

# The Vine

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ministry

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**The Vine Committee**

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## HOM'S Reflections

In last month's issue of The Vine, I was considering how I will be remembered a few decades from now. The reality of it struck me when an elder from the Chinese section, whom I knew from long ago when we both served in the council, perhaps 20 years ago, passed on to glory. Perhaps, when I mention his name, many people from the English section may not know him even now.

He must have enjoyed the Chinese Concert from Heaven because he went there a few days before the concert event. His name is Tan Kiat Soo. You may not know him because he is from the Chinese section but certainly, I hope you will remember him as the father of Admond, whom I believe many ought to know.

I don't really know many people from the Chinese section because of my limited command of the Chinese language. If you hear me holding a conversation in Mandarin, then you know I must be speaking in tongues. However, Kiat Soo, speaks perfect English and thus we were able to hold conversations over the years when we met in church.



*The deep pain that is felt at the death of every friendly soul arises from the feeling that there is in every individual something which is inexpressible, peculiar to him alone, and is, therefore, absolutely and irretrievably lost.*

- Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher

Just the other day, I asked my colleague (a smoker), what would you say if you saw a beggar and gave him some money but later noticed that he spent it on cigarettes and Tiger beer? As a smoker, he could understand the need to smoke but like everyone else, he would expect the beggar to spend the money on food or necessities.

Do you react in the same way? Do you have expectations when you give your money to charity? Do you expect the recipient to spend the money in the way you expect him to do so? If he did not spend it “wisely”, you will stop his supply of money? I think most of us will. If we know that the beggar is using our hard earned money to buy alcohol or cigarettes, we will stop donating to him, for his own sake because these items are bad for his well being.

Have you wondered when God gives us His money whether he also has some expectations on how we spend it? We don't all give it to the Rebuilding fund, do we? I am sure we all spend it on our own individual toys, whether it be smartphones, cameras, holidays, condos, cars, etc. So are we like the beggar who spends his money “unwisely”?

What then does God expect us to do with the money? Well from the parable of the talents, it seems God expects us to invest (put the money to work – Matthew 25:16) and multiply it. However some have tried to multiply it and got themselves into a tangle. Sometimes it is difficult to judge because God gives us the money but He may not have given us the wisdom to spend it wisely and so we end up buying worldly things for our own pleasure.

Don't you know that when you place your money on deposit, the bank uses it to invest in all sorts of businesses, maybe even casinos, which as a Christian you would not consent to? However we all accept it as okay because at the end of the day, we get our little interest of less than 1%. Is it wrong that you have no say over what the bank does with your deposit? On the other hand, if you had given your money away, example to the beggar, do you still have rights over how the beggar spends the money?

In the parable of the talents, the owner entrusted his wealth to them, meaning it is similar to the bank deposit situation where the money still belongs to the owner, so he has the rights to demand his servants to handle it wisely.

So handle His money wisely because at the closing of the accounts, you will have to present your statement of profit or loss to the coming King.

*Martin Cheah*

# The Reformation



**31<sup>st</sup> October 2015** is Reformation Day. To be exact, it is the 498<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation set off by Martin Luther on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1517 when he posted on the door of a church in Wittenberg his 95 theses against the Roman Catholic Church's practice of encouraging church members to buy indulgences to receive forgiveness of sins, among other wrong teachings.



The Reformation revealed the courage of one man to rise up to his calling as a child of God to rebuild the Church with the Truth from Scripture without being intimidated by the extreme challenges that he would face. Martin Luther was the man who correctly identified the following three key principles (a.k.a. "The three Solas") on which Christians are to base their conduct:

- **Sola scriptura ("by Scripture alone")** – It is important that Christians abide by what Scripture speaks and not simply follow the human traditions in the Church.

No human church authority can be higher than the divine authority of Scripture.

- **Sola fide ("by faith alone")** – We are justified before God by our faith in Christ and not by the works that we do.

While Christians exude good works as evidence of their faith, it is the faith that grounds them in their salvation and inspires the good works; the works do not come before the faith in granting any merit for salvation. Therefore, to a person who claims good works in services to the Church but does not have faith in Christ, the Scriptural message is that the good works do not save him. Works without faith is dead.

Heb. 9:14 (ESV) says, "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

Works without faith are “dead works”. It is by our faith that we are saved, with our conscience purified by the blood of Christ through the eternal Spirit and we bear testimony of this by the outpouring of good works. Faith (for salvation) comes before good works; not the other way round!

- **Sola gratia (“by grace alone”)** – We are all sinners and no matter how hard we try, we simply cannot earn enough meritorious favour from God. It is clearly stated in Rom. 3:23-24 (NIV) that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Martin Luther was a faithful servant of God. He was concerned with the Truth embodied in divine Scripture and was burdened in his heart to set right the highly questionable practices of the Church. His intent was not to split the Church; rather, to bring about academic debates for a positive change. It was unfortunate that instead of taking the path of dialogues and discussions, the Holy See decided for totalitarian and tough measures to suppress the opposing views, causing a rise of dissent that resulted in the church split.

If the Reformation did not take place, the Lutheran Church would not have existed and we wouldn't be called Lutherans professing the Lutheran articles of faith in Christ. Every year, we commemorate the Reformation and take note of the significance of the event to the Church. This year, Reformation Day falls on a Saturday and the LCS Reformation Day Service is held in Bedok Lutheran Church.

Commemorating the Reformation, we are not worshipping Martin Luther or adulating him as a theologian par excellence. However, we can learn a thing or two from his example of steadfast faith and perseverance for a Godly cause without being cowed by adversity. It is meaningful for us to reflect on the positive changes to the Church scene arising out of the Reformation. Here are a few examples:

- Martin Luther's translation of the Word into German, supported by the advent of the printing press, motivated more and more translation works by other capable servants of God and thus led to the commonness of the Bible in the hands of lay Christians in many languages when once it was only privileged access by clergy in Church.
- Lay Christians with the Word of God in their hands profit spiritually with a better understanding of Scriptural truth and now no longer have to live in perpetual dread of eternal damnation for undiscovered or

overlooked sins if they do not subscribe to the false teaching on indulgences.

- Now, pastors in Protestant churches can get married and have families when once clerical marriage was universally banned.
- Today, the Lutheran creeds and confessions are reflected in the doctrines and practices of protestant churches worldwide despite denominational distinctives.

The above are but a few examples of the consequence of the Reformation. The greatest significance would be felt if we do not take for granted the changes to the Church in 498 years flowing from the impactful event on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1517, a day which is therefore rightly recorded as a historic day for all Christians.

Among other stirrings in the heart of Martin Luther, Rom. 1:17 may be said to be a verse that significantly fanned his spirit to bring the real truth about the Roman Catholic Church's misplaced theology into the open:

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” – Rom. 1:17 (AKJV)

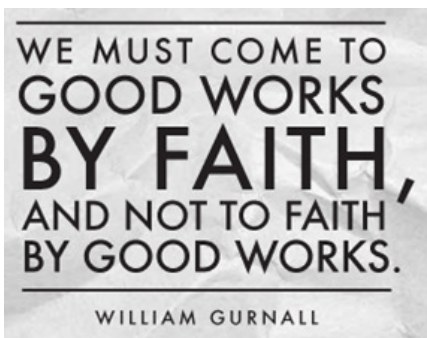
Traditional theological education places Lutheran Theology within the scope of systematic theology. However, Martin Luther was basically a hermeneutical scholar.<sup>1</sup> When he posted his 95 thesis on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, he was already teaching theology in the University of Wittenberg. Interestingly, albeit a Bible scholar, Luther himself also struggled with the Word of God in his personal Bible study; particularly Rom. 1:17 for which he found tremendous restlessness in his spirit to reconcile his doubt, with the meaning of “the righteousness of God” as preached by the Roman Catholic Church. The preaching pointed towards the dreadful prospect of God's punishment upon those who fall short in being actively or ceremoniously moral. The kind of teaching by the Church lent itself to the propagation of the sale of indulgences. Put in an unkind way, the lay Christians were led by their noses to pour out more and more monies to the church by purchasing indulgences.

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<sup>1</sup> The discipline of hermeneutics is a subset of the discipline of systematic theology.

In his study of the verse, Martin Luther scored a breakthrough in his understanding of his faith with his conviction about justification by faith. He later revealed in his writings:

*“But when by God’s grace I pondered, in the tower and heated room of this building, over the words, ‘He who through faith is righteous shall live’ [Rom. 1:17] and ‘the righteousness of God’ [Rom. 3:21], I soon came to the conclusion that if we, as righteous men, ought to live from faith and if the righteousness of God contribute to the salvation of all who believe, then salvation won’t be our merit but God’s mercy. My spirit was thereby cheered. For it’s by the righteousness of God that we’re justified and saved through Christ. These words [which had before terrified me] now became more pleasing to me. The Holy Spirit unveiled the Scriptures for me in this tower.”<sup>2</sup>*



Even a theologian like Martin Luther did not rest on the laurels of his PhD in theology to become spiritually complacent. He took his Bible Study seriously to avail himself of the illumination of truth by the Holy Spirit. It is evident that his diligence in the study of Scripture had a foundational link to the ignition of the Reformation.

This is an example for our emulation, an example of diligence when we struggle with particular verses in Scripture. The Reformation came onto the Church scene by the Bible playing a key role in giving comfort to someone distressed (Martin Luther) and driving the spiritual passion for change – a weighty change! You may not realise it, but one day through your similar diligence like Martin Luther in your scrupulous scrutiny of the Word of God, the Holy Spirit may just unveil some momentous truth to you that will turn your life around, a spark that transforms embers of faith into a roaring fire. You may not effect a church reformation, but you effect a reformation of lives nonetheless.

*John Lee*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.credomag.com/category/martin-luther/>

(The “tower” refers to a certain tower building where Luther was when the revelation of Rom. 1:17 came upon him.)

# It's a Love Story...

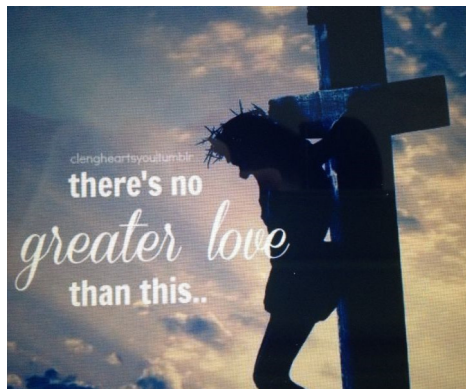
## An old, old story...

How easy it was to forget until a question during a Cell bible study session on "The

Tyranny of the Urgent" struck me. Now as I look back on my earlier experiences with God and the journey from the time I first believed in Jesus, I realize how I would have answered the question – "How would you explain to a friend the basis on which we can be forgiven and reconciled to God?" (Read 2 Cor 5:11 -21)

There is no right or wrong answer to this question. It is always a delight to learn and hear the Word as others share. As I listened to the sharing from the Cell group members, it was heart-warming to know that many would start by introducing Jesus who died for our sins and it is HE who is our Saviour and Lord. Others would have started with sin and how Jesus came and died for us. It is inspiring to reflect on how we came to know of the story – the story that God first loved us.

A classmate back in secondary school once told me that when we are afraid and scared, remember that the Name of Jesus calms our hearts. This statement has stayed with me for so many years since I became a Christian. I am so thankful for her today as she was one of the few friends I had who believed in Jesus who loves us and cares for us. Jesus is our friend and is always there for us. I am glad that the few friends remain faithful and they are still praising God and have been encouraging one another until today. I know because they found me through social media and I am now on their WhatsApp group chat. Give thanks to God!



So how would you have explained to your friend? Would you have started talking about a love story of someone who died for us? And there is no greater love than this as Jesus died on the cross for us. HE died for our sins. HE is the bridge to God for the forgiveness we receive. God so freely gave HIS Son for us and it was HIS Grace that made all this possible; not by our efforts, pleading, tears, works. It is by HIS Grace that is given to us when we neither asked for it nor deserve it.



And so, it was this love story that touched our hearts at one point in time; the love that continues its work through Jesus. It was this love that made its way to my heart through the friends I know, the friends who stayed by me through my secondary school years and have continued to share their love for God through prayers and encouragements from the time they first believed.

I hope to join them in one of their get-together sessions held yearly with songs and prayers bonding us together when we meet. Until then, I know they will continue to tell the story – the old, old story of Jesus' love for us. How would you have told the story?

**Joyce Tan**

18 October 2015



Pray for fine weather and safety for all...



# Biblical advice against oversaving

Oversaving is not saving – just like what a Chinese proverb says that 白马非马 (a white horse is not a horse); or just like over-resting is not resting but sloth, and overeating is not eating but gluttony. In the Bible, there is encouragement on saving but not on oversaving:

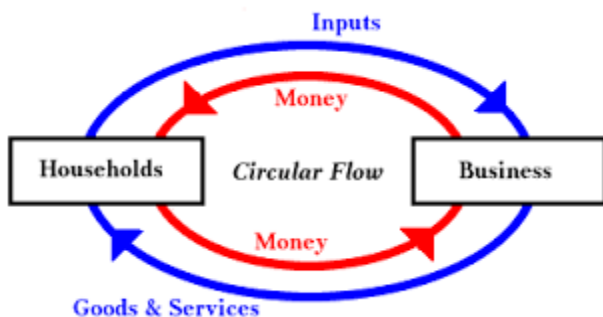
## Proverbs 21:20

- The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down. (NIV)
- Valuables are safe in a wise person's home; fools put it all out for yard sales. (MSG)

Saving is prudential preparation for a rainy day, but oversaving is hoarding that we are warned against:

Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being. (Matt. 6:19-21 MSG)

In the economic sense, money is a measure of value. If you earn \$1000, this amount is the value of the labour you have put in. If you then part with \$50 to pay for some plumbing work, the \$50 is the value of service that the plumber puts in. If you spend \$100 in a restaurant, you are paying the chef and waiting staff and thereby encouraging economic productivity instead of encouraging the relevant persons to stay idle with no jobs. Money is useful only when it is used but not when stored away to depreciate in value or poured down the drain through “ambitious” or “enterprising” (euphemisms for “greedy” and “foolish”) “investments” and “high-finance stakes” (euphemisms for “gambling” and “high-risk wagers”).



Money is useful when it is used properly to stimulate economic productivity and benefit the economy which translates into benefits for humans who yield and distribute useful goods and services as the clean economic wheel of production

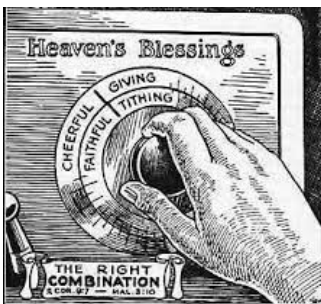
turns on and on. Money is harmful or inefficient if it is used improperly, stored away to indirectly foster economic inactivity (running the clean economic wheel at diminished speed) or for its true value for potential use to be petered out.

A person with large chunks of money stowed away in a bank vault may feel a sense of wealth and security, with the “assurance” that “in case of some contingency, I have the stash of reserves to fall back on.” Alas, it is a fact that many a huge reserve end up being left behind – neither used nor accompanying one to his grave. (Ps. 49:10-12) If the huge reserve is not thereafter squandered by its inheritor, either of the following may happen:

- It is put in action to drive the clean economic wheel by its energy of consistent motion.
- It is amassed from generation to generation in perpetuity without much utility (accumulating potential energy without transforming into kinetic energy that is useful to drive the economic wheel).

There is a concept called FIFO (First In, First Out) in store management. When you store up food as more stocks come in, you try to use up the older stock followed by the later stock. FIFO does not encourage stagnation. It delivers a continual flow action in the store (outgoing for consumption and incoming for replenishment). This is a healthy state, as the food does not rot away or diminish in (nutritional) value and there is always sufficient stock with a continual supply. You have enough for your need, and others also can have enough if there are no big hoarders.

In the case of money management, you store up cash, and there is continual inflow as you continue to work to earn more. However, if everyone just lets the cash flow in ever more with minimal flowing out, what happens? The hoarder of money may enjoy the pleasure of feasting his eyes on his burgeoning store of cash, but the wealth supply is then jammed up at the hoarder’s place.



Money that is secured under the pillows or kept out of sight by being buried in barrels is money lost – The value that is locked in the money diminishes with time. This loss of value in the future is as good a forfeiture of some of the money from today’s useful application.

Investment advisers like to advise people to “make your money work harder for you” by putting money into some financial instruments to grow more money and then ploughing back the money into more instruments to grow even more money and then this approach goes on and on. Instead of the money working for you, it becomes the money working for itself. How does it benefit your life?

It is somewhat incomprehensible to keep on growing the money tree to be admired at a distance when the tree is bearing no fruits like the barren fig tree mentioned in the Gospels. Bearing no fruits means that even though we enjoy seeing the money tree growing and growing, we don't get to touch any fruits that can be utilized to enrich our body.



Not everyone is blessed with good financial husbandry to grow money trees. If you are among the blessed, pray that the trees grown are blessed fruit-bearing ones. As this kind of fruitful husbandry goes on

and on, pray that the blessings extend to the body that gets to be enriched to grow and develop healthily and splendidly to the glory of God.

Money is useful if it is not oversaved by the love of it. (1 Tim. 6:10)

Ecc. 5:10 says, “Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.”

Saving is a good habit to cultivate, but don't confuse this with oversaving.

“Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: “The one who gathered [saved]\* much did not have too much, and the one who gathered [saved]\* little did not have too little.”

– 2 Cor. 8:13-15 (*\*brackets added*)

In the above 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians passage, the advice is still salient if you read it with the word “gathered” replaced by “saved”.

You may have come across the following message that is circulating in cyberspace:

*“When we die, our money remains in the bank... Yet, when we are alive, we don't have enough money to spend. In reality, when we are gone, there is still a lot of money not spent.*

*“It is more important to live longer than to have more wealth.”*

**You'll never be happy if you chase money and stuff all of your life, but you can find true joy through giving and serving others.**



**Successful people are always looking for opportunities to help others. Unsuccessful people are always asking, 'What's in it for me?'**

The Church is a gathering place where money is useful if those who have it in abundance use it to serve the hard-pressed in His body. It is very encouraging to witness Christians in the Church being generous with their wealth as they share their blessings for the building of the Church – the body of Christ – to expand the Kingdom of God to His glory!

*John Lee*

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*When Jesus used the Aramaic term mammon to refer to wealth He was giving it a personal and spiritual character in Matthew 6:24. He personified mammon as a rival god, a spiritual power, an idol that can become infused with demonic energy. He was saying that if we do not gain power over money then money will gain power over us and attract spiritual forces to capture and control our lives. This is why the Apostle Paul could say, “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” The devil knows that followers of Christ will not willingly bow to him but if he can get them to bow down to money he will use it to pull their strings like puppets as he becomes their puppet master.*

*Learn how to be a master over money and wealth and live in God's blessing instead of being a bondage to it. This is a seminar that will transform your perspective.*

**Money and Spiritual Warfare** by David Holdaway  
Saturday, November 14, 2015, 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Consulting Training Centre @04-32  
115A Commonwealth Drive, Singapore, 149596

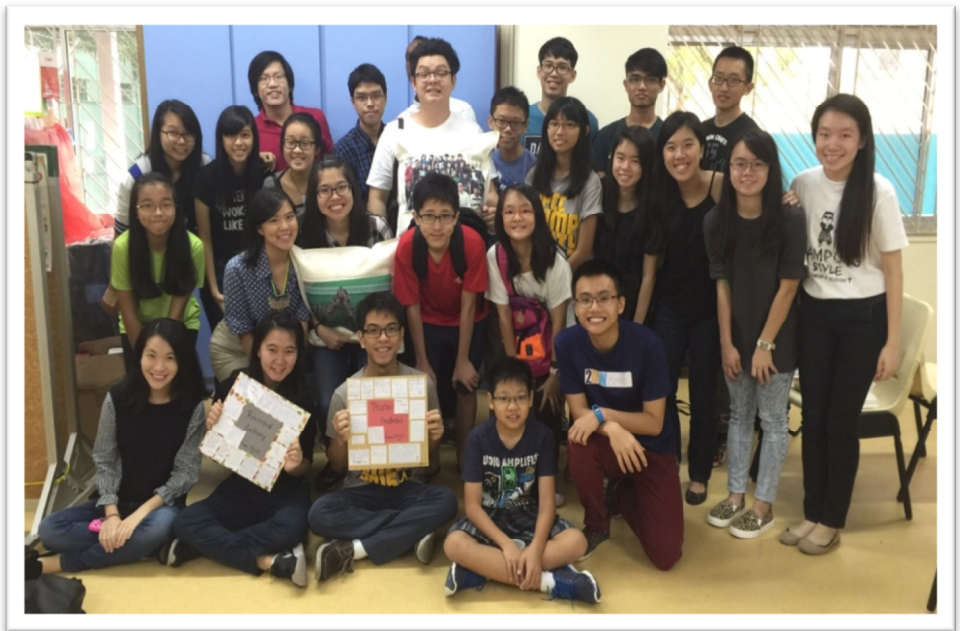
## **Appreciating our Pastors**



The bible has taught the church to honour the ministers & pastors that God has given to us (1 Tim 5:17). October is the month when churches generally mark down as the 'Pastor Appreciation month'. A number of cells groups, (comprising adults, young adults and Kids church/Shine Kids) took the initiative to express their appreciation and say "Thank you" in their own unique way. Some groups had come together to



brainstorm and produce little mementos for our pastors. When you visit our pastors' office the next time, try to spot that specially made gift from the different cell groups. The pictures below are some of the group photos taken for memory sake. We pray that God will bless our Pastors and give them strength and joy as they lead, teach and minister to us in JCC.



*Our Generation Y*





### Generation Z.

*Individual 'thank you' messages from the children*

Let us thank God for our Gen Y and Gen Z in JCC.

Who are they: Age ranges from 11 to 20 years old; have lived their entire life with instant access to mountains of data on any topic. They're technologically savvy and enjoy spending their free time playing or fiddling with video games.



Understanding Gen Y & Z:

1. They must have constant and immediate feedback. Symptom: Please "Like" my facebook post. "C'mon, reply to my Whatsapp msge." The days of leaving a voicemail or shooting off an e-mail and waiting for a reply are long gone. They need information now, and

they have the tools to get it.

2. They would rather communicate in spurts of shorter, but more frequent, bursts of information. – “Now you understand why I need to check my handphone every 5 minutes”.
3. They are digital natives. – “Can’t imagine a world without internet, smartphones, or mp3 music”.
4. They are going to be smarter than the generation that came before them.- “Don’t just tell me information. I can Google it”.

(Reference: How Generation Z works, by Lance Cooper)

Besides Gen Y and Z, the Adults also had some appreciation for the pastors.



Here we have the Abundance CG blessing the pastors abundantly.

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LEFTOVERS?

Matthew 14:15-21

*15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."*

*16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

*17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.*

*18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

The people ate and were satisfied. The apostles made sure that the people ate as much as they wanted until they were full and could not eat any more, after which they began to pack the leftovers. But what did they do with the leftovers? Refrigerators had not been invented yet and even if they had one, there was no electricity in those days. According to AVA standards, the food would have been spoilt within 4 hours.

Also, how do we define leftovers? The Bible described it as broken pieces. By our modern definition, we would call it swill or scraps. Would modern man eat such leftovers? In those days, the poor people do, eg. Lazarus (Luke 16:20), the prodigal son (Luke 15:16) and the Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:27).

I dread to bring back leftovers because except for curry, most foods do not taste as good overnight or maybe because they pick up the smells of the fridge, especially if we stored durians in it. Have you ever tasted the best Tiong Bahru chwee kueh after it had been in the fridge for one night?



So what did the apostles do with the leftovers? The Bible does not record it so I can only guess. There were 12 baskets full so I presume each apostle had one basket to carry back.



Did they have to lug it all the way back to town because they were at a remote place? How could one person eat 1 basketful of broken pieces by himself within a short time?

My guess is that they probably distributed it to nearby villagers on their way so as to lighten their load and also to feed the hungry. I assume that since this food was miraculously manufactured, it did not stale so quickly (although Manna could only last 1 day).

From this incident, we learn that Jesus expected the apostles to provide food for the people, and not just tasting portion but sufficient to fill them up. Jesus also supplies in excess of our need.

However I am not sure if they picked up the leftovers because Jesus wanted to keep the place clean or because He does not waste food. By our Singapore standards we may think that scraps should be picked up and thrown away because we do not have the experience of 3rd world countries where people scavenge for food in the rubbish dumps. The quantity of food wasted in Singapore in a 2011 statistics was 6,898,300 tons in a year.

Let us not miss the whole point of this story by wondering about some missing details. The main point of this story is that God is able to multiply what little we have into a great amount more than we need.

It is not difficult to raise \$50 million if we had 25,000 members; each one needs only to donate \$2000. To raise half that amount (\$25 million) with just 500 members is a far greater miracle because each one needs to give \$50,000. Yet this is the hope we have in a God who is able to multiply our limited resources so that we can have more than we need to feed the multitudes who will come to NJCC and still have plenty left over.

How do we raise the needed money? One idea which Pastor Chye Aik mentioned and prayed for us was that everyone writes down their story. That struck me as a possibility, to compile a book of 500 individual stories and sell it. You don't need to donate money, you just have to write your story – your five loaves and 2 fishes worth. You are a miracle waiting to happen. Are you willing to do just that?

You don't have to write a 1,000-page tome like *Gone With The Wind*, you only need to write 2 pages to be compiled with 500 others, we will have a 1,000 pages novel.

*Martin Cheah*

# Prove to me that God does not exist!

Someone comes to me and says, “There is no God.”

My response is: “Prove to me that there is no God.”

Nobody has ever been able to prove the non-existence of God. Anyone who claims that God does not exist but cannot prove it is at risk of making a huge mistake in his choice of unbelief.

People who do not accept a God-based religion are not necessarily atheists who go out to debunk the existence of God. Some are merely victims of their inertia in being uninterested in finding out the truth. Among them are fence-sitters who follow the flow with the people they are surrounded with. They don’t have the inquiring and courageous mind to explore the truth beyond their comfortable space.

**PASCAL'S WAGER**

	YOU'RE RIGHT!	YOU'RE WRONG!
BELIEF	ETERNAL JOY	NOTHING
ATHEISM	NOTHING	ETERNAL SUFFERING

What you believe matters a lot to your conduct in life and your eternal future. Ignorance is not bliss because it has its positive or negative consequences!

Some people cannot state clearly their position about God because they “don’t want to believe” rather than “don’t believe”.

Unlike those who cannot state a convincing basis of their unbelief in God, Christians can muster enough evidence to support their belief in God. Here you can find 20 arguments for the existence of God:

[http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics-more/20\\_arguments-gods-existence.htm](http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics-more/20_arguments-gods-existence.htm)

We don’t need all the 20 arguments to convince any unbeliever of God that there is a serious basis to investigate the truth. Those who are interested enough to study the evidence and bring their logical minds to a debate with themselves through various perspectives of reasoning will come to realise that there is “some truth” lying somewhere that is inexorably beyond the grasp of mere intellect.

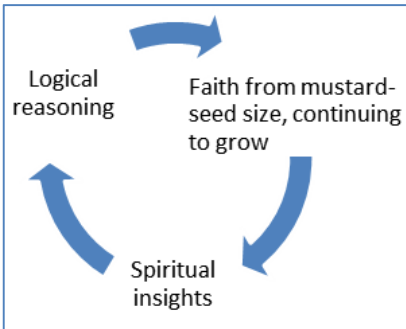
Applying the logical mind to the debate is obviously not the be-all and end-all of an effort to discover what the truth is. Just like a tiny spark starting a prairie

fire, a faith as small as a mustard seed makes an essential catalyst for one to make progress in his search for the truth.

*"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." – Heb. 11:6*

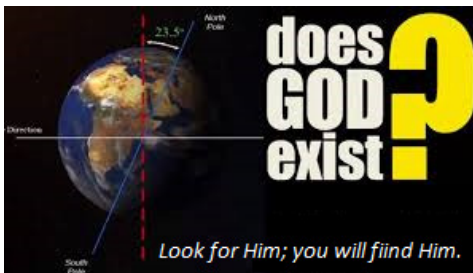
In John 20:9, Jesus asked this question:

*"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*



Do not make the great mistake of wanting to depend on logical faculty alone to discover God. While logical reasoning has its place and time, it will not work without the spark of faith as a catalyst and vehicle for logic to progress on its course. Along the journey, spiritual insights kindled in our soul contribute to the growth of the mustard seed size of faith. There arises the experiential

validation of God's existence that our rational mind is also able to comprehend. However, we no longer obsess with rational arguments exclusively to cement our belief in God; because we know that such exclusivity of logic without the foundation of faith will lead us nowhere.



*"But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes*

*as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. So nobody has a good excuse." – Rom. 1:19-20 (MSG)*

*John Lee*

# 齐心筹款 Fund-Raising Golden Classics Night 金曲夜

More photos: <https://youtu.be/q7Oui5t8uXc>

