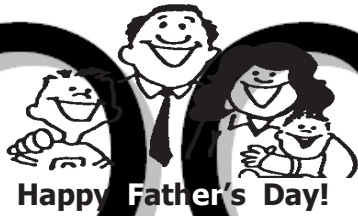


FOCUS



For the Week of 15th June 2008



New SPC Series Starts
this Wednesday

Bible Characters

by Lim Cher Yam

Over the past few years, brother Cher Yam has been our anchor man for the second half of the year at SPC (School of Practical Christianity).

This year is no exception. We are looking forward to a powerful, life-application series on Bible Characters starting this Wednesday at 7:30pm.

At times such as these, it is so important for us to inculcate character traits that the Bible brings out as pleasing in the sight of God.

You will enjoy and benefit greatly from the clear, well researched and Bible-based lessons of brother Cher Yam which we have grown to love.

Plan to come with your Care team members and friends. This series will enrich your life!

Come back tonight at 6pm for a special worship with participation from overseas guests followed by a fellowship meal together



Love Language #4 - Acts of Service

June Dhanabalan

Here are some tips you can use if your partner's love language is acts of service. These thoughts were contributed by members at the recent SPC series on the 5 Love Languages.

- Taking over some of his usual chores especially the ones he hates doing the most
- Wash the car together
- Buy or make his favourite food
- Give him a free night to do as he will
- 'Steal' his car while he is at work and have it detailed/waxed/cleaned inside
- Take over cooking a meal for a change or wake up early and prepare breakfast and get the kids off to school
- Help do something that has been outstanding for a long time or that I don't know how to do e.g. changing bulbs, rotating tires, moving heavy furniture and cleaning behind it.
- Make coupons with jobs that I hate doing e.g. taking the garbage out, cleaning the fan, and treats, e.g. 'sleep in',
- Perform favours for people I love e.g. chores in my elderly relatives' house. Before you leave, say 'Mary/Jane/etc wanted to do this so I thought I'd help her.'



**Next week: Final Installment
Love Language #5 - Touch**



PP FAMILY NEWS

We had a great time at the June camp this past week. Truly, it was a foretaste of heaven as we see God's family living, breathing together in a most wonderful way. Many thanks to the super camp committee who worked hard and long to ensure that every detail is taken care of. In today's bulletin is a large colour group photograph to remind us of the good times we had.

As all our overseas camp guests will be leaving this week, we have planned a **special worship tonight** where we will be exhorted by brethren from many countries. Following the service, we will enjoy a time of fellowship to say our fond farewells. Dinner will be provided. Special thanks to many who have extended hospitality (from Singapore Flyer to zoo) to our overseas guests.

If you have not met **brother Oscar** from Tuao, please take some time to do so. He works with brother Jhunma and sister Babes and is a favorite of all our members who have made missionary trips to Tuao. He is with the House Helpers BC this morning.

Many thanks to brother Edward, sisters Iris, Florence, Doreen and a host of others who gave us a super tea and a great lunch last Sunday to honour our fathers at PP.

If you ever want to learn more about the Old Testament Sacrificial System, do not miss the **upcoming SIBI course by brother Gerald Paden**. This course is highly recommended for anyone who is a serious Bible student. If you enjoyed Cook's Revelations course, you will like Paden's Sacrificial System course!



With the arrival of the **Tom and Nancy Goracke**, SIBI's faculty is in full strength and poised to move into the next level. We have allocated both rooms at the container area for the SIBI office.

Tom is now located at block 60, #17-462 Teban Gardens, Singapore 600060. You can reach him by phone at 98703440 (Nancy at 98068009) or email at twoservants2002@yahoo.com

MEN to SERVE for this Week and the Next

Worship Service

8am

Call to Worship:
Scripture Text:

Today (15th June 2008)

Henry Kong
Psalm 119:169-176

Next Week

Elder Tan Beng Chuan
Psalm 121:5-8

11am

Call to Worship:
SR/OP:
S. Leader:
Communion:
Preacher:
Shepherd's Prayer:
i/c Auditorium
i/c Balcony

Henry Kong
Alvin Tjipto
Deacon Paul Lim
Michael Yam
Seah Siow Hwee
Elder William Wong
Jeronme Goh
HI Team

Elder Tan Beng Chuan
Kenneth Kuek
Deacon Paul Lim
Kelvin Koo
Kuek Lee Hock
Elder Simon Goh
Louis Lim
HI Team

6pm

Call to Worship:
Scripture Text:
SR/OP:
S. Leader:
Communion:
Preacher:
Closing Prayer:

Henry Kong
Psalm 121:1-4
Ban Haw Leong
Charles Pang
Ramesh Dhanabalan
Overseas Guests
Elder Simon Goh

Elder Tan Beng Chuan
Psalm 122:1-5
Deacon Lim Swee Aun
Jeryl Snider
Nehemiah Tan
Ivan Kuek
Elder William Wong

CALENDAR of events

Sunday, 15th June 2008

- 7:45am Alpha-PP Shuttle Bus begins
- 8:00am Morning Worship
Speaker: Seah Siow Hwee
- 9:30am Bible classes for all ages
- 11am Morning Worship
- 12:30pm Free Bus for Seniors
- 1:15pm Alpha-PP Shuttle Bus stops
- 6pm Evening Worship
Overseas Guests Speak
- 7:15pm Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, 18th June 2008



- 7:30pm SPC New Series on Bible Characters by brother Lim Cher Yam

FAMILY CONCERNS

Please pray for:

- God to help my grandmother's response to baptism during the church camp
- Hong Ngee
- My friend to come and learn of God in church
- Gina Lomabao
- The Perambur Preacher Training School in Chennai, India - David Illankumaran
- God to safely guard all campers and that we may glorify Him with our worship and fellowship with one another - Lynda Wee, Michael Mariaraja, Andy Wee
- The health and well being of Bruce Cheshire
- Lilian Kok
- The House Helpers Bible class that we continue to grow in discipleship - Maribel Cammayo

Thank God for:

- His blessings - Yin Hua
- His mercy and providence for my family, friends, employers and my children - May Pajota
- Bringing elder William and Hedy back from Western Australia. Bringing so many guests and visitors from Asia - Lilian Kok
- Brother Edward's and Oscar's safe return to Singapore and all our overseas guests
- Karen Cammayo
- Brother Henry's sermon - elder Eric Tan
- Speakers from Philippines and India - Henry Kong



Happy Father's Day to all fathers at PP

FACTS & FIGURES

8am Worship	121
11am Worship	214
6pm Worship	46
Total:	401
Morning Giving	\$9143
Evening Giving	\$1287
Total Contribution	\$10,430

Gifts of Love to our 3Rs Fund*

Receipt No. Donor Amount

3RsF 1133	Anonymous	\$ 1,200
3RsF 1134	Anonymous	\$ 50

SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

A study of the Old Testament worship based on the Law of Moses and the concepts of sacrifice and atonement

Instructor: Gerald Paden



Gerald Paden has preached the gospel in many parts of the world, he served for 6 years as a missionary to Italy and has been an instructor in Bible and Missions at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas for 30 years.



He has taught several times at our associate school in Batam, Indonesia and in July he will teach for us here in Singapore. Gerald is a supremely skilled teacher, dearly loved by his students who are now scattered world-wide proclaiming the Message of Christ.

Gerald will be teaching The Sacrificial System, a study connecting the books of Leviticus in the Old Testament with Hebrews in the New Testament. Each book (Leviticus and Hebrews) will be covered in 2 separate sessions and will be counted as 2 courses. These back to back courses will give you Bible-wide insights you may never have thought of before, you don't want to miss these 2 sessions.

Enrol by filling the attendance cards

July 5th to 27th 2008; Fri (7-10pm) & Sat & Sun (2-5pm) Course
Credits: 3 (Fee: \$20)

Closing Date for Registration: Sunday 30 June 2008

For email registration, please email Patrick Ong at patrick@ppcoc.org



An understanding of the Sacrificial System is key to understanding the Old Testament. We are calling on all our members and Care teams, especially Bible class teachers to sign up. Just as brother Charles excites us with an understanding of Revelations, brother Gerald will uplift us with the insights of the Sacrificial System. Lets break all records on this important course!

Henry Kong, Minister



Summer: Christian maturity

By Deacon Lim Li Chhoan

In my previous sermon, I spoke on 'Springtime – the theme is on Christian growth':
"We need to grow, mature and be ready to go out to "battle" wars when God calls us during the "springs" in our life."

In this article, I want to share on "Summer – the theme is on Christian maturity".

When it is summer in the [Northern Hemisphere](#), it is [winter](#) in the [Southern Hemisphere](#), and vice versa. Summer in the southern hemisphere occurs when that hemisphere tilts towards the sun. Summer in the northern hemisphere occurs when the north tilts toward the sun.

According to meteorology, summer is the whole months of December, January, and February in the Southern Hemisphere, and the whole months of June, July, and August in the Northern Hemisphere.

This meteorological definition of summer also aligns with commonly viewed notion of summer as the season with the longest (and warmest) days of the year, in which the daylight predominates, through varying degrees. The meteorological summer encompasses the build up to the longest day and decline thereafter, so that summer has many more hours of daylight than spring.

In Southern and Southeast Asia where the [monsoon](#) occurs, summer is more generally defined as March to May or early June, their warmest time of the year, ending with the onset of the monsoon rains.

Summer Activities

In most countries children are out of school during this time of year for [summer holidays](#), summer bible camps / retreat/ mission.

What are your plans for this summer? Going to the church camp? Are you planning on spending extra time with your family and friends? Are you planning a vacation to have fun in the sun? Whatever plans you already have, this summer I want us to think about preparing for a summer harvest.

Summer is harvest time

Summer is also the season in which many [fruits](#), [vegetables](#), and other [plants](#) are in full growth. It is here that I want to bring your attention that it is the season for full growth – i.e. maturity. Harvest time. Summer in the spiritual sense is about Christian maturity – a state where a seed (God's word) has reached full growth and maturity.

Farmers have one purpose in planting wheat – planning for a harvest. It takes hard work to have a bountiful harvest. They cultivate the ground, plant the seed, pray for rain, and then when the harvest is ripe they cut and harvest the wheat and it is sent to market.

What Is Maturity

Maturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction. Maturity is patience. It is the willingness to pass up immediate pleasure in favor of the long-term gain. Maturity is perseverance, the ability to sweat out a project or a situation in spite of heavy opposition and discouraging set-backs. Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort and defeat, without complaint or collapse. Maturity is humility. It is being big enough to say, "I was wrong." And, when right, the mature person need not experience the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so."

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. The immature spend their lives exploring endless possibilities; then they do nothing.

Maturity means dependability, keeping one's word, coming through in a crisis. The immature are masters of the alibi. They are the confused and the disorganized. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business, and good intentions that somehow never materialize.

Maturity is the art of living in peace with that which we cannot change, the courage to change that which should be changed -- and the wisdom to know the difference.

Spiritual maturity is not instant

The parable of the seed growing gradually, but insensibly ([Mark 4:26-29](#)).

The good seed of the gospel sown in the world, and sown in the heart. When received, is like seed sown in good ground.

1. It springs and grows up. The man does not know how – one of the mysteries of nature
2. It grows gradually - nature takes its course. Nature does nothing abruptly- first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn (Mark 4:28)
3. It comes to perfection at last (Mark 4:29)

When Christians have finished their course, the harvest comes, when they shall be gathered into God's barn.

How Do We Evaluate Spiritual Maturity?

One way to evaluate spiritual maturity is by looking at the choices we make. In many ways these choices change with our personal growth.

Mature v. Immature choices

Teaching others rather than just being taught

Developing depth of understanding rather than struggling with the basics

Self-evaluation rather than self-criticism

Seeking unity rather than promoting disunity

Desiring spiritual challenges rather than desiring entertainment

Careful study and observation rather than opinions and halfhearted efforts

Active faith rather than cautious apathy and doubt

Confidence rather than fear

Feelings and experiences evaluated in the light of God's Word rather than according to feelings.

Are You Mature?

If we are going to mature (in anything), we need to know what that state looks like, because "If we aim at nothing, we'll hit it every time."

James 2:1-13 gives a snap-shot of what it means to be a mature Christian.

He described 3 distinctives of Christian maturity, namely:

I. Values people's hearts more than their external appearance (vs 1-7)

It should be clear from this passage that instead of "judging a book by its cover," we should value what's on the inside of a person more than what's on the outside. Specifically, people's attitude toward God and their character should be primary in our assessment of others. Why? Because this is the way God evaluates people.

This is where God looks when he decides who he will adopt as his children. The Bible says that God doesn't really care what race or class you're from, how famous or unknown you are, how many sins you've committed, etc. If he sees in your heart recognition of your need for his forgiveness and a willingness to trust Christ to provide that forgiveness, he immediately makes you his child forever (Romans 10:9-10).

This is where God looks when he decides who he will make great in his kingdom. When Israel wanted a king, God let them choose their own first king. The people chose Saul because of external qualities—he was handsome and tall. But because he lacked a heart committed to God, he was a miserable failure as a leader. When God made his choice, he selected David, not because of his physical appearance (he was just a youth), but because he was "a man after God's own heart"—he knew God personally and wanted to follow him (read 1 Samuel 16:7). This remains God's priority in all of his dealings with his people (2 Chronicles 16:9). If God values the inside more than the outside, so should we.

II. Sincerely seeks the good of others (vs 8)

This verse tells us that it does not mean we don't love ourselves - rather having assume we love

ourselves, our call is to love others in the same way that we already love ourselves. We need to cultivate the habit of relating to people with this intent of "what promotes the good of this person?"

III. Shows mercy to offenders (vs 9-13)

Mercy is synonymous to forgiveness. It means choosing not to pay someone back for the wrong they have done to you.

Mercy is just as necessary towards those who have hurt you deeply but are no longer involved in your life. Unless you learn to forgive these people, the bitterness in your heart will spill over into other relationships and poison your life.

It is therefore inconsistent for us to be unmerciful to others when God has been so merciful to us. God has shown us what it means to receive God's mercy, so we ought to show mercy to others. If I say I am incapable of showing mercy to others, I am saying I have never received God's mercy. Ephesians 4:32—The most consistent thing that a Christian can do is to forgive those who have sinned against him.

What are the Marks of Spiritual Maturity?

To have a desirable goal of achieving maturity we need to have some direction. We need to understand what the Word of God can teach us because spiritual maturity is learning how to walk in obedience to God. It is also making the choice to live by God's viewpoint rather than by our human viewpoint.

Galatians 5:16 and 25 give the key.

It is learning to walk under the instruction of the Holy Spirit. Since believers are indwelt by the Spirit, they should also walk under His control.

How can you learn to walk in the Holy Spirit's control?

You can do that by firstly, studying God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17)

Secondly, you must choose to apply God's Word in everyday circumstances. As you walk step-by-step, applying God's Word to your life, allowing God to renew your mind you eventually will grow spiritually (Romans 12:1-2).

In Conclusion. . .

Spiritual maturity should be a priority. We must find time to walk with God. This is because it is from God that we draw our strength, wisdom and ability to do all things. When we put God first, He will put our needs first (Hebrews 5:13-14). As a believer, we are not to be milk-fed. Instead, we are called to chew on the "meat" of God's Word.

Summer is about attaining full growth. It is the season where fruits, vegetables, and plants are in FULL Growth and at its maturity. In the spiritual sense, summer is about Christian maturity – a state where a seed (God's word) has reached full growth and maturity. When Christians have finished their course, the harvest comes, when they shall be gathered into God's barn. As we prepare ourselves, we need to prepare others too for the great harvest.