

THE WINEPRESS

O taste and see that God is good



Photo credit: Wallpaper Cave

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PRAYER FOCUS FOR DECEMBER

What should you pray for in this brand new month?

Seek the Lord in your journey of stewardship with God and for David and Goliath Preschool.

Prayer pointers can be found on the next page.

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PRAYER FOCUS FOR DECEMBER

1) We celebrate Christ the King Sunday on Nov 21 and have entered the Advent Season on Nov 28:

- May we remain steadfast in following Jesus as the King of our lives even when we are dealing with difficult situations.
- We will be active forerunners for Christ, proclaiming the message of the Gospel and of Christ's returning as prophesied in Scripture.
- We also pray for the salvation of our loved ones and our neighbours as the Holy Spirit speaks into their hearts and enlighten them with the hope found in Christ.

2) David & Goliath Preschool:

- May God favour us with a good response to our fundraising for the DGP bursary programme.
- We seek God's blessings for a fully successful recruitment drive with 100% registrations.

3) Cell ministry:

We pray that JCCians will actively engage with one another in the Cell Groups – meeting regularly, staying together, praying together, and encouraging one another to grow together.



Our brother Chih Chiang and his wife, Bee, will be leaving Singapore for Central Thailand on 24th November (after almost a year's wait). They will be there on a one-year stint to bring the Good News to university students. It is a move out of their comfort zone to go to a country where there is less than 1% Christians.

This reminds me of a story of 2 shoes salesmen who are assigned to an African market. After an initial survey, one salesman said that it is not possible to sell shoes there because most of the people are not wearing shoes. The other salesman came back with

the good news that there is a big market for shoes because most of the people don't have shoes...

Surely, Chih Chiang and Bee will have mixed feelings about leaving home but they will have a very big opportunity to make friends and meet new contacts that maybe they may forget their Singapore home in their new adventure.

Pray for safe journey, protection from COVID-19, travel documentations in order and Chih Chiang's adapting to a new environment and language.



BEACONS OF THE ADVENT SEASON

BY REV ANTHONY LOH

What is advent?

As I contemplate Advent, three beacons from the Bible throw light on some important truths.

THE FIRST BEACON comes from Mark 13 and Matthew 24, and it illuminates the certainty about the end of time, which will be marked by many signs. There will be a rise of false messiahs, wars and natural disasters, increasing intensity of persecutions, etc. culminating in the great tribulation followed by Christ's return in power and glory.

Matthew likens it to the time before the flood in the days of Noah. People were just getting on with their lives, eating, drinking, getting married and then, suddenly – the rains came, and everyone drowned. That's how it will be with the end of time, says Jesus. We do not know when or how, but we need to be ready.

Early Christians lived each day as it came, with the expectation that the world would end at any time. They waited expectantly for Christ to return. Today, we too do not know the exact day the end of the world will come; but we have a responsibility to live each day for God whilst waiting expectantly for Christ's return.

THE SECOND BEACON comes from John the Baptist who, as an adult, lived a solitary life in the desert until he began to preach. In preparing the way for the Lord, he confronted the people with their need to repent to be forgiven of their sins – “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (John 3:2)

In our Advent reflection, we can sense a salient message from John the Baptist. Identifying himself as the forerunner of the Messiah, his preaching of repentance carries a vision of judgment closely associated with the kingdom of heaven, with destruction for the ungodly:

“His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Mt 3:12)

It is relevant also to note what Luke 3:9 says, “The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

John the Baptist points people to Jesus. Our waiting for Christ's coming again is a time of preparation to be among the saved when we meet the promised Messiah, the Saviour of the world.

continued on the next page

THE THIRD BEACON draws our attention to Mary and Joseph before Christmas. They were just an ordinary couple, not yet married. Both received a message from an angel that Mary would give birth to a son to be named Jesus because He will save people from their sins. (Ref. Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25)

Thus, something extraordinary could, and did, happen upon the ordinary, and quite unexpectedly. Yet, the birth of Jesus was to be expected as it was predicted by the prophets. "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law," (Gal 4:4) so the only thing unexpected about it was the timing.



EXHORTATION TO WATCHFULNESS

Advent is usually thought of as a journey to Christmas which we anticipate with expectant hearts. It is a time of preparation for celebrating the coming of God into the world in human form in the person of Jesus Christ.

More than that, Advent is an invitation to wait on God with watchfulness. (Study: "Parable of the fig tree" in Matthew 24:32-35, Mark 13:28-31.)

In the first Advent (Jesus' birth - embracing humility), the expected event happened at an unexpected set time as people were waiting.

The second Advent (Christ's return - in power and glory) will also happen as predicted. However, will the waiting people be caught by surprise when the set time fully comes?

Advent begins a New Year by the Church calendar. The three beacons of light inspire a fresh New Year wish that people will find Jesus this Christmas, and those who have found Him will be ready for His second coming.



TWO EAGLES AND A VINE: A MESSIANIC PROPHECY

BY JOHN LEE

Advent season 2021 begins this month (Sunday, Nov 28).

Related to the season is the word which the LORD gave to the prophet Ezekiel saying, "Son of man, pose a riddle, and speak a parable to the house of Israel ..." (Eze 17:2 NKJV)

Parables and riddles add to the learning of the wise and give guidance to the discerning. (Prov 1:5-6)

EXPLANATION OF THE RIDDLE-CUM-PARABLE

Clues to the riddle are in the passage itself. I refer to Eze 17 (NKJV):

There was a great eagle with features indicating swiftness and great strength. The eagle came to Lebanon and carried the topmost young twig to a land of trade. (vv 3-4)



Explanation (Ref. v12) – Biblical Lebanon is a symbol of Jerusalem, and the land of trade refers to Babylon. Great eagle represents the powerful king of Babylon; i.e., Nebuchadnezzar; who went to Jerusalem and took its king and princes to Babylon.

The eagle took some of the seed of the land and planted it in fertile field so that it became a spreading vine of low stature with branches turned toward him but its roots under it. (vv5-6)

Explanation (Ref. vv13-14) – The seed of the land [Judah] refers to the king’s offspring; i.e., Zedekiah. With the appointment of Zedekiah as the new king of a remnant of fertile Judah under a covenant and oath with Babylon, Judah became a land of low stature (turning towards Nebuchadnezzar; i.e., kowtowing to him), a vassal state of Babylon.

There was another great eagle. (v 7)

Explanation (v15) – Judah turned to the second eagle (i.e., powerful Egypt) for assistance to rebel against Babylon. He would have to face the consequences for breaking a covenant.

“As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘surely in the place where the king dwells who made him king, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke—with him in the midst of Babylon he shall die.’ (v 16)

Explanation (v16) – Zedekiah had sworn an oath to God in his covenant with Nebuchadnezzar. His breaking of oath and covenant was a serious transgression against God. The second eagle could not save him. He was finally imprisoned in Babylon until his death. (Jer 52:11)

JUST PUNISHMENT FOR SIN

Zedekiah “rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel.” (2 Chron 36:13)

Zedekiah despised the oath by breaking the covenant. (Eze 17:18) He had to pay a heavy price.



(Eze 17:19-21) His unfaithfulness led to the demise of both himself and Judah. His attempt to seek political alliance with Egypt (the second eagle) could not save himself and his kingdom. (Zedekiah was the last king of Judah.)

In fact, in 3 chapters of Ezekiel, the prophet delivers 3 parables to convict Israel of her sin. The other 2 parables are “Parable of the Useless Vine” (Eze 15:1-8) and “Parable of the Spiritual Adultery of Israel.” (Eze 16:1-14)

God’s punishment of Zedekiah and Judah carries the following truths:

- “The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.” (Ps 92:12)
- Conversely, God can easily extirpate an iniquitous leader and a whole kingdom. (Jer 52:2-3)

continued on the next page

FUTURE HOPE: ADVENT OF CHRIST

Despite God's just punishment for sin, Israel will be restored to glory after the proud is humbled.

Eze 17:22-24 (NKJV) carries this uplifting heading: "**Israel Exalted at Last.**"

According to TLSB:

- This is "A messianic prophecy spoken to a descendant of David, to whom the prophet Nathan promised an everlasting kingdom (2 Sam 7)."
- In the parable, "Nebuchadnezzar is figuratively described as breaking the top twigs (i.e., Jehoiachin, the legitimate king and of Davidic descent), so in the messianic era the Lord God will do something comparable (although on a vastly higher plane)."

Jesus Christ the Messiah (who is a greater Son of

David) will reign over all Israel and all the earth as the Ultimate King. (cf Dan 2:44-45)

BEYOND CHRISTMAS

In our Advent celebration of hope, Christmas comes to mind – the arrival of baby Jesus in Bethlehem, the ancient city of David! However, beyond Christmas, there is still the 2nd Advent for Christians to look forward to:

"The Lord Jesus Christ whom we exalt at Christmas is not just a baby in a manger. He is not a character in a children's story. He is far more. The first time he came, he came veiled in the form of a child. The next time he comes, and we believe it will be soon, he will come unveiled, and it will be abundantly and immediately clear to all the world just who he really is." (Excerpted from Sermon Central.)



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER WINEPRESS QUIZ

(BRIEF FACTS ABOUT THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION)

1. In the German town WITTENBERG, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of the CASTLE CHURCH on 31 October 1517.
2. He challenged the idea that money could be used to buy PARDONS from God's punishment.
3. The theses were intended as a call for PUBLIC DEBATE.
4. Instead, the theses spread across Germany as a call to REFORM and a CHALLENGE to the AUTHORITY of the pope.
5. As a result of Luther's refusal to recant his writings, the Roman Emperor declared him an OUTLAW and a HERETIC.
6. The word "Protestantism" derived from the original "Protestatio" which was a statement of 5 German princes in support of Martin Luther.
7. The date 31 October 1517 has become symbolic in Church history as the day that the PROTESTANT REFORMATION started.
8. Luther wrote the hymn, A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD, which is based on PSALM 46.



"BE HUMBLE" VS. "BE HUMBLED"

BY JOHN LEE

It is a quirk of the English Language that a word can have different connotations (positive and negative). Think about the following:

- A manager with oversight of a project missed out an important detail because of his oversight.
- His office directly overlooks the worksite and yet he overlooks an obvious safety shortcoming.

Sometimes, contradictory meanings are not inherent in a word according to dictionary definitions but are simply created by people's abuse in its usage. An example of this is in the usage of the word "humbled".

Normally, when one thinks of a person being humbled, the thought is that the person is being lowered in status. Yet, one commonly hears an award recipient say "I am humbled" while gladly soaking in the accolade with big smiles. Therein is a glaring contradiction between the well-deserved and evident pride of achievement (in accepting the honour) and the apparently disingenuous appearance of taking an undeserving low view of oneself ("I am humbled ...").

The expression "I am humbled" is in common use outside of the dictionary meaning. With this understanding, I am not questioning the motivation of the person using the expression in a polite show of modesty in accord with prevalent culture. Nevertheless, it is still a misappropriation of the word "humbled" in a usage that does not reflect what it really means.

As Christians, what do we understand about the word "**humbled**" as we come across them in the Bible? Is there anything more than what the dictionary tells us?

Jesus said to His disciples, "'For those who exalt themselves will be **humbled**, and those who **humble** themselves will be exalted.'" (Mt 23:12; also, Lk 14:11; 18:14)

The message of the Lord is also to us that we either choose to **Be Humble** or **Be Humbled**.

We can use the following encouragement to Be Humble:

It is certainly more blessed to Be Humble and lifted up than to Be Humbled in ignominy.

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (Ja 4:10)

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Pet 5:6)

It is right that we do not extol ourselves (expressly or implicitly). "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." (Ja 4:6b)

While humility is often thought of as not holding oneself as superior to others, the inspiration for this attitude between people derives from us being firstly humble before God.

Prov 22:4 tells us, "Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life."

It is wisdom's instruction. (Prov 15:33)

As we humble ourselves before God, we are then conferred our blessings; and our arrogance before people naturally dissolves.

Would you rather be humble than be humbled?

THE ALPHA TO THE OMEGA

BY SAMUEL CHONG



AΩ

Introduction

Through this series, we hope to bring readers through the history of Christianity using the 26 letters of the English alphabet.

Each letter will feature a person/ place/ event/ item that helps us better understand the Bible, the history of the Church until today and how our lives

have been impacted.

We hope that you will have a better appreciation of the historical context surrounding biblical events and those thereafter, and see how God moves throughout history – His Story.

E

is for...

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many (1 Corinthians 12:14).



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

What is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the largest Lutheran body in the United States. As of 2019, it has approximately 3.3 million baptised members in 8,972 congregations, making up about 1% of the US population. The ELCA was also responsible for pioneering Lutheran churches in Singapore and Malaysia.

Background: *E pluribus unum* – Out of many, one

In the wake of the Reformation (1517), Lutheranism spread across Germany and other parts of Europe, becoming especially entrenched in Scandinavia (e.g. Denmark, Finland).

Across the Atlantic Ocean about a century later, the English established their first colony in America in

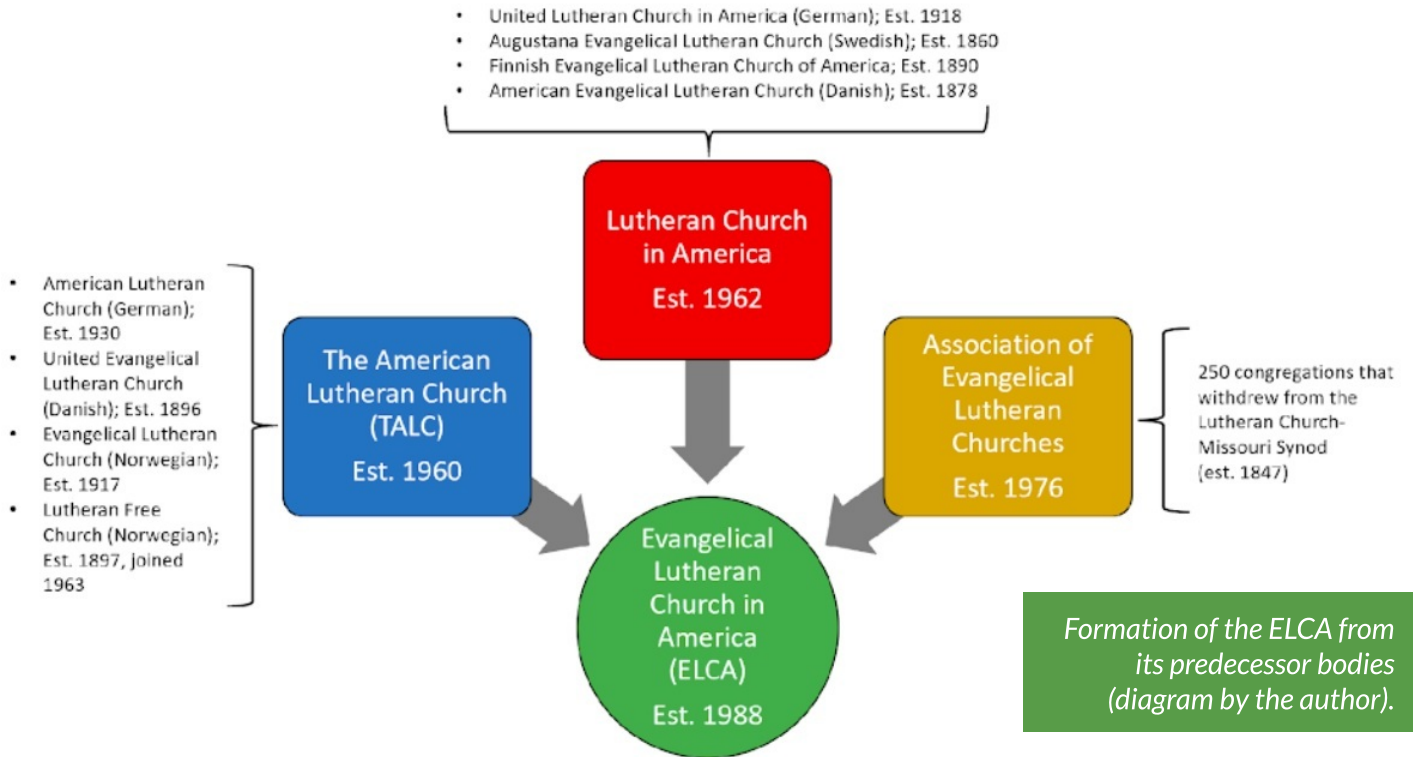
1607. When news of the bountiful land reached Europe, this sparked successive waves of immigration to British North America. Some of these immigrants hailed from Germany and Scandinavia and brought Lutheranism with them.

The early American Lutheran churches were formed on national/ethnic lines. For example, Danish Lutheran immigrants would form Danish Lutheran churches with services conducted in Danish.

Over time, the national or ethnic identification of church associations lessened as descendants of immigrants became more assimilated into the general American society. Ethnic Lutheran congregations started to have more in common with each other based on geographical location. The shift in emphasis to regional association gave rise to church bodies like the American Lutheran Church (est. 1960), a merger of various congregations of German, Danish, and Norwegian heritage in the Midwest (e.g. Minnesota, Michigan).

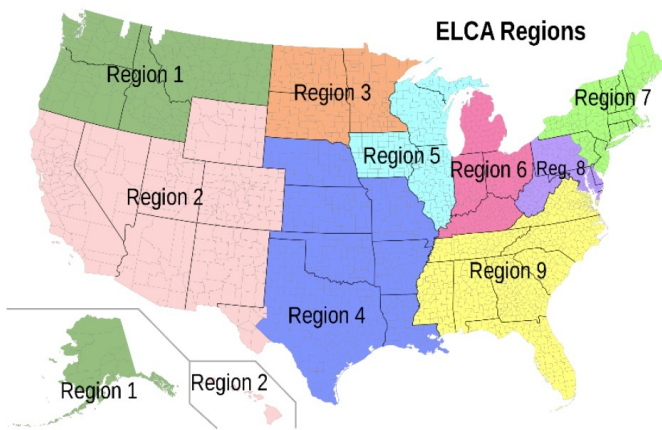
On 1 January 1988, the ELCA was officially formed by the merging of three Lutheran church bodies: the American Lutheran Church (ALC), Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC). As mentioned earlier, the ALC and LCA were themselves products of earlier mergers. These successive mergers made the ELCA the largest Lutheran church body in the USA and remains so today.

continued on the next page



Organisation

The ELCA consists of 65 synods (i.e. assemblies) which are grouped into 9 regional offices. Each synod is headed by an elected bishop. The ELCA also has congregations in the Caribbean (e.g. The Bahamas).



Map of the 9 ELCA regions. Caribbean congregations fall under Region 9.

On the national level, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly is formed from elected lay and ordained voting members. The Churchwide Assembly elects the ELCA's top leadership, including the Presiding Bishop, who is elected for a six-year term.

Ecumenical Relations

The ELCA maintains full communion (i.e. services and sacraments can be shared among congregants or clergy with the full approval of each) with other member churches of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), which includes Singapore. Within the USA, it has full communion with the Episcopal (i.e. Anglican) Church and official relationships with others like the United Methodist Church.

The Other Lutherans

The ELCA, despite its prominence, is not the only Lutheran body in the US. With over 1.8 million members in 2020, the second-largest American Lutheran body is the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), which was formed in 1847 by German immigrants settling in Missouri. The LCMS is not in official communion with the ELCA due to various theological differences such as female ordination. The third-largest Lutheran body in the US is the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) with about 350,000 members in 2020. Even more theologically conservative than the LCMS, the WELS is also not in communion with the ELCA.

The First Lutheran Church in Singapore

The ELCA's work had impact beyond America, playing a key role in the laying of the foundations for

the Lutheran Church in Singapore. While Tamil, Batak (an ethnic group from northern Sumatra), and Chinese Lutherans were already present in Malaya before the 1960s, it was the United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA, a predecessor member body of the ELCA) that initiated the first American Lutheran Mission to Malaya. These efforts led to the first Lutheran church building in Singapore built at Duke's Road in March 1960 together with the Tamil and Batak congregations. Reverend John R. Nelson, who was sent by the ULCA and served as pastor of the Lutheran Church in Kuala Lumpur, conducted the opening ceremony [1]. This church still stands today as the Lutheran Church of our Redeemer. This was soon followed by a congregation in Queenstown (1963) and Jurong (1967). Reverend Nelson also served as JCC's pastor in its early years.

The ELCA also contributed faculty members to Trinity Theological College – a collaborative effort between Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, and Presbyterians for theological training.

Acknowledgement:

All information and images taken from the respective Wikipedia pages unless otherwise stated.

[1] "Opening ceremony," Singapore Free Press, 7 March 1960, pg 7, NewspaperSG.

[2] LCS's positions can be found on the LCS website.

While being in full communion with the ELCA and grateful for its support all these years, the Lutheran Church in Singapore has nonetheless defined its own positions on theological issues that differ from that of the ELCA [2].

The ELCA in Church and JCC History

The ELCA's own history bears testament to the development of the church in America and its impact around the world. It shows how churches were built on national/linguistic lines but eventually came together to form larger church bodies. The ELCA's existence among other Lutheran bodies in America also exemplifies the loose organisational structure within Lutheranism.

Do you know that JCC was pioneered by ELCA missionaries? We are the beneficiaries of their missionary activity, and we can do the same to plant churches in other parts of the world.

Let's see what you remember!

Click on the Luther Rose to access a short quiz.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship reminds us to COUNT our blessings that the Lord has showered upon us; LIVING our lives with hearts of thanksgiving; READY to serve the Lord with gladness and with passion and to GIVE our faith tithe/pledge for the works of His Kingdom.

Let us take time to ponder on this faith journey that the Lord has led us and is bringing us into a new season in 2022.

[SUBMIT MY PLEDGE >>](#)





ADDICTED TO ELECTRONICS

BY MARTIN CHEAH

One definition of addiction from Merriam Webster is *an unusually great interest in something or a need to do or have something*. Are Christians addicted to the Holy Bible? I wish they were but only a rare few are.

Almost every Christian has the Bible on their smartphones but when asked, the usual answer is: "I rather read the book version", which means they don't read it on the phone, I guess. So why are most people staring at their phones in all places and at all times, walking on the road, in the bus or MRT, dining or even in the cinema.

In the past, it was the radio, then the television, then the computer but today, it is the smartphone. Do you realize that the smartphone is a very addictive tool? It combines radio, television and computer in one device. I think only old people or those without a smartphone have immunity. Or maybe they haven't moved from the television era.

Test yourself from this shortened checklist extracted from "Signs of WhatsApp Addiction and How to Overcome it - Tech Spirited".



SIGNS OF WHATSAPP ADDICTION

1. You keep banging into walls, doors, people every once in a while, because you just can't seem to take your eyes off your phone even while walking or traveling.
2. If you hear a WhatsApp notification when, in reality, you haven't got any; you're definitely getting addicted to it.
3. The first thing you want to see when you open your eyes in the morning is your phone, rather than the face of your spouse.
4. Out with friends, but you're busy clicking selfies and groupies rather than catching up.
5. WhatsApp is your number one way of procrastinating, irrespective of the amount of work you have pending.



Another obvious sign is when everything that happens in your life—big or small—becomes your WhatsApp status. Just like any addiction, you need to accept that you've become a WhatsApp addict to overcome this addiction. You'll also need a lot of self-control and some distractions to help you achieve your attainable goal.

HOW TO OVERCOME WHATSAPP ADDICTION

1. If you really want to say something to someone, do it face-to-face where the person can see your true emotions and not via a status or a text.
2. Set yourself free of boredom! Nurture your love for something rather than sitting somewhere with your eyeballs glued to your phones.
3. Fight the urge, try to check your phone once in an hour rather than every five minutes.
4. Prioritize! Do what needs to be done first and do it well once you've ticked everything off your to-do-list, only then you can go back to your smartphone.
5. Remove the WhatsApp icon from your main screen. This will help you to fight the urge to click on it every time you check your phone.
6. Just because you have unlimited Internet plan doesn't mean you forward everything possible. Believe it or not, people who have other things to do don't need you spamming their phone.
7. Instead of staying updated of what's going on in everyone's life, try staying in touch with those who really care about you, call them every now and then.

*"For you are a slave to whatever controls you."
- 2 Peter 2:19(NLT)*



A CCEPT GOD & HIS WORD AS THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN YOUR LIFE

"Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other." (Deuteronomy 4:39 NIV)

In our lives, Jesus is Lord of all or He is not Lord at all. God's Word is the absolute truth. There is no grey zone. This is something that we need to settle in our heart, mind and spirit once and for all. Otherwise, we will always be wavering in our faith. He has a plan for each of us, plans for good and not for evil, to live an abundant life in Christ. We simply need to claim it as His beloved children. The Word is inspired by God. It gives life and is good for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. If we want to truly enjoy His abundance and see His power in action in our life situations, take the step now to accept Him and His Word as the final authority and absolute truth for our lives. There is no other way to experience fullness of life in Christ.

What does God's Word say about this?

- You shall have no foreign god among you; you shall not worship any god other than me. Psalms 81:9 (NIV)
- Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Matthew 24:35 (NIV)
- Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? Romans 6:16 (NIV)

What does this mean for practical living?

God's Word is eternal. We must let God's Word rule our lives. He demands our absolute worship and obedience. His Word is to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. When we accept God and His Word as the final authority of our lives, it means that we will follow Him and obey Him, regardless. We must seek His counsel. He must have the final say.

There will be many occasions in daily living when we are challenged to decide whom to obey:

- God or man?
- God or money?
- God or our selfish ambitions?
- God or our sinful passions?

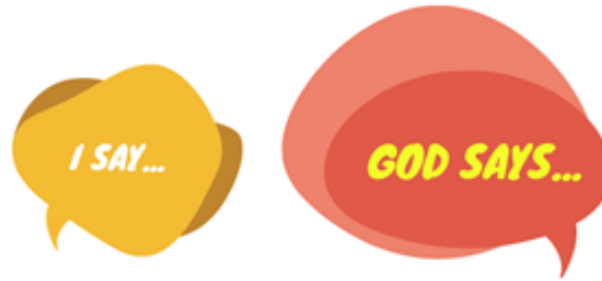
We must purposefully choose to pause and ask: **"What does God say about this?"** And when we have heard him, whether through His Word, through godly counsel, through dreams and visions, through His still small voice or even through His audible voice, we must obey without delay.

Remember that when acting on God's Word, we are backed by the highest and greatest authority in heaven, on earth and under the earth.

Reflect and respond to God's Word

1. What considerations affect your ultimate decisions and choices in daily living?
2. What are your reasons for not fully submitting to God's Word and His authority?
3. Identify 1 area of your life where you need to submit to what God has been saying to you. Act upon it now.

OPEN TALK WITH GOD



By Bryan Tay

Dear Lord,

I know that I have committed some terrible sins in my life that made You very angry. I have confessed them and asked You for forgiveness. But looking at my current life circumstances, things are not going well. I feel like I am still being punished for my sins. Is this true? If You have forgiven me, how come things are still the same?

Are you sure you have forgiven me?

My precious child,

My Word is Truth. I cannot and do not lie. If you have repented and confessed your sins, you have been forgiven. I do not deal with you according to your sins, but according to My love, compassion and mercies towards you. I know every detail that happens in your life. If I did not plan it, I have certainly allowed it to happen for your good.

I will remember your sins no more.

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE ANGRY WITH ME?

...

- 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
- 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;
- 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
- 14 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

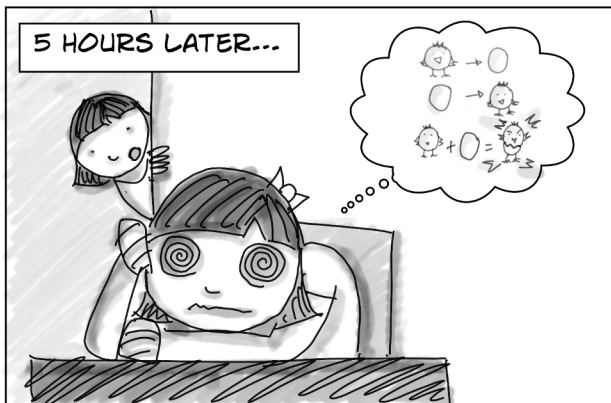
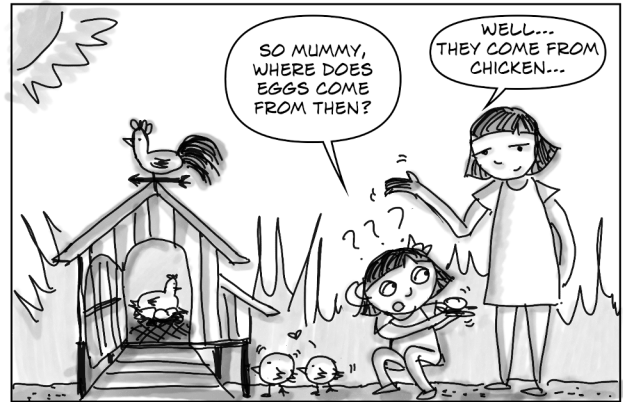
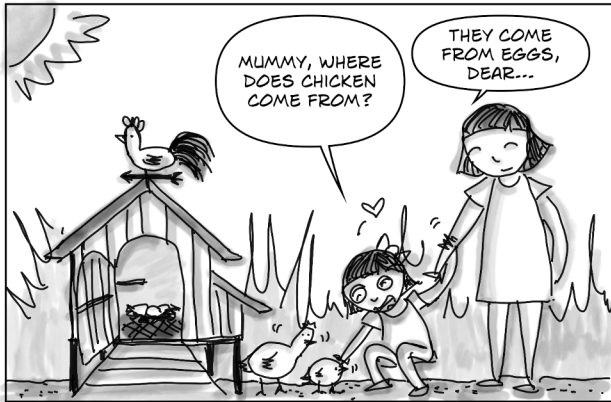
- Psalm 103:8-14 (NIV)

If you are not disciplined – and everyone undergoes discipline – then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

- Hebrew 12: 8



The Real Truth. BY JUDY OH



© J. OHX

Genesis 1:21,23 (KJV)

"And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day."

"The chicken or the egg causality dilemma is commonly stated as the question, "which came first: the chicken or the egg?" The dilemma stems from the observation that all chickens hatch from eggs and all chicken eggs are laid by chickens. "Chicken-and-egg" is a metaphoric adjective describing situations where it is not clear which of two events should be considered the cause and which should be considered the effect..." (Source: Wikipedia)

The world struggles with this question of the "chicken or the egg" because they do not believe in a Creator God. In Genesis, it is stated that on the 5th day, God created all the fishes and birds. God

is a very intelligent Creator whose creation comes with built-in reproduction capabilities. You can see even in nature in the Water Cycle, Nitrogen Cycle, Carbon Cycle, Rock Cycle and others.

So ultimately, it was the eternal God who created the chicken with the ability to lay eggs which in turn gives birth to chickens. According to University of Melbourne, scientists used a super computer to apply a computing tool called meta dynamics to 'zoom' in on the egg as it forms. They found chicken eggs are formed using a protein found in chicken's ovaries which acts as a catalyst speeding up development of the shell, and is vital for shell production.

Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

16 For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.



REFORMATION DAY

BY MARTIN CHEAH



OCTOBER 31ST, 2021 - This year's Reformation Day service held in Jurong Christian Church was Bishop Lu's first combined service as bishop. His message for the day was "The Truth Will Set You Free" (watch the Reformation Day sermon here).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the capacity of the Sanctuary was only half filled by the 6 Lutheran churches in the reserved lots.

The highlight of the celebration was Queenstown Lutheran Church's Pastor Sarah Ang's ordination during the service.

On a side note, English Council Chairman, Wong Mui mentioned that this was the first time in his life that he was dressed like this.



Pastor Sarah standing 3rd from left, with her family as a show of support, and kneeling during the ordination process (above image).