, so worship, stewardship and our daily service to God should not be put off for "when I retire" or "when the kids grow up". **Pray for God to give you the godly wisdom to love and serve Him and to tenaciously press on in your devotion and service to Him in the church, looking constantly towards His soon glorious return.**

Conclusion

There is much that believers should do for the Lord and for one another in our sacred duties for we live in perilous times. The Lord is coming soon and we are accountable to him one day. Let us live each day for the glory of God and the building up of the kingdom of God with eternity in view.

Jack Sin





Evangelism at Macpherson estate after a hearty Lunch Fellowship.



BRING A FRIEND!

SOVEREIGN HOPE
bible presbyterian church

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

When the Heavenly King Condescended

COME AND FIND OUT THE TRUE MEANING OF THE FIRST COMING OF CHRIST AND ITS LASTING IMPACT IN OUR LIVES TODAY

BY REV JACK SIN

DECEMBER 25,
10:00 AM

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

All Are Welcome

THOSE INTERESTED TO INFORM
DN YUE KAY AT 97450311 BY 15 DEC 2022

DEAR CHURCH COMMITTEE OF
SOVEREIGN HOPE BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH


Thankyou

Dear Church Committee, Thank you for all your love and encouragement. Thanks for inviting me on 6th Nov. 2022 and blessing me with the Love gift. Thanks for all your thoughtfulness and care. Thanks also for all your prayers for me. Heartfelt thanks to all those who were also present at my graduation. Thanks for all the love that you have been showing me. Had a safe trip to India after three years. I reached my In-law's house early morning on 23rd Nov. 2022. I will be here till Sunday Thanks once again for all your prayers for me. Please do continue to pray for us. We welcome you to come to visit our church and minister to our people too.

Thank you.

John Caleb, CALM Church, India

**Pray for bro John
Caleb as he serves
the Lord in his
church in India**



SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

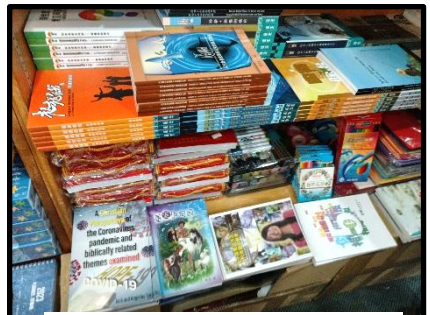
WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
**Guidelines for End
Times Living**

BY REV JACK SIN

DECEMBER 31
8:00 PM

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 20 DEC 2022



**Our pandemic and other
books are found in
various Christian
bookstores in Singapore,
and we pray that it will
edify the readers.**

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him 335

1. Praise the Lord! ye heavens, a - dore Him; praise Him, an - gels in the height;
 2. Praise the Lord! for He is glo - rious; nev - er shall His prom - ise fail;
 3. Wor - ship, hon - or, glo - ry, bless - ing, Lord, we of - fer un - to Thee;

sun and moon, re - joice be - fore Him; praise Him, all ye stars of light.
 God hath made His saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.
 young and old, Thy praise ex - press - ing, in glad hom - age bend the knee.

Praise the Lord! for He hath spo - ken; worlds His might - y voice o - beyed;
 Praise the God of our sal - va - tion! Hosts on high, His power pro - claim;
 All the saints in heaven a - dore Thee. We would bow be - fore Thy throne;

law which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance hath He made.
 heaven and earth and all cre - a - tion laud and mag - ni - fy His name.
 as thine an - gels serve be - fore Thee, so on earth Thy will be done.

WORDS: Anonymous (st. 1, 2); Edward Osler (st. 3) (Ps. 148)

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

HYFRYDOL

8.7.8.7 D

Higher key, No. 607; lower key, No. 422

Alternate tune, AUSTRIAN HYMN

Memory Verse

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on "***The Holy Spirit & Witnessing (Acts 1:1—11)***", continuing the quarterly series on "The Holy Spirit & The Believer Today".
3. Pastor will be preaching next Sunday on "***The Holy Spirit & Worship (Jn 4:20-30)***".
4. The following Sunday School classes continue after worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Addressing Objections to the Gospel – Joseph Wee
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
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. There will be a **Church Christmas Fellowship Lunch on Sat 17 Dec** at Albert & Janet's home. Kindly register with Dn Yue Kay by Dec 4.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 2 Dec 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
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**
