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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm  
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## ***Analogies of the Christian Calling***

Those who are saved by sovereign grace are called to walk worthy of the Lord in our several vocations. (Ephesians 4:1) Among others in the Old Testament, Daniel was religiously faithful to his spiritual convictions in a foreign land Babylon (Daniel 1:1-11) and Joseph was also morally tested, passed the test in idolatrous Egypt and was promoted in the end (Genesis 39:1-12). Abraham was posted overseas permanently to start a new generation of people in a new land of Canaan (Genesis 12, 15, 17) and God blessed and prospered him greatly. We want to study how we can be good witnesses and testimonies for our Lord Jesus Christ from the Word of God even in a pandemic.

The Bible used six analogies or metaphors to depict and describe the Christian life appropriately and here they are.as follows.

### **1. Faithful Stewards of God**

The world emphasizes ownership but the Bible says that we are not owners but called to be custodians, managers or trustees of the manifold grace of God and there is accountability to God one day. We are to be responsible for that which is entrusted to us and we need to manage it well productively to glorify the master.



Note 1 Peter 4:10, 11 - "*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*" Everyone has a gift and we are to be using it for the glory of God and to edify others and not ourselves (Romans 12:6-8).

Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:2 says - "*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*" There is a requirement for all stewards, faithfulness or accountability to God one day and that is a grave duty.

Our Lord has given to each one of us different talents and resources to all as He wills. We are not to hoard our talents or gifts but to discover, develop and employ them fruitfully as good and faithful stewards to the blessing of others. We are all accountable to God at the *bema* of the judgement seat of Christ one day (2 Corinthians 5:10) and He will reward us one day for our work done for Him in eternity (Matthew 25:15-30). Let us serve the Lord faithfully wherever you are in a Reformed church to the edifying of the saints and the saving of souls.

## 2. Alert Soldiers of Christ at the Battle Front

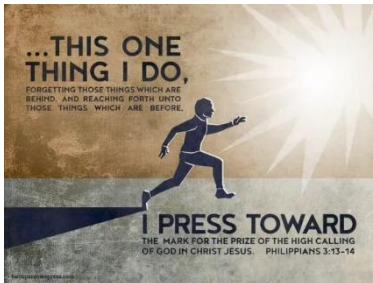
2 Timothy 2:2-4 - *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."* We have

National Service in Singapore, and all able-bodied young men have to do about 2 years of tough training and then a military vocation where they are constantly to be ready and alert all the time. The Israelis have one of the best armies in the world and the SAF have learnt from them in the beginning of our armed forces in Singapore.

We are all conscripted in the Lord's army. We are all in a spiritual warfare zone and there is an enemy waiting to devour us if possible (1 Peter 5:8). We need to be alert, disciplined soldiers and be readily equipped with full amour of God and vigilant to potential dangers in this fallen world and let us not be entangled with the affairs of the world but please only our Commander, our Lord Jesus Christ. Are you equipped and ready to fight well today?



## 3. Fit Athletes in the Race of Life



Hebrews 12:1, 2 says, *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the*

*shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."* The Olympics had just ended but our athletes here are busy training and equipping for the next competition. we are all involved in a long race of life and we are to keep spiritually fit and healthy and run carefully, keeping to the rules that is set for us with perseverance and endurance, looking up to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:1, 2). Christian athletes are not to disqualify themselves by going against the regulations set for us by God (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). There is to be no doping or cheating in the race and no spiritual or moral compromise or cutting corners as well. Let us keep to the rules and run patiently and win the eternal prize and bring glory to God (Philippians 3:13, 14).

#### **4. Diligent Farmers in the Harvest Fields**



*1 Corinthians 3:7-10 - "So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."*

We are to be diligent not indolent and be patient in sowing and watering and also reaping with spiritual fruits in due time and our labour for the Lord is not in vain even (1 Corinthians 15:58) in a harvest field while working there as well. It is great joy to see the fruits of our missions in India, Country X, Indonesia and Myanmar though we are not able to go there these 2 years due to the pandemic) as souls be saved by the grace of God. Remember we will reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-10). Farmers are industrious and faithful workers and let us do our part for the Lord in the wide harvest fields in His vineyard as well wherever the Lord puts us.

## 5. Unattached Pilgrims and Strangers in a Fleeting World

1 Peter 2:11, 12 - "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." and Hebrews 11:13-16 - "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Do not drive your stakes too near for tomorrow we may break camp.



This was John Bunyan's favourite analogy in his much-celebrated allegorical work, *Pilgrim's Progress*, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Pilgrims have a religious objective to seek God. We are depicted not as long-term citizens of a fallen world or permanent residents but temporal travelers on the earth amidst dangers and trials (ie Slough of Despond, Apollyon, Castle of Fear, etc) yearning forward to the imminent coming of our Lord when we will be forever in the presence of the Lord in the celestial city one day.



While a vagabond has no home, a fugitive is running away from home, a pilgrim is on his way home. Let us live with this mindset while we are overseas that we may set our affections on things above and not on the earth (Colossians 3:1).

## 6. Able Ambassadors of Heaven on Earth

2 Corinthians 5:20 says, "*Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*" It is a great honour to be an ambassador of a country (Ephesians 6:20). We represent our heavenly



country, heaven, when our Lord Jesus is King and let us be worthy and honourable envoys of Christ while we are in a foreign land. Our conduct and speech is to be honourable and compatible with our high calling. We can bring fame or shame to the name of Christ by our words, conduct and actions and we are to be effective and exemplary diplomats for our Lord.

### Conclusion

As Christians, we are called to spiritual ambassadors, soldiers, athletes, farmers, pilgrims and strangers on the earth and we are to be good witnesses and stewards as well for Christ's sake even in a global health crisis. That means that our Christian testimony and duty on earth is more than making money or earthly promotions or economic achievements in the workplace. Godly demeanour, consistent personal and corporate prayer life and regular Sabbath worship, evangelism and the faithful service of the most High God is not to be neglected. There is much to be done besides excelling in the secular workplace (which is important). We are to be reliable and responsible stewards and ambassadors for Christ to honour and serve Him first on earth wherever he puts us and we represent the Almighty Jehovah, the King of kings and the Lord of lords and that is a grave duty and prerogative to be discharged fearfully by all.

*Jack Sin*

## ***Thanksgiving to God for His Provision***



Hello Dear Sovereign Hope BPC.

Mingalaba!

Firstly, We Thank God for His Blessings and your Faithfulness for His Kingdom and Ministry.

We received the love gift to buy an Inverter and Battery and food.

We really give thanks for we really need these in our situation.

We always thank the Lord for you all are the channel of blessings for spiritual and physical needs in the ministry.

Thank you so much for your love and support and tireless prayer.

May God bless you all. Thank you so much. (*Chi Yu Tin Ba Tae*)

*Pr Kosoe & Lapui,  
Mercy Church, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.*



Dear Deacon Kwong Leen,

I am so pleased to inform you that we have joyfully received the love gifts from SHBPC and from you for our family and the Gilead Balm home.

We praise God for all that He cares for us specially touching your hearts to meet our needs in time.

Our heartfelt thanks to all givers towards this small-but-great ministry.

We will continue to pray for you every day. God bless you with your needs too.

Yours in Him,

Eld Habakkuk.

Gilead Balm Home, Yangon



Celebrating the birthdays of our worshippers and rejoicing with and praying for them

Pray for the salvation of Dn Kwong Leen's father, Dr Tan, who heard the gospel and received SHBPC tracts, as the Lord wills.



**SHBPC  
Gospel  
Sunday**

**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
kibbi-protestantian-ekurch

**Probing Heaven and Hell**

*Rev Dr Jack Sin*

**27 March 2022  
10:00 am**



**What is heaven or hell like  
and will I end up there one day?**

*Come and find out as ignorance is not Bliss.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*Venue*  
Sovereign Hope BP Church  
160, Paya Lebar Rd. 04-06  
Orion@Paya Lebar Rd.  
Singapore 409022

*Those Interested  
Please inform  
Dn. Yue Kay at 97450311*

## Memory Verse

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God..

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Bro Joseph Wee speaks today on "**Being a Faithful Co-Laborer in the Ministry**" (**Col 4:7-18**), the quarterly theme of "Christ-Centred Principles for the Local Church", a study on the Epistle to the Colossians.
3. Pastor is preaching this morning at Gospel Light BPC worship service.
4. Pastor speaks next Sunday on "**Probing Heaven and Hell**" (**Rev 20:1-15**).
5. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
  - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
  - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
  - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
  - Burmese Bible Class - James
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
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.
8. In accordance with the Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) that is effective from 1Feb, our Sunday worship services are for vaccinated worshippers. The measures do not apply to religious classes ie. Sun School and Bible Study classes and hence all are welcome to attend.
9. **The Church camp will be from 16 -18 June at Changi Cove** on the theme "**Biblical Precepts for a Vibrant Christian Walk**" by Dr Jack Sin. Registration Forms are available from Dn Yue Kay and all are encouraged to register as soon as possible as there is a limited capacity.
10. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 1 Apr 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
11. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
12. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
13. 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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