

And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.
Mark 12:30



Kirkspire

The Monthly Magazine of St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk), Chennai
October 2024

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Editorial Board :

Usha George
Chitra Bennett



Word from the Pastor

Conquering Power

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (1 Peter 3:12)

Over the years of studying the Bible and seeing the world we live, I realise more and more that those who believe in the God of the Bible and live by it THINK differently from those who either don't study God's word or those who read but don't live in obedience to it. Simple case in point is the way we react to the happenings of the world. I am reminded about the reaction of the people of Israel to the approaching armies of Egypt as against the reaction of Moses. Moses too would have had anxious thoughts as a human but he did what the 'righteous' will do. Moses ran to God, heard from God, obeyed God and experienced God and His power.

A simple comparison between God's power and man's power can be summarised like this. Pharaoh had chariots, God had none; Pharaoh had swords, God had none; Pharaoh had pride and revenge, God is sinless and pure. Moses was on God's side and that made all the difference. One breath of God and the sea went apart and Moses led the entire Israelite community through the waters onto the other side. Moses, on that day, learned a great lesson - better to have God's favour than man's power. 1 Peter 3:12 wonderfully captures this thought when it says 'For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayers'.

Here are some principles for us to build our righteous relationship with God

- Hide under the shelter of the Almighty
- Listen to the voice of God always
- Obey humbly for He will help you
- Trust in His Sovereign Authority
- Be rest assured that the wolves and the sheep will be separated

Throughout the Bible, these principles have come true in the lives of many men and women of God. The journey is not easy, the challenges are real but the destiny is glorious. I specially like the last principle where God has shown (eventually) the difference between the righteous and the unrighteous. Finally, remember what is written in Romans 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Have a blessed month

Rev. Isaac Emmanuel Johnson

Knowledge is vain and fruitless which is not reduced practice.

Matthew Henry

John's Corner



Sunday School

(Oct 20th is Sunday School Sunday)

Read Prov. 22:6, Deut. 6:7

May we our children train to be
Faithful disciples, Lord, of Thee;
And they to Sunday school must turn,
The path of righteousness to learn.

The world with temptations is filled,
One can go easily astray,
And growing minds provide rich soil,
For sin to take root day by day.

Sunday school teachers, grant them, Lord,
Wisdom to show young minds The Way,
And when they grow they'll not depart
From that right path, but with You stay.

John H. Bala Singh

Our God is a God who does not merely restores, but takes up our mistakes and follies into His plan for us and brings good out of them.

J. I. Packer

Favourites

But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me. Galatians 2:6

Favoritism.
We have all experienced it.
Indulged in it.
In classrooms and diners alike.

We revel when favored
and feel dejected when excluded.
For the latter magnifies insecurities.
Sense of worth plummets.
Ability is questioned.
And a vague notion of being
unloved or unlovable smoulders.

Father sometimes it feels like
You have favorites too-
Those whose prayers are consistently answered.
Those who seem to abound in every earthly blessing
While unanswered prayers are a reality of mine.
Forgive this train of thought
'cause it grieves You and
hardens my heart.

After all these years why is it still so easy
to fall into the trap of doubting Your goodness?
Is it a need for self-preservation at all costs?
(Even at the expense of Your will?)
Forgive me for looking around when
I should be looking within.

The simple reason is,
I have not because I ask not.
Fear has prohibited specific prayers and
apathy has drained passion.

So teach me to come. Like a child.
Foolishly confident. Helpless.
With a trusting heart
bringing all my needs & flaws,
both silly and profound
to You-
Who renders the same diligent care

to the stars in the sky
and the ordinary sparrow.

Gentle Spirit, engrave this truth deep in my soul-
That You will do
what is best for me
(not what I think is best)...
Not only for me
but for
every precious child of Yours
for You have no favorites.

Also read James 4:1-2

Dr. Susan Rajkumari

Do not Judge

A man was driving his car on a state highway (No. 22) when he received a phone call from his wife. "Honey you just be careful. There was an announcement in the radio that a mad man is recklessly driving his car in the opposite direction on state highway 22". The man replied "What do you mean Janet.. there are hundred of them!!"

Funny as it is, this is true in real life too. Some people don't realise their faults but are quick to judge others. Even if you point out their folly they refuse to be convinced.

There are people who still believe that the earth is flat. (Flat earthers) All evidence that it is not so but round will not convince them.

Even after Stephen's extensive address the Sanhedrin refused to be convinced. They finally covered their ears and yelling at the top of their voices they rushed at him, dragged him outside the city and stoned him. (Acts 7)

Are you unjustly accused of something. Take heart! Jesus spoke about such people! "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye!!"

Joshua chelliah

BUT SOMEONE KNOWS ME WELL...

'I have been young, and now I am old'*
Then a perfect coward now I'm brazenly bold,
Several gleaming faces I've seen losing their sheen
While many rusted pieces of metals refined into gold.

I have been young, but now I am old
I had to see things for myself that no one ever told,
Dire distresses of the world no longer shake my faith
Prayers keep me cool in summer, warm in the cold.

I too was once young, lo I am now old
Once too sure of reforming, today I have no hold—
Over men and women, matters and the beasts,
No prowess do I possess to transform or to mould.

I was then young, but now I am old
Fine wrinkles have graduated into many deep folds,
Though few acknowledge me, fewer even recognize
But Someone knows me well at the Heavenly threshold.

I have been young, and now I am old
"Even to your old age, I am He," has my Maker told ^,
"I have made and I will bear", His everlasting promise;
"I will carry and I will deliver you", as your days unfold.

Behold, I had been old, and now I am young!
Lord has given me peace, I'm no longer high strung,
'I shall run and not be weary, I shall walk and not faint'
I'll sing a new song, as Lord gives words for my tongue.

(*Psalm 37:25 ^ Isaiah 46:4)

BV Selvaraj

Now or Never

Right from the early evening, 23rd of August this year saw a flurry of activity in our Church campus. So many were right on time and of course the Kirk Youth Fellowship camp journey to 'Masinagudi' was about to start off. Though the buses were a little late, the delay was quickly made up; though the roundabout route was chosen it turned out to be the easiest and safest. From the beginning it was time to thank the Lord for the right decisions that the KYF young leaders made and how could we ever forget that it was 'Now or Never' to get right with our Heavenly Father.

The KYF camp theme 'Now or Never' was based on Mark 1:15 and the sessions were based on five key words from the verse itself. The first Key word 'Gospel' was linked to the Parable of the Soil and Pastor. James Ebenezer challenged everyone with a startling caption for the session 'Sorry, no need for God here'. The end of the session saw many changed perspectives and lives committed to the Lord. This led to the next key word 'Repent' and Bro. Thomas George shared the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus. The reality of hell struck many and there was a great hunger and thirst for 'His' righteousness. What next after repenting continues to be an important question. It has to be 'Repent and Believe' in the gospel, isn't it? The narrow way, captioned as the great reversal by Pastor. James, and The Parable of the ten virgins under the banner of 'Time' which was explained by Rev. Paul Anbarasu made up the third and the fourth sessions and gave an apt answer on whom and how to believe! The final session 'Fulfilled' was enriched with the parable of the wheat and tares. The Kingdom strategy of fulfilling each one's 'micro' role in the 'macro' picture with 'Zeal' became each one's treasured picture even before the photo session came along.

Right after the first session, the KYF workshop had a tremendous impact on every camper. Titled 'The Seven Deadly Sins' and renamed 'Experience', 15 young people presented on the topic – lust, pride, slothfulness, greed, gluttony, wrath and envy. It was clearly a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit. As an interactive session with contests and questionnaires, the workshop had a

remarkable short movie on 'greed' which was made by our own young people. There was never a moment to just 'sit back' as everyone responded to the challenge of leading a blameless life. Of course, brilliantly designed 'bag-tags' that showed how to match anger with patience and pride with humility became everyone's possession. The long hours of praying and preparing paid rich dividends for His Kingdom's sake. Fun filled activities included the 'Treasure Hunt' and the KYF Olympics which was a relay of five sets of games that needed to be completed within one minute. Now or never, that's challenging, isn't it? The Boys and Girls session was very meaningful. But the panelists could address a lot of questions that were burdening the young minds right through the camp. The Spirit of the Lord was moving one more time. The Camp fire singing, and the Barbeque dinner prepared by our young people was a sight to behold even as the Lord had blessed us with many new faces.

Even right now, we might have been a part of this camp 'Titled' Now or Never! Or better still, we might have remembered a similar experience. But for each of us it's a Now or Never question! Have we repented? Have we believed in CHRIST JESUS – the Savior of the World?

Upasana Monnie & Shanita Samuel

Do you expect that religion is so cheap that without giving time you can find close fellowship with God? You cannot; this pearl is worth everything.

Andrew Murray

A Channel of Blessing - The Kirk's Thanksgiving Sunday

While over the years I have seen many faithful believers give generously to the poor, this Thanksgiving Sunday at The Kirk was the first time I saw an entire church collectively give to those in need.

As a relatively new worshipper at St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk), I was in awe to witness the extent of giving. The sanctuary had turned into a warehouse with supplies from the congregation. It was a joy to observe the hustle and bustle of people of all ages serving - grey-haired super seniors with much energy sorting out food supplies, little kids excited to move empty boxes that were three times their size, and young adults actively packing and moving provisions.

For years the Kirk has been giving on Thanksgiving Sunday. The recipients have grown from a few beneficiaries to almost 25 organisations impacting over 5,000 people. The organisations supported vary widely in size and ministry, but they all serve the marginalised, underserved and some of the poorest communities both in and around Chennai. For instance, The Little Sisters of Poor serve over a hundred old and destitute individuals, while others like Karunyam Children's Home and STEPS Home serve orphaned children. Asha Niketan and The Christian Foundation for the Blind serve those with disabilities while others like Krupa run day care centres, prison counselling services and provide food to needy communities.

Care is taken to ensure the distribution is equitable and transparent. Each organisation receives a quantity of food in proportion to their need and numbers they support, almost like the Manna that Lord God gave the Israelites in the desert! One organisation said that despite the increase in the number of beneficiary organizations, every year they saw only a rise in the volume of provisions they received.

And this quantity is no meagre amount. This year, the Kirk distributed almost 15 tons of rice which is sufficient to feed a 1000 people for a

month. Besides, the church provided atta, pulses, cooking oil, health drinks, and sugar. Some old age homes received tea, and children's homes received health drinks and new clothes. For many organisations, the quantity provided is sufficient for many months and reduces the constant financial burden they face to care for those in need.

As someone who works in the non-profit space, I was impressed with the thoroughness and due diligence. Each organization is carefully vetted and chosen. The process starts two months before with the committee (that includes elders, church manager and staff) visit and interact with them.

But perhaps what left the biggest mark on me is what the Pastor and two long-time members shared about how they view Thanksgiving Sunday - We give voluntarily and freely because we have received freely from God. We give not to repay our debt to God, but in thanksgiving because Jesus paid that debt for us. We give thanks not just with words from our mouth but out of joyful hearts. Importantly, we give no matter what season of life we are in – a season of abundance or a season of scarcity. We give knowing that He is enough for us, and that He will provide all that we need. And we give as one united body of Christ to be a channel of blessing to the universal church, all for the glory of our God and King.

From the dawn of the early church, followers of Jesus have always given to those in need. Many of Paul's letters to the churches encourage giving and commend those who give to support the needs of others.

This verse from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians perfectly encapsulates the heart of our Thanksgiving - "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you." 2 Corinthians 9:11-14.

Maria Jones

Achan's Sin

A poem by Noah John, Class 5, Kirk Sunday School

Once in the land of Israel
A story to be told
A man named Achan stole holy things
And had taken all their gold

God told them not to,
But Achan disobeyed
He took it all and hid it
And went about his day.

Now Joshua told them to attack
The city of Ai
They got a few soldiers ready
And set off to war saying bye-bye

They thought it would be easy
As there were very few people there
So they ran up without fear
Not even a single care

But Oh! They did not know
Of Achan's tragic sin
So in the city of Ai
God's wrath flew in

Israel got defeated
With 36 men dead
Joshua was upset
And was filled with dread

God told Joshua what happened
Joshua was filled with rage
"Tomorrow I will show you,
The man that went astray"

So the next day
Achan was found out
The people all stoned him
And that was the end of Achan

Sometimes we do not think
That sin would cause us hurt
But when you are tempted
Think of Achan's fate!

Bible Quiz No. 152–October 2024



An Aeronaut's Quiz

Please give a Bible reference (KJV)

1. Who was the first "astronaut" ? *Hint: 2Kings 2*
2. What do the '**heavens declare**' ?
3. From what book are these words taken :
'It is he that sitteth on the circle of the earth'?
4. What are '**Castor and Pollux**' ?
5. Which book of the Bible mentions :
Pleiadas
Orion
Arcturus?
6. What is the first account in the Bible of an attempt to reach heaven ?
7. According to the Bible, who '*shall mount up with wings as eagles*' ?
8. Who, in a dream, saw a **strange means of reaching heaven?**
9. Who will one day '*come in the clouds of heaven*' ?
10. **"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and upon _____."**

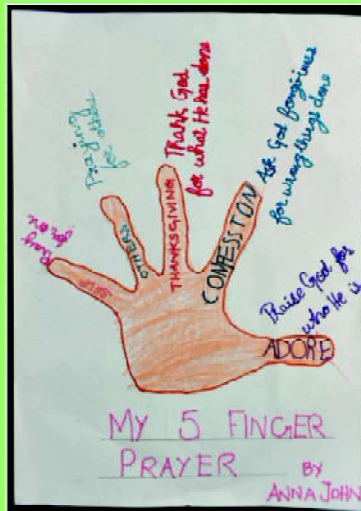
Taken from A Bible Quiz Book by May C. Smith

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email kirkspire@gmail.com (please note the new email address for Kirkspire) by 20thOctober2024.

Usha George

Children's Corner

My Five Finger Prayer by Anna John,
Grade 3, Kirk Sunday School

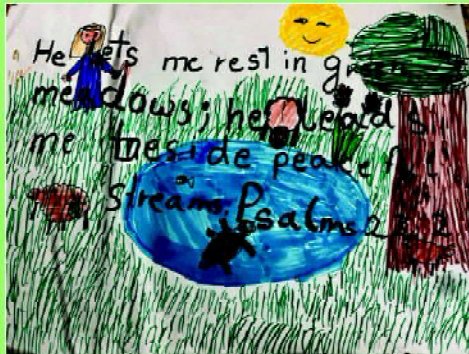


Bible Quiz for Kids—October 2024

Genesis 11 -15

1. What is the meaning of the word "Babel"?
2. What did Abram build in Shechem?
3. What was appealing in the plain of Jordan?
4. Who was the priest who blessed Abram after he rescued Lot from the armies that attacked Sodom and Gomorrah?
5. How was the promise "I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward given to Abram?"

Source: www.theseeker.org



A picture by Ruana, Standard 4, Kirk Sunday School
Psalm 23:2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

Answers to Bible Quiz for Kids – September 2024

Genesis 8-10

1. Raven and Dove -Gen 8:7, 8
2. 950 years Gen: 9:29
3. Nimrod -Gen 10:9
4. Peleg -Gen 10:25
5. Ham -Gen 10:14

Dolly Shanthakumar



Serving Selflessly





Thanksgiving Sunday @ Kirk





Kirk Women's Fellowship ministering to families of Prison Inmates - September 28

**Answers to Bible Quiz No. 151 –
September 2024
A Haberdasher's Quiz**

1. Breeches. Leviticus 6:10
2. Aprons. Genesis 3:7
3. Handkerchiefs. Acts 19:12
4. Bonnets. Exodus 28:40
5. Phylacteries. Matthew 23:5
6. Collar of my coat. Job 30:18
7. Hosen and hats. Daniel 3:21
8. Earrings and bracelets. Genesis 24:30
9. Stomacher : sackcloth. Isaiah 3:24
10. Cauls and tires : mantles and wimples and
crisping pins. Isaiah 3:18, 22

The winners are:

1. Dr.Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad
2. Praiseye K
3. Gloria Jawahar
4. Suguna Joseph
5. Victoria Basker
6. Minnie Devadoss
7. Angeline Reagan
8. Geetha Devakaram
9. Patricia Patrick
10. Gladys Vedavimali
11. Indra Rajanayakam
12. Peace Rani Sudhakar

Hearty Congratulations!



Jesus – The Supreme Teacher

The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” John 7:46

At the outset let it be stated that the teaching of Jesus is unique because no teacher loved his students as Jesus loved His. No teacher has ever sown so many seeds in the minds of listeners and gleaned such rich harvests. No, not a Chanakya, Tagore or a Socrates, Plato or an Aristotle to name just a few. Albert Einstein, though not a believer said that he was “enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene”. The teachings of Jesus transcend social differences – be it a Jewish Rabbi Nicodemus or a poor Samaritan woman with five husbands, or a wretched thief on a cross.

A “World” teacher would be someone with the following qualifications:

1. A vision that encompasses the world
2. Knowledge of the heart of man
3. Mastery of the subject taught
4. Aptness in teaching
5. A life that embodies the teaching
(ref. H. Horne, Jesus – The Master Teacher)

The strategies and methods of Jesus’ teaching is an inexhaustible mine, the depths of which can never be fathomed.

Renowned researchers of our Master’s teaching methods have spelt out a whole display of incredible teaching situations, with an array of aspects which have enriched teaching genres forever. Let us consider a few.

Our greatest Educator spoke in pictorial, concrete and imaginative language which is unique. The range of parables used in His speeches is mindboggling. What an amazing connection He brings about between familiar everyday facts drawn from the inanimate world, plants, animals, humans, the life situation on hand and spiritual truths.

Our Lord's use of Scripture is endless and all one can say is that His mind was saturated with God's Word. May we never miss the fact that as our Master taught, He was fully aware of His unique and unbroken union and communion with God His Father. In His teaching, the claims of being the Messiah is unequivocally stated.

Our unique Teacher could see the hope, sorrow, and sin in the faces of the multitude. The world of difference between our Master Teacher and the teachers of the world is that Jesus had come into the world to live, suffer and die for His children. He looked into their eyes and spoke what God the Father wanted Him to say.

The Beatitudes say it all. Our Teacher spoke fearlessly and taught, "Love your enemies..." Matt. 5:44. The Principle was shocking and revolutionary! This was a new "Law"! Astonishing in an atmosphere where the Jews hated the Samaritans, the Samaritans hated the Jews; and both hated and were hated by the Romans. Into this vicious and spiteful world our Teacher teaches and instructs them "Love your enemies". His message is that our Father sends His rain to both the just and unjust.

Our Lord rose to the pinnacle of life, lived poor and died young – never had a formal education, never led an army, or sat on a throne, and yet, easily became "the most life-transforming, earth-shaking, history-making human of all time."

Christianity is the only religion for the non-respectable. Faith in the Saviour can save the most wretched sinner. The teaching in the fifteenth chapter of Luke says it all: *"It is meet that we shall be merry, and be glad; for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost and is found."*

Only a Saviour can stand and knock on the hard door of the heart.

Is Brotherhood, Equality, and Love an idle dream? Not if we follow Jesus Christ the world's Supreme Teacher.

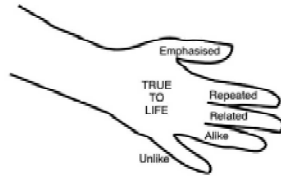
"Dear Master, in whose life I see
All that I would but fail to see
Let Thy clear light forever shine
To steer and guide this life of mine." – John Hunter

Usha George

Living by the Book: Part 4

Learning how to study the Bible from Dr Howard Hendricks

In part 3, we looked at how to study a verse, and ten strategies for reading. This month, our focus on observation ("what do I see") while reading the Bible looks at a paragraph as the basic unit of study. Although paragraphs are breaks imposed on the text, they usually represent a complete thought or idea. In studying a paragraph, we want to *check the context, label our observations*, and remember that *no detail is trivial*. For example, in studying Nehemiah 1:4-11, we have to go back to verse 1 to find the person, place and time which are referred. Labelling Nehemiah's response helps us to identify the model by which we can approach God: Nehemiah hears the report, reviews God's Word, and responds immediately in prayer. No detail is unimportant, so we find that Nehemiah's role as a cup-bearer to the king meant that God had His man in a strategic position.



If we do not know where to begin, when we read the Bible, here are six clues to look for. We can look for things which are *emphasised* in some way, things which are *repeated*, or *related*, things which are *alike* or *unlike*, and things that are *true to life*.

Emphasised	Repeated	Related
Look for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the amount of space devoted to it [e.g. <i>Ephesians 1-3 and 4-6 balance doctrine and practice</i>] - A stated purpose [<i>Prov 1:2-6 lists why the book should be read</i>] - Its strategic order in the material [<i>in Genesis 2&3, work actually precedes the curse</i>] - Movement from lesser to greater, or vice versa, or a pivotal point [<i>chapter 2 in the book of Acts</i>] 	Repetition of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terms, phrases and clauses [e.g. <i>'by faith' in Hebrews 11</i>] - Characters [<i>Barnabas' role in Acts</i>] - Incidents and circumstances [<i>the Pharisees vs. Jesus in Matthew</i>] - Patterns [<i>parallels between the lives of Joseph and Jesus</i>] - New Testament use of Old Testament passages [<i>Jesus' quotations from Scripture</i>] 	Find things that have some connection with each other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movement from general to specific [<i>In Gen 1:1 God created the heavens and the earth, and the rest of the next three chapters provides the details</i>] - Questions and answers [<i>Paul raises and answers a series of questions in the book of Romans</i>] - Cause and effect [<i>Stephen's martyrdom, and the subsequent persecution and spread of the gospel</i>]
Alike	Unlike	True to life
Similarities can be found in the use of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similes [<i>'As the deer pants... Psalm 42:1</i>] - Metaphors [<i>Jesus said 'I am the true vine...' John 15:1</i>] 	Clues to identify contrasts are in the use of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The word 'but' [<i>in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says 'You have heard it said...but I say to you'</i>] - Metaphors [<i>the contrast between the Heavenly Father and the unrighteous judge</i>] - Irony [<i>Jesus asking 'Who touched me?' in the middle of the crowd in Luke 8</i>] 	By using our sanctified imagination, we look for aspects of the text which resonate with our experience. While the culture may have been different from our time, biblical characters were human like us. [e.g. <i>how might Abraham have felt when God called him to sacrifice Isaac, his only son of the promise.</i>].

Finally, in order to get the big picture, we can start with an **overview**, by creating a **chart**. A chart summarises a section of material in a way that we can grasp. It helps with keeping track of the details. It aids comprehension. It improves memory of Scripture through visual appeal. It illustrates our observations.

In building a chart, we would want to:

- Read the section repeatedly
- Label each paragraph
- Related each paragraph to the others, and the section to the rest of the book
- Use a word or phrase to summarise the main point
- Record your observations in the text
- Study the persons and places mentioned
- Keep a list of unanswered questions and problems
- Ask ourselves how this affects/ challenges/changes/directs us
- Share the results with someone else

1 PETER
SYLLABUS FOR SUFFERING SAINTS
HOW TO HOLD UP—NOT FOLD UP

SALVATION	SUBMISSION	SUFFERING
privileges of salvation 1:2-12	in the state 2:13-17/civil	as a citizen 3:13-4:6
products of salvation 1:13-25	in the household 2:18-25/social	as a servant 4:7-13
process of salvation 2:1-10	in the family 3:1 7/domestic	as a shepherd 5:1-7 as a soldier 7:8-11
DOCTRINE IS DYNAMIC! 1:3 2:10	THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFESTYLE! 2:11 3:12	THE CHISEL TO SHAPE THE SOUL 5:11 5:11
The DESTINY of the Christian	The DUTY of the Christian	The DISCIPLINE of the Christian

An example of Hendrick's chart for the book of 1 Peter can be seen here.

Once we have seen what the text says, we can ask what it means, and that brings us to the next step, Interpretation.

- Anisha Lazarus

“The world has been divided into four classes – unbelievers, make-believers, half-believers, and believers. In which class do you belong?”

Know Your Hymn -Rejoice the Lord is King

Philippians 4:4 – “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”

Charles Wesley was born in 1907 in England. He wrote more than 6500 hymns and alongside his brother John he was also a key leader in the evangelical revival and Methodist movement that swept 18th century England and beyond.

Wesley and his followers often faced intense opposition and even mob violence for their bold evangelical preaching. There was political upheaval, societal ills, and spiritual malaise during that period. Wesley wanted to lift people's eyes above their circumstances to the One whose kingdom cannot fail. He sought to impart courage to persecuted believers and instill hope in the face of life's trials. To strengthen the flock Wesley put songs of unshakeable hope in their hearts.



*Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and
King adore;
Mortals give thanks and sing, and triumph
evermore;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

“Rejoice, the Lord is King” based on Psalm 97 and the exaltation of Christ described in the opening chapters of Hebrews and Revelation. was a rallying cry to stand firm in the faith, come what may. For if Christ is reigning on heaven's throne, then His people have nothing to fear. Charles Wesley first published this hymn 1744 in the collection *Moral and Sacred Poems*. The hymn was written as a celebration of the kingship of Jesus Christ over all creation. It is a serious summons to ground our joy in the solid truths of who Christ is and what He has done, even in the midst of life's sorrows. The keys of death and hell are in Christ's hands as

*His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and Heav'n,
The keys of death and hell are
to our Jesus giv'n;*

inspired by Revelation 1:18: " I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" Paul calls us to rejoice ,writing so in his JOY gospel which he wrote while in the dungeons in Rome. Whether on a hymn writer's desk in England or an apostle's parchment in a prison cell, the call to rejoice in the Lord is not dependent on our circumstances but on Christ Himself,so lift up your voice,lift up your hearts and rejoice in the Lord.

The most common tune used for "Rejoice, the Lord is King" is DARWALL, composed by Anglican clergyman John Darwall in 1770. But the great composer George Frederic Handel who was Wesley's friend also wrote a tune GOSPAL for Wesley's hymn.

It is God's will for us to rejoice as rightly said in Paul's book to the Thessalonians Rejoice always, pray continually,give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.1 Thess. 5:16-18

Charles Wesley reiterates the gospel truth that Christ died for our sins , but death could not hold Him down. He rose again to be seated at the right hand of God. Let not our failings and faults pull us down. Come to the cross where Christ has shed His blood and won the victory. "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15:57

*Jesus, the Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love:
When He had purged our stains
He took His seat above:*

Rom 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. We rejoice for His sacrifice,love,mercy,forgiveness,gift of Salvation and the list goes on.We are called to rejoice for the coming of the King in glorious hope. As we wait for the Lord in that glorious hope we shall renew our strength. Is 40: 31 But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior

*Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the Judge shall come,
And take His servants up to their
eternal home;
We soon shall hear th' archangel's
voice;
The trump of God shall sound,
rejoice!*

Jesus Christ, Titus 2:13 to live eternally in His presence.

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is with Me*, to give to everyone according to his work. Rev. 22:12

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*” Rev. 22:12,13 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Rev. 22:17.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Rev. 1:5,6

Lift up your hearts, lift up your voice, Rejoice, again I say Rejoice!

Dr Anita Chelliah

Home missions are as necessary as foreign missions; and the domestic commission often calls for the very highest qualities of service.

Dr. W. L. Watkinson



STONES IN THE BODY – IV URINARY BLADDER STONES

“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”

Stones sometimes develop in the urinary bladder itself. Increased frequency of urination is the earliest symptom. Pain at the end of micturition can also happen. Pain is aggravated by jumping and jolting. Pain decreases on lying down.

Stones are of different types. Oxalate, uric acid, cystine and triple phosphate stones are common. Typically oxalate stones produce pain. Passing blood in the urine is also common. Acute retention of urine due to stone blocking the passage can also happen. Males are affected 8 times more frequently than females.

Investigations

Investigations done are analysis of urine, radiography and cystoscopy. Urine examination can reveal blood in the urine. In radiography, 90% of stones are visible. Cystoscopy can also be done to visualise the stone.

Treatment

Litholapaxy: By introducing a cystoscopic lithotrite, stone is grasped firmly and broken. Small fragments of stone are evacuated by using evacuator. This procedure is contra indicated if there is infection, contracted bladder, cancer of bladder or enlarged prostate.

Supra pubic cysto-lithotomy can be done when the stone is too big, too hard to crush or too soft.

Dr. (Mrs.) Rajini Kantha Narendranath

Kirk News

Bright eyes gladden the heart;
Good news puts fat on the bones.
Proverbs 15:30



Heaven's Economy

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." (Proverbs 11:24-25)

The principles of God's economy often seem paradoxical to worldly wisdom, particularly when it comes to giving. The world says, "Hold on to what you have to secure your future," but God's Word teaches us the opposite—generosity leads to abundance. While this idea may appear illogical at first glance, there is profound wisdom in it for those who have the understanding to see beyond.

God never asks us to abandon reason when approaching His Word. Instead, He calls us to subject our reasoning to the eternal truths found in Scripture. The Word of God is not in conflict with wisdom; rather, it is true wisdom, going beyond the mere facts that the world presents.

This requires faith—faith to trust in God's Word and to take the step of obedience. When we act in faith and obey God's commands regarding giving, we find that God's Word is indeed true. Over time, as we prioritise what is dear to God's heart, we discover that He not only provides for our needs but often blesses us abundantly beyond our expectations.

In God's economy, the more we give, the more we gain, not necessarily in material wealth, but in peace, provision, and joy. When we refresh others, God refreshes us in ways we couldn't anticipate.

Thanksgiving Sunday

If you had any doubts about the power of giving, all you had to do was step into our church on Thanksgiving Sunday, celebrated on the 8th of September. Each year, on the second Sunday of September, we gather as a congregation to express our gratitude to God by offering provisions such as rice, atta, dal, sugar, oil, health drinks, bath soap, and biscuits, as well as through monetary thanksgiving contributions.

Following a powerful sermon and a meaningful time of worship, the blessings were distributed to 25 organizations, ensuring their provisions are met for over three months. It was a beautiful sight to witness—cheerful faces everywhere, from the givers to the volunteers and the representatives of various organizations. Thanksgiving Sunday truly exemplified the spirit of generosity and gratitude, bringing joy to both those who gave and those who received.

This annual celebration reminds us that when we give from the heart, we not only bless others but experience the joy and fulfillment that come from living out God's call to care for one another.

Guest Speakers

Mr. Finney Premkumar – How Will You Respond to Christ? – 22.9.2024
- 9:00 AM Service

Annual Church Camp

Mark your calendars! The Annual Church Camp will be held on 14th & 15th January 2025 at Joe Beach Resorts, ECR, Chennai. Guest speakers, Rev. Dr. K. Vasudevan and Bro. Jayakumar Christian, will lead us in a time of spiritual enrichment and fellowship. Pray, plan, and participate as we come together to refresh our faith.

Kirk Youth Fellowship

The Kirk youth met on 15th September 2024 after the 9 AM service at the Kirk Guest House for the Bible study series, Rebuild. It was a time of study and fellowship, with refreshments provided.

Catalyst for this month will take place on 29th September 2024 at 9 AM in SACCE Hall. It will be a time of worship, fellowship, and the Word as the speaker, Mr. Ajit Moses, will guide the youth in deepening their relationship with Christ.

Kirk Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship was held on 15th September 2024 from 1 AM onwards at DCC Hall. Mr. Shanthakumar spoke on the topic, Purposeful Discipleship.

Don't miss the Men's Fellowship Retreat on 11th & 12th October 2024 at Grand Serenaa Hotel & Resorts, Pondicherry. Pastors Isaac Johnson and Paul Anbarasu will lead the hardworking men of the church in a refreshing time in Christ.

Kirk Women's Fellowship

The Women's Monthly Meet took place on 15th September 2024 at 11 AM in SACCE Hall. It was a time of sharing testimonies on God's goodness. The Annual Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, 19th October 2024, at Coramandel Garden, near Sriperambadur. All women of the church are encouraged to come and be a part of this enriching event.

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club met on 12th September 2024 at 3:00 PM in SACCE Hall for a time of fellowship, building Christ-centred relationships, and lasting friendships.

Urban Ministry

Prayer Walk for the month took place on 22nd September 2024 right after the 9:00 AM service, starting from the main door of the church. All are encouraged to take this opportunity to walk together and lift our community in prayer.

The Kirk's Medical, Gospel and Christian Counselling Ministry

The next Medical, Gospel, and Counselling Outreach Program will take place on 29th September 2024, from 10 AM to 3 PM at Semmencherry. All those interested can join the team.

The Gideons International in India

On 15th September 2024, The Gideons International in India presented their ministry, The Hands That Give Hope, during the 7 AM and 9 AM services at St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk), with deeply moving testimonies of the power of God's Word.

Obituary

We celebrate the life of Mrs. Faustina Benjamin, born on 11th December 1948, who passed away on 4th September 2024 at the age of 75. Let us keep her family in our prayers during this time of grief. Forever with the Lord!

Angela Susan Bryner

Dear Readers,

If you have articles to contribute, request you to email them to kirkspire@gmail.com

Kirkspire Editorial Board



KYF Camp 2024 - Time of Praise and Worship



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October 2024

Kirk Youth Fellowship Annual Camp 2024 at Masinagudi

