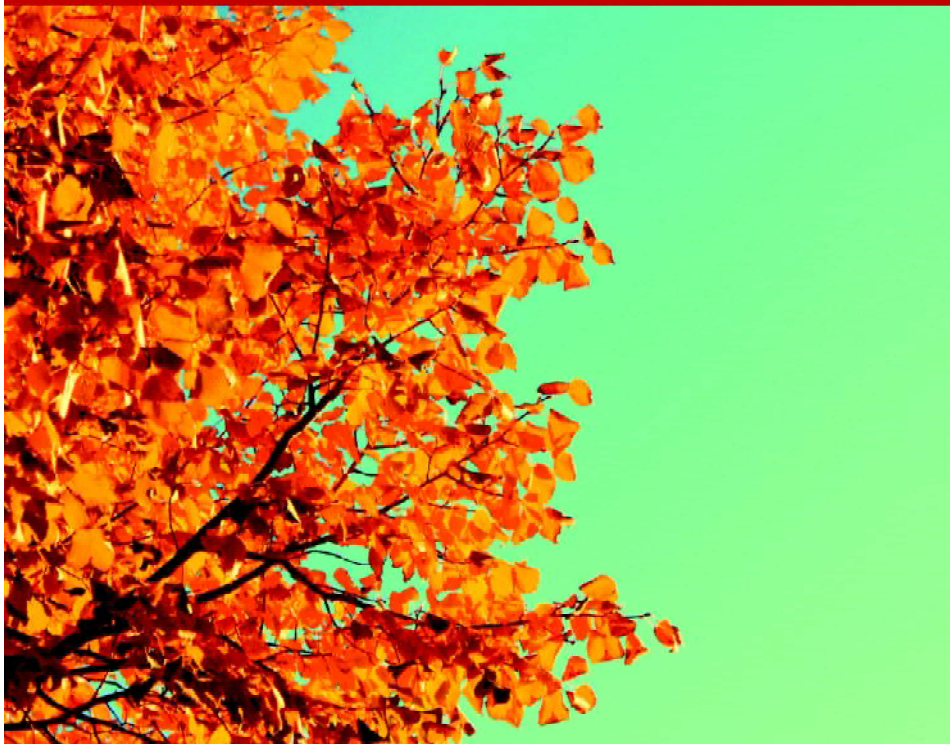


Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:12



Kirkspire

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

October 2023

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Editorial Board :

Usha George
Chitra Bennett

Word from the Pastor



Behaviour reflects Character

*He who walks in His uprightness fears the Lord.
But he who is perverse in his ways despises Him.
(Proverbs 14:2)*

We have all heard the phrase 'Do not judge the book by its cover.' However, there is some truth to that statement as well wherein the behaviour of a person, especially in his private life reflects his or her true character. The Bible is filled with examples of great men and women of God who were true to their faith and walked in the fear of God even when there was no one watching or no one to supervise them. Joseph was a righteous man because he 'ran away' from lust (with Potiphar's wife), from power (when he did not bargain for his freedom but helped the Pharaoh for the prosperity of the very nation in which he was a slave) and from wealth (when he served the nation of Egypt with integrity just as he had served at Potiphar's house). Here are three lessons to ensure that our behaviour is built on the fear of God and to walk faithfully before this Omniscient God.

1. Run to God - Our best behaviour can start when we cultivate the habit of running to the presence of God, running to the manna of God's word and running to the place of 'quiet rest' on a daily basis. Great character formation does not happen easily. It should be cultivated; there will be obstacles, mental challenges and even spiritual battle. Run to God to have your personal victory. David ran for God because he learned to run to God on a daily basis. Our Master and Saviour, JESUS, spent time with the Heavenly Father on a daily basis, **DAILY.**

2. Run with God - Seek the Lord and His strength in all areas of your life. As Apostle Paul also writes 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Such behaviour will not be like a chameleon that changes its colour. The greatest danger is not about a person who has no views but a person who claims to have strong views or claims of faith but will quickly, suddenly and deceptively change for the sake of acceptance, comfort and personal gain. The same Judas Iscariot who followed Jesus and even ministered with the other disciples quickly changed his 'colour' for the sake of filthy lucre.

3. Run for God - When godly character is built deep within a person, he or she will stand, take a stand and withstand at all times with one sole purpose - living as a witness for the glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The first martyr for the faith, Stephen, ran for God even to lay his life down because his character was more of 'Christ in Him' than his personal gain or glory. The Samaritan woman ran from the well because her character had changed that she could not contain herself any longer. When our inner being has a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, no one needs to tell us, motivate us or even compel us to behave Christ-like. It will be automatic, spontaneous and even infectious.

Build your behaviour in submission to the Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit and let your behaviour both in public and private reflect this inner transformation. As John MacArthursaid, 'You are the only Bible some unbelievers will ever read.'

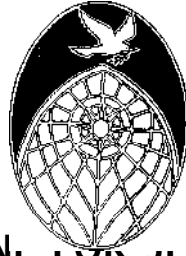
Have a blessed month.

Rev. Isaac Emmanuel Johnson

God is for us – that is good; God is with us – that is better;
God is in us – that is best.

Henry M. Booth

John's Corner



SHINE FOR JESUS

Read Matthew 5:16
(October 8th is Evangelism Sunday)

Light your candle, though its brilliance
May fail to make the whole world bright;
One lost soul might see it glowing,
And find the way that's good and right.

Shine a little light for Jesus,
Though powerfully it may not shine;
No good book is ever written,
But must begin just line by line.

'Let your light so shine,' said Jesus,
'That others your good works may see,'
And should many shine for Jesus,
We'll build a divine family.

John H. Bala Singh

Deeper Intimacy with God

A deep intimacy with God transcends all human definitions of affection and fondness. An important component of oneness with God is for man to be at the center of God's will and be consciously aware of God's constant and awesome presence at all times owing to us being at the center of His will.

It is an unconditional, unreserved, unqualified and absolute relationship, not one that is based on legalism and performance. The word 'utterly' perhaps explains this posture more succinctly! Christ's reply to the teacher of the law is an apt summary of all that we need to do in order to preserve our end of the relationship. In Mark 12:30, Christ's command for us is to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength'.

Biblical examples that highlight intimacy with God

A couple of examples will highlight this concept better. The first is of Christ himself. In spite of being the Triune God Himself, He found it necessary to be in constant touch with His Heavenly Father at all times. The relationship was so profound that at the time just ahead of His crucifixion, we have a picture of Christ pleading with God that if it is possible, the cup may pass from Him.

On all occasions, we find Christ alluding to His Father when questioned by the Pharisees, Sadducees and the other Jewish Leaders for His actions and teachings. Does this leave anyone in doubt on the intimacy and oneness that He enjoyed with His Father?

A further example is that of King David. Now, David's personal life, on many occasions, seemed to be at variance with established Biblical principles. His family life was anything but a model for later generations. But at the foundational level, his relationship with God was the bedrock of his faith, his hope of salvation, his outlook of the

future, in short, his entire life. His heart was knit with God's as evident from the Psalms! Is there any wonder that God Himself certifies that David is a man after His own heart! (1 Sam: 13:14, Acts 13:22)

Steps that characterize oneness and intimacy with God

Having understood the concept of oneness and intimacy, let's now focus our attention on the ways by which we can exercise or practice in our everyday lives. The steps that characterize intimacy with God are discussed below:

a) Adoration

A beautiful way to describe this picture is to ask of ourselves – is God a priority or is He the priority? See how the Psalmist describes this notion. 'One thing I ask of the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple' (Ps.27:4).

What this means is that we simply sit at His feet gazing at His face in quiet contemplation and adoration. Amidst the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, this posture does indeed call for a lot of discipline and training. And it is perhaps the least practiced. But to be sure, if we are to increase in His grace, we need to learn to wait patiently and expectantly in His presence. The consequence of this act is absolutely transformational!

b) Devotion

Worship follows our reverence and adulation for our Almighty God. It is another cog in the wheel of intimacy. It is out of a heart filled with thanksgiving and exaltation that our praises rise as a sweet-smelling savor in the presence of our Lord.

While adoration is being awestruck by His majesty, beauty and splendor, worship is our conscious acknowledgement of His grace, mercy, sufficiency and omnipresence. We are in the palm of His hands; we are the apple of His eye and we are under the shadow of His wings. Devotion therefore is bringing our heartbeat in unison with the heartbeat of God. We are encouraged to 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' (Ps 96:9).

A classic example is that of the woman with an alabaster box of ointment. (Matt26:6). It was her devotion, her love, that Jesus

recognized above all else. He not only described that as a beautiful act but something that would be remembered wherever the Gospel is preached!

Reading and meditating His Word provides us with the nourishment, strength and guidance that we need for our daily lives. A daily quiet time for our personal devotion, growth and maturity is an essential and indispensable part of our Christian walk!

c) Supplication

The importance of prayer cannot be overstressed! For the disciples, it was quite evident that Jesus drew all of His strength from constant communion with His Heavenly Father. So profound was the impact that the one thing the disciples asked was 'Lord, teach us to pray!' (Lk 11:1)

Though they had seen Him preach to the multitudes a number of times, they never asked Him to teach them to preach! So what is it that arrested them that they stepped in to ask to be taught how to pray? Without doubt, they recognized that for a life of discipleship, a prayerful trust in our Heavenly father was essential.

d) Submission

Obedience is key to an intimate relationship with God. Right through the Old Testament, we can gather that obedience to God's commands was fundamental to a right and fruitful relationship. Whether it is Moses admonishing the people or counsel from God to Joshua, Solomon and the prophets, it is very evident that this attribute was obligatory and mandatory. (Deut 5:10, Prov 7:2, Ps 89:31)

A word of caution here is necessary. A theory is being floated around today that God's love is unconditional and hence, love covers all regardless of our way of life! There is no Biblical evidence that this is the case. In fact, continuing from the Old Testament theme, Christ has reiterated a number of times and in varying contexts, the familiar stand, 'If you love me, keep my commands!' (John 15:10, John 14:15, 21)

e) Consecration

The process of consecration goes deeper than the conventional sense – it is an act of self-denial. If we are to bear the yoke of discipleship, we need deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. (Matt

16:24, Mark 8:34). The act of sanctification is to lose ourselves for the sake of Christ and His kingdom. It is only in so doing so that we find a self that we can live with.

We live in a world where people constantly seek to discover, reinvent themselves, perhaps through wealth, education relationships etc. Most often, on attaining what they targeted, they find it to be an illusion as Solomon found out! Self-sacrifice, done the way Christ exemplified (Matt 4:1-11) is key to finding our true selves and our worth.

Living Sacrifice

A large part of reflecting Christ to the world centers around presenting ourselves as living sacrifices. (Rom 12:1&2). Now this phrase sounds more like an oxymoron. How can we be living yet be a sacrifice? To understand further, we need to delve into the Old Testament. God accepted animal sacrifices under the old covenant before Christ offered Himself as the sacrificial Lamb. So in the new dispensation, we are symbolically offered up as sacrifices by not being confirmed to this world as bidden in the above passage.

1John 2:15-16 clearly outlines what confirming to the world means: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and pride of life. Paul's prescription to avoid confirming to the world is to be transformed by the renewing of our mind!

Think about what a difference this would make in the world that we live today! Clearly, this would be a case of following the narrow way while most willingly go down the broad way. And herein lies the opportunity for us to be 'living sacrifices' ourselves. Furthermore, we are also in a position to show to the world why we do what we do – in short we have an occasion to reflect the image of Christ to the world! The phrase 'lifestyle evangelism' is an apt descriptor of this manifestation to the humanity around us.

Sanctification

A necessary corollary of all that we discussed in the preceding passage is that we constantly need to renew ourselves in the Lord. To be sanctified is to be set apart. Sanctification or constant purification is necessary as we are often tainted by the milieu of which we are a part. In 1Pet 1:2, we observe that the elect are through the sanctification of the Spirit. While we are in the world,

we are not of the world. Christ Himself alludes to this truth in John 17:16-17.

The context of sanctification and its importance needs to be understood clearly. For a believer, the first step to deliverance is justification through Christ who rose from the dead for the purpose. While this is the first and basic step, a crossing of the line towards salvation, sanctification is the process for a constant renewing of the body, mind and spirit in this imperfect world. On the last day, our bodies will be glorified, completely separated from sin.

Without sanctification and purity of life, it is impossible to reflect Christ.

Conclusion

Imagine looking at ourselves in the mirror every morning as most of us are conditioned to do. What do we see? It is a reflection of ourselves, good or bad, but almost always, a mirror image of just as we are! Now imagine for a moment that we take a look at ourselves in the mirror one morning and we see an image of Jesus instead of our reflection!

While this may be unlikely in a literal sense, from a figurative sense, this concept provides a powerful imagery of what we are called to accomplish as we live within our environment and communities. This is what the discipleship is all about. To the world at large, a disciple is the visible manifestation of the Master Himself!

The posture of Mary, Martha's sister, as she sits under the feet of the Master in humble submission and adoration with a teachable spirit perhaps exemplifies the intimacy that Christ Himself acknowledges as the 'good part'. This is an example for us to model.

Dulip Thangasamy

The devil loves 'curing' a small fault by giving you a great one.

C. S. Lewis

What's In Your Hand?

Then the Lord asked him, "What is that in your hand?"
"A shepherd's staff," Moses replied.
Exodus 4:2

A shepherd's rod
that's all it took;
To awaken Pharaoh's court
to the reality of Yahweh.
A lowly staff was
used to part the mighty sea.

It's funny sometimes
how You use the most ordinary things.
A staff, a manger,
five loaves, two fish,
a cross.
And the most ordinary people;
a widow, fishermen, children-
to demonstrate Your truth
and power.

I find you asking me that
ancient question today,
'What do you have in your hand?'
I am tempted to downplay
my time, talents and treasure.
But Your gentle, persistent voice prevails.
In my eyes it seems so little...
so meaningless.

Where I see limitations
You see possibilities.
A staff aids to bring deliverance.
The Son of God is born in a manger.
A small boy's meal satisfies a multitude.

(Numbers never threaten You)
Uneducated fishermen become preachers.
A widow and a child become a parable.
A cross, the symbol of suffering,
becomes the sign of salvation.

Seas parted
People fed
Transformation, an everyday occurrence.
That's what You do;
And that's what you long to do
in our lives everyday.
And yet, You, being a gentleman
patiently wait for us to yield.
The paradox is,
all that I have is from you.

So I let go.
I commit these seemingly
useless things I possess
into Your hands.
These trinkets will become treasures
for Your glory
for Your honour;
As I watch and wait.

Dr. Susan Rajkumari

'Undoubtedly, the whip hurts. So does all the suffering. But suffering is a whip to divert us from something worse, to bring us into line with the purposes of the "Coachman".'

Bible Quiz No. 141–October 2023



A Real-estate Dealer's Quiz

Please give one Bible reference (KJV).

What do you know about the following Bible 'Real Estate transactions' ?

1. Who is the first man known to have bought ground for a cemetery ?
2. Who was murdered, because he would neither sell nor exchange his land with a king who wanted it?
3. What did the priests buy with **'the betrayal'** money?
4. What king of Israel bought Samaria and built a city on it?
5. What land in Egypt did Pharaoh give as a present to Jacob and his sons?
6. In one of the parables a man found a great treasure hid in a field. What did he do about it?
7. Who said:
'The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof' ?
8. In what parable did someone refuse to accept an invitation, saying:
'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it' ?
9. On whose advice did David buy Ornan's threshing floor as a site on which to build an altar ?
10. Who built the first known city ? What was it called ?

Taken from Who? Why? What? - a Bible quiz book by May C. Smith.

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email admin@thekirk.in by 22nd October 2023.

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 140 – September 2023

A Chemist's Quiz

1. Apothecary. Exodus 30:25
2. Egypt
3. Frankincense and Myrrh
4. Olive Oil
5. *'Dead files in the ointment.'* Ecclesiastes 10:1
6. Gilead. Jeremiah 51:8 / 8:22
7. Mint, anise, and cummin. Matthew 23:23
8. Spikenard, with which Mary anointed Jesus, to the annoyance of Judas. John 12: 1-8
9. Wine and oil
10. The tree of Life. Revelation 22:2

The winners are:

1. **Ms. Pravali**
2. **Mrs. Suguna Joseph**
3. **Mrs. Sabrina Siga**
4. **Mrs. Indra Rajanayakam**
5. **Mrs. Aruna Asir**
6. **Mrs. Patricia Patrick**
7. **Mrs. Victoria Basker**
8. **Mrs. Sujata Elizabeth Prasad**
9. **Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar**
10. **Mrs. Gladys Vedavimali**

Hearty Congratulations!

I Can & I Will – Redeeming The Time

The Kirk Urban Ministry hosted this seminar on the 24th September at SACCE Hall after the 9:00 AM service.

The program was led by Sharola Rajashekar & Richard Umbrand of Crossroads – a social organisation that works with young people aged 12-21, to provide a support system for young people through relationships with them. They provide services like counseling, academic coaching, leadership development, value based and life skills enhancement sessions. They have learnt that a young person who is shaped and molded in the right way today will make a big difference in society as they grow into men and women of character, integrity and service.

Crossroads is also a very volunteer driven organisation, putting them in an ideal position to have developed a deep understanding of the stewardship of time.

The program began a short prayer and a few simple games to bring the group together. These were very ably led by Richard.

We then spent about 20 min learning about the Biblical understanding behind how people come to give fully of their time and effort. The key point that became very clear was this: We give of ourselves FULLY to Christ and His work as a response to the experience of His Love & Power. The fuller our experience of Grace, the more spontaneous, complete and lasting is our commitment.

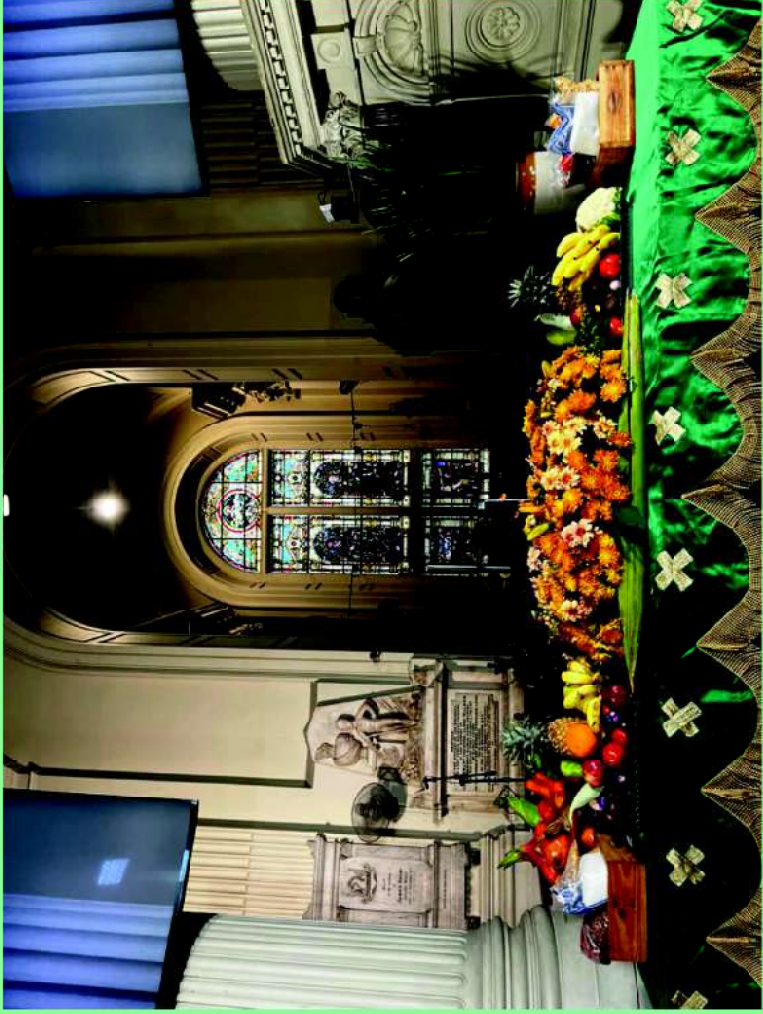
After that, we spent some time in groups, discussing 2 questions around what burdens we have for the society around us and what prevents our total commitment to Christ.

This was followed by a set of short video testimonies of volunteers from Crossroads, whose own lives had been transformed by them volunteering their time.

Sharola gave a call to action, backed up by Prashant. They reminded the group that a commitment to DO is necessarily sacrificial and difficult and so a strong decision needs to be backed by much prayer and abiding in the Word.

The event was closed with a delicious lunch with great fellowship!

Thanksgiving Sunday



Continued from Page 15

We pray that God's Holy Spirit would bear fruit in the lives of each one who came, by "his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms". (Ephesians





Lessons from The Fall of Man

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3: 1-5

Genesis 3: 1-5 is perhaps one of the most known passages in the Bible, both to those in the faith and others alike, although seldom do we realize the graveness of this rather unassuming act.

We read in Ephesians 6: 12 *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*

When we read through the narrative carefully, we can understand Satan's strategy in his attack against Adam and Eve in three steps beginning with the letter D:

- 1. Doubt through distrust:** In Verse 1, The first step in Satan's strategy is revealed, where he plants a seed of doubt in the heart of the woman. He asks, "Did God really say that you must not eat from every tree in the garden?" Up until that moment, it was very clear to Eve that they were not to eat of the tree of Knowledge of good and evil, based on Eve's response in Verse 2. However, the question causes Eve to doubt herself, and reconsider what was said by God. This self-doubt placed Eve in a vulnerable position where her focus, which

should be on God's commandment which is abundantly simple and clear, is shifted to her own understanding and to herself.

Satan goes on to say in Verse 4 "You will not surely die." He conveniently leaves out the commandment, more specifically, the objective section "Do not eat of the fruit." He leverages on the subjective section i.e., consequential "death". This probably caused Eve to move from Self-doubt to doubting God himself, moving from a state of the natural Moral of trusting God, to questioning God which is an act of distrust.

2. **Desire through deception:** In Verse 5, Satan initiates the second stage of his strategy, "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Satan introduces the desire to be like God into the heart and mind of Eve. He misrepresents the character of God, by implying that God was seeking to withhold something good from them, and thereby deceived them.
3. **Downfall through disobedience:** The third and final stage of Satan's strategy was accomplished when Eve succumbed to his manipulation, and took a bite out of the fruit. This act is an act of rebellion and the first act of disobedience against God. Eve's allegiance had changed from abiding in the love and fellowship of God, to becoming a slave to Sin.

Satan's strategy has not changed; he is the father of lies, a deceiver, and a murderer (John Ch 8:44). He comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

How do we guard ourselves from falling prey to Satan's attacks?

The following "By" laws would help us in our defense strategy.

1. By rooting ourselves in Scripture. There is no better example, than Jesus himself. When Jesus was in the desert 40 days without food, Satan tempted him thrice. Every temptation was a perversion of the word itself. And Jesus countered every temptation with the true Scripture.
2. By prioritizing God's desires over our own. We should rid ourselves of self-doubt, self-righteousness, and anything wherein our focus is on the Self. Satan wants us to be self-absorbed; it is the opposite of what God wants us to be - selfless.

3. By praise and thanksgiving, thereby honoring God by being mindful of everything good in our lives that He has provided. Oftentimes we listen to the lies of Satan and believe the perverted gospel he spews out to us when we don't get what we want. We easily forget that God would never withhold anything good from us.

4. By understanding the Person of God.

The Bible instructs us in 1 Peter 5:8 to be sober minded and vigilant, as the enemy is constantly searching for whom he can prey upon and devour. Let us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, embrace the instructions provided in God's Word and be victorious witnesses through the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Ryan Bosser

The reason we do not see truth is not that we have not read enough books, or do not have enough academic degrees, but that we do not have enough courage.

Rollo May

Anchored To A Timeless Truth

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." Matthew 24:35

The whirling world can be viewed through various coloured glasses. Wearing dark glasses, the world would seem dismal and forbidding like the first viewing of the Land of Canaan. Others like Caleb would move ahead empowered with faith in God and lead the people into a land of milk and honey. Life would present giant-like challenges that could make one feel dejected and rejected. We can depend on the Bible believing that all human life is valuable and significant because the Lord Jesus Christ has the power to make our tarnished and barren lives luminous and fruitful.

A lame man depends on a support. The elderly need an arm to balance. A traveller cannot journey without his map nor a sailor without his compass. A Christian cannot live a purposeful life without being armed with this priceless Book – The Bible.

The Bible is of God. Kings and kingdoms rise and perish but this great Truth marches on. The Bible uniquely wires us to hear the Voice of God. There is no other book, be it secular or sacred, that has such an impact on everyday life, be it education, government, judiciary, health welfare schemes, values and human relationships.

The Truth of the Bible is unstoppable. William Tyndale is the "Baruch" (Jeremiah 36:4-8) of the recent centuries. He dedicated his life to the cause of making God's Word known to the people and getting the Bible within the reach of millions. "I will cause a boy who drives a plow to know more of the scriptures than the pope" he said. Tyndale devoted himself to the unpopular and highly dangerous task of translating the Bible into English. He braved the wrath of the powerful and ruthless King Henry VIII and kept up his work until it was brought to an end by a martyr's death. 'Roughly 84% of the New Testament and 76% of the Old Testament in the King James Version is the work of Tyndale.'

Are we on the canvas of Jesus' mission field? Each of us has been placed in a particular position and place in life. We are gifted with varied gifts and talents, so beautifully pictured in the Bible. We are certainly not to bury them. We who profess to be in His service and know our precious Lord and what He desires most, are called to be His hands and feet. We are called to be His Ambassadors to expand His Royal Kingdom. Yes, we are as meek, fallible and ignorant as His disciples were in New Testament times. The Apostles were on fire for the Gospel. Armed with His grace they became pillars of the early Church and martyrs from whose blood the Church of God spread to the corners of the earth.

The Gospel of God cannot lie dormant within us like a dead seed never sown. What a waste never to bloom and blossom for our Jesus! "The harvest inevitably follows the sowing." How often we are reminded that we have to be His light on a hill. There is also a reminder from Jesus when He likens the kingdom of God with a figure of speech. "It is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened" (Luke 13:20-21).

The Bible presents to all men a source of inexhaustible wealth in Christ, "the unsearchable riches of Christ!" (Ephesians 3:8). How eager are we to share the joy of this search which daily opens up new vistas of wisdom, power and beauty? As God's children we are called to love in word and deed, the broken, neglected and the unlovely, as Jesus our Master loved us all. Are we ready, willing and able to share His Word?

Today, let us break the Alabaster Jar and spread the sublime fragrance of the Bible to a sad, dreary and hollow-eyed Mankind.

"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me." - Martin Luther

Usha George

The Lord's Prayer

I cannot say "**our**" if I live in a water-tight spiritual compartment.

I cannot say "**Father**" if I do not demonstrate the relationship in daily life.

I cannot say "**which art in heaven**" if I am so occupied with the earth that I am laying up no treasure there.

I cannot say "**hallowed be thy name**" if I, who am called by His name, am not holy.

I cannot say "**thy kingdom come**" if I am not doing all in my power to hasten its coming.

I cannot say "**thy will be done**" if I am questioning, resentful of, or disobedient to His will.

I cannot say "**give us this day our daily bread**" if I am not putting in an honest day's work.

I cannot say "**forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us**" if I harbour a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say "**lead us not into temptation**" if I deliberately place myself in a position to be tempted.

I cannot say "**deliver us from evil**" if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer.

I cannot say "**for thine is the kingdom**" if I do not accord the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say "**thine is the power**" if I fear what men may do or what my neighbours may think.

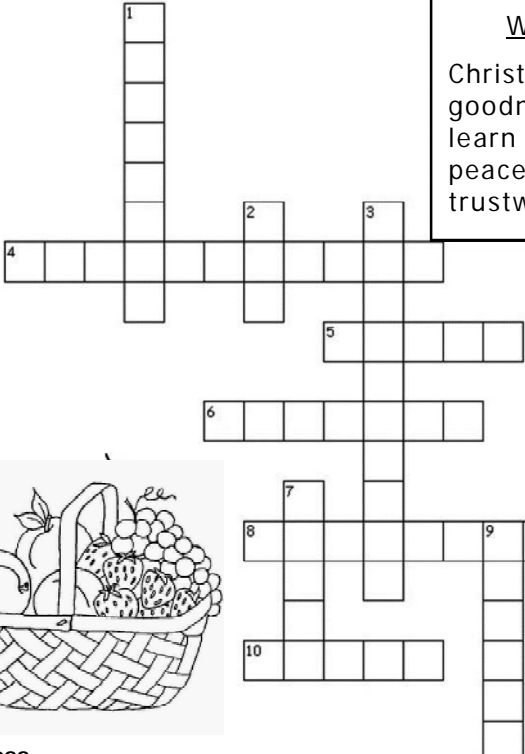
I cannot say "**thine is the glory**" if I am seeking glory for myself.

I cannot say "**forever and ever**" if my horizon is bounded by the things of time.

The Christian Messenger


Children's Corner

Fruit of the Spirit Crossword



Word List :

Christlike gifts
 goodness healthy
 learn meekness
 peace Spirit
 trustworthy joy



Across

4. _____ This fruit of the spirit is a bit like faithfulness or being dependable.
5. God will give us these fruit or____if we ask and work on it.
6. Just like real fruit, the fruit of the Spirit also makes us this inside.
8. This is another word for gentleness.
10. If we try to____by reading the Bible we will understand how to become more fruitful.

Down

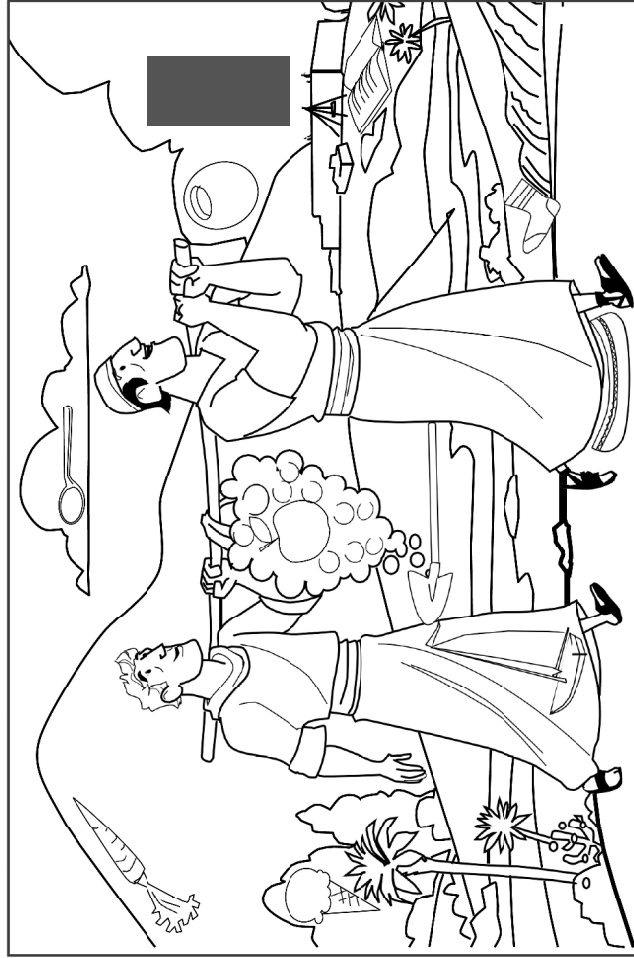
1. Having this fruit means you will turn away from bad choices.
2. This fruit of the Spirit is about being more than just happy.
3. When we have more fruit of the Spirit we become more_____.
7. Being full of this means that you don't worry but believe God to take care of things.
9. This part of God helps us develop the different fruit in our lives.

Source : <https://www.dltk-kids.com>

Dolly Shanthakumar

Hidden Picture : Joshua Explored the promised Land

Find these objects hidden in the picture below : canoe, carror, apple, book, ice cream cone, olive, shovel, sock, sailboat, spoon



Source : <http://SundaySchoolZone.com>



Medical Corner

GLANDS IN THE BODY – I

WHY ARE GLANDS IMPORTANT?

“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”

AGland is a tissue or organ that produces and releases a useful chemical substance. Glands are located in various places throughout the body. Human beings have two chief kinds of glands – endocrine glands and exocrine glands. Endocrine glands release their secretions directly into the blood. Exocrine glands do not empty their secretions into the blood. Instead, their products are carried by ducts to the surface of the skin or other organs. The secretions perform various functions. The sweat glands, for example, secrete fluids that help cool the skin. The sebaceous glands supply oil that lubricates the skin. The tears gland (lacrimal gland) produces tears, which moisten the eyes. Still others – glands that lie within the mouth, the stomach, and the intestine – help digest food.

The salivary glands produce saliva which softens the food and helps in digestion. The mouth also remains moist. Liver secretes bile which aids in digestion and absorption of fats. The pancreas, stomach and intestine produce enzymes which help in digesting starch, fat, and proteins. The mammary glands secrete milk for nourishing nursing babies. Mucus glands produce mucus which moistens and lubricates mucous membranes of the nose, throat, and food pipe. Various diseases can decrease the production of these secretions and affect health. For e.g., diseases of the tear gland can lead to less tear production and **“dry eyes”**.

[To be continued]

Dr. Mrs. Rajini Kantha Narendranath



Kirk News

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

The Joy of Giving in Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving, or *ἁγάπη* (transliteration: eucharistia) means gratitude; active grateful language (to God, as an act of worship); thankfulness.

"... inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Matthew 25:40b

We as a church have been so blessed to the point that we get to be a blessing to others who are in need. On 10th September, after the 9am service, we got to continue worshipping God with our giving. Giving to the least among us is one way in which we worship God. The generous congregants of the Kirk did not give begrudgingly but cheerfully to 23 organisations in Chennai.

As always, we gave in kind: rice, sugar, atta, dhal, oil, health drinks, bath soap and so on. The church brought in their offerings the previous day or before the service. One of the wonderful things about distributing in kind contributions is that the youngsters who often do not engage in any rigorous physical activity get to use their muscles and learn discipline and mental rigour from the elders in charge!

We are made to worship God. When we fulfil the purpose for which we were created there's joy unspeakable. Giving as a church is such a humbling act in which God alone gets the glory. We thank God that we get to be a part of this.

Kirk Sunday School

Kirk Sunday School had a SportsMeet for the children on 27th August from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at the lawn near SACCE Hall. The day was sultry but that did not deter the children from enthusiastically participating in all the engaging activities prepared for them.

Kirk Youth Fellowship

The Catalyst this month brought together the youth for a time of worship, word and fellowship on 27th August at 09:00 am at the SACCE Hall. Rev. Paul Anbarasu spoke to them on the topic 'Rebellion and Restoration.'

Kirk Men's Fellowship

The Kirk Men's Fellowship had a Virtual Prayer session on Monday, 11th September at 09:00 pm.

On 17th September at 11:00 am, the gentlemen of the church met in person at the DCC hall to discuss the topic 'Trust and Let God!' facilitated by Mr. Amardeep Devadasan.

Kirk Women's Fellowship

The Kirk Women's Fellowship had its Women's Monthly Meet on 17th September after the 9 am service at the SACCE hall for a time of testimonies, discussion and prayer.

Sunday, 17th September

This Sunday service was made glorious by the 34-year-old Gospel Youth Choir from Bangalore. The congregants saw a yellow bus as they entered the church premise and wondered what awaited them and what they were treated to was no disappointment. The worship was led by the Glorious Choir. The songs 'Lord, You're Holy,' 'God is' and 'Hide Me Now' lifted the spirit of the church and prepared them to listen to the Word of God.

Kirk Urban Ministry

Kirk Urban Ministry and Men's Fellowship lead the church in a Prayer Walk every fourth Sunday after the 9 am service.

The Kirk Urban Ministry is hosting a seminar, 'I can, I will' on redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:15-16). How do Christians see our time? How to honour God with His most precious and powerful gift

to us - Time? Questions along these lines will be addressed on 24thSeptember at SACCE Hall. SharolaRajashekhar and Richard Umbrand will be facilitating the event, making this one of the more anticipated events in the church.

House Church

The House Church this month was hosted by Mr. and Dr. (Mrs.) Joshua Chelliah on 22nd September at 6:30 pm.

Friendship Club

Friendship Club met on 14thSeptember at 3 pm at SACCE Hall.

Kirk's Mobile Medical, Gospel and Counselling Outreach Program

The Kirk's Mobile Medical, Gospel and Counselling Outreach Program took place on 27thAugust at Poondi from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Angela Susan Bryner

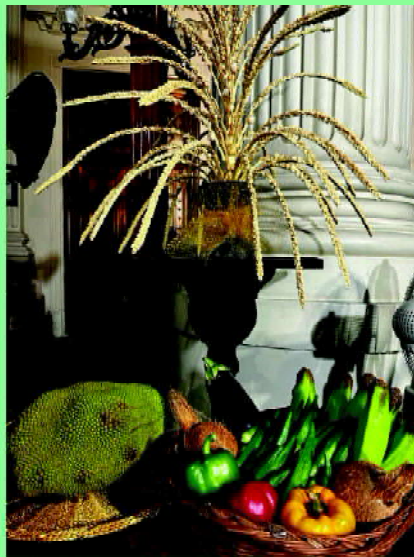
Some people who say "Our Father" on Sunday go around the rest of the week acting like orphans.

Rev. Marvin B. Kober





Bountiful blessings



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October 2023

