



Fidelity

Let's do what is good toward all men, and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith - Galatians 6:10

5th March 2023

The Poon Brothers Serving God at Worship



The Poon brothers are the youngest members at the Household of Faith. Pictured below are Philemon, Paul and Peter. They are regular at Care teams and worship, and are passionate in serving God at worship.

1. Scripture reading

Like most men who are initiated into the "men to serve" crew at worship, they started with reading God's word in public. It took a while for them to gain confidence, standing before the public. All three are doing better, with each passing week.

2. Song leading

Not every man is capable of songleading. The Poon brothers had some music lessons and do a commendable job in this area.

When the pandemic hit Singapore, we were not able to meet publicly, so we started live streaming. Even then, the worship team was severely limited to a handful. It was during these two years that Paul became the regular songleader for HoF.

Paul is now a polished songleader, the best at the Household of Faith. Recently as we started to introduce new songs each month, Paul handled each one with great competence.

Philemon and Peter are now assigned a few songs at each worship. They prepared hard and give of their best. Philemon texts me for the songs he has to lead two weeks in advance when he is assigned to lead.

3. Leading in Prayer

While most of us would accept a young person reading scriptures or leading songs,



some may question using members younger than most of the congregation to lead in prayers.

This is where the apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Timothy 4:12 not to let any man "despise your youth; but be an example to those who believe, in word, in your way of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity".

At the Youth Care team, we not only teach how to lead songs, but prayers as well. The Poon brothers are assigned each to lead prayers in worship once a month. Paul is assigned to lead both the opening and closing prayers while Philemon and Peter are assigned the closing prayer.

We thank God for the Poon brothers and the wonderful way their parents have guided them in their faith.



Welcome to the
Household of Faith
5th March 2023



Bible Christians: Cornelius



Introduction

When we think of Bible Christians, we think of Jews or Greeks.

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

Very few would think of Romans as Bible Christians





Introduction

Matthew 8:8 - *The centurion answered, "Lord, I'm not worthy for you to come under my roof. Just say the word, and my servant will be healed."*

Luke 23:47 *When the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous man."*

Acts 10:22 *They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, and well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to invite you to his house, and to listen to what you say."*



Introduction

Highest rank for an ordinary soldier to attain – similar to company commander

In charge of training and welfare of 80-100 men

Position of prestige and honour

Received substantial pension and regarded with honour

They were feared and hated by the Jews

The 2 centurions mentioned in the Bible were men of financial means who contributed to their communities





Introduction

Introduction to Cornelius

Acts 10:22-26 *They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, and well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to invite you to his house, and to listen to what you say."*

So he called them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter arose and went out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

On the next day they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and his near friends.

When it happened that Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up! I myself am also a man."



Introduction

Introduction to Cornelius

Acts 10:27-31 *As he talked with him, he went in and found many gathered together.*

He said to them, "You yourselves know how it is an unlawful thing for a man who is a Jew to join himself or come to one of another nation, but God has shown me that I shouldn't call any man unholy or unclean.

Therefore also I came without complaint when I was sent for. I ask therefore, why did you send for me?"

Cornelius said, "Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your gifts to the needy are remembered in the sight of God.



Introduction

Introduction to Cornelius

Acts 10:32-48 *Peter opened his mouth and said, "Truly I perceive that God doesn't show favoritism; but in every nation he who fears him*

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word. They of the circumcision who believed were amazed, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles.

For they heard them speaking in other languages and magnifying God. Then Peter answered, "Can any man forbid the water, that these who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we should not be baptized?" He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay some days.



Introduction

Introduction to Cornelius

A Roman Centurion

A righteous man

A religious man – a Jewish proselyte

One who feared God

Well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews

Prayers were heard by God

His gifts to the needy were remembered in the sight of God.



Introduction
Cornelius

1. God is Impartial

Acts 10:9-17 *Now on the next day as they were on their journey, and got close to the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray at about noon. He became hungry and desired to eat, but while they were preparing, he fell into a trance.*

He saw heaven opened and a certain container descending to him, like a great sheet let down by four corners on the earth, in which were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, reptiles, and birds of the sky.

A voice came to him, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat!" But Peter said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."



Introduction
Cornelius

1. God is Impartial

Acts 10:9-17 *A voice came to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed, you must not call unclean."*

This was done three times, and immediately the vessel was received up into heaven.

Acts 10:27-31 *Peter said to them, "You yourselves know how it is an unlawful thing for a man who is a Jew to join himself or come to one of another nation, but God has shown me that I shouldn't call any man unholy or unclean.*

Romans 2:10-11 *But glory and honor and peace to every man who works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. **For there is no partiality with God.***



Introduction
Cornelius
1 God is No Impartial

2. God Observes Our Deeds

Proverbs 15:3
The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

Acts 10:30-31 *Cornelius said, "Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your gifts to the needy are remembered in the sight of God.*

Matthew 10:42 *Whoever gives one of these little ones just a cup of cold water to drink in the name of a disciple, most assuredly I tell you he will in no way lose his reward."*



Introduction
Cornelius
1. God is No Impartial
2. God Observes Our
Deeds

3. Worship Only God

Acts 10:24-26 *On the next day they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and his near friends. When it happened that Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up! I myself am also a man."*

Revelation 22:8-9 *Now I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who had shown me these things. He said to me, "See you don't do it! I am a fellow bondservant with you and with your brothers, the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."*



Introduction
Cornelius
1. God is No Impartial
2. God Observes Our
Deeds
3. Worship Only God

4. Focus on Outreach

Acts 10:24 *On the next day they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and his near friends.*

Outreach must be in our hearts as a way of life

Just like Andrew

1 Peter 3:15-16 *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.*

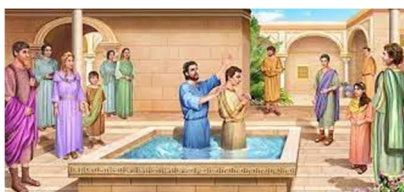



Introduction
Cornelius
1. God is No Impartial
2. God Observes Our
Deeds
3. Worship Only God
4. Focus on Outreach

5. Godly Influence

Acts 10:47-48 *"Can any man forbid the water, that these who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we should not be baptized?" He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay some days.*

Family and friends who were invited were baptized





Introduction
 Cornelius
 1. God is No Impartial
 2. God Observes Our Deeds
 3. Worship Only God
 4. Focus on Outreach
 5. Godly Influence

Conclusion

Many good things about Cornelius

First gentile convert

A gentile who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit

Even so – desired to learn more - Acts 10:48 *He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay some days.*


Matthew 28:19-20 *Therefore go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*



Call to Worship
 Scripture Reading
 Opening Prayer
 Congregational Singing
 Communion & Giving
 Exhortation
 Invitation
 Announcements
 Closing Prayer



Next Week



Call to Worship
 Scripture Reading
 Opening Prayer
 Congregational Singing
 Communion & Giving
 Exhortation
 Invitation
 Announcements
 Closing Prayer

JOIN US FOR A

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Rice & Dishes

All are welcome to bring a dish!
See June

BACK PAGE NEWS



Clockwise: Youth and Men's Care teams, Tng Huat leading the opening prayer, dinner after worship and fellowship. Thanks to Rosaleen for sushi, Iris for desserts and Phai for sweet potatoes.



Kang Hwei - 3rd
Iris - 4th
Selvarajah - 6th
Lilian - 18th





Fidelity

Let's do what is good toward all men, and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith - Galatians 6:10

12th March 2023

Running the Christian Race ***3 Helpful Steps to Finishing the Race***



Hebrews 12:1-2 likens the Christian life to a race - *Therefore let us also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

We are also told in 1 Corinthians 9:24 *Don't you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run like that, that you may win.*

Romans 8:28 reminds us *that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

1. Lay aside every sin

When a Christian tries to run the Christian race, you can be sure that Satan will do his best to disqualify you.

It is so important to keep ourselves fit, like an athlete preparing for a competition. Go to God in earnest and confess whatever is holding you back. Then equip yourself fully for the event - Ephesians 6:13 *Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

2. Run with patience

The Christian race is not a 100-metre sprint - it is a marathon that will only be completed when the Lord calls us home.

Do not be discouraged or give up. We can learn from our mistakes and do better.

3. Look at Jesus

There are so many things that distract us from our goal. When the apostle Peter wanted to walk to Jesus on the water, he was taken aback by the waves and began to sink.

There will be many discouragements and also temptations to give up the race. When this happens, stay tuned to the Bible and be like the blessed man in Psalm 1:2 *whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Are you running the Christian race? Keep going! Have you dropped out? Get back on track. I pray that you may be able to say along with the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7 that *I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.*



Fidelity is published weekly by the Household of Faith meeting every Sunday @6pm at block 67, #07-10 Ayer Rajah Crescent, Singapore 139950. Postal address: as above. Website: hofsg.com. Facebook group: Household of Faith, Supporters and Friends. Minister, Henry Kong at henry.kong@yahoo.com. Mobile: +65 9326 0669.



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Bible Christians: Simon the Zealot



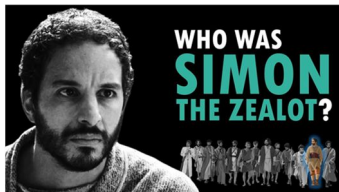
Introduction

There are 2 apostles named Simon in the Bible

We are all familiar with Simon Peter

Very few can tell you anything about Simon the Zealot

Tonight we take a look at this apostle of Jesus





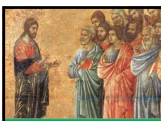
Introduction

Introduction

Matthew 10:2-4 *Now the names of the twelve apostles are these. The first, Simon, who is called Peter... Simon the Canaanite; and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.*

Mark 3:14-19 *He appointed twelve, that they might be with him, and that he might send them out to preach, and to have authority to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: Simon, to whom he gave the name Peter... Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.*

Luke 6:13-16 *When it was day, he called his disciples, and from them he chose twelve, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he also named Peter... Simon, who was called the Zealot; Judas the son of James; and Judas Iscariot, who also became a traitor.*



Introduction

Introduction

Acts 1:12-14 *Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.*

When they had come in, they went up into the upper room, where they were staying; that is Peter... Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

All these with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer and supplication, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Listed but not singled out – in good company

Simon is a common name

9 Simons mentioned in the Bible



Introduction



Introduction

The word *zealot* derives from the Greek *zelotes*, meaning "emulator or (zealous) follower."

The Zealots : a first-century political movement who sought to overthrow the occupying Romans.

According to Jewish historian Josephus, three main Jewish groups in the time of Christ:

the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Essenes. He also mentions a fourth group called the Zealots (*Antiquities* 18.1.6).

The Zealots led a rebellion when Rome introduced imperial cult worship in A.D. 66. They successfully overtook Jerusalem, but in A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the temple.



Introduction

Introduction to Simon

Confusing to have 2 Simons among 12 apostles

Some suggested that Simon was zealous, not zealot

When Jesus cleanses the temple in the Gospel of John, his disciples recall Psalm 69:10, implying that Jesus was motivated by zeal: *"His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'"*

The Apostle Paul talks about his own zeal - Acts 22:3 *"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are this day."*



Introduction to Lesson
Introduction to Simon

1. Jesus believed in Diversity

Jesus chose Simon the Zealot, a man who likely desired to forcibly remove the Romans.

He also chose Matthew, a tax collector working for the Romans.

Both Simon and Matthew, though natural enemies, were part of the apostles.





Introduction to Lesson
Introduction to Simon
1. Jesus believed in Diversity

2. Zeal is Commendable

Like many of the lesser-known apostles, most of Simon the Zealot's life and identity remains a mystery

No other details in the Bible

What we do know: he passionately believed in the Lord to be an apostle.

Jesus saw in him the potential to spread the gospel not by force, but with the power of love.

2 Corinthians 9:2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast on your behalf to them of Macedonia, that Achaia has been prepared for a year past. Your zeal has stirred up very many of them.



Introduction to Lesson
Introduction to Simon
1. Jesus believed in Diversity
2. Zeal is Commendable

3. Force will Fail

Zealots wanted to free Palestine from Roman rule by force

When Romans enforced imperial worship, the Jews overthrew the Romans in AD 66

In AD 70, the Romans retook Jerusalem and leveled the city

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world, then my servants would fight, that I wouldn't be delivered to the Jews. But now my Kingdom is not from here."

1 Corinthians 13:8 Love never fails.



Introduction to Lesson
Introduction to Simon
1. Jesus believed in
Diversity
2. Zeal is Commendable
3. Force will Fail

4. Transformed by Gospel

Simon the Zealot followed Jesus as an apostle.

Being close to Jesus he learned that Jesus came not to fight and deliver, but to teach and win souls.

Jesus engaged those opposed to Him with the gospel. He did not fight back when they took Him to be crucified.

Jesus' mission is not political - Matthew 22:21, *"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"*

During his three years with Jesus, Simon the Zealot matured into a missionary to Persia.



Introduction to Lesson
Introduction to Simon
1. Jesus believed in
Diversity
2. Zeal is Commendable
3. Force will Fail
4. Transformed by
Gospel

5. Dying for Christ

There are numerous accounts of Simon the Zealot's death.

Moses of Chorene wrote that Simon the Zealot was martyred in the Kingdom of Iberia.

Ethiopian Christians believe he was crucified in Samaria.

Another account says he was crucified in 61 AD in Britain.

Justus Lipsius claimed he was sawn in half.

John 15:13 *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*



Introduction to Lesson
Introduction to Simon
1. Jesus believed in
Diversity
2. Zeal is Commendable
3. Force will Fail
4. Transformed by
Gospel
5. Dying for Christ

Conclusion

Where you are listed is important

Simon devoted his life to following Jesus

Tradition tells us that he travelled far as a missionary, up to Persia

The gospel is a message of peace

Force has no part to play in Christianity

Mark 8:34 *Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*

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Fidelity

Let's do what is good toward all men, and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith - Galatians 6:10

19th March 2023

Living the Christian Life 3 Most Important Daily Practices



I have often been asked what are the most important activities for a Christian to focus on each day. Each time, I am encouraged by the individual's sincere desire to please our Lord and give of his/her best to the Master. To keep things simple, here are 3 important daily practices.

1. Let your light shine

Do your family, colleagues and neighbours know that you are a Christian? If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 5:14-16 that they "*are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can't be hidden. Neither do you light a lamp, and put it under a measuring basket, but on a stand; and it shines to all who are in the house. Even so, let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*".

For all of us, every day we must endeavour to live the Christian life from the moment we open our eyes until we close them to sleep at night.

2. Keep your contacts in prayer

God has put us in this world, at this time according to His good pleasure. When we became Christians, He has specific plans for us as His disciples. This is clearly mentioned in James 5:16 - "*Therefore, confess your*

sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working".

God has bestowed on every Christian the mighty power of prayer at our command. Each day, we can utilise it by going through our prayer list, mentioning our family, friends and contacts by name. When you do this on a regular basis, God will open opportunities for you to reach out to them.

3. Support the church

When you were baptized, the Lord added you to His church. The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 2:5 that, *as living stones, are built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*.

Each day we need to ask ourselves what spiritual sacrifices we can offer to God? It may be as simple as not forsaking the assembly (Hebrews 10:25), inviting a friend to church or helping with the weekly potluck. God will reward us even for a cup of cold water we give to someone in need.



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Bible Christians: Ananias & Sapphira



Introduction

Tonight we take on a Christian couple who are mentioned in only one passage of the Bible

The context was in the early days of the church in Jerusalem

Many of the first converts lingered in Jerusalem to learn more of their new-found faith

Since none of these prepared for a prolonged visit for Pentecost, there was a pressing need to house and feed the thousands of converts

The need was so enormous that members had to sell their homes to accommodate the need



Acts 4:32-37 The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. Not one of them claimed that anything of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

With great power, the apostles gave their testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Great grace was on them all. For neither was there among them any who lacked, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet, and distribution was made to each, according as anyone had need.

Joseph, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas (which is, being interpreted, Son of Encouragement), a Levite, a man of Cyprus by race, having a field, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.



Introduction

Bible Record

Acts 5:1-15 *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira, his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While you kept it, didn't it remain your own? After it was sold, wasn't it in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You haven't lied to men, but to God."

Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men arose and wrapped him up, and they carried him out and buried him.



Introduction

Bible Record

About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." She said, "Yes, for so much."

But Peter asked her, "How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." She fell down immediately at his feet, and died.

The young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her by her husband. Great fear came on the whole assembly, and on all who heard these things.



Introduction
Bible Record

1. Christian Couples

Christian couples can encourage each other to keep the faith

Ananias and his wife Sapphira conspired to lie to the church – partners in crime

One should have stood up to do the right thing

Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls, and doesn't have another to lift him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have warmth; but how can one keep warm alone?*



Introduction
Bible Record
1. Christian Couples

2. Many Motives

Church is filled with people of many motives

Matthew 13:47-49 *"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet, that was cast into the sea, and gathered some fish of every kind, which, when it was filled, they drew up on the beach. They sat down, and gathered the good into containers, but the bad they threw away."*

What was the motive of Ananias and Sapphira?

Some of their sins:

- Lied about their gift
- Seek the praise of men by pretence
- Lied against the Holy Spirit



Introduction
Bible Record
1. Christian Couples
2. Many Motives

3. Imperfect Christians

Ananias and Sapphira must have been impacted by the gospel to leave their Jewish roots

They were wealthy because they did not need to sell their house or land

It is probable that they had been wheeling and dealing their way up in society, for appearances

Do you think that they are still people like Ananias and Sapphira today in the church?

Proverbs 29:25 *It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you are safe.*



Introduction
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1. Christian Couples
2. Many Motives
3. Imperfect Christians

4. God is Not Mocked

We cannot serve God hypocritically and hope to get away with it. 1 Samuel 16:7 - *Man looks at how someone appears on the outside. But I look at what is in the heart.*

God is not impressed with our schemes. Internet filled with Christian showmanship. 2 Corinthians 2:17

For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Galatians 6:7-8 *Don't be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that will he also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption. But he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*



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3. Imperfect Christians
4. God is Not Mocked

5. Be Sincere & Truthful

1 Timothy 1:5 *The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

John 4:23-24 *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

1 Timothy 3:15 *But if I wait long, that you may know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the assembly of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*



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5. Be Sincere & Truthful

Conclusion

We learned a very important lesson tonight

So many are in religion to promote their own interests

Unless what we do is firmly anchored in the word of God, we are just fooling ourselves

Matthew 6:7 *In praying, don't use vain repetitions, as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their much speaking.*

Matthew 15:9 *And in vain do they worship me, Teaching as doctrine rules made by men.*

Isaiah 55:11 *So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*



Call to Worship
Scripture Reading
Opening Prayer
Congregational Singing
Communion & Giving
Exhortation
Invitation
Announcements
Closing Prayer



Next Week:
Aquila and Priscilla

BACK PAGE NEWS



Clockwise: Kenneth leading praises; worship; dinner fellowship; lots of desserts; Michael, Catherine and Jesse receiving their certificates on Personal Bible Course.



Fidelity

Let's do what is good toward all men, and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith - Galatians 6:10

26th March 2023

Magnify Your Christian Life

Passion, Progress, Purpose, Prayer



This morning, the sun rose over 8 billion people. By the time the sun sets, another 385,000 babies will have been added to that number. Jesus wants us to be the light and salt of this world. Here are the 4 Ps to magnify our discipleship in these urgent times.

Passion

When we heed our Lord's calling, our hearts are full of passion as we commit our lives to Him in discipleship. Matthew 16:24 *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."*

For all of us, it is a life-changing experience where our faith becomes the guiding light and deciding factor in all that we do.

Progress

Jesus told the parable of the sower in Luke 8:4. He went on in verse 11 to explain that He was talking about the growth of individuals who received the word of God.

How is your Christian growth compared to the 4 different types of ground that the seed fell on? Are you productive or have you been choked by the cares of this world?

2022 is now history and three months of 2023 will soon pass us by. If we are to make progress, we have to decide what our purpose for our Christian life will be this year.

Purpose

What was your purpose in 2022? Did you factor in your dedication to Christ and live up to your calling?

While there is little we can do about the past year, we have a good part of 2023 before us. Will 2023 be a productive year for us or will it reflect the woeful sentiments of Jeremiah 8:20 - *The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*

Prayer

To help us get started, keep a prayer list of our family and friends. Each day, mention them by name and ask the Lord to help you find ways to touch their lives.

This is a small step, but it can rekindle your passion as you renew relationship with your family and friends.

Soon, you will progress in your walk with God as you reach out to answer Jesus' last great commission to share your faith.

Magnify your Christian life - purpose to let your light shine!



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Bible Christians: Aquila & Priscilla



Introduction

Last week we looked at a couple - Ananias and Sapphira.

We can learn from negative examples by avoiding their mistakes.

Tonight we take a look at another couple, who were positive examples - Aquila and Priscilla

They are mentioned 6 times in the Bible – so many good things to emulate

Aquila means eagle; “Prisca” is a Latin name meaning “respectful”

Both were tentmakers, like the apostle Paul



Bible Record

Acts 18:2-3
He found a certain Jew named Aquila, a man of Pontus by race, who had recently come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome. He came to them, and because he practiced the same trade, he lived with them and worked, for by trade they were tent makers.

Acts 18:18-19
Paul, having stayed after this many more days, took his leave of the brothers, and sailed from there for Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. He shaved his head in Cenchreae, for he had a vow. He came to Ephesus, and he left them there; but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.



Introduction

Bible Record

Acts 18:24-26 *Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by race, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus. He was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, although he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside, and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

Romans 16:3-5 *Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life, laid down their own necks; to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the assemblies of the Gentiles. Greet the assembly that is in their house.*



Introduction

Bible Record

1 Corinthians 16:19 *The assemblies of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you much in the Lord, together with the assembly that is in their house.*

2 Timothy 4:19 *Greet Prisca and Aquila – Final epistle of Paul*

Priscilla and her husband Aquila met the apostle Paul in Corinth - they became friends, traveling companions, and ministry co-workers. They later went to Ephesus to support the young church. While there, Priscilla and Aquila instructed the gifted preacher Apollos.

Paul calls them his co-workers in the gospel, praises their willingness to risk their necks to help him and twice notes that churches met in their home.



Introduction
Bible Record

1. The Mixed Couple

Priscilla was a Gentile (believed to be wealthy, from the Roman elite). Aquila was a Jew from the province of Pontus in Turkey.

They lived in Rome and worked with the apostle Peter in his evangelism. Then moved to Corinth when Jews were exiled. They connected with the apostle Paul in their trade as tentmakers.

When the exile of Jews from Rome was lifted, they returned to their home and once again became active in starting new churches there.

Priscilla is considered more than just a tentmaker - a businesswoman, traveling evangelist, and church planter with her husband.



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1. The Mixed Couple

2. House Churches

Romans 16:3-5 *Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus... Greet the assembly that is in their house.*

Prisca was a wealthy and influential woman – her name was mentioned before her husband 4 out of 6 times.

Like Philemon, their home housed the church and hosted the apostle Paul.

Up to today, churches all over the world meet in homes and small groups.

Only way to cover the world with the gospel.



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1. The Mixed Couple
2. House Churches

3. Tentmakers

Making tents was a good means of support.

Paul was a tentmaker.

Paul met Aquila and Priscilla because they were all from the same trade

Today, we use this term for preachers who are self-supporting, like Paul, Aquila and Priscilla

In order to evangelize the whole world, we can not rely solely on paid preachers. We need more tentmakers



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1. The Mixed Couple
2. House Churches
3. Tentmakers

4. Serve God Wherever


Aquila and Priscilla worked with the apostle Peter at their home in Rome.

When they were forced to leave Rome, they went to Corinth as refugees.

There they met Apollos and reached out to help him learn the gospel more completely - *Acts 18:26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside, and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

There they met and travelled with Paul.

When they were able to return home to Rome, they continued serving the Lord.



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3. Tentmakers
4. Serve God Wherever


5. Passionate in Service

Romans 16:3-4 *Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life, laid down their own necks; to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the assemblies of the Gentiles.*

What a great commendation from the apostle!

The gospel needs great preachers like Paul and Apollos as well as ordinary Christians like Aquila and Priscilla – passionate in service.

Mark 8:35-36 *For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life?*



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4. Serve God Wherever
5. Passionate in Service

Conclusion

We have learned about 2 Christians couples – how different they were!

Ananias and Sapphira wanted to show off without putting in their full effort.

Aquila and Priscilla were willing to go where they were needed and serve passionately.

Today, we are looking for tentmakers and more house churches to cover every district in every country around the globe.



Call to Worship
Scripture Reading
Opening Prayer
Congregational Singing
Communion & Giving
Exhortation
Invitation
Announcements
Closing Prayer



WHO WAS SILAS

IN THE BIBLE?

Next Week: Silas

BACK PAGE NEWS



Please cover the following in Prayer: Health of Iris Leow, Tng Huat, Rosaleen and Donald Quek; well-being of Justine Lim.

