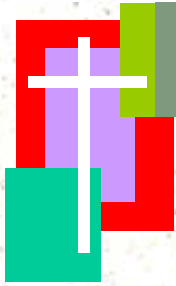


Christian Message

KLANG CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume No. XXI Issue No. 39

September 26, 2010



Living by Faith in the Midst of Unbelievers

By Steven Chan



Maintaining faith in God in the midst of unbelievers is a real challenge. This is all the more so when the unbelievers are supposed to be those who profess to believe in God.

How does one maintain one's faith amidst such great lack of trust and dependency on God – especially amidst those who profess to trust in God?

The Bible tells of the account of a young shepherd who was also the youngest in his family. His father asked him to bring some food to his older brothers who were fighting the Philistines. When David got there, he saw how terrified the army of Israel was in the face of the challenge by Goliath of the Philistines. 1 Sam 17:24 observes that "all the men of Israel, when they saw the

man, fled from him, and were sore afraid."

Was David similarly affected? As a young man, he could have been excused for being fearful as well. His older brothers were similarly afraid of Goliath as he was a giant (1 Sam 17:4) – about nine feet nine inches tall! No one in the army of Israel was prepared to face Goliath in battle. Why was the army of Israel so afraid of Goliath? They were people who ought to know the power of God. But somehow they failed to learn to trust God for His deliverance – unlike their forefathers who had trusted the Lord when they crossed the Red Sea and conquered the land promised by God. Their forefathers acted in faith; their children no longer shared that faith! They were God's people but they no longer really trusted the Lord in all circumstances. They no longer had real faith in God. They probably have "a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof" (2 Tim 3:5). They had essentially become unbelievers!

The young shepherd David responded differently not out of youthful brashness but because he had been living a life that was dependent upon God and he knew that his God was a deliverer in his everyday living as He had delivered him from adversities. He had learned to trust God and His power to deliver him during difficult and

Sermons in October: "LOOKING UNTO JESUS"

- WHEN FACED WITH TRIALS & TEMPTATIONS - KOAY CHUAN LEK
- WHEN FACED WITH THE NEED TO SUFFER WRONGFULLY - RICK KIRK
- WHEN FACED WITH THOSE SEEK TO FIND FAULT WITH YOU - RICHARD LIM
- WHEN FACED WITH A SORROWFUL SITUATION - ALLEN TAN
- WHEN FACED WITH CHALLENGING SITUATIONS - STEVEN CHAN

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Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Matt 26:41)

“ WATCH AND PRAY SO THAT OUR LIVES DO NOT BECOME SO OVER-CROWDED WITH OUR DAILY CARES SUCH THAT WE HAVE NO PLACE FOR GOD AND THE WORK THAT HE HAS ENTRUSTED TO US ”

Watch & Pray, and Endure

By Steven Chan

I have a fascinating watch-dog. He is probably the friendliest dog in the neighbourhood. Even the postman can come and pat him on the head! Someone mentioned that he is really a “watch-dog” because he watches all the people that come and go – and does nothing to stop them from coming near to him!

In 1 Pet 5:8, the Bible warns us to “be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour... (ASV)” Are we always on the alert and on the look-out for the schemes and fiery darts that the devil is aiming at us? And when we do “see” what the devil has schemed for us, what do we do about it? Do we merely ignore it? Or, we do take steps to escape or overcome it?

Jesus warned in Luke 21:34-36: “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

In the afore-stated passage, the warning is to watch out for our lives – to ensure that our hearts are not “weighed down” or overcome or overwhelmed with carousing (i.e. loaded down with self-indulgence or too much feasting, dissipation), drunkenness and worries of this life (exclusively focused on the things of this life such as what kind of food to eat, what kind of house to live in and how much money to store up for this life) such that we do not prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord or for the day when we make our exit from this life (James 4:13-14).

Are we so pre-occupied with the things of this life that we have no time to carry out the will of God? In Mark 4:19, these are likened to the seed that was sown among the thorns where “the cares of this world, the deceitful-

ness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” We have no space in our very busy lives for any effort to bear fruits for God. Brethren, we need to watch and pray so that our lives do not become so over-crowded with our daily cares such that we have no place for God and the work that He has entrusted to us.

In Mark 13:32-37, Jesus warned us: “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” Our Lord warns us that no one knows exactly when the Lord will come and therefore we should always be prepared for His coming.

In Mark 14:37-38, when Jesus “came and found them sleeping, and (He) said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

In both accounts in Mark, Jesus asked them to “watch and pray” – firstly because we do not know when the Lord will come – and we need to be ready and prepared if He were to come at any time; secondly so that we do not enter into temptation – it is important that we do not place ourselves into situations where we would be tempted to sin. According to 1 Thess 5:21-22, we are to “test all things; hold fast what is good... and to abstain (avoid or stay away) from every form of evil.” “Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”(1 Cor 15:33) –

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Living By Faith



The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine (1 Sam 17:37)

**“ OUR GOD IS
NO ORDINARY
BEING; HE RAISES
THE DEAD! ”**

challenging circumstances. David knew that on his own, he could not have overcome those adversities. He acknowledged that God had been with him and had helped him overcome those challenging situations. He had demonstrated courage to act positively because of his faith and trust in God.

In 1 Sam 17:34-37, the young shepherd related his experience with God: “Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, the LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.”

The apostle Paul shared the same experience in 2 Cor 1:8-11: “For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, inasmuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; Ye also helping together by prayer for us...”

Paul noted that the challenges that he faced “was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again” (ESV).

The key point is that our many afflictions, sufferings, trials and adversities are meant to “make us rely not on ourselves but on God”. Our God is no ordinary being; He raises the dead! He raised Jesus from the dead and He will raise us from the dead. If He has power to overcome death, what can He not do (Rom 8:31-39)? So, Paul declared that he viewed life's challenges as occasions that should cause us to understand the need to rely on God and not on ourselves. This is what faith in God entails: “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”(Heb 11:6)

Are we living our lives with complete trust in God as we seek to serve and glorify Him? The faith of some may have been shaken because they felt that God had not helped them in the past although they had prayed and trusted Him. But brethren, trusting God requires that we live our lives consistent with His will. If we live our lives outside the will of God, can we realistically expect God to bless us and grant us our requests and prayers?

Listen to what the Bible says in James 4:2-4: “You desire and do not have ... You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because

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you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (ESV). “Whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.”(1 John 3:22). “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him”(1 John 5:14-15).

Brethren, God is not to be treated like someone whom we can simply ask to do our biddings without respect and regard to who He is and what He wants us to be. Sometimes, in our prayers, it sounds as if we are giving instructions to God! Lord, do this and Lord do that...Lord, bring the absentees to church...Lord, feed the poor....Lord, comfort the afflicted – while we ourselves do nothing to bring the absentees, feed the poor or comfort the afflicted (James 2:14-17).

God is to be viewed as our Lord, Master, Guide and Shepherd through life and we need to be obedient to His Will and while living for Him, we can then ask for His blessings and guidance to help us fulfill His will in our lives. Then whatever we ask from Him, we can be confident that He will grant us our requests. And even if He does not give us our requests, we need to learn as Paul shared in 2 Cor 12:7-9

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Watch & Pray, and Endure

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No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it (1 Cor 10:13)

this is good advice for us all. In Eph 5:8-12, the Bible further exhorts us thus: “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.” As Christians we need to be aware of the danger of fellowshiping with the unfruitful works of darkness.

And thirdly, we need to watch and pray because “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak”. We need to know that our flesh is weak and that therefore we need God’s grace to strengthen us so we can be empowered to overcome temptations (Eph 3:20; 6:10-18). The Bible warns in 1 Cor 10:12-13: “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faith-

ful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” God will “make the way of escape” for all of us when we are faced with temptations. “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations.” (2 Peter 2:9). “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.” (Heb 2:18). “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:14-16). Are we aware of the times when we are being tempted – that’s what being watchful implies – and to pray so that God will deliver us out of these temptations? Are we watchful and

prayerful?

“My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.” (James 5:10-12). As we watch and pray, we need to learn to endure suffering and to be patient as we wait for the Lord’s deliverance – even as Job provides us an excellent example. May we be truly sober, watchful and prayerful at all times and to learn to endure and be patient when we undergo times of suffering. We need to learn to trust God under all circumstances that He will guide us through them all. The Apostle Paul expressed it well in 2 Cor 1:9-10 when he wrote thus: “that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,…”

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Living By Faith

“ ARE WE BELIEVERS IN GOD AND HIS POWER TO DELIVER AND REWARD US? ”

to trust God regardless as God will still provide us with His grace to enable us to bear with such situations: “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet (discipline) me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may

rest upon me.”

Are we believers in God and His power to deliver and reward us? Or, are we like the Israelites as we face the Goliaths of our lives? “Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8) Will we stand firm in our faith, trust and dependence on God in the face of all sorts of challenges in our lives? Can we stand like David in the midst of many unbelievers – so that our faith will stand out as light in the midst of darkness – and thereby bring deliverance to ourselves and to those with whom we labor?

Our Visitors and Visiting Brethren



VISITORS

September 10, 2010

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

September 12, 2010

- Chan Siew Meng (Richard Lim)
- Dr & Mrs Cheong Wen Hoon (Koay Chuan Lek)
- Jenny Huan (Claire Lee)
- Samantha Chong (Jerry)
- Serene Ng (Leow Yew Chong)
- Adrian Tan (Shirley Lee)

September 17, 2010

- Ong Jae Wen (Tan Ern Shern)

September 19, 2010

- Chan Siew Meng (Richard Lim)
- Ong Jae Wen (Tan Ern Shern)
- Mei Yee (Linda Leong)
- Annrene Chew (Joel Kirk)
- Joseph Choy, Daphne & Garion

- Michael Ng
- Serene Ng and mother (Leow Yew Chong)

VISITING BRETHREN

September 10, 2010

- Daniel Ooi (England)
- Koay Chiang Ling (Kuching)

September 12, 2010

- Quay Wei Li (Kuala Trengganu)
- Tan Cheer Cheers (Jakarta)
- Daniel Ooi (England)

September 17, 2010

- Daniel Ooi (England)

September 19, 2010

- Alvin Lee (Kota Kemuning)
- Jonah See (Kota Kemuning)
- Sean Lim (Jurong, Singapore)
- Daniel Ooi (England)



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)

Services This Week (September 26, 2010)

Bible Class

Lesson: Parables of Jesus - The Lost Sheep
Teacher: Leow Yew Chong

Youth Bible Class

Lesson: Being Faithful
Teacher: Steven Chan

Worship

Lesson: Why Must You Believe - The Good News to Sinners
Preacher: Kwan Tai Choom

Floral Display

Saroja

Communion

Jo Woo & Sue Woo

Statistics for week September 17 - 19, 2010

Friday Bible Class Attendance	-	49
Sunday Bible Class	-	70
Sunday School		
Teachers	- 10	
Students	- 21	95
Sunday English Worship	- 93	
Children in attendance	- 24	
Mandarin Worship	- 19	
TOTAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	-	136

Services Next Week (October 3, 2010)

Bible Class

Lesson: The Lost Coin
Teacher: Ng Yeow Kong

Youth Bible Class

Lesson: Increasing our Faith
Teacher: Steven Chan

Worship

Lesson: When faced with Trials & Temptations
Preacher: Koay Chuan Lek

Floral Display

Sherlyn Ho

Communion

Jacine Yee & Shirley Lee

Church Program in October

01	Offering Praise of Our Lips/Prayers	Richard Lim/John Quek
02	Home Fellowship at Bukit Kuda	Koay Chuan Lek
03	Building Renovation Fund	
04	Monthly Review Meeting	Steven Chan
05	Home Fellowship Meeting at Kota Kemuning	Ong Eng Boon
16	Home Fellowship at Klang Jaya	Khoo Kay Yeow
19	Home Fellowship Meeting at Kota Kemuning	Ong Eng Boon

Sunday Sermons in October

03	When faced with Trials & Temptations	Koay Chuan Lek
10	When faced with the Need to Suffer Wrongfully	Rick Kirk
17	When faced with those Seek to Find Fault with You	Richard Lim
24	When faced with a Sorrowful Situation	Allen Tan
31	When faced with Challenging Situations	Steven Chan

Sunday Bible Class in October

03	The Lost Coin (Lk 15:8-10)	Ng Yeow Kong
10	The Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32)	Rick Kirk
17	The Unjust Steward (Lk 16:1-15)	Ronnie Lee
24	The Rich Man & Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31)	Richard Lim
31	The Unprofitable Servants (Lk 17:7-10)	Adrian Koay

Youth Bible Class in October

03	Believing in the God of Hope (Rom 15:13)	Randall Chirng
10	Joy in Believing (Rom 15:13)	Joel Kirk
17	Peace in Believing (Rom 15:13)	Khoo Tze Wei
24	Power in Believing (Rom 1:16; 15:13)	Lee Tiong Soon
31	Reward in Believing (Heb 11:6)	Bryant Lee

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Sis So Lee Choo** who is being treated for slipped disc.
- **Sis Michelle Bang** of the PJ Section 17 congregation who is recuperating from her recent operation
- **Sis Josephine's** 2 sisters:-
 1. Kathy Rajiah - breast cancer
 2. Lily Rajiah - bone grafting
- Our young family members who will be sitting for their upcoming exams.

PMR - Daryl Kirk, Heng Jiao Faye, Kavita, Leow Huey Jean, Erica & Lim Jia Chin

SPM - Bithiah, Leow Huey Shien, Ong Ee Ren, Isaac, Tan Ern Shern & Ong Jae Wen

STPM - Lee Tiong Lay

PRAISE OF OUR LIPS



Friday, October 1, 2010

Refreshment:

Teh Chong Foo
 Khoo Hooi Ling
 So Lee Choo
 Caroline Chong
 Christina Lim

Clean Up:

Khoo Kay Yeow
 Steven Chan
 Ong Eng Boon
 Krystle Chan
 Khoo Yee Nee
 Naidu



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)



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

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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)

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

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

Visit the Sunday School Blogsite at
www.ahadschool.blogspot.com



Monthly Review Meeting
October 4, 2010, 8.00 pm
Annex Room A

GOING AWAY for further studies

- Bro Daniel Ooi - Mechanical Engineering, Sheffield University.
- Bro Justin Chan - Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College, London.
- Sis Sue May (Section 17) - Dentistry Queen Mary College, London
- Bro Samuel Lim (Kota Kemuning) - Accounting & Finance, Exeter University

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to



Bro Simon Yee & family on the loss of their father, Yee Yoon Choong, on 15 September 2010. Please remember Simon and Jacqueline during their time of bereavement.

Bro Peter Chin, whose elder brother, Ling Kok Seong, passed away on 20 September 2010 due to a heart attack. Please remember Peter and family during this time of bereavement.

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

- 01 Daniel Ooi
- 03 Quay Yam Kem
- 05 Jenny Lum & Chong Foo
- 06 Julie Ong
- 08 Yeo Mee Eng
- 09 Koay Chuan Lek & Tan Win Win
- 10 Lucy Lee
- 12 Samson Samnas
- 20 Adeline Shamala
- 21 Gan Leh Wah
- 22 Tan Chin Han
- 24 Chan Lum Seng
- 30 Lee Tiong Soon
- 31 Quay Wei Li

