



The eScroll

The Electronic Newsletter of Christ Church, Noida & Greater Noida, Diocese of Delhi, CNI



The Editorial Team: Anand Peter, John Solomon, Christy Franklin & Kamna Cowasjee

Farewell Message By Brig. Rajiv Williams, Secretary, Pastorate Committee, Christ Church, Noida

With a deep sense of gratitude and praise, on behalf of Christ Church NOIDA, and Christ Church Greater NOIDA, I wish The Revd. Sunil Ghazan and Mrs Saroj Ghazan the very best as they move on transfer to St. Martin's Church, Delhi Cantonment. While memories of their stay with us will remind us of their love, commitment and sincerity of purpose, which they amply displayed throughout their not so long a stint at NOIDA, yet we realize that God uses His people in different and wonderful ways. Two years at CCN certainly seem rather short a stay as compared to his predecessors, who spent seven years and more with us. However, we also need to acknowledge and ponder over his stay and the importance of his move. Revd. Sunil initiated several physical and spiritual changes in our Church during his short term.

On the physical side, he re-designed the Altar, created an independent office for the Pastor and added a conference cum meeting room. He further constructed an additional toilet block adjacent to the Parish Hall on the first floor and other cosmetic changes he brought into the Church buildings at both NOIDA and Greater NOIDA. Revd. Sunil introduced new programs and started separate services in Hindi and English on special occasions like Easter and Christmas. His initiative saw the publication of CCN History with the title 'Down Memory Lane' as a book. The Revd. affixed projection systems on the walls, where hymns and prayers are being displayed and such an initiative has positively increased member participation in the service. He always encouraged various Groups of the Church to grow spiritually and during the lockdown period, Revd. Sunil, with the help of the Youth Group members, upgraded technological skills, which are essential pre-requisites to conduct e-services. He became proficient in the usage of social media and regularly sent his special message at the stroke of the midnight hour. Hence, we are grateful to the Pastor for bringing in the necessary physical and spiritual change.

It is equally important for us to acknowledge and respect the decision of the Diocese of Delhi as he now moves to another Church and to another congregation, which will be blessed in equal measure and more. Besides what has been stated, I would like to remind all that Diocese has elected him as Secretary Delhi Diocese, which again is a coveted post and is a matter of honour not only for him as an individual but also for us congregants of CCN and CCGN. Hence just to wrap up, I once again reiterate that the two years Revd. Sunil and Mrs Saroj Ghazan spent with us have been very significant in our history and a blessing to our Church. The number two itself is a symbol of a strong Union and a bond, which he established between him and the congregation. The number 2 also reflects upon a Biblical representation of the Old and New Testament.

Thank you, Revd. Sunil and Mrs Saroj Ghazan for all you have done for us and we wish you God speed and all success in your onward journey. God bless.



Given the never-before kind of helpless state the world is passing through, because of a mysterious microscopic virus called COVID -19, which has thrown our lives out of gear, we need to pause and ask if God wants us to live differently. The pattern of lifestyle we got accustomed to is no more feasible. Is a new norm evolving around us? All of us should think through these questions, prayerfully, and seek answers from Jesus. **(Anand Peter)**

Are we heading towards new norms?

The primary, but the most critical questions before us today are, after Jesus endured the inhuman torture, got nailed to the cross, died for our redemption and resurrected on the 3rd day, how come we are not in Heaven yet? How come we are left to face, seemingly, insurmountable problems in our lives and almost all others in this world?

The Old Testament tells us that from the time man fell from the grace of God, He had given humanity millions of chances to turn around, but we did not heed. He chose Israelites as His special task force and walked with them to the promised land. Gave them the Law through Moses so that they have a clearer vision of His Will. They failed Him and when the time came, He incarnated in the Person of Jesus Christ and you know the events narrated in the New Testament quite well.

Going back to the question I raised, I suspect that Jesus has given us a long rope, but merciful as He is, He gave us His resident Spirit to seek guidance from. But tragically, what Jesus taught us in 3 years we did not learn and practice in 2020 years. Is it then a small wonder that the whole world is now in a quandary? Jesus seems to be saying, 'enough is enough.'

The double tragedy is that we continue to go back to what we understand as normal. The second question for us, therefore, is what we consider as normal is the norm anymore? If that was so, God would not have put us through this test. Speaking of the test or refinement in fire like gold, there are several verses in the Bible one can quote. In 1 Peter 1:17 we read "that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ," Our trials, struggles, and persecutions refine our faith, re-creating us as new creatures to be useful to God.

Something Jesus spoke 2020 years ago rings a bell. Matthew reports Him as saying in 12:28, "surely the kingdom of God has come upon you."; Luke reports Jesus in 17:21 "For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." Connecting our present afflictions, the fact that after 2020 years we are still there where we were and all the beautiful teachings of Jesus, one wonder what we should be doing about it.

The debate rages whether we should quickly go back to the corporate worship congregating in Churches, temples, mosques, synagogues and so on. Some say yes, but not those who are under 10 years and over 60 years. That is no new norm, cutting the root and the fruit. I am not demeaning the people in-between. We rushed to the aid of technology and the result was technologically superior virtual worship, but in doing that we stuck to the old norm of the order of worship. Jesus, as He did 2020 years ago in the Jerusalem Temple, had driven us away from the churches, not to replicate, adamantly, what we used to do in the past. He has disbanded the seminaries in the West, and they have gone online within a span of 15 to 20 days, giving more elbow room for the future ministers to think on their own.

We need to diligently seek the new norm; Jesus wants us to adopt. It is there in the Bible which is like a vast field with hidden treasures. Let us drop our self-help philosophies like hot potatoes, and go back to the drawing board, the Bible. Let the sermons become a true form of teaching and collective deliberations by making it interactive. I am sure our young enterprising techno-savvy generation can figure that out if we stop breathing down their necks. May God bless all of us. Amen

Welcome Message

By Brig. Rajiv Williams, Hony. Secretary PC, CHRIST CHURCH NOIDA

On behalf of both the congregations of Christ Church NOIDA (CCN) and CCN Greater NOIDA (CCGN), I welcome The Revd. Sandeep David, Associate Presbyterian CCN as the Presbyterian-In-Charge CCN.

It is indeed an honour and privilege to have our Associate Presbyterian take charge of CCN and its Branch, CC GN. The Revd. Sandeep has been with us for the past one year and was responsible for the congregation of CC GN. Revd. Sandeep over the past year has most caringly guided and nurtured the congregation under the tutelage of Revd. Sunil Ghazan, Presbyterian In Charge CCN and took great interest in the spiritual growth and development of the congregation. It is his love and commitment toward the Church that the Bishop, Diocese of Delhi, gave him this onerous task of mentoring both CCN and CCGN, by appointing him the Presbyterian-In-Charge CCN.

We, the congregants of both CCN and CCGN, look forward to Revd. Sandeep's appointment and assure him of all the support and pray his ministry is a blessing to all.

I also take this opportunity on behalf of all congregations of CCN and CCGN to welcome The Revd. Augustine Simon as the Associate Presbyterian CCN.

The Revd. Augustine Simon is coming on posting to us from the Church at Rewari, Haryana and we look forward to his spiritual guidance and a greater understanding of 'His Word'. I assure the Associate Pastor of our support and wish him well.

Appointments & Transfers

Our Pastor has been appointed as the Secretary, Diocese of Delhi, CNI and as the Presbyterian In-charge, St. Martin's Church, Delhi Cantonment. We congratulate The Rev. Sunil Ghazan for this great honour bestowed upon him.

Rev. Sandeep David, our Associate Presbyterian will take charge as the Presbyterian-in-charge of Christ Church, Noida, on the 1st of August 2020. We welcome Rev. David and wish him a Spirit-driven ministry in CCN.

Rev. Agustin Simon will take charge of Christ Church, Greater Noida as Associate Presbyterian. We welcome Rev. Simon and wish him a fulfilled ministry at Greater Noida.

CORONA PREVENTION



*The LORD is my strength and
my shield,
in whom my heart trusts.
Psalm 28:7*



Abraham Daniel

THE FACE OF DISASTERS IN INDIA 2019-20

For the sake of Community welfare and risks being faced by India, I Felt that we share the hard facts how fast we are travelling towards unmanageable Socio Economic and Political uncertainties leading to a great depression since World War 2.

The relief packages under various heads announced by the Government appears good but with administrative and bureaucratic brakes it is time consuming to implement and may not reach the grass roots. The hands and stomach both remaining empty due to unemployment, loss of income, it has to have measures that can directly bring relief to millions mostly migrants and unskilled workers and those under BPL

Cash in hand for food and essentials are better than several in banks. Lack of a National Uniform Disaster Finance & Risk management System has put us in lock down in terms of liquidity. Absence of circulation of money is lock on Economy and anti-growth is simple Economics.

Why suddenly MGNREGA is now fast developing is that the labour who returned to his village is finding a source of durable employment locally, guaranteed with money coming direct to his account . The Governments investment of Rs.60,000 Crores initially and later as Economy package another 40,000 crore can work as relief measures with long term effect for millions in rural India. Many may stay on and not return to uncertainties of Cities and pandemic towns.

Agriculture, the ancient strength of India will rise and hold the Economy with plenty of labour and land available within, taking care of domestic food stability and huge export potential of Food grain earning foreign exchange.

Green Revolution, (Dr.Swaminathans), Operation flood (Dr.V.Kurien) of AMUL, all became huge success because both were Rural based and involving indias Farming community. MGNREGA is also on similar success lines

Even with restarting of Post Covid manufacturing activities, the demand which sustains production and supply is not coming up and again shall depend on money circulation and liquidity.

Burden of Loans still hanging like a 'Damocles sword 'is another main challenge as Governmental relief only has extended repayment for limited time.(like a balm that has limited effect and use). The industry has to take a big risk to restart and then offering credit to buyers to induce Demand which at the present circumstances are unlikely to develop. Beyond response to build a sustainable future current trend are reinforcing that disasters have multiple facets. Our approach must as well.

India saw almost every type of hazard, except for an earthquake, in 2019/20 from flood to drought, heat and cold waves, lightning strikes, cyclones and even hailstorms/Epidemics/Locusts swarm in Grain belts of India, the wide range of disasters impacted most of the country. This multiplicity meant not a month went by without a disaster and their impact is growing more complex.

Tension on borders and LOC are adding to fighting another front and huge Defense expenditure to equip the army is tight rope walking in a depressed Economy. FDI signals are not that promising however India stand a good chance with China losing grip on world market.

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GDP at lowest near 2 pct and Moddys downgrading India by one notch in credit rating to Baa3 from Baa2. .Vaccine for COVID 19– RBI stating ‘Contraction’ on Economy are all are challenges ahead.

After” ‘Amphan’” on the East Coast “NISARGA CYCLONE” (Severe) on the West Coast of India has left 3 states in total disarray leaving lakhs homeless and without food. Monsoon fury has left 45 lakhs marooned in Assam and few lakhs in Bihar and North East

Seismic reading shows Himalayan Fault line is active and increasing movements as observed from recent mild tremors could be the forerunner of a major one in R.Scale.(within a month and a half we had 20 moderate tremors -- more predicted) in North, centred Delhi/Haryana/UP, stretch to Afghanistan). The Himalayan line passes through these areas).

While these multiple event patterns are repeated every year, only a few manage to capture the public attention. Other risks continue to intensify under the radar. For at-risk communities and affected families, the interplay between dealing with poverty, climate stresses and natural hazards don't have clear distinctions. Yet the discourse of disasters is still too often seen in isolation.

The Face of Disasters 2019/20, therefore, takes a broader view of the issue. For the risks of the future will be different from the risks of the past.

The purpose of writing this message is not to paint a gloomy picture, but to draw the attention of all that we need to kneel and pray for Divine help that alone can guide the mankind to find answers to the unusual disasters frequenting the world.

Recognizing this and preparing for the unknown will be key to building a safer and more sustainable world.

PRESENT SCENARIO AFTER 4 MONTHS OF LOCKDOWN.

As on date, COVID 19 - Global cases are 14,963.437- DEATH 6,75 722, India 11,92010, and 28752 respectively.- Recovery 63 pct. and improving is a healthy sign but Active cases are rising concern in U.P/Maharashtra/Gujarat/M.P/Rajasthan/West Bengal/Tamil Nadu/Telangana/Andhra and Karnataka. Experts advise that COVID 19 shall peak over July-August through to the end of the year, hopefully flattening the curve with hub shifting to South from Central and North India.

(Interesting to note in the state of Kerala which until recently held NIL cases suddenly spiked to near 14000 infected in the one-half month and is struggling to handle increasing Cluster/Community spreading.)

COVID 19 restrictions on Social distancing, wearing masks etc. are blatantly violated by politicians and citizens with a casual approach for safety will cost dearly the nation with the largest population. The government can urge but people indifferent is alarming cause for worry. U.S and West are paying for this great failure. India should wake up to implement stringent and strict measures.

From all above it is evident that the ‘Community Spread’ has caught on and with over 50 lakhs migrant workers from various locations in India moving into villages, over 500 Flights landing at various airports bringing in PRAVASI INDIANS in thousands, UNLOCK 2 opening up Interstate borders/Trains/Buses/Shopping Malls/Religious places and other activities on, we are in for long-drawn battle Lockdown or not---till VACCINE arrives and the year 2020 closes with invisible COVID virus refusing to exit.

Note: The figures on Covid-19 are from official portals as on date 22/July 2020).

My Walk with Jesus Christ

A Testimony by Christy Franklin



In humility and adoration of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, I venture to witness my walk with Him.

I am a computer professional and started my career with Apple in the mid-'90s. The family moved to Noida in the year 2002 when my husband took up a job here. I had to take care of my little boy Kevin full-time, besides the fact that my husband's job demanded him to do frequent travels. There appeared no possibility of me taking up a job, though I always wanted to work. I settled down to take care of my family as best I could and resigned to the life of a homemaker.

The turning point in my life came when my son was in 7th Standard. An old friend of mine called me up from Dubai and inquired about how well I was doing in my work life. She assumed I would be doing very well as I had done well in college and was a rank holder. She was aware of my God-given talents. She was quite upset when she found out that I had settled as a housewife. She spoke to me at length advising me to do something about it. I took to heart the conversation I had with her and thought about it day and night. I almost sank into depression and cry a lot. Noticing this state of mine my husband Frank, put me in German class, which learnt for 2 yrs. But happiness eluded me.

Jesus heard my heart's cry and I was asked to meet Pastor Paul Swarup and Mr Peter, the then Treasurer, in the year 2010. Not knowing what was in store for me, I met Rev. Dr Paul Swarup. It was explained to me that the church could use my talents in the office. Later I learnt that it was Mrs Kamna Cowasjee who suggested my name after a few others were tried out without much success, after Mr Stalin, who was helping Mr Peter, left for Chennai.

The first day I was asked to catch up with filing papers & writing receipt and such small jobs. The ego inside me told me that I was equipped to do more important tasks. I was disappointed but decided to wait it out. Mr Peter started teaching me accounts and the use of Tally. He entrusted many responsibilities he used to handle himself. However, after 6 months or so Mr. Peter had to move to Pune and resigned his position as the Treasurer. I was left alone to manage things with occasional telephonic help from Mr Peter.

I had assumed that a job in the church will be in total contrast to a secular job where all kinds of politics, abuse etc. are common. But I was wrong as I found church also consist of people and most of the problems of a job in a company existed in the church. I tried to escape from there. Because of continuous advice from Kamna aunty, Peter uncle, Abraham uncle, Rev. Kamal Mall, my husband & so many well-wishers, I stayed back in the church office.

At times things would be calm and then suddenly something would erupt. This ups and downs continued for the first 5 years. One of those exceedingly difficult times when I almost decided to quit, I got a message clearly from God that 'You are a chosen one'. Whenever I was disturbed or worried, He kept on reminding me that I am His chosen one. He started moulding me and protected me and helped me in my walk-through life. Whenever I was upset I just knelt at the Altar and submit to Jesus praying that I know He is very much on my side and urged Him to give me the strength to face whatever difficulties that may come my way. In the beginning, I could not understand why I am working in a church office and not in a corporate office. Later on slowly He made me understand that I was serving Him and fulfilling His purpose. It was not about me but Him. For the past three years, He gave me more and more responsibilities and used me for His purpose touching many lives.

As matters turned out I could see His work in my husband and my son that they understood why I had to give more and more time to the church and ungrudgingly supported me and gave me good advice when they found it necessary. I would like to thank my husband & son for their continued support and advice without which I couldn't have survived my work in the church. That mutual understanding and respect come about only because of His grace. It is over 10 years I am in CCN church office as an Administrator. I no more harbour any regret in my life and am happy and thankful to God that He not only gave me the skills that I could use to serve Him in sincerity and honesty but walked with me holding me by hand all the time. From my life, I understand God's providence and How His plans are different and the best. We just have to surrender ourselves in His hands and try to listen and obey His voice. All praise & Glory to the only living God Jesus Christ 🙏 I have been thinking of sharing my testimony with CCN for so many years finally it has happened. God bless all of you.



‘MOVE’

Brig Rajiv Williams, YSM

Today I write on a very topical subject – **‘MOVE’**. The concept is relevant from the standpoint of Revd. Sunil Ghazan, our Pastor moving on posting to St. Martin’s Church, Delhi Cantonment rather prematurely from Christ Church, NOIDA, as also from the standpoint of the ‘New Normal’ pattern of conducting worship.

The topic, however, is not the physical movement as would be generally perceived. The ‘MOVE’ I am going to write briefly is an acronym coined. ‘Move’ in the expanded form is Move, Observe, Volume and Energy and how it is linked to Jesus’ very important lesson for us as He demonstrated this throughout His Life on Earth and as Christians we need to follow Him.

Move

Christianity is a movement - Jesus, in the scriptures, always wanted to be on the move and encouraged it. Move-in the Gospels has been quoted 22 times by Jesus. While in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the applied word move in the words ‘Follow Me’, has been spoken seven times each, the Gospels of Mark and John the word ‘Follow me’ finds a pride of place four times each. Just to quote a few passages from the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 4: 19, Jesus said - ‘Follow me’ and so in Chapter 8: 22 and Chapter 9: 9, when he tells the tax collector Matthew - ‘Follow me’. Jesus wants His disciples to ‘Follow Him’ and keep moving. He does not want our faith to be static and must become a Christian movement. This becomes more important as we see a change in the current ‘World order’, where circumstances are forcing us to stay indoors and yet we have to follow Him by continuously moving in faith and I think one of the major changes, which the Church has acknowledged is the power of technology. Our Youth has played a yeoman service in bringing the service to our homes and our Pastor has most regularly conducted the services every Sunday, besides using technology to have a link with his congregants through his regular WhatsApp messages at the stroke of the midnight hour. This movement is the need of our Christian faith and we have to think differently of reach and content.

Jesus is acknowledged the world over as a Great Leader and motivator as He put his teachings into practice. As a military man, I have always kept Jesus close to me in times of ‘War and peace’ and saw how He inspired me to move under the most difficult situations of life and death. All Indian Army Units have a battle cry, which motivates the troops but I found a great motivational battle cry of the US Army - ‘Follow me’, which is based on the very tag line of Jesus. That is what a leader is all about as he takes his entire command to battle by leading his troops in battle. Hence our faith needs to be dynamic in outlook as also it needs to be demonstrative and reflective of His teachings.

It is only in the concept of a demonstration that things begin to happen. There are many examples to show how movements across geographies and spaces have impacted our very existence. Examples can be seen right from the beginning of His word to the time of Reformation and then to more recent times of India’s freedom struggle, with Mahatma Gandhi, an ardent follower of our Lord Jesus, having mobilized large masses. Further, we can see how the movements of Martin Luther King and the ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement made a difference in the lives of people. Jesus wants us to be on the move and shape the environment for His glory.

Observe:

The next is the alphabet ‘O’ - Jesus always observed while on the move. The Bible is filled with examples of the power of observations. Besides, all who followed Jesus were curious spectators and so were the Government functionaries and the High priests. All observed Jesus and made informed choices and there are many examples in the Gospels where the disciples observe Jesus as He interacted with people during His ministry. They watched Him as he touched the outcasts and later invited into a Pharisee’s home (Luke 14). Others were observing Him with sinister intentions, as they listened intently to all what He said, the kinds of people he mixed with and all with the sole intent of disrupting the faith being professed by our Lord Jesus.

We can relate this to our own lives. We watch and many a time shies away from our Christian responsibilities. Many of us hear and conveniently forget or turn the other way because we fear repression or being accused and at times the fear of being ostracized from the community. As followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we have to be committed citizens and reach out to the poor and needy, support the marginal sections of our society and widows by not merely observing but by our active participation as expected by our Lord Jesus Christ.

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As we observe Jesus in these moments of difficult times and listen to Him in solitude and prayer, we can get a clearer picture of 'Who Jesus is'. It may be a tedious journey to undertake but will lead us to the 'Joy', which our Lord experienced and professed. Let us observe diligently and in all humility and act to make a difference in the lives of people and contribute our efforts in being today's disciples

Volume:

'V' the third in the acronym is mass - Volume. Jesus during His ministry had many followers - mass following and that is essentially the volume that I speak about. For any movement to be successful we need to get the volume piece in place. Jesus through His work drew huge crowds and He performed miracles and told the people not to talk about the healing experience, yet the people went far and wide and spread the message and the miracle of His power. It is again a question of being doers of His word that we will draw volumes toward the faith. As responsible Christians, we need to be demonstrating His word and reaching out to the many un-served and hungry for His knowledge.

I am convinced that we as a handful of Christians in our workplaces and our neighbourhood are being watched by masses. They keep a watch over our attitudes, our professional capabilities, our social etiquettes and our overall demeanour. I am sure many may tend to disagree with my thought and question the context of the elders, especially with the young challenging minds. However, I am convinced that Jesus wants us to put our best foot forward in all that we do and demonstrate His teachings. It is in this context that many times even in our Church some of the older thoughts are shunned by the youth from dress etiquettes to showing due respect to elders. I feel all this is the bedrock of our family values, which we at times tend to overlook.

'Energy'

The last alphabet of the acronym 'E' is Energy and its implied attributes of 'Power and strength' are equally important adjuncts and can be seen in the life of Jesus right till His end on the cross. Jesus' levels of energy should be our source of inspiration and understanding of His power. He came to the earth to fulfil the will of God as His son and lives in us today with the spirit of God residing in us believers. He had limitless energy toward fulfilling His ministerial responsibilities. As we reflect upon the happenings in today's context, we realize that the world is running out of energy, both in terms of physical energy as also the engines of sustainable energy. How do we ensure sufficient energy supplies to sustain life? Where will we find this energy as our resources of oil, coal and gas are running out. We are searching anxiously for power 'from above' - trying to harness the almost limitless power of the sun and there are parallels between what is happening on the spiritual level and what is happening in terms of the physical environment. The Church is facing the same problem as the world as a whole but at a different level. We stand before a choice: do we look for the energy we need in ourselves and the resources of our intelligence and our entrepreneurial spirit, or do we look for it 'from above', from the risen Christ?

Psalm 68: vs 28 - 35. - Power and strength come from God. Amazingly, God promises to give you and me His power and His strength and the Psalm ends on a note of confidence as David proclaims that 'the God of Israel gives power and strength to His people. When the New Testament speaks of God's love, the focus is the cross. When the New Testament speaks of God's energy, power and strength, the focus is the resurrection (Ephesians 1:19-20). We rightly think of power belonging to God. Yet we so easily forget that God's power is also 'for us who believe' (v.19)

We are grateful to our Pastor, Revd. Sunil Ghazan and to all his predecessors to have shown immense zeal and energy in making our Church grow over the years and guiding our congregation with their knowledge and experience. The energy levels displayed by each of them should excite us to become demonstrative in our endeavours and fulfil our Lord's command. It is that Energy we need to display in seeing our Church grow from strength to strength.

Conclusion

I would like to conclude with the thought that although 'The Bible', which is the most widely circulated book in the world, yet as believers, we have not been able to either fully read it or even make efforts to comprehend the contents of His Word. We resort to short cuts found in commentaries and read different versions and draw our conclusions, which may well be different from the original interpretation and that reflects upon our weak foundations. What we need to do is to read, understand and keep moving. For it is in our movement that we can preserve God's energy and through observation and demonstration we can draw people closer to His kingdom and reach different corners of our spheres of influence.



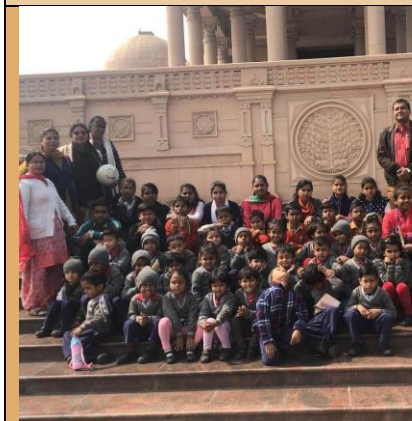
Hand Full of Rice WFCS



VBS 2019



Outreach Project Children



Outreach Picnic



Certificate Distribution -Tailoring



Annual Fete - with Bishop



Outreach Staff



Outreach children



VBS Praise & Worship Team

Nilima Das



CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

We sped through in a car
and there were important notices up,
'Project Tiger', 'Pets Not Allowed'.
In front of us lumbered heavy trucks bearing away felled
trees,
enough to scare the daylights out of any beast.
In a clearing there were bungalows,
pistachio green, presumably, to mislead tigers into
thinking forest thoughts.
Swarms of deer abounded.
We saw cheetal, three elephants,
one even cleverly helped himself to water from a tap as if
to compensate for tigerlessness.
When Corbett conceived the park,
a forest really burgeoned around burning eyes.
Now like the pyramids without pharaohs,
You have the trip without the cats.

Contributed by Mr Joseph Immanuel
July 2020

SONG OF THE MONTH

A MONTHLY PAPER FEATURING THE STORIES BEHIND THE HYMNS

TRUST AND OBEY - HYMN WRITER: JOHNSAMIS

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This hymn came about from an incident at one of Dwight L Moody's revival meetings in 1887. When the time was given for spontaneous testimonies from the audience, a nervous young man who had just given his life to the Lord Jesus Christ stood up and expressed his doubts and then his intentions by saying, 'I am not quite sure - I am going to trust and obey.'

No one knows his name. The young man would never have known how his testimony bore fruit.

The music director of the Moody Bible Institute, Professor Towner, was present at the meeting when these words were uttered. He was so impressed by the young man's testimony that he wrote down those words and stuck them in his pocket. Later, he wrote a friend, John Sammis. In his letter, he told about the young man's testimony and included the young man's words: "I am not quite sure, but I'm going to trust, and I'm going to obey." Sammis quickly transformed those words into a hymn chorus: "Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey." Soon he had five stanzas to go with the chorus, and he sent them to Towner, who composed the tune that we still sing today.

The words seem so simple, but they express the feelings of many Christians. It is not easy to trust and obey but that is what we are all called to do if we are to be happy in Jesus. This song has remained popular with many Christian singers to this day and I hope that you too will be blessed by this simple but powerful Christian song.

The hymn covers two aspects of everyone's salvation which are our faith and willingly or unwillingly obey the words of Almighty God. However, if we follow Him willingly, it will be much better. Let's try to understand the message of this hymn:

Stanza 1: If we trust and obey the commandment of God, we will walk in the light. If we do so, the Lord will shed his blessing and glory on our way. Thus, Christ will abide in us because we abide in His words.

Stanza 2: Shadows and clouds are most often considered the tribulations and trials of life. His smile expresses grace and He helps us when we want or need help. Whether we have doubts, sighs, tears, and fears, the Lord promises that if we trust Him and leave everything to Him, He will give us our desires.

Stanza 3: Every Christian has a burden to bear. So, keep in mind that God is not unjust and doesn't forget to repay what we do for Him. Even in a severe loss or grief, if we turn to our Lord and trust Him instead of putting confidence in men, He will certainly hear us and bless us.

Stanza 4: We can never appreciate the delights of His love until we surrender all at his altar. The secret to spiritual success is to trust and obey Him. We should sacrifice our most beloved things for Him and in return, He will reward us for our acts.

Stanza 5: "Sit at His feet" means listening to the words of Jesus carefully. To "Walk by His side in the way" shows that we should do what we heard from Jesus. If we do what Jesus says us to do and we go where He sends us to go, it means we trust and obey Jesus, and this will lead us to salvation.

Think about the young man whose quiet, spontaneous testimony inspired a hymn that has meant so much to millions of people all over the world. Isn't it encouraging, that God can use every faithful word that we utter and every faithful deed that we do in ways beyond our imagination?

THE PATH

(Ref - Job: Chapter 28: vs 7, 8 and 20 - 28)
[King James' Version]

Authored by Vineeta Rebecca Williams

Verse - "There is a path which no fowl knoweth and which the vulture's eye has not seen".

Verse 8- "The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it".



Chapter 28 of the Book of Job has to be read in totality to extract its essence. Here we will focus on verses 7 and 8. The five conspicuous words are Path, Fowl, Vulture, Lion whelps and Fierce Lion.

- A path is a way or a road.
- A fowl is a domesticated bird, which is used for eggs and meat, and, it does not fly too high. It pecks here and there for the food.
- A vulture is a big scavenging bird, which soars to limitless heights, and, also has sharp eyesight to detect carcasses etc.
- A lion's whelps roam all around for fun and frolic.
- A fierce lion - being the king of the forest, walks around freely all over.

Verses 1, 2 and 3 of Job Chapter 28 talk about the veins of silver, refining furnaces for gold, and the deep darkness and shadow of death, from where many precious stones & gems are mined. Verses 4 and 5 talks about the earth, the floodwaters and the fire under the surface of the earth.

After a vivid description, Job ultimately comes to the point in verse 12 where he says - "But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?" The verses which follow describe aptly - how no one knows, where wisdom and understanding are to be found. Verse 23 onwards, Job explains, where and how wisdom and understanding can be found - both of which are more precious than all the silver, gold, flora, fauna, precious stones, waters and fire of the whole creation.

Going back to verses 7 and 8, Job talks about a PATH, which neither birds nor beasts have known. They fly around and walk all over, yet this PATH is hidden from them. The Psalmist in Psalm 91 talks about a secret Place of the 'Most High.' So, what is the PATH and what is the SECRET PLACE?

In verse 28, Job clearly and simply states that "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding". In John Chapter 14 verse 6, Jesus said, "I am the WAY, the TRUTH and THE LIFE, no man cometh unto the FATHER, but by Me". So, to reach our God Almighty and to attain wisdom and understanding, the only PATH or the WAY is Jesus Christ. He is our True and Living God, and He is the only PATH in our quest for God Almighty.

No amount of mining veins in deep rocks, or refining gold in furnaces, or walking the length and breadth of the world, or flying high in the sky, or diving deep into the oceans - can lead us to God. It is our inner desire and longing, to follow and obey Jesus - The WAY, which will help us to attain wisdom and understanding. It is only when we walk via the PATH that we shall be able to dwell in the secret place of the 'MOST HIGH' and abide under the shadow of THE ALMIGHTY.



Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries-July 2020

DATE	BITHDAYS	WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES
25 July 2020	Mrs. Anita Myles, Mr. Anil Roy, Mr. Richard Singh, Ms. Preeti Toppo, Ms. Angel Toppo	
26 July 2020	Wg.Cdr. Jacob Rajan, Capt. Kenneth Romulus, Mr. Ryder, Mr. Robert Gardner	
27 July 2020	Ms. Anjali Browne, Ms. Kalpana Dean, Mr. C.P. Gupta, Mrs. Neha Rai, Mr. Mayank Biswal	
28 July 2020	Mr. Ritvik Bhuinya	
29 July 2020	Mrs. Sneh Lata Daffader, Mrs. Nilima Das	
30 July 2020	Mrs. Preeti Joseph, Baby. Sakura Massey, Baby. Hirotaka Massey, Mr. Manav Sharma	
31 July 2020	Ms. Shekinah Joseph, Mrs. Margret Massey, Mrs. Meena Sarkar, Mr. Bobby Sewak	

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Capt. Kenneth Romulus
Mr. Zorin Singha
Mrs. Christy Franklin
Ms. Shefali John

The eScroll will henceforth be published every month by the 15th.

VIRTUAL ONLINE SRVICES -LOCKDOWN PERIOD

Sunday Morning bi-lingual Service at 9AM


Sunday Parise and worship service at 6PM

Mid-week mediation at 9 AM.

We invite all members of the Christ Church, Noida and Christ Church, Greater Noida to participate by contributing materials for the editions. These may be:

Articles: On Spiritual or any common interest Subject, Poems, unique or ethenic recipes, Paintings, sketches and photographs.

Please post your contribution to Christy's WhatsApp.

 **Members who went to be with the Lord:** Capt. Browne, Mr P. F. Miller, Adml. Sushil Kumar, Mrs Venita Kumar, Bishop. Santram, Mr Narender Dayal, Mr Goldie Jacob, Col. Lukose, Mr Agnihotri, Mrs Lakra, Mrs.Peters (Veena's mother), Mr Anil Peters, Mr Surjit Agarwal, Mr P. J. Chauhan, Mrs Naz Thomas



What is it that you consider a daily dose of high protein diet?

By Kamna Cowasjee

My take was a daily diet that includes an egg, some lentils, some meat/chicken, curds, milk. But I had another thing coming. Well, maybe it is right when we consider normal humans, or those getting on in years, who need to keep protein levels on the high side for normal repair and maintenance of the body. But for those who have had open-heart surgery where the surgeon has cut through bone and ripped the heart to change a valve ---- this is not enough.

I learnt this the hard way.

High protein diet in this instant meant something different. The requirement was to feed the patient every hour or two with food rich in protein almost doubling the intake stated above, for it to have any beneficial effect. It meant two egg whites, a bowl of boiled chana or roasted gram, milk with protein supplement at least twice a day, Threptin biscuits, non-vegetarian dish for lunch and dinner, a bowl of lentil, at least three bowls of curd, bone soup, cheese, three types fruit, vegetables, nuts and Complian as the daily intake for the bones and fleshy heart to heal and balance the diet, increase the blood count and bone calcium all at the same time.

Pity the patient who becomes an eating machine.!! So if your loved one ends up with such a problem, (which I don't wish in any way) I do hope you recollect this article and start from day 1 to feed them, vigorously increasing the quantity from a half cup to full, few slices to one cup or more. And don't let up for the next six months. Troubles are not invited, give no warning and have a happy knack of landing in one's lap unannounced. One needs to just take the bull by the horns, keep Christ by your side for strength, keep talking to Him, demand His guidance, trust that since He brought you to this situation, He will see you through and help you fight it to the end and taste victory. Set the goal and be focused. It is a mighty big challenge with no place or time for distractions. Believe me the lockdown and pandemic pale in the light of it.

Pursuit of Excellence



By Rohit David

"You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect", Matthew 5:48, "Jesus set a goal before us and challenged us to strive for excellence in all we do - to develop our talents and abilities - and above all to live following His teachings.

In Psalm 90:10, we read that 70 years is all we have, 80 years if we are strong. Hence, what should be the purpose of the Christian life?

Excellence is an attribute of the divine and we are commanded to be like Father and the Son. To pursue excellence, we should follow the life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Master of Perfection. From the time of creation until His ascension, He has created everything with perfection exercising passion in the work of His excellence.

I believe we can achieve everything in life easier when we pursue excellence. However, whether to pursue excellence is entirely a matter of personal choice. If we wish to be in the will of the Creator of Life, we will pursue excellence without choice and exception.

Excellence is not a Corporate mantra. Christians are supposed to be a model of excellence, only then Christ is projected through their lives and then people will be drawn towards Christ. We are supposed to be living the Word of God and be the walking and talking Bible.

I agree perfection is not attainable. But I believe if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence for sure. Achieving excellence in life is a matter of Attitude and additionally knowledge, and skill. Inherent ability is important, but that alone is not enough. We need to "Be honest with ourselves". The important question is to introspect whether we have the desire, dedication, and faith to excel in our lives!

Scripture tells us that, "but you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light" - 1 Peter 2:9.

Proverbs 22:29 - "Do you see those who are skilful in their work? They will serve kings; they will not serve common people." And "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" - Colossians 3:23

Jesus Christ is our role model. He is our teacher, mentor, guide and Father. We learn through His life the purpose of life:

- Excellence in whatever He did; and with great
- Planning and Execution; with utmost
- Obedience/Passion/Commitment; while
- Walking the Talk (practised what He preached), and pursued
- Righteousness in all His ways

Excellence cannot be achieved without meticulous planning and execution, which needs passionate commitment and obedience, walking the talk and to hunger and thirst for the righteousness of God.

Jesus lived and walked the earth for 33½ years. However, His ministry was for 3½ years. Which implies, that for 30 years, He had been praying and planning for meticulous execution of His Father's will. In other words, 90% of His life He spent in PLANNING and only 10% in EXECUTION. So how important is planning in our lives, we learn from the life of our Lord. His execution was meticulous to the point of death, even the death on the cursed cross.

He was PASSIONATELY committed to fulfilling His Father's wish to save their creation. Knowing what He is going to go through, He while at the garden of Gethsemane prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will" - Matthew 26:39. This prayer of Jesus just before the crucifixion shows His total submission and obedience to the will of God.

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

God wants His people to excel in inward character and outward character, in both what we are and in what we do. It is, therefore, not possible to love God with all our heart without seeking to do our best to the glory of God. Hence, the pursuit of excellence is both a goal and a mark of spiritual maturity. For this to be true, the pursuit of excellence must be motivated by the right values, priorities, and motives.

Hence, excellence means being your best, being better tomorrow than you were yesterday and matching your practice with your potential.

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If our heart is right, pursuing excellence becomes easy. Scripture teaches us that the issues of life proceed from the heart (Proverb 4:23; Matthew 6:21; 12:34; 15:18). What we do in word and deed is first a product of what we are on the inside from the standpoint of what we truly believe and how we think.

In Proverbs 4:23, Solomon wrote, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it". The heart needs special care because the heart, which includes the mind, the emotions, and will, is the place where we deposit the knowledge of God or biblical wisdom; it is the place of our values (Matthew 6:21) and priorities and where vital choices are made. Thus, it becomes the wellspring, the source of whatever affects life and character (see Matthew 12:35; 15:19).

Our Attitude plays the most important part of our lives which impacts every decision we make on a day-to-day, moment-by-moment basis. Our attitude can either fire our hopes and the pursuit of important things, or it can extinguish our hopes and pursuits. The value of one's attitude on what we pursue, i.e., our values, priorities, objectives, and how we pursue them is very evident in the book of Philippians where one of the themes is that of joy or rejoicing in the Lord no matter what the conditions or circumstances of life.

Studies have shown that just 3% of people operate out of a vision for their lives, the rest just react. Having a vision for life is important, which guides our way towards excellence. Vision is nothing but an idea and the will to implement the idea, and then keep working until reality matches what we saw in our mind's eye.

Jesus emphasized excellence when He said, "Many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14) That implies some kind of accountability for our life.

Jesus talked a lot about stewardship. He said, "Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities!" (Luke 12:48)

Therefore, do not let your feelings get in the way of your call to do your best work. Be committed to serving God with your life, and even if it didn't feel good, don't quit.

Even the Sun has a sinking feeling each evening but it rises again with greater strength next morning.

Andrew Carnegie said, and I quote, "an average person puts only 25% of their energy and ability into their work. The world takes off its hat to those who put in more than 50% of their capacity, and stands on its head to those few and far between souls who devote 100%." Unquote.

As followers of Christ, our Goal should be Perfection; Excellence should be tolerated.

Therefore, the question before us is whether we wish to live an excellent life or a lukewarm life. It is written in the Scriptures in Revelation 3:15-16, to either be cold or hot and not lukewarm. Because if we are lukewarm, He is ready to spit us out of His mouth.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be paid back according to what he has done while in the body, whether good or evil.

Our hard work towards pursuing excellence will never be in vain if done in His strength. All Christians one day will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive back for what they have done while alive in this life.

In Ecclesiastes 9:10, we read that "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for there is no working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

We read in John 9:4, when Jesus Christ said, "As long as it is the day, we must do the work of Him who sent me. The night is coming, when no one can work".

Our walk must match our talk. Without pursuing excellence, life will remain bland, very vanilla, lukewarm at best. The quest for excellence fuels our fire and keeps us from just drifting downstream gathering leftovers.

"Jesus was the great personification of righteousness, the only perfect man ever to walk the earth. His was the wondrous example toward whom each of us might point our lives in our eternal quest for excellence."

Let us be committed to running our race in life with excellence and finishing strong. Excellence takes diligence. It takes blood, sweat and tears. Excellence hurts.

Jesus never led a mediocre life. Therefore, let us not be the one who calls Lord, Lord but does not do what He tells us to do (Luke 6:46). Let us be imitators of God, as His beloved children. Ephesians 5:1.

My humble prayer, therefore, is that we be the ones who hunger and thirst for His Righteousness, His Obedience, His Passion and His Commitment that our light shines before men that they may see our moral excellence, noble and good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Man of Honour

By Rear Admiral Sushil Ramsay



We had a chance meeting with Reverend Sunil Soloman Ghazan during the late 1990s when both my wife and I had gone to meet Reverend Patrick Motilal, the then Presbyter-in-Charge, Free Church, Parliament Street. He was associate Presbyter then and during the introduction and very brief interaction he came out as a very enthusiastic and a committed Minister. Thereafter, our meetings used to be on occasions such as Ekta Utsav and such events only. Whenever the opportunity arose, with great delight we use to meet and greet a very friendly and a fine Minister, Reverend Sunil Soloman Ghazan.

During the Thirty-Eighth Ordinary Meeting held at St. Thomas School, Mandir Marg, New Delhi – 110 011 from 22nd to 24th September 2016, the recommendations made by the Nomination Committee to appoint various Committees was rejected at the Floor of the Diocesan Council and voting was resorted to elect various Committees. To form the Diocesan Executive Committee there were two names from the Clergy (other than the Office Bearers) as against vacancy for one. A large majority wanted Reverend Shailesh Dennis Lall to be a member of the Executive Committee. However, through mutual consultation, we all felt that it will not be fair to pitch one Clergy against the other during the Vote.

During our consultation, I volunteered to speak to Reverend Sunil Soloman Ghazan and request him if could withdraw from the ensuing contest. I went up to Reverend Sunil Ghazan and proposed to him if he would withdraw from the contest. I have no words to describe how much Reverend Sunil Soloman Ghazan went up in our esteem when without a moment's hesitation he conceded to our request. I then requested him that when the names of the contestants were declared, he would withdraw in favour of Reverend Shailash Dennis Lall. Very honourable Reverend Sunil Soloman Ghazan met his commitment.

Three years later, at the Thirty-Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Council held at St. Thomas School, Mandir Marg, New Delhi – 100 001 from 19th to 21st September 2019, my joy knew no bounds when the Nomination Committee recommended the name of Reverend Sunil Soloman Ghazan to be the member of the Executive Committee. Thus then, the Poetic Justice was done. And now, lo and behold, Reverend Sunil Soloman Ghazan is installed as the Secretary of the Delhi Diocesan Council, vice Reverend Shailesh Dennis Lall has moved on to be the General Secretary, CNI Synod.

Indeed, A Man of Honour is now saddled in the well-deserved honourable position. May God continue to bless him in his future endeavour.

SEVERABILITY OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND ETHICS



By John Solomon- this Article is based on an essay by Dr Larry Pettegrew, Professor of
Theology, Dallas Theological Seminary and other sources

We live in a world today where postmodernism has gained acceptability and the existence of absolute truth, absolute moral standards, and universal ethics are denied. Ethics are to be community specifically for the survival of the community. It needs to be secular and quite distinct from any universal religious values. None less than the 14th Dalai Lama (the present one) had this to say in one of his addresses:

“All the world's major religions, with their emphasis on love, compassion, patience, tolerance, and forgiveness can and do promote inner values. But the reality of the world today is that grounding ethics in religion is no longer adequate. This is why I am increasingly convinced that the time has come to find a way of thinking about spirituality and ethics beyond religion altogether”.

The atheist philosopher Bertrand Russell states that “ religious sentiments have, historically, sometimes led to morally acceptable behaviour, but asserts that, "in the present day, [1954] such good as might be done by imputing a theological origin to morals is inextricably bound up with such grave evils that the good becomes insignificant in comparison."

But as Christians, we need to question the credibility and validity of these kinds of statements. Is the world any better in adopting secular morality and ethics? Has the morality of the world improved? We have seen in the 20th century, atheism based communist political systems killing more people (more than 100 million) in 60 years than all the killing that has taken place in the name of religion in the entire history of mankind.

Today's Leftist Liberals of the West uphold values such as gay pride, pro-choice, consensual pre and extramarital sex as something common and acceptable to human beings. Will these kinds of values promote the common good of man in the long run? Society as a whole is moving in this direction consequent to the growth of “secular ethics” largely enabled by displacing ethics from its theological foundations from where the ethics have been derived in the first place!

Having said that, we will now examine why Christian Theology and Ethics are inseparable. But, before that, we need to have some kind of working definition of theology. Theologian Thomas Oden stated that theology is a science “Insofar as it seeks to make accurate observations, test evidence, provide fit hypotheses, arrange facts in due order, and make reliable generalizations, the study of God. It employs both inductive and deductive argument for doing this”. But theology is not science if science means the ruling out of all forms of evidence that do not submit to

naturalistic observation, quantification, and measurement.” Christian Theology is a Revealed Doctrine (by its Scriptures) that helps man to lead a blessed life. Allister McGrath put it very well when said “theology should be the foundation of all correct living, like Siamese twins, ethics and doctrine are closely connected. How we should live and what we should believe are in fact, inseparable”. Theology governs the belief part that leads to action (living) according to those beliefs.

1) The source of Ethics emanates from God and His nature.

According to postmodernism, standards of right and wrong are power issues. Rules and regulations have been invented by some power group, often the white European males, to maintain the power of their community over other communities. To cover up their power grab, the power group often pretends that their ethical system comes from a god. But, “if morality is rooted in a God who doesn’t exist, then morality is largely illusory; Morality is either purely conventional, or a way to keep the less fortunate in check, or repression of our best instincts, and the list goes on and on. In other words, if truth and values are free-floating, disconnected from God, people can create truth and values for preservation and self-promotion. This eventually will lead, not to toleration, but “warring factions and isolated depraved individuals, where everyone does what is right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25).

According to biblical Christianity, however, God decrees standards of right and wrong. The Creator God determines ethical values. Not only is the God of Christian theism the Governor of the world; He is also the final Legislator and the Judge. It is His will that establishes the rightness or wrongness of all human deportment. His will determines the norms of morality. A thing is holy because God loves (decrees) it as such. God wills certain values because they reflect His nature. Because He is just and merciful. Christians are to be holy because God is holy (1 Pet 1:16).

2) The Goal of Ethics is God’s Glory

Not only is God the source of ethical standards, but His glory is also the goal of ethics. Paul encouraged the Corinthians, “Whether therefore you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” And how do believers glorify God? Jonathan Edwards explains that God’s supreme end in creating the universe was that there might be a manifestation of God’s glory in His creation. God wanted to share His knowledge, holiness, and happiness with humans. In the creature’s knowing, esteeming, loving, rejoicing in, and praising God, the glory of God is both exhibited and acknowledged; his fullness is received and returned. We glorify God, therefore, by enjoying His God-ness—by coming to know Him in a personal way through Jesus Christ His Son, and by sharing His values

3) The motive of Ethics is Love for God and consequently, Love for Man.

The motive for proper ethics is also theistic. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, He replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matt 22:37-40). Because we love God, we can love our fellow men, created by the same God. In other words, love for mankind is not free-floating but is grounded in our love for God. Jonathan Edwards writes Love to God is the foundation of gracious love to men. Men are loved either because they are in some respect like God, or they have the nature or spiritual image of God; or because of their relation to God as his children, as his creatures, as those who are beloved of God.

4) The doctrine of Ethics is transcendental and is not culture or community-specific.

Biblical Ethics is drawn from God’s Word as it is contained in the Old and New Testament Scriptures. Ascertain as this is, a few important problems yet confront the student of Scripture developing his ethics. The Bible does not deal directly with numerous ethical problems that exist in the twenty-first century. Many new societal structures such as trade unions, media, secular educational institutions, internet, and ethical problems such as genetic engineering and abortions, have only recently surfaced. Moreover, the Bible is not written to be an ethical textbook, systematically dealing with every legal, social, and ethical problem that can be imagined. Furthermore, the Christian has to learn how to read and interpret the Old Testament in the context of New Testament values that guide his living.

So how does the Bible give ethical direction? First, there is prohibition. The Bible says, “Don’t do something,” and we must not. “Thou shalt not murder,” for example, is an important prohibition for medical ethics. Second, the Bible records permission, for example eating meat or consuming wine. But it does not specify whether believers are permitted to smoke a pipe or to attend a rock and roll concert. These questions need to be decided on broader biblical principles based on the value for all human life and well being that the Bible proclaims. Third, there are commands, such as Gal 6:10: “While we have the opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” Fourth, there is precedent: “David could eat bread meant only for Priests (Matt 12:3-4). Fifth, there are value priorities such as Jesus healing on a Sabbath day or sending swine down the ravine while freeing a demon-possessed man. To be more elaborate biblical Ethics need to consider the following:

Anthropology and Hamartiology: Anthropology is also vital in ethics, specifically in discovering the meaning and importance of being made in the likeness and image of God. Hamartiology, the doctrine of sin, explains that we live in a society that has been devastated by man’s fall into sin. All the ills of society, all the injury of man to man, all of the criminality and disorder can be traced back to the Fall (Genesis 3).

Soteriology: Because of personal sin and depravity that infects every part of our beings, we cannot meet God’s standards without His grace. The Bible reveals God’s character and it also shows that all men have true moral guilt—they fall short of God’s standard. However, the Bible also reveals that God himself has provided a solution to this moral dilemma through the substitutionary work of Christ. He offers release from sin’s dominion and provides a way of reconciliation with the holy God. Then, through the process of sanctification, God renews the redeemed into the image of Christ.

Pneumatology: Meeting God's ethical standards are more than just legalistically trying to follow biblical laws or principles. The indwelling Holy Spirit reminds believers of biblical principles and enables them to fulfil them with the proper heart attitude. Thus, walking in the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit are integral parts of godly ethics.

Ecclesiology: God has provided the local church as a means of helping Christians to live the godly life. Public prayer, the ordinances, teaching of the Word, and other means of worship, help them to live as God desires. Even church discipline has as one of its major goals the conforming of the believer to the image of Christ. Perhaps nothing is more important for one's ethics than fellowship with a loving covenant people, encouraging, admonishing, and holding one another accountable.

Eschatology: In the millennial kingdom, God's ethical program will find its pre-eternal state culmination as Jesus Christ Himself rules over this earth. But even then, men and women will show themselves as sometimes unwilling to live as God requires. At the end of the kingdom, Satan will lead unregenerate mankind in a massive rebellion against the King. In the eternal state, however, redeemed men and women will no longer sin. Their values and ethical systems will be without flaw, because of the marvellous grace of God.

CONCLUSION

We live in a society that increasingly is denying the existence of God, absolute truth, and absolute moral standards. What should be our response to our society's deteriorating value system? This essay presents the case that the true and universal ethical system is based on theology which in turn is based on the Christian Scriptures. It also enjoins believers not to sell out to the culture of the day or the local community. As Allister McGrath has written,

The good doctrine makes for good ethics. . . . And doctrine seeks to preserve Christian distinctiveness, to present Christianity from submerging in the swamp of liberal leftist American, Western or Pantheistic cultures. We must not be afraid to be distinct. As Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, we must shine out like stars in the darkness of the night sky.

