

FOCUS



CHURCH of CHRIST
PASIR PANJANG, SINGAPORE

Sunday Morning Worship



10 October 2021

Humanity's Mission Statement

By John Lim
Live @ 11am

When we think of "missions", we imagine scenes of Vacation Bible School (VBS) in a distant country, performing skits and songs to teach children about Jesus. Those who are older may recall the days of gospel rallies and evangelistic sermons where dozens would come forward to accept Jesus and obey Him in baptism.

We think of the "Great Commission" from Matthew 28:18-20, when Jesus gives his final instructions before He ascends to heaven. But that was neither the first nor the only time that God tells His people what He expects of them.

In today's worship, the first in our new Missions series, we return to the "Original Commission" all the way back in Genesis 1. What was the call of God for us from the beginning of time?

COVID-19 Guidelines

We have resumed in-person worship services while Bible Classes remain online. Please take note of the following:

- You must be fully vaccinated to attend in-person worship (unvaccinated children under 12 years old are allowed to attend).
- Members above 60 years old are encouraged to reconsider attending to reduce social interactions.
- All Bible Classes will remain online until further notice. Please contact your individual coordinators for meeting details and times.

We all grieve that our full resumption of church and family life will be pushed back further, and for the pains that our nation feels. However, we remain hopeful because the Lord remains Sovereign over all things. Let us pray continually for the end of the pandemic, and that the name of Jesus be glorified all the same.

Giving

Last week's contribution: **\$14,194.13**



General Fund
S76SS0008AGFD



Missions Fund
S76SS0008AMFD



Building Fund
S76SS0008ABFD

Sunday Bible Classes



10 October | 9:30am

**All Bible Classes will be held online via livestream / Zoom until further notice*

Adult Bible Class

"The Power of Faithfulness"

1 Thessalonians 1:4-8

By Kuek Lee Hock

Youth Bible Class

"Forging Biblical Friendships"

The Company We Keep

Contact John Lim (8689 2008)

FFF Bible Class

Online Discussion

Contact Dorothy Tay (9363 1260)

GEMS Bible Class (Cradle Roll)

Contact Audrey Lee

(9855 4957)

GEMS Bible Class (Toddlers)

Contact Koo Hwee Yee

(9173 2365)

GEMS Bible Class (Nursery)

Contact Agnes Lim

(9858 5935)

GEMS Bible Class (Kinderkids)

"Josiah Follows God"

2 Kings 22-23

Contact Josephine Seow

(9170 4343)

GEMS Bible Class (P123)

"Last Week of Jesus"

Luke 24:13-43; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Contact Eunice Chen (9176 1667)

GEMS Bible Class (P456)

"Saul Failed to Keep the

Commandment of God"

1 Samuel 12-13

Contact Rosalind Lee (9621 9006)

Upcoming Events



Monday, 11 Oct | PP'22 - Local Missions #1

Zoom @ 8pm

ID: 822 3488 8306

Password: Theme2022



Wednesday, 13 Oct | Bible Class

Livestream @ 7:30pm

"You Are Saints" (Ephesians 1:1-2)

By Lim Cher Yam



Saturday, 16 Oct | PP'22 - Local Missions #2

Zoom @ 2pm

ID: 822 3488 8306

Password: Theme2022



Sunday, 17 Oct | Worship

"Sent to Sacrifice"

By John Then



Missions Month Highlights



Online Resource Portal

If you have not done so already, visit thenconsulting.com for inspiring testimonies and missions-related content.



SIBI Missions Course (4-16 Oct)

Brother John Then will be teaching a two-week course on Missions with SIBI. Contact dean Terry Harrison (8256 9738) to join the class via Zoom.



Missions Sunday Seminar (24 Oct)

John Lim and Shawn Li will lead our Missions Sunday Seminar. We will explore the biblical theology of local missions, be inspired by exemplary stories from the COVID period, and dream as a church for the future of missions.



PP Anniversary & Homecoming (31 Oct)

We celebrate our 57th year of God's faithfulness to PPCOC! We welcome members, new and old, to join us on this special occasion!



Need Help with Viewing Live-streams?

As we set up our live-streams, we understand that some members have difficulties accessing it. Please contact minister John Lim directly (8689 2008) for assistance.



PP '22 Dialogues | Monday & Saturday

In line with our Missions Month, this week's Dialogue sessions will focus on Local Ministries. We will meet on Zoom on Monday at 8pm and Saturday at 2pm.

PP '22
Dialogues

If you have been involved in any Local Ministry (e.g. FFF, Gladiolus Place, Prison, AV), this session is for you to share your experience, brainstorm ideas, and inspire the rest of the church! It is said that the church exists for those who are not its own members, and Local Ministries are the primary way we carry out our mission.

Also, by popular request, Saturday's Dialogue will focus specially on our Ladies Ministry.

- In what ways have you seen God working in your lives?
- In what ways would you like to continue growing in faith?
- What were some activities/initiatives that blessed you in 2021 that you'd like to see in 2022?

Ephesians

Overview by Lim Cher Yam



In the estimation of many, Ephesians is Paul's crowning work. It is both a literary gem and a treasure of spiritual nuggets. Those who study it may not fully plumb its depths, but will glean an important understanding of God's grace, of Christ and His Church, as well as lessons for life.

The City of Ephesus

Ephesus, which means “desirable” was the most important city in western Asia Minor (now Turkey) during the time of Paul. It had a harbour that opened into the Cayster River, which in turn emptied into the Aegean Sea. Because it was also located at an intersection of major trade routes, Ephesus became a great commercial centre. It boasted a pagan temple dedicated to the Roman goddess, Diana (Greek Artemis); cf. Ac 19:23-31. On Paul's second missionary journey (A.D. 52), he made a brief visit to Ephesus after leaving Corinth (Acts 18:19) and most likely planted the church.

On Paul's third missionary journey (A.D. 54-56), Paul spent three years teaching in the city (Acts 19:8-10). He made Ephesus his base and a centre for evangelism, and the church during that time flourished, but later needed the warning from Jesus in Rev 2:1-7.

He later visited with the church elders on the beach at Miletus on his way to Jerusalem (Acts 20:17-38) in AD 57. In Jerusalem, Paul was arrested and imprisoned, first in Caesarea (about 57 to 59 AD) and then under house arrest in Rome about 60 to 62 AD. (Acts 28:16-31). He probably died no later than AD 63 to AD 65.

Wednesday Bible Class Series

Author, Date, and Place of Writing

The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the churches in Ephesus and the surrounding region, around A.D. 62 while imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28). During this time, he also wrote Philippians, Colossians and Philemon.

The author identifies himself as Paul (1:1; 3:1; cf. 3:7,13; 4:1; 6:19–20).

Theme

The Book of Ephesians has an abundance of wisdom to share with us that will reveal where our identity should be anchored. When we anchor our identity in Christ, the shifting winds of change that inevitably happen in life will not sink our faith.

It is in Christ alone we find our true identity. If we know who we are in Christ, we will discover what our true purpose is. Once we know our purpose and strive to fulfil it, we can live life on earth more meaningfully and abundantly.

Purpose

Ephesians offers general instruction in the truths of God's redemptive work in Christ; the unity of the church among diverse peoples; and proper conduct in the church, the home, and the world. There are three main areas of focus in Ephesians:

- (1) Christ has reconciled all creation to Himself and to God;
- (2) Christ has united people from all nations to Himself and to one another in His church; and
- (3) Christians must live as new people.

Since Paul's founding of the churches in the area around Ephesus, believers seem to have won many Gentiles who were from a Hellenistic environment of mystery religions, magic, astrology, pagan worshippers etc. They feared evil spirits and were not sure about Christ's relationship to these forces.

Wednesday Bible Class Series

They also needed encouragement to adopt a lifestyle worthy of Christianity, free from drunkenness, sexual immorality, theft, and hatred. They may have also lacked respect for the Jewish heritage of their faith.

Paul uses a number of words in Ephesians that would have been familiar to his Gentile Christian readers from their former religions: head-body, fullness, mystery, age, ruler, spiritual forces etc.

A century later this kind of terminology was used by full-blown Gnosticism. But Paul uses these words to demonstrate to his readers that Christ is far above and superior to any hierarchy of gods and spiritual beings - that they are all lesser beings under Christ's feet.

The Letter was written to encourage Gentile Christians to appreciate the dignity of their calling, with its implication not only for their heavenly origin and destiny, but also for their present conduct on earth, as those who were heirs of God, sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Theological Message

Unlike several of the other letters Paul wrote, Ephesians does not address any particular error or heresy. Paul wrote to expand the horizons of his readers, so that they might understand better God's eternal purpose and grace, and come to appreciate the high goals God has for the church.

The letter opens with a sequence of statements about God's blessings, drawing attention to God's wisdom, forethought and purpose. Paul emphasizes that we have been saved, not only for our personal benefit, but also to bring praise and glory to God. The climax of God's purpose, when the times will have reached their fulfilment, is to bring all things in the universe together, under Christ (1:10).

NEW Sunday Bible Class Series

Concluding Remarks

A careful reading of this epistle reveals that the church had done well. They appeared to be devout in their faith, well organized, and busy in the gospel. During these early years they had been growing, expanding and doing the will of God.

In Paul's first epistle to Timothy (mid- AD 60's) we begin to see the start of some doctrinal drift: "As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith" (1 Timothy 1:3-4).

False teachers had arisen in the church who claimed to have deeper knowledge of the things of God. They claimed to have the "secret" to knowing Christ, but in reality, they denied His bodily incarnation and His deity. They taught many other heretical concepts. Their motive may have been to take some elements of pagan religion and blend them with Christianity, in order to make it more acceptable to the pagan culture.

By the late 90s, the Lord gives His assessment of the Ephesian church through the apostle John (Revelation 2:1-7). He compliments them on their good works, but rebukes them for leaving their first love (Revelation 2:4). He commands immediate action - repent, remember, and repeat (the first works) (Revelation 2:5).

We have no way of knowing whether they corrected their problem for a season, but, sadly, the church ceases to exist sometime during the second century.

Connect With Us

Prayer Requests/ Feedback



<http://bit.ly/35FTEyp>



Meet Our People

Elders

Simon Goh	8833 0899
Peter Lim	9274 5457
Lim Swee Aun	9335 9955
Terry Wan	9845 2878

Deacons

Dennis Law	9681 1068
Lim Kok Hin	9679 6027
Vincent Lim	9451 7382

Ministers

Tan Beng Chuan	9639 3008
Patrick Ong	8200 5250
John Lim	8689 2008

Pledge and Building Fund Committee

Peter Lim	9274 5457
Jim Kawi	9825 8792
Grace Mariaraja	9060 7585