

# Christian Message

KLANG CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume No. XXI Issue No. 17

April 25, 2010

## Beware of the Leaven of the Pharisees

By Steven Chan

During the time of the ministry of Christ on earth, the chief sects among the Jews were the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Essenes, who according to Smith's Bible Dictionary, may be described respectively as the Formalists, the Freethinkers and the Puritans. According to Smith's Bible Dictionary, "the fundamental principle of all of the Pharisees, common to them with all orthodox modern Jews, is that, by the side of the written law, regarded as a summary of the principles and general laws of the Hebrew people, there was an oral law to complete, and to explain the written law, given to Moses on Mount Sinai, and transmitted by him by word of mouth. The first portion of the Talmud, called the Mishna or "second law", contains this oral law. It is a digest of the Jewish traditions and a compendium of the whole ritual law, and it came at length to be esteemed far above the sacred text."

It is important to note that the Pharisees were among those who challenged Jesus continually and Jesus had to respond their many allegations and accusations against Him. In Matt 16:6, Jesus warned His disciples: "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees" and later explained that to mean to beware of "the doctrine of the Phari-

sees and Sadducees." (Matt 16:11-12). Doctrine was important to Jesus and He warned His disciples to beware of the doctrine or teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Let's consider some of the issues that Jesus had with the Pharisees.

In Matt 9:11-13 the Pharisees said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" What was the underlying doctrine that caused the Pharisees to arrive at such a position that they would even question Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners? Could it be the reasoning that one should not have fellowship with unbelievers that has brought them to such a position? But listen to

what Jesus had to say to them: "When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." It is not being suggested that Jesus had a gala time indulging in the excesses and activities of the unbelievers but He was clearly showing them that whilst they may be sinners, the door is open to them to be healed. Today, there is a similar danger that Christians may be moved to such a position that they have no relationships whatsoever with unbelievers other than



### Sermons in May:

- TEN RULES FOR IMPROVING THE CHURCH  
- EDDY EE
- MISSION RELAUNCH: THE STEWARD & THE MASTER  
- ONG ENG BOON
- A SPECIAL MESSAGE OF EXHORTATION  
- PANIR SANTIAGO
- THE CHURCH, PURCHASED WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST  
- STEVEN CHAN
- "BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US"  
- RICHARD LIM

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Do not be deceived:  
"Evil company cor-  
rupts good habits."  
(1 Cor 15:33)

" MAN-MADE  
DOCTRINES ARE  
ALWAYS A THREAT  
TO THE PRACTICE OF  
OUR FAITH "

### Leaven of the Pharisees

perhaps in the work environment which is occasioned by necessity (1 Cor 5:9-10). Proper balance and motive in our relationship with unbelievers is necessary. 2 Cor 6:14-16 teaches us thus: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?" But that does not necessarily mean that we do not have any relationship whatsoever with unbelievers. Listen to what Jesus said in Matt 5:44-48: "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

It would appear that the Christian's relationship with an unbeliever should not encompass anything beyond what is laid down in 1 Cor 5:9-10 and Matt 5:44-48 such that it would contravene the exhortations laid down in 2 Cor 6:14-17, 1 Cor 15:33, 1 Thess 5:22 and Eph 5:11.

Another incident is recorded in Matt 15:1-2 when the scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus: "Why do

Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." Jesus pointed out that they had made the commandment of God of no effect by their tradition and He charged them with hypocrisy: "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips; But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt 15:6-9). Man-made doctrines are always a threat to the practice of our faith. Whilst such "policies, procedures, processes and practices" as may be found in many churches may have noble intentions, they must be recognized that they are merely traditions of men and should not be equated with the commandments of God – no matter how virtuous they may appear. For example, brethren may have agreed that in the event of a baptism, a certain process should be followed, eg. Bro Bapto should be contacted so that he can make all the necessary arrangements for the baptism, etc... Let's say, for some reasons, Br Bapto could not be contacted and Bro Barnabas was asked to do the necessary... and later Bro Bapto claimed that he was actually contactable... should the church be divided over such a matter as a process not having been followed. Sadly, sometimes such matters have become almost laws in church practice. Brethren, we must beware of such dangers as had engulfed the probably initially well-meaning Pharisees.

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On yet another occasion, Jesus said to them in Matt 23:15: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. Woe to you, blind guides,"

Whilst soul-winning is important, Jesus clearly highlighted that such great effort would be to no avail if he that is converted is taught doctrines that will damn his soul. Unfortunately, in our day and age, many brethren are continually swayed by reports of conversions – recall the situation with the Crossroads-Boston-Central London Church of Christ now known as the International Churches of Christ when they reported incredible number of baptisms; brethren then said they could not be wrong in their doctrine and practices because God was blessing them with the conversions. Now we know better for they have confessed their errors in the discipleship methodology which was akin to mind-control.

In Matt 23:23-25, 28, Jesus said to them: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men,

## Our Visitors and Visiting Brethren



### VISITORS

April 16, 2010

- Ong Jae Wen (Friend of Tan Ern Shern)
- Jasmine Wong (Chiang Ling)

April 18, 2010

- Ong Jae Wen (Tan Ern Shern)
- Chan Siew Meng (Richard Lim)
- Jasmine Wong (Chiang Ling)
- Mr & Mrs KC Chia (Yeow Kong)
- Michael Ng
- Vitek & Edi (KC Chia)

- Dr & Mrs Cheong Wen Hoon (Chuan Lek)

### VISITING BRETHREN

April 16, 2010

- Koay Chiang Ling (Kuching)
- Sean Lim (Singapore)

April 18, 2010

- Koay Chiang Ling (Kuching)
- Felicia Koh (Kuching)
- Sean Lim (Singapore)



Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15)

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## Services This Week (April 25, 2010)

### Bible Class

Lesson: Parables of Jesus - The Mustard Seed  
Teacher: Richard Lim

### Youth Bible Class

Lesson: Building Blocks of Faith  
Teacher: Steven Chan

### Worship

Lesson: Work As For The Lord  
Preacher: Quay Chew Soon

**Floral Display** Teh Chong Foo

### Helpers

Communion: Connie Kirk & Koay Chai Bee

### Statistics for week April 16 - 18, 2010

Friday Bible Class Attendance	-	68
Sunday Bible Class	-	82
Sunday School		
Teachers	- 7	
Students	- 24	111
Sunday English Worship	- 107	
Children in attendance	- 32	
Mandarin Worship	- 20	
TOTAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	-	159

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## Services Next Week (May 2, 2010)

### Bible Class

Lesson: Our Life Together in The Church  
Teacher: Eddy Ee

### Youth Bible Class

Lesson: Combined Class with the Adults Bible Class  
Teacher: Eddy Ee

### Worship

Lesson: Ten Rules for Improving the Church  
Preacher: Eddy Ee

**Floral Display** Christina Lim

### Helpers

Communion: Koay Ching Li & Claire Lee



Special Seminar  
**Life's Lessons**

Speaker: John Grubb

June 11 - 13, 2010  
Klang church of Christ,  
11 Jalan Teluk Pulai, Klang

June 11 - The Tower of Babel  
June 12 - Sodom & Gomorrah  
June 13  
9.15am - Lessons Israel learned at Jericho  
10.30am - Life's Greatest Decision. What are  
the Most Important Things in Life?

## BAPTISM

We rejoice with the angels in  
heaven over the baptism of  
**Loke Chee Sum**  
(boyfriend of Jillian) after studies  
with Bro William Chan on April 18,  
2010. Please continue to pray for  
him as he begins the new walk in  
Christ.



Exhort one another  
daily, while it is  
called "Today," lest  
any of you be hard-  
ened through the  
deceitfulness of sin.  
(Heb 3:13)

Inter-congregational Church Camp



## Higher Ground

Speaker: Bro Charlie DiPalma

7-9 June 2010 at Genting View Resort  
For details: Richard Lim, Klang CoC

## BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

02 Lydia Samnas  
04 Nicole Chia  
13 Ang Yen Chin  
16 Samuel Daniel  
20 Peter Tan  
25 Neela & Evelyn Shalini  
26 Ashley Quek  
30 Lai Cheng See  
31 Sherlyn Ho



## PRAYER REQUESTS



- **Sis Joyce Gomez** who robbed on morning of April 15.
- **Sis Moy Chee's mother**, a member of the Malacca congregation, to recover from a foot operation.
- **Bro Yeow Kong's elder brother, Ng Yew Chey**, who is recuperating from a recent fall.
- **Bro CK Lee's mother** who suffered a collapsed lung and is unconscious. She is a member of the church in Malacca.
- **Bro Joseph Lee's mother, Lily**, who is recovering from a recent operation in Perth
- **Sis Sherlyn Ho** that she may continue to have good health.
- **Sis Donna Campbell** to recover completely from a fall.
- **Vneetha** who has not been well for the past few weeks.

## Leaven of the Pharisees

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but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

In the afore-stated situation we are warned of the danger of emphasizing/focusing on the minors and neglecting the majors, or paying undue attention on minor matters whilst swallowing the camel of major errors. In the present instance, Jesus said that justice, mercy and faith are weightier matters and ought not to be neglected while one pursues the detailed instruction how much of each blessing one should give to the Lord. We need to focus on the things that God considers important and not neglect them while we pursue personal hobbies on various aspects of personal practice and belief.

The warnings given by Jesus with regards to the Pharisees serve as warnings for us today as we seek to serve and honor Him – that we do not become side-tracked into matters that could well jeopardized our personal salvation if not corrected in time.

## Church Program in May

01	Home Fellowship at Bukit Kuda	Koay Chuan Lek
02	Building Renovation Fund	
03	Monthly Review Meeting	Steven Chan
04	Home Fellowship Meeting at Kota Kemuning	Ong Eng Boon
07	Offering Praise of Our Lips/Prayers	Richard Lim/John Quek
08	Health Talk by Dr See Ing Or	Ronnie Lee
15	Home Fellowship at Klang Jaya	Khoo Kay Yeow
18	Home Fellowship Meeting at Kota Kemuning	Ong Eng Boon

## Sunday Sermons in May

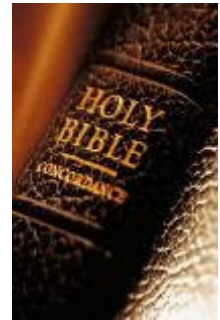
02	Ten Rules for Improving the Church	Eddy Ee
09	Mission Relaunch: The Steward & the Master	Ong Eng Boon
16	A Special Message of Exhortation	Panir Santiago
23	The Church, Purchased with the Blood of Jesus Christ	Steven Chan
30	"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us"	Richard Lim

## Sunday Bible Class in May

02	Our Life Together in Church	Eddy Ee
09	Parables of Jesus - The Leaven	Ronnie Lee
16	Parables of Jesus - The Hidden Treasure	Rick Kirk
23	Parables of Jesus - The Pearl of Great Price	Adrian Koay
30	Parables of Jesus - The Dagnet	Leow Yew Chong

## Youth Bible Class in May

02	Combined Bible Class	Eddy Ee
09	Building Blocks of Our Faith	Steven Chan
16	Building Blocks of Our Faith	Steven Chan
23	Building Blocks of Our Faith	Steven Chan
30	Building Blocks of Our Faith	Steven Chan



Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15)

**Health Talk**




**Raising Healthy Children & Dealing With Nose Allergies**

Speaker: Dr See Ing Or  
 Time: 2.30 - 4.30 pm  
 Date: May 8, 2010

organised by the Klang Sunday School & the Ladies Fellowship

**PRAISE OF OUR LIPS**



**Friday, May 7, 2010**

<b>Refreshment:</b>	<b>Clean Up:</b>
Connie Kirk	Rick Kirk
Koay Chai Bee	Bryan Ho
Lim Lee Hua	Leow Yew Chong
Yeo Mee Eng	Daryl Kirk
Jenny Lum	Leow Huey Shien
Celine	Joel Kirk



**Speak where the Bible speaks. Be silent where the Bible is silent.**

## KLANG CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### Elders:

- Koay Chuan Lek  
Tel: (603) 3341 9577  
Email: [koaylek@gmail.com](mailto:koaylek@gmail.com)
- Steven Chan  
Tel: (6012) 206 6618  
Email: [steventkchan@gmail.com](mailto:steventkchan@gmail.com)

*The Klang Church of Christ seeks to glorify its Founder and Head, Jesus Christ (Matt 16:18; Col 1:18), by proclaiming salvation on the same terms stated by Jesus in Mark 16:16: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved".*

*Having been born again (John 3:3-5) through baptism in water (Titus 3:5; Eph 5:26; 1 Pet 3:21; Rom 6:3-5), we acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus, that "Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God" (Gal 2:20). Thus, like the apostle Paul we can say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).*

*We appeal to all believers to be united in love as desired by the Lord (John 17:20-23; 13:34,35) and that all may "speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among us, but that we be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Cor 1:10).*

*Denominationalism does not feature in God's plan. We urge all to leave denominationalism and to be united in One Body (Eph 2:15-17) on the basis of what the Bible says (and to leave aside the teachings and traditions that are man-made as these are the cause of division among believers). "The churches of Christ greet you". (Rom 16:16)*

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We're on the web. Visit us at <http://www.klangchurchofchrist.org>

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Visit the Youth Blogsite at  
<http://youths-kcoc.blogspot.com>

Visit the Sunday School Blogsite at  
[www.ahadschool.blogspot.com](http://www.ahadschool.blogspot.com)

9th Annual Evangelism Seminar

# EVANGELISM IN SYNC



9.00 am - 1.00 pm, May 1, 2010  
Subang Jaya church of Christ