



Lively Stones | PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life

Issue 1, 2006

1 January 2006

Serve Him in Truth

“Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.” (1 Samuel 12:24)

In the last two years, our church had adopted *“That we may know Christ”* (Philippians 3:10) and *“Making Christ Known”* as our church themes respectively. This year, we will focus on *“Being built together for His habitation”* (Ephesians 2:22) - serving the Lord in truth with all our hearts.

1 Samuel 12:24 offers us three key points for our consideration.

“Only fear the Lord”

The phrase *“fear the Lord”* occurs thirty-two (32) times throughout the KJV Bible, all in the Old Testament! Does that mean that the Old Testament saints are more filled with this reverential fear of God than the New Testament ones? King Solomon wrote: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge”* (Proverbs 1:7). Everything begins with a right relationship of our Sovereign God. Anything short of that will be disaster to the saint concerned. The context of 1 Samuel 12 was God’s people choosing a human king in the person of Saul rather than acknowledging God as their Perpetual King. The Lord spoke through Prophet Samuel to remind His people *“only fear the Lord”*! When we maintain this reverential fear of the Lord deep within, our heart will be upright, and our direction in life will be a God-centred one. God will always be our reference point and anchor. One key question we need to constantly ask in every decision-making will be: Am I glorifying God in this? (1 Corinthians 10:31) What will Jesus do (WWJD) if He will to be in my situation? My dear readers, have you set your heart right with the Sovereign God before the start of this New Year 2006? Make no mistake about it by making sure that you begin this New Year with having this reverential fear of the Lord in your heart.

“Serve Him in truth with all your heart”

Service is a natural outcome of a God-fearing person.

When we fear the Lord, we love to serve Him. When we love the Lord, we will do all things to please Him. When we please the Lord, we will win His favour and receive bountiful blessings from Him! God’s one single condition in all our services is that we serve Him faithfully with all our heart! God deserves our total and full-hearted commitment – nothing less. However, one must always remain humble and meek in one’s service. The fulltime disciples of the Lord must serve humbly as His servants. The non-fulltime disciples must still serve “fulltime” in the Lord’s vineyard, always seeking out lost souls to be won for His kingdom. Serving the King of kings and Lord of lords demands our wholehearted consecration to honour Him in all that we do.

Services to the Lord must be conducted according to His commands. Paul uses the athletic race as an example that we must run by the rules.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Part of the rule-keeping is to practice personal discipline. *“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection”* (1Corinthians 9:27) – that is one tough condition that every disciple of Christ must keep in order to serve Him in truth with all our heart. Personal discipline brings about personal leadership. One must learn to be a

Theme for our Church in 2006

“Being built together for His habitation” (Ephesians 2:22)

(Continued on back page)

Serve Him in Truth

(Continued from front page)

pace-setter. You may deny that you are a natural leader. There are two kinds of leadership roles – designated leader and non-designated leader. While you may not be a designated leader, whatever you do, you will still be influencing others – in that sense – you have become a non-designated leader! Therefore, beware how you live your life. Live to make your life count for the Lord in 2006!

“For consider how great things He hath done for you”

God is no debtor. At Christmas, God gave His only begotten Son to this lost world in order that the world may be saved. The Son of God became the Son

of Man, so that the sons and daughters of man can now become sons and daughters of God. This is significant. Each time when you are down or discouraged by adverse circumstances, “consider how great things He hath done for you” in the past!

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

God loves us so much that He gave to us first. God is the true Pace-Setter. We must emulate His great *agape* love and learn to love Him in return by serving Him in truth with all our heart.

2005 is gone and has become another chapter of history, but 2006 is a new chapter which we are writing with the Lord. What and how would you want

this new chapter to be written? Take the first step to fear the Lord, and then serve Him with all your heart. Only then will we make commendable history with the Lord while we wait eagerly for Christ’s imminent return. Let us fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all our hearts - “Being built together for His habitation”.

May the Lord find us faithful in the Day of His Return. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Elder Sherman Ong
General Superintendent
Life Bible-Presbyterian Church Sunday School
1 Samuel 12:24

Passing on the Baton

As mentioned in the General Superintendent’s address, the theme for our church this year is “Being Built Together for His Habitation”. Now, Christ is the chief cornerstone where the spiritual temple is to be built upon. We are all but building blocks to be fitly framed together which is to grow unto a holy temple in the Lord (Ephesians 2:21). 1 Peter 2:5 says, “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house....”

It is clear that we are to be quality stones for God. But it is also important that as we mature in our walk with the Lord, we are responsible to teach the next generation all that we have learnt so that they may walk well and be lively stones too.

As this newsletter ended last year’s theme on “Building up a Godly Family”, we start this year’s series with the theme “Passing on the Baton”.

We are witnessing tougher times ahead in the spiritual war against the evil one. Our younger generation is very much attacked by the wiles of the devil in many issues it faced; e.g. dressing, shows watched, career choices, views about love, etc.

Prayerfully, the editorial team will attempt to publish articles that will point out what the Word of God says about the many issues that our young people face today.

It is our earnest prayer that the articles will exhort and encourage our readers to plunge deep into God’s Word to know what is God’s will for each and every one of us. By doing so, we can be confident that we are walking well *coram Deo*, before the face of the Lord.

Julia Koh
Editorial

Announcement

- TODAY is PRIZE-GIVING SUNDAY for year 2005
- All SS staff are to take note that there will be a Staff Dedication at 10.45 am Worship Service. All Sunday School staff and teachers please be present.
- 1st Exco meeting will be held on 15th January

Editorial Team : Mrs Julia Koh, Mrs Selina Lee
Please direct all comments and contributions to
kohjulia@starhub.net.sg