



THE LAVENDER BULLETIN

Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

A weekly publication of the **LAVENDER CHURCH OF CHRIST** | www.lavendercoc.org
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THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Luke 8:4-8

And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable:

“A sower went out to sow his seed.

And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.

Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.”

Luke 8:11-15

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

COME WORSHIP WITH US !

Sunday – Worship: 9.30 am | Bible Class: 11.15 am
Wednesday – Midweek Service: 8.00 pm



In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand... (Ecclesiastes 11:6)

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (II Corinthians 9:6)

Take a look at the two verses above (Ecclesiastes 11:6 and II Corinthians 9:6) and pause for a moment to think about the word "sow" in the context of "sowing your seed". Even if you are not a Christian or a student of the Bible, chances are, you will be thinking about evangelism rather than farming. This is a demonstration of the strong influence of the Word of God in today's intellectual realm.

Of course, we are referring to the parable of the sower, which can be found at Matthew 13:3-23, Mark 4:3-20 and Luke 8:5-15. To summarize, "a sower went out to sow his seed..." (Luke 8:5), and Jesus later explained what he is trying to say – "The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11). With this famous passage, "sowing the seed" is synonymous with spreading the word of God.

And when it comes to sowing the precious seed, no one can ignore the efforts of the apostle Paul. If you are familiar with the New Testament, you would have read about the suffering of the Paul. He had to endure beatings, stoning, hunger, shipwreck and imprisonment. Every time the Bible describes the abovementioned physical hardships, Paul was either preaching God's word to someone, or he was on his way to seek further opportunities to communicate the message of salvation. Certainly, Paul's experience on his preaching "tours" could discourage the average Christians from emulating his examples. However, Paul's desire to fulfill his God-given mission allowed nothing to discourage him. His willingness to

sacrifice is there for all of us to see. Yet, many Christians today are not willing to travel a short distance, or use up a few minutes of our precious time to make the gospel known to a friend.

Paul accounts for his readiness to preach the gospel by saying **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith”** (Romans 1:16-17). Can the same be said about us? Are we able to say these words **“I am not ashamed of the gospel”** with the same gusto and the conviction as Paul? It all boils down to respect.

Clearly, Paul respects the message that he is bringing. In times past, kings and emperors of monarchies convey their messages to their subjects via a royal edict or decree, and such edicts are to be treated with utmost respect. In ancient China for example, the people receiving the edict would be required to bow and kneel down whilst the message is being read to them. I am not suggesting that we treat the Bible as a sacred artifact, but perhaps we should put in some effort to respect the Bible as the Holy word of God. The greater the respect has for the content of his message, the greater will be his desire to make it known.

Paul knew that many would be lost if he did not cause them to know God's word – knowing that **“whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Romans 10:13). In order for someone to know about God, they need to hear the word of God. **“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”** (Romans 10:17). Not ordinary words, but words that is able to save their souls (James 1:21). But in order for one to hear, someone else needs to speak. Paul understood this, and took it upon himself to carry out this all important mission, despite the setbacks he suffered.

While it is our duty to sow the seed, let us not perform the task simply for the sake of doing it. We should not have the attitude of “hoping for the best” when it comes to this important task of saving souls. Rather, we need to put in our best, and follow up our efforts, say with a second visit, a third, a forth, and so on. Just as Paul did so in the first century.

During his missionary journeys in carrying out God's plan, it is clear that apostle Paul was motivated by love. Likewise, when we communicate God's message to others, we should be primarily motivated by nothing less than a simple, unaffected love for others. Those we attempt to reach out to will not care how much we know, unless they know how much we care.

CONGREGATION UPDATES

A Warm Welcome

We like to bid a warm welcome to all our guests. We thank you for coming, and we hope to see you again next week!

Men's and Ladies' Class

For today's Bible class, the students from the Foundation and Young Adults' classes will be joining the Men's class (in the Fellowship Hall) and the Ladies' class (Auditorium). **Shellon Chang** will be sharing the lesson "**Submission: God's Plan for Women**" (for the ladies).

Midweek Service

This Wednesday (25 Aug 2010) at 8.00pm, we will continue with our study from the DVD "**God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions**". The topic this week is: "**How Can I Overcome Loneliness?**"

Thank You

My brothers and sister:

We made it home well and are somewhat rested. Lots of things to catch up on here.

We just wanted to say thank you for the kind way you took care of us this weekend. Everything was great and we enjoyed our time with you. I know all was done to the glory of God and I hope to see and here of good results from our time together. It is an amazing thing in the church to have brothers and sisters where ever we go. You are a part of our family.

Thanks again and we are looking forward to December.

- Rich and Ronda Dolan



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

- Aug 23** - Voltaire John Tan
- Aug 26** - Yang Sixiang
- Aug 24** - Kavitha
- Aug 26** - Jeannie Phun
- Aug 25** - Lee Ah Ping
- Aug 27** - Vivienne Chua



LAST WEEK'S NUMBERS

15 August 2010 Attendance : 120 Contribution : \$ 2,368.30

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	22 August 2010	29 August 2010
Song Leader	James Wong	Ivan Ho
Preacher	Kuek Lee Hock	Chang Chee Wee
<u>Ushers</u>		
Scripture Reader (OP)	Chew Wai Soon	Kevin Wee
Lord's Supper I/C	Tony Poh	Mervin Wee
Lord's Supper Asst	Tan Tian Huat	Peter Low
Announcer (CP)	Katheravan Ramasamy	Roger Hiew
Premises Steward	Peter Low	Patrick Khoo

Men who serving – please gather at the back of the auditorium for a briefing at 9.25am.